THE BULLETIN.

BRAIN FORCE.

Those of our readers who have kept pace with the recent investigations of science have doubtless discovered that many of the most important of these have been undertaken with the view of determining whether there be any law of mutual dependence between the mental and physical forces, or, as the formula has it, whether these forces are correlated, a term best defined by the simple question, does a given amount of physical force—such as that exerted by the muscles of the arm in lifting a weight, the expansion of steam in the cylinder, or the attraction of steel to the magnet—represent or bear any direct relation or resemblance to the mental force which is exerted or brought into play when man reasons or remembers? In order to establish or disprove any such theory, it is evidently essential that the chemical and physical constitution of the brain, the seat of all mental action, should be carefully determined. To discover the simple constituents of the brain, a chemical analysis was all that was needed; but, when it became evident that in order to understand the working of the brain we must see it work, the problem became more intricate and difficult; yet it has been finally solved by the following delicate experiment: A part of the bony covering of a dog's skull was carefully removed, and the surface of the brain laid bare; in this opening, which was circular and of the proper size, a watch-crystal was carefully inserted, and so nicely adjusted as to exclude the air, and thus prevent undue irritation. Delicate as is this operation, the animal survives it, and the investigator may watch the effects of food, sleep, fear, etc., upon the brain, through this circular window. By this means it was determined, that, when the dog is asleep, the brain is paler, and that a fresh influx of blood is noticed on his awakening, when the functions of the brain resume their activity. From these observations, and others of a kindred nature, there is deduced the theory that "the brain is governed by the common law that controls blood circulation in all the organs." We have chosen to present these facts in detail, since they illustrate the general nature of those investigations, though they may not offer a satisfactory solution of the main problem.

However these philosophers or their theories may differ as to the true origin of brain force, they are yet all agreed on one point; namely, that the action of the brain may be stimulated, strengthened, or retarded at the will of its possessor. As the body proper is made strong, the muscles developed, and the organs of sense rendered more acute, by active use and training; so the mental faculties—the power to reason, remember, etc.,—are are rendered strong and effective by proper and repeated exercise. Just as the muscles of the arm may, by lifting ten pounds to-day and twenty to-morrow, finally attain such strength as readily to raise a hundredweight or more; so the mind that to-day is able to comprehend or retain the most simple of mental probleme, may to-morrow master a second and more intricate one.

It is narrated of a famous French necromancer, that after walking quickly past a richly furnished shop window, and giving it a mere hurried glance, he was able to name each separate article there displayed; giving, with perfect accuracy, not only its name, but its precise location, form and color. When this man was asked to reveal the secret by which he worked such wonders, his simple reply was, practice. Day after day, and a hundred times each day, he and his son would pass in front of the same window, halting before each return to repeat to the memory the list of articles noted, marking also any changes which may have been made during the interval. Each day the list was lengthened; and so acute did the sight become, and so trained their powers of observation, that finally they were enabled to name every book in a library through which they had passed in apparent unconcern. The story, no doubt, seems an extravagant one; yet the means for testing its truth are at the command of any honest enquirer. In the instance cited, the main purpose of these men was to perplex and mystify their audience, and, by the exercise of this apparently miraculous power, gained a livelihood. If, however, any of our readers feel desirous of trying for themselves, we would suggest a method that will render the end worthy of the effort. Having determined upon some poem or address which it is desired to commit to memory, read carefully and with closest attention the first few lines; then close the book, and for five minutes write and rewrite the words as recalled, preserving, as far as possible, the sense of the passage. Again repeat the reading and the recital, going over both until the whole is thoroughly committed to memory, when a second advance may be made, and that with the conscious evidence of improvement. Should, it, however, be desired to test or develop the reasoning or thinking faculties, then let the subject chosen be a single proposition in Euclid, or a difficult scientific or mathematical problem. In this case, as it is not the memory but the reason which is under training, let the mind be concentrated upon the idea which is meant to be conveyed, rather than upon the words in which it is presented. The result, though it may not be so immediately apparent, is yet equally certain.

We have been prompted to make these suggestions for the reason that there is a notion all too prevalent, that the Maker has given to some men certain powers wholly withheld from others; and that not having been gifted, as the phrase goes they are not responsible. It was told for a noble purpose, that story of the "talants;" yet to how many has it served as an excuse for inaction! As opposed to this narrow and false view of personal responsibility, the assertion is made, and without hesitation, that any man of so-called "average ability" and a strong will, can gain for himself almost any rank among men that he persistently determines to attain—which is simply another rendering of the old proverb, "what man has done, man can do." You hesitate to accept so broad and positive a statement; and yet let any doubtful reader recall some purpose that once prompted him to earnest endeavor, but in the fulfilment of which he failed, go carefully over each step of the advance, from the eager and earnest beginning to the faint-hearted and feeble efforts that preceded its abandonment—such a retrospect will certainly reveal the fact, that it was not the mind that wearied, but the will that faltered; he was not incapable, but discouraged.

