

MANUAL TRAINING.

IN the wave of enthusiasm for manual training which is now passing over this land, it is very difficult to get together the results of experience, and still more difficult to determine whether the plans which work well in one place are adapted to another. Therefore every honest record of a working organization is to be welcomed. Even when the opinions of a writer are not accepted, his statement of facts should receive attention.

These remarks apply to the volume on manual training, which has lately been published from the pen of Charles H. Ham. The work has its practical, its historical, and its philosophical aspect. In the first hundred pages there is an elaborate account of the Chicago manual training school, which was founded in 1883 by the Commercial club, — an association of merchants, who, after a discussion of 'How to increase the supply of skilled labor,' pledged the sum of one hundred thousand dollars for the support of an industrial school. A large building has been constructed, and instruction is given in carpentry, wood-turning, founding, forging, and in the making of machinery. The various laboratories devoted to these purposes are described, but the experience of two years is, of course, too limited to be very significant. The general principles of the establishment seem to be in close accordance with the well-known views of Professor Runkle of Boston, and of Professor Woodward of St. Louis.

In reading this volume we have been impressed with this danger, — that, in giving emphasis to the value of manual training, the worth of mental training will be overlooked. James Russell Lowell, in a recent speech, wittily said that not only are those studies of value which make bread-winning easier, but also those which will make every morsel of bread taste the sweeter.

The author of the book before us declares at the beginning that it is a theory of the Chicago school, that "in the processes of education the idea should never be isolated from the object it represents." Indeed! Can this be so? Are 'abstractions' to have no rights which the school is bound to respect? How about the idea of number, of form, of quantity, of force? Probably the author did not see the bearing of his remark; but he repeats it in these words: "Separated from its object, the idea is unreal, a phantom." This is very different from the saying of Sir Humphry Davy, that there is nothing so prolific in abilities as abstractions. Believing as we do in the great importance of manual training, believing

that every living being will be happier if he can skilfully use his fingers in some useful art, we regret to see the advocates of dexterity defend their views by wrong arguments and defective logic.

THE Johns Hopkins university circular for May states that Professor Rodolfo Lanciani of Rome will give a course of lectures on Roman archeology during the next academic year. He has been for some years professor of archeology at the Roman university, and inspector of excavations for the city, and is also one of the leading members of the archeological commission of Rome, and of the Pontifical archeological society. Though still quite young, he is one of the first authorities on Roman archeology, and has followed with greater care than any other archeologist the important excavations that have laid bare, from 1871 to 1886, so considerable a part of the ancient city. In 1880 he published "I comentarii di Frontino intorno le acque e gli aquedotti. Sylloge epigraphica aquaria," a learned work crowned by the Academy of the Lincei. This is but a small part of a great work to which he has been devoting years of research, — a complete topography of the ancient city of Rome, critical and historical. Professor Lanciani has contributed important papers to the *Bull. della comm. archeologica*, to the *Notizie degli Scavi*, and other archeological periodicals, besides separate works, such as 'Iscrizioni dell'Anfiteatro Flavio' (1880).

— The recent invention by Dr. J. O'Dwyer of New York, of a new method of treatment to take the place of the dreaded recourse to tracheotomy in diphtheria and membranous croup, bids fair to be of the greatest importance. His method does away with cutting-instruments entirely, and consists simply in the insertion of a tube of peculiar shape between the vocal cords, thus permitting the ingress of air into the trachea. The results already reached by this intubation treatment compare very favorably with those from tracheotomy, as regards the saving of life; and if, on extended trial, they are borne out, the invention will be ranked with the more important ones of the century, in medicine.

— Mr. S. Hertenstein of the Zoölogical museum of the Academy of sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia, is endeavoring to prepare schemes for public museums in Russia, to be promoted by the authorities. He would be grateful for any reports of American museums, especially such as relate to their organization rules or plan of operations. Any such may be mailed to him direct, or may be addressed to him, under cover, to the Smithsonian institution, Washington.

Manual training, the solution of social and industrial problems. By CHARLES H. HAM. New York, Harper, 1886. 12°.