

have survived the melodist who sent them forth, and "though the high may have proved too high, the heroic for earth too hard," the results will nevertheless be achieved, and there shall be heard the melody of all courageous effort by and by.

But it is not so much of the ethics of effort and of failure that we would write in the present article, as of the results of the latter on the individual from a psychological point of view. Daily we meet with people who "come with phrases nice and modest air to ask advice," and almost invariably, when this is tendered, the answer comes, "Oh, I could never accomplish that," or words to a similar effect. Inclination would draw them in one direction while fear serves to keep their feet in the beaten track wherein chance has set them. They cannot risk failure and yet they do not realise that they may actually lose far more through fear than through failure. For, more often than not, it is the case that through failure we ultimately succeed just as it is that through honest doubt we learn. The book that failed to circulate, the music which never found its way into the concert hall, the picture that was never "hung" have, all of them, been worth while because of their psychological effects on those who produced them. They helped to educate faculties, were steps of progress even when they failed to please. There is too great a tendency to regard every effort as failure which does not bring applause or material gain. Says Marcus Aurelius, "When thou hast done a good act and another has received it, why dost thou still look for a third thing besides, as fools do either to have reputation . . . or to obtain a return?" Human nature is much the same to-day as in the times of that old-world sage and it is hard to be content with two things, still more to be content with effort alone. Yet there is no better form of mental hygiene than the power to find contentment in effort, whatever the fruits of it may prove to be. Often, on the ruins of such effort, a fresh venture is begun and success arises by the education that failure has given. But education is not the only result of failure, for the latter tends to foster patience and independence, and indeed the more one comes to study the psychological results of failure, the more it is to be doubted whether such a thing as failure need really exist, because, when rightly accepted, it tends to lift one into a loftier atmosphere and a more perfected existence.

There certainly is no such thing as standing still, and the real failures are those who have never made any effort beyond what they feel to lie strictly within their power. They are bound in the long run to stand on a lower plane than many of those whom the world regards as failures because they have never tried and failed, never gained the experience and characteristics which enterprise and failure bring, and so it is that they lack certain subtle qualities and much of the originality and independence which mark the men of high endeavour, "failures" even though they may be. It is held by some that, in a dim,

age-long past, man lived but in a sort of sleeping consciousness, that he acted entirely on impressions from without and had neither volition nor intellect of his own. To-day he is possessed of both, but to develop them to their highest he must learn self-reliance and a certain divine indifference to the opinions of those about him; only by inspiration and effort high enough in their ideals to challenge failure, can such development progress.

OBITUARY.

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of Miss Cordelia Duffield, an early member of the Association. Miss Duffield trained at St. George's Hospital and has always taken a very keen interest in her Association. Her death took place after an illness of a few hours.

"BE A BRICK."

In order to stimulate interest in the collection of funds of which they are, needlessly to say, badly in need, the Royal Surgical Aid Society has designed a novel collecting box exactly reproducing a brick. The work of this Society is too well-known to need any recommendation. During last year it relieved 18,979 cases. Its work is now seriously hampered from two causes: (1) the enormous increase in the cost of appliances, (2) a disastrous fire during the latter part of the war which destroyed an important part of its headquarters.

The Society appeals to each one to "Be a Brick," to take a brick, and thus help to build up the deformed, the stricken, and the maimed.

USEFUL LECTURES.

The National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality and the Welfare of Infancy has arranged three courses of lectures:—(1) An elementary course on infant care for infant welfare workers, teachers, mothers, &c., to be given at Morley Hall, George Street, Hanover Square, W., on Mondays from 6 to 7 p.m., from September 27th to December 13th. (2) A special course on infant care for health visitors, nurses, midwives, school teachers, voluntary infant welfare workers, committees of nursing associations, &c., in the Lecture Theatre, University College, Nottingham, from September 20th to 24th. (3) Advanced lectures on infant care specially intended for creche nurses and probationers, at Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, W.C., from September 30th to December 16th. Further information is available from Miss Holford, Secretary, 4 and 5, Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1.

ISABEL MACDONALD,

Secretary to the Corporation.

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