

SCIENCE

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fessor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

WHAT TRAINING IN PHYSIOLOGY AND HYGIENE MAY WE REASONABLY EX- PECT OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.*

IN the public schools of to-day various subjects are taught, and for various reasons. Some, like arithmetic or the reading and writing of English, are indispensable tools of modern civilized life; others, like geography and history, impart necessary information or promote general intelligence; still others, like algebra, geometry and Latin, are agents of mental discipline or else afford necessary preparation for subsequent work. Physiology and hygiene, the studies with which we are concerned in the present paper, were introduced into the public schools for the express purpose of affording information concerning the structure and functions of the human body, being expected thereby to contribute to the preservation and promotion of health; and they have kept their place, in spite of serious shortcomings, as a concession to the practical importance of sound ideas concerning health and disease.

The training which may reasonably be expected in the reading and writing of English, in arithmetic, in geography or in Latin, is the subject of frequent discussion in educational gatherings and is doubtless influenced by such discussions; but it is determined chiefly by the exami-

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