But what is the purpose of these words? Simply this; to impress upon the reader, as a reasoning, intellectual being, that he has in his actual possession all the material that is needed to make him a leader among men; and therefore, if he fail, he fails through weakness of purpose, not lack of power. Nor will this condition be altered one whit by the discoveries of science or the demonstrations of philosophy —[Industrial Monthly.

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

While this distinguished patriot and statesmen was vice-president of the United States, it was customary for the individual holding the said high office, to attend to business more in person, than the refinements of more modern times will allow. It happened on one occasion that some important matter required his attention in Philadelphia, and some other places distant from the capitol. In those days, a journey to Philadelphia was not to be performed in a few hours—it was two or three days travel, and not of the most pleasant sort either. On his return he stopped in Baltimore; it was four or five in the afternoon, when the vice president rode up suitless and unattended to the tavern. A Scotchman by the name of Boyden kept the hotel. The bucks of the town were assembled in the large hall, smoking, strutting, cracking jokes, and otherwise indulging in the etceteras of the day. Boyden was at the bar examining his books, and doubtless making calculations in reference to his future prospects. Jefferson had delivered his horse into the hands of the hostler, and walked into the tavern to make arrangements in regard to his fare. Some one touched Boyden upon the shoulder, and directed his attention toward the stranger, who was standing whip in hand, striking it occasionally upon his muddy leggins. Boyden turned round, and surveyed him from head to foot, and concluded him to be an old farmer from the country, whose company would add no credit to the house, said abruptly, "We have no room for you, sir."

Jefferson did not hear the remark, and asked if he could not be accommodated with a room. His voice, which was commanding and attractive, occasioned another survey of his person, by the honest proprietor of the house, whose only care was for its reputation. He could not find, however, in his plain dress, pretty well covered with mud, anything indicating wealth or distinction, and in his usual rough style, he said "a room?"

Jefferson replied, "Yes sir, I should like to have a room to myself, if I can get it." "A room ALL to yourself? No—no, we have no room—there is not a spare room in the house—all full—all occupied can't accommodate you." Mr. Jefferson turned upon his heel, called for his horse, which by this time was snug in the stable, mounted and rode off. In a few minutes one of the most wealthy and distinguished gentlemen in the town came in and asked for the gentleman who rode up to the door a few minutes before. "Gentleman? said Boyden. "Yes, the gentleman who came up this instant on horseback!" "There has been no gentleman here on horseback this afternoon, and no stranger at all, but one common country looking fellow, who came in and asked if he could have a whole room; but I asked him out of that mighty quick, I can tell you—I told him I had no room for such as him." "No room for such chaps as him!" "No, by the piper, no room for any one that don't look respectable.' "Why, what are you talking about, man? He's the vice president of the United States!" "Vice president of the United States?" exclaimed Boyden, almost breathless with astonishment. "Why, yes, sir, Thomas Jefferson, the vice president of the United States, and the greatest man alive."

"Murder, what have I done? Here, Tom, Jim, Jerry, Jake; where are you all? fly, you villains—fly, and tell that gentleman we've forty rooms at his service! By George! vice president—Thomas Jefferson! tell him to come back, and he shall have my wife's parlor—my own room—Jupiter! what have I done? Here, Harriet, Mary, Jule, clear out the family! he shall have the best room, and all the rooms if he wants them. Off, you hussies, put clean sheets upon the bed. Bill, take up this mirror. George, hurry up with the boot jack. By George, what a mistake." For fifteen minutes Boyden raved like a madman, and went to the door to see if his wished-for guest was returning. The vice-president rode up to Market street where he was recognized by many of his old acquaintances, and by them directed to the Globe tavern, which stood somewhere near the corner of Maria and Charles streets. Here Boyden's servants came up and told him their master had provided rooms for him. "Tell your master I have engaged rooms," replied Jefferson. Poor Boyden's mortification can be better imagined than described. The chaps who were loitering about the bar and large hall, and had laughed heartily at the disappointment of the muddy farmer, had recovered from their astonishment, and were preparing to laugh at the downcast landlord. After sometime he prevailed on some friend to wait upon Mr. Jefferson with his apology, and request that he would return and take lodgings at his house, promising the best rooms, and that every attention should be given to him. Mr. Jefferson returned the following answer: "Tell Mr. Boyden I appreciate his kind intentions; but if he had no room for the muddy farmer he shall have none for the vice president."

