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## Education

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## EDUCATION.

Education in its truest and highest sense is training and developing the mind. The acquisition of knowledge is secondary. The ultimate purpose of all disciplinary mental training is to enlarge and sharpen the intellectual powers, to give them acuteness, force and grasp. In this enlargement of the powers of the higher self, one must himself put forth those energies which result in his growth.

The word education is derived from the Latin verb *educare*, a sort of frequentative verb, signifying to lead or draw forth repeatedly, persistently. In a secondary sense it means to draw forth faculties, to cultivate and train them. Thus education is the process of drawing forth continuously and habitually the powers of the mind, thereby developing and magnifying them.

Pestalozzi has laid down the immortal principle that "self-activity is a necessary condition, under which the mind educates itself and gains power and independence." The upshot of this principle is that the student must owe everything to his own exertions. The instructor can only inspire, encourage and direct.

Self-exercise is Nature's law of growth. The infant augments its strength by constantly using it. Exercise, almost unremitting and unceasing, is its very life; now wriggling in its mother's arms, now crying and bawling to expand its lungs, and now grasping at things near, or turning to look at bright objects.

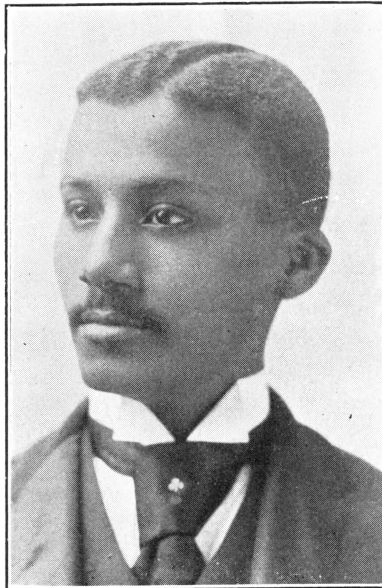
Given the fertile egg; keep it for a sufficient period of time under certain conditions of heat, moisture and position, and of its own nature-given verility, it will be transformed into a healthy chick.

Let the soil be fertile, the gentle rain come and warm sunbeams glow; soon the acorn becomes an oak by its own mysterious vitality; a giant of the forest seemingly conscious of

its own strength and endurance, and defying the storm and other hostile forces of nature.

These illustrations point out the method of nature; that growth, development, is subjective, from within, from an inherent principle which is summoned into exercise.

This law applies with peculiar force to the awakened mind.



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An Excellent Teacher of Mathematics.

Let the sunshine of knowledge warm the dormant mental faculties; now it quickens them to activity; at once the mysterious process of self-evolution is begun, and in due time the mind develops the fullness of its powers. The latent powers and capabilities must be worked by their possessor, not for him, but by him. This self-struggle is ordained of God. In the words of Hesiod, "The gods have placed sweat in the pathway to excellence." Mrs. Browning conveys the same idea in her words, "Knowledge by suffering entereth." There is no royal

road. Ptolemy's son and the slave must tread the same highway. Says Spencer in his "Intellectual Education," "Humanity has progressed solely by self-instruction; and to achieve the best results, each mind must progress somewhat after the same fashion."

The mind aroused and quickened to activity by the inspired teacher, will soon stretch out and enlarge its substance; and under his proper guidance, of necessity will unfold and develop the power to reason correctly and the capability to think independently. Should not this be fulfilled in any scheme of education?

Secondary or high school education is based upon the principle laid down above and uniformly aims at the development of mental power. It seeks to train harmoniously the various faculties of the mind; to awaken the student to self-activity; to form in him regular habits of study; to lay a substantial and appropriate foundation for further study; and among other things, to prepare for citizenship and the great workshop of the world. In fulfilling its requirements the successful student *must* possess "courage in attacking difficulties, patient concentration of the attention, and perseverance through failures." These three, *courage*, *concentration*, *perseverance*, are the virtues which the practice of requiring of the student individual and independent effort fosters.

His success is determined by what *he* can do, and by what *he* does for *himself*; in short, by his own power of achieving.

The watchword is development through self-effort.