

Directions for the Cultivation of the Memory and the

To the Editor:

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the improvement of the memory and the imagination, contain no reference to muemonics or to special devices of any kind. This does not indicate incompletnes, for what is here given is substantially all that can be safely recommended. The essay below was handed in by a student, as a synopsis of the class lectures in psychology, on these topics. I think they will be of interest and value to the general reader.

Truly yours,

The training of the mental powers, in general, is best accomplished through the training of the will. Therefore the training of attention, which is "the stuff that memory is made off," is the best to begin the training of the memory. Fuller's rules were-(1) Pay close attention; (2) soundly infix what thou wouldst remember; (3) link thy knowledge together. These rules are the sum of what is known about memory training, except that recent psychology has more fully explained the significance of rule three. We now know that all recalling in memory dependent upon the fact that every idea we have is related to other ideas by numerous associations, and that any idea not see associated cannot readily be idea not so associated cannot readily be remembered. An idea not associated idea not so associated cannot readily be remembered. An idea not associated with others is not built in to our fabric of knowledge, and is like a stone which the masons cannot build into the wall— it is not only of no use but is likely to be in the way. The easiest way to teach new facts, therefore, is to present them as related to or growing out of what is already known. Of such new fact is related to former knowledge by several or many associations, it is link-ed, as it were, to the former knowledge by so many ties, (the ancients called them hocks) that its recall is any them hooks), that its recall is easy and often as a matter of course. Masand often as a matter of course, shas-tering any related facts or any coher-ent body of knowledge, such as botany, chemistry, European history, etc., is the best possible training of the memory, and is the easiest way of learning much, because the facts in each subject are so bound together (related by association) that the very mention by association) that the very mention of any fact in these subjects recalls im-mediately many of its associated facts; while these, in turn, suggest their asso-clates, and so on. But the memorizing of facts that are not related does not help the memory; for it is doubtful whether or not the native capacity of the method to recall can be improved by the mind to recall can be improved by practice, What can be improved is the practice, what can be improved is the power of linking ideas together so that the mention of one will bring others in-to consciousness. This power is im-proved by any studies in which the facts are grouped into related wholes or into consisten aggregations of coherent means. Manace, is been confirmed in

in creative effort and the formation of ideals has not always been distin-guished, in the past, from the abuse of this power in phantasy or day dream-ing. The former requires concentra-tion; the latter goes on without volua-tary effort; the runner has a definite number the latter back of the second purpose; the latter is without aim. Since these activities were not distinguished, and since idle dreaming was known to be harmful in tendency, it was thought that the imaginative power should be sternly repressed and not cultivated by exercise. Even today most people suspect the worth of an imaginative child. The true view, however, is that this faculty is the queen of the mental powers, and its due exer-cise a matter of the highest importance. Perceptions are the materials with which the imagination works-they are the seeds which biossom in imagination and bear fruit in action. We can only imagine such things as we have per-ceived. The imagination can no more mork without abundant perceptional material than the Israelites could make brick without straw. The material is always abundant in Utah-streams, clouds, hills, forests, landscapes, flowers, rocks, the constellation, sunsets, starlight dawns, are always at hand, but they need to be pointed out and somewhat studied in early youth in order to be available in later life as the materials with which to work. The more clear-cut are the images preceiv ed, the better the material the imagin ation has to work with. What are the best studies for cultivating the imagination? Geography, rightly taught, not merely map studies, drawing, memor-izing, but descriptions, pictoral representation, imaginary journeys, etc. His-tory and the natural sciences come next. Oral descriptions and story telling are excellent. So, to describe anything or to paint or draw from memory. But practice in writing is the best, if given to descriptions and narrations: or the working out of a plot. So, to read half a story, and to imagine the rest of it; and to see a picture of every battle we read of, of every village, hill, dale, or



that no mineral poisons are used, as is the case with many well known catarri

Tablets.







DESERET EVENING NEWS: SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1903.

was transferred with part of the Brook-lyn's crew to the Wabash in Boston. The Wabash and Olympia Icy at the dock, side by side, about a week ago, and "Billy." It is alleged, then deserted. According to Bill's enlistmeat: papers he entered the service of the United States navy on Sert. 14, with the United States thit. Man'la, at Singley Fort. Philippine Islands, to serve for four years. He is rated as "macot," and is described as follows: Where born-Sankley Point, P. I. Where born-Sangley Point, P. I. Date-July 10, 1960.

Height-Two feet six inches, Weight-Sixty pounds, Eyes-Goat. Hair-Goat.

long horns, a short tail and a-a-a-

Billy Goat Tobas.

Billy Goat Tobas. His record since his enlistment has been of the best. For obedience and sobriety his mark is "excellent," and for marksmanship there is no record in the whole navy equal to Billy's. Both for "small arms" and "great guns" he has a "five," which is absolute perfec-tion. His seamanship is, however, only rated at one, the lowest mark. There is recorded axainst him on

There is recorded against him on board the Manila, Dec. 10, 1901, "for making unnecessary noise, restriction to the ship for one month." On the Wabash, Oct. 17, "for leaving ship