MILTON AND MUSIC.

The home education of Milton was of a generous and humane character. He had before him, constantly, the example of a father who knew what it was to suffer in position and estate, for opinion's sake. The youthful John absorbed, with every boyish breath, the love of liberty for which his father paid so dearly. But the training of the home circle was not entirely acrimonious. John Milton, senior, found time to give himself to the study of the noble science music. He attained to such a degree of skill that he composed an II Nomene of forty parts, which gained for him a gold medal from an European prince. Several of his compositions found a place in Wilby's selections, and also in Ravencroft's psalms.

With such an examplar in the household, it is not surprising that young Milton became an adept in the art of music. It is not difficult to imagine the domestic circle, with the father at the instrument singing bass, while John carried the melody, Christopher the tenor, and Ann the alto. If Cambridge gave the bent to Milton's mind in the direction of letters, those family concerts in the house of the London scrivener did no less for him in the science of music.

In all the experience of Milton's stormy manhood, this sweet comfort of a wearied mind never failed him. If he appears more prominently in history as a statesman and a poet than as a musician, it is only because the world gives more attention to the inviting streams than to the quiet springs which supply them.

After receiving his degree of Master of Arts, he bid adieu to his home and made a tour through the land of song. Already the name which, with that of Shakespeare, was to shine in English literature, found nobility and literati waiting to confer the highest honor. Artists and titled dignitaries recognized in him a genius worthy of their homage. The treasures of ducal palaces were laid open to his inspection. Galleries of art and ancient libraries invited his thoughtful study. But amid all the scenes of artistic glory and princely magnificence, he carried with him the training of the scrivener's fireside. After reaching Venice he spent a month in collecting the works of the master musicians of Italy. Luca Marenzo, Monte Verde, Horatio Vecchi, Caba, the prince of Venosa, and others of the best composers of the time, furnished him with a rich treasury of Italian song. Two chests of music books were shipped to England.

At the age of thirty-one, he returned to his native land. At once he addressed himself to those political and social projects whose audacity was equaled only by the vigor with which he discussed them. His "Tractate on Education" was a colossal in its conception as it was impracticable in its execution. He was so far in advance of his own age as to appear visionary. It is only in our own time that his broad views have been appreciated, and many of his principles adopted. He maintained that the education of youth should be physical as well as mental; that their minds should be occupied with the whole cycle of human knowledge; and that, among the arts, music should have a conspicious place. He saw in music not a mere embellishment to set off sterner things, but a profound science and the most inspiring of arts.

Milton never speaks of music without a peculiar and impressive enthusiasm. The depths and virtues of music are glowing themes under his pen. His verses sing, because his spirit sings in them. No poet revels more luxuriously in the swelling waves of music. He soars into the very empyrean of lofty song. Coleridget calls him the "musical poet." "Paradise Lost" throbs with the echoes that rang, in incessant anthem, in his musical soul.

Music was his only recreation. In the intervals of severe study, he gave himself to inspiring song. When he stopped to breathe amid the fierce and acrid controversies of his active manhood, he refreshed himself with the grand harmonies of the organ or the gentler tones of the flute. He could turn from the "Areopagitica" to a soothing choral; from a state paper of the commonwealth to an anthem. And when, in his old age, blindness and poverty and royal ban were on him, and the hopes of a lifetime were shattered forever, he felt his way back to the keys of the instrument, and found consolation in the harmony of sweet sounds. And out from the musical soul whose heavenly harmonies neither violence nor neglect could destroy, rolled the measures of the immortal epic that will sing its way on to the gates of pearl.—[College Herald.

CHARLES DICKENS ON DEATH

From the "Cyclopedia of the Best Thoughts of Charles Dickens" we cull the following mourning flowers which bloom upon the pages of the dead novelist:

"Dead, your majesty. Dead, my lords and gentlemen. Dead, right reverends and wrong reverends, of every order. Dead, men and women, born with heavenly compassion in your hearts. And dying thus around us every day."—[Bleak House, chapter 67.

"The golden ripple on the wall came back again, and nothing else stirred in the room. The old, old fashioned. The fashion that came in with our first garments, and will last unchanged until our race has run its course, and the wide firmament is rolled up like a scroll. The old, old fashioned—death! Oh, thank God, all who see it, for that older fashion yet of immortality! And look upon us, angels of young children, with regards not quite estranged when the swift river bears us to the ocean."—[Domboy, chapter 17.

"The spirit of the child, returning, innocent and radiant, touched the old man with its hand, and beckoned him away."—[Chimes, Second Quarter.

"The star had shown the way to find the God of the poor; and through humility, and sorrow and forgiveness, he had gone to his Redeemer's rest."—[Hard Times, book 3, chapter 6.

