

and monotonous as that through which he has just led his mental forces in triumph. Ample food is furnished for the nourishment of every part of the mind. The understanding and reason is strengthened by the purest examples of logical sequences to which there are no alternatives. The imagination becomes elastic in its growth by airy figures in true geometrical proportion, with thousands of curves and lines arranged with an exactness that would do honor to an architect. Thus fortified against all influences that incapacitate a man for acquiring knowledge by study or observation, a man certainly is prepared to enter upon the study of any business with great advantage. But the indolent man replies that some of our greatest men have never studied mathematics. So can we say some of the greatest orators have never studied oratory; some of the greatest architects and engineers have never studied architecture and engineering; some of the gaeatest generals have never read a book on the military art; even Enoch and Elijah got to heaven without dying. If we were all Newtons, Burkes, Websters and Bonapartes, naturally all we would have to do would be to receive the homage of the world and lie in indolence. But we are not, and will have to accept our condition and act accordingly. Where some men have been born with trained minds, the majority find it necessary to labor hard to attain the same degree of mental discipline, and until a boy is thoroughly convinced that he is destined by his mental calibre to assume the mantle of the departed Webster, it is necessary for him to subject himself to some stern mental training, such as the study of abhorred mathematics. But it must not be inferred that it is to monopolize the mind. It is only an assistant; other branches can be carried on at the same time. It is not an end to be accomplished; it is only the means by which to acquire knowledge. After it has sharpened the intellect it can be dispensed with, and the time can be exclusively devoted to our special occupations or the study of literature. Beyond the mere fact of being a trainer of the mind, it is intimately connected with the study of