

praised, are said to be no better than those in Great Britain, but in regard to secondary education the article proceeds: "So far as I can see, the American system is more truly educational, less pedagogic; the child is made to learn, I will not say things that are useful, but things that more develop his intelligence and reasoning faculties. I think any average Englishman of middle age, whether of a public or private school, who looks back on his school days must be struck by the vast amount of time and tears he spent in acquiring knowledge which he has entirely forgotten. "But the acquiring of this knowledge," it is said, "has developed his reasoning powers and strengthened his memory." The latter, no doubt, is true, and no one would undervalue memory. But the memory so acquired is of a description that is the least useful in the business affairs of life. Let us take a single example. Perhaps the most marvelous exhibition of memory is that displayed by players of blindfold chess; but who would select a man, because he was an expert in this science, to conduct a business? In regard to the claim of development of reasoning powers, it may be that the absolute reverse is the truth, and to learn by rote things that have no meaning to the learner is possibly the surest way to stunt the intellect. The most valuable intellectual gift a man can possess—I speak with all deference, not as an educationist, but as an engineer—is the power of concentrating his mind on the problem immediately before him; and the learning of meaningless or objectless things—they need only be meaningless or objectless to the learner—is the surest way to cultivate a discursive mental habit. Let any one who doubts this watch an average school boy getting by rote a Greek verb or any other lesson equally empirical. The most trifling incident will distract his attention, and that not from wilfulness, for the penalty of not knowing his lesson has many real terrors. Educational methods, I know, have improved and are still improving in this country, but when all is said I attribute the greater mental alertness of Americans, especially American middle-class youths, to the lead that American schools have taken in this respect.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

ACCORDING to press despatches, Professor E. A. Ross, lately professor of sociology at Leland Stanford Junior University, has been appointed professor in the University of Nebraska and Professors G. E. Howard (history), William H. Hudson (English literature) and G. N. Little (mathematics) have resigned their chairs at Stanford University.

THE latest benefaction of Dr. B. K. Pearsons's is reported to be \$200,000 for Beloit College, conditional on the raising of \$150,000 more by June 15th.

WARREN A. WILBUR, of South Bethlehem, has given \$5,000 to Lehigh University for the equipment of a mechanical laboratory.

AN anonymous gift of £50,000 has been made to the Woman's Agricultural College at Reading, England.

IN order to limit the crowding of the medical profession in Germany, the Government has introduced a bill regulating entrance to the medical profession, prolonging the period of study to five years and enlarging the subjects upon which the examinations are based.

THE Agricultural School at Berlin has been injured by fire due to an explosion of gas. The loss is estimated at \$15,000, in addition to the destruction of valuable collections.

DR. WINTHROP ELLSWORTH STONE has been elected president of Purdue University. He has been professor of chemistry in the institution since 1889, and vice-president since 1892.

IT is said that Dr. George Edgar Vincent, professor of sociology at the University of Chicago, has been offered the presidency of Northwestern University.

MISS LAURA D. GILL, A.B., A.M. (Smith College), has been appointed dean of Barnard College, Columbia University.

DR. JOHN E. WEEKS has been appointed to the professorship of ophthalmology in the New York University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College made vacant by the death of Dr. Henry D. Noyes.

AUSTIN M. PATTERSON, A.B., (Princeton), Ph.D. (John Hopkins), has been appointed instructor in chemistry in Centre College, Ky.