"A cricket sings upon the hearth, a broken child's toy lies upon the ground, and nothing else remains."—[Cricket on the Hearth, chapter 3.

"I felt my own self as the dead may feel if they ever revisit these scenes. I was glad to be tenderly remembered, to be gently pitied, not to be quite forgotten."—[Bleak House, chapter 45.

"From these garish lights I vanish now forevermore; with a heartful, grateful, respectful, and affectionate farewell—and I pray God bless us everyone."—[Last Reading, London, March 6, 1870.

"When I die, put me near something that has loved the light and had the sky above it always."—[Old Curiosity Shop chapter 71.

"Lord, keep my memory green."—[Haunted Man, chapter 4.

"'Now,' he murmured, 'I am happy.' He fell into a light slumber, and, waking, smiled as before; then spoke of beautiful gardens, which he said stretched out before him, and were filled with figures of men, women and many children, all with light upon their faces, then whispered that it was Eden—and so died.—[Nickleby, chapter 58.

"Died like a child that had gone to sleep.—[Copperfield, chapter 9.

"And began the world—not this world, oh, not this. The world that sets this night."—[Bleak House, Chapter 25.

"Gone before the Father; far beyond the twilight judgments of this world—[Little Dorrit, book 2, chapter 19.

"And lay at rest. The solemn stillness was no marvel now."—[Old Curiosity Shop, chapter 71.

"It being high water, he went out with the tide."—Copperfield, chapter 30.

CHILDREN PROTECTING BIRDS AND ANIMALS

The German societies for the protection of animals, especially the one in Berlin, are doing excellent work by writings, and especially by winter lectures. The discussion on the protection of birds called the attention of the leaders of this movement to the necessity of influencing children to care for animals; and several excellent books have been written for this purpose.

A Hessian schoolmaster has set a good example. It was the general complaint in his village that the rough boys were continually guilty of cruelty to animals, of taking away birds eggs, and of destroying their nests. The teacher, grieved at such conduct among his own scholars, determined, after careful consideration, to form among the children a "Society for the Protection of Animals ane Preservation of Plants." The children were delighted when their instructor communicated to them his idea, and with the greatest willingness took upon themselves the duties imposed by the rules of the society. During the past year, the children have caught many thousands of injurious insects, and destroyed innumerable caterpilar-nests. They are taught, however, to protect the useful animals, and to preserve the birds and their nests most zealously.

This winter the children have undertaken the duty of strewing food in frosty weather to their little winged friends. The communal authorities of the place plmted a number of young fruit-trees during the last summer; and these are now placed under the special care and oversight of the school youth. The teacher has apportioned to each boy a certain number of trees; and the children are said to have really become very much attached to the charge placed upon them. Strange to say, no reward is offered to the children; they feel perfectly satisfied in being able to be of service, and to work for the general good. The village society for the protection of animals and preservation of plants certainly deserves encouragement and imitation. We should be glad to hear of one or more being established in every American village. Suitable rewards, however, would not be out of place.—[Selected.

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Every subscriber to the Aldine, who pays in advance for the year 1873, will receive, without additional charge, a pair of beautiful oil chromos, after J. J. Hill, the eminent English painter. The pictures, entitled "The Village Belle," and "Crossing the Moor," are 14x20 inches—are printed from 25 different plates, requiring 25 impressions and tints to perfect each picture. The same chromos are sold for $30 per pair, in the art stores. As it is the determination of its conductors to keep the Aldine out of the reach of competition in every department, the chromos will be found ahead of any that can be offered by other periodicals. Every subscriber will receive a certificate, over the signature of the publishers, guaranteeing that the chromos delivered shall be equal to the samples furnished the agent, or the money will be refunded. The distribution of pictures of this grade, free to the subscribers to a five dollar periodical, will mark an epoch in the history of Art; and, considering the unprecedented cheapness of the price for the Aldine itself, the marvel falls little short of a miracle, even to those best acquainted with the achievements of inventive genius and improved mechanical appliances. (For illustrations of these chromos, see November issue of the Aldine.)

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SPRINGFIELD AND ILLINOIS SOUTHEASTERN R. R.

On and after Monday, April 24th, 1872 trains will run as follows:

NORTHERN DIVISION.

TRAINS GOING SOUTHEAST.

	Mail.	Express.
Leave Virginia	8:40 a. m.	1:35 p.m.
" Springfield	9: 0 "	3:00 "
" Taylorville	10 5 "	5. 6 "
Arrive at Pana	11.46 "	5.17 "

TRAINS GOING NORTHWEST.

	Express.	Mail.
Leave Pana	4.00 a. m.	3.35 a. m.
" Taylorville	4.40 "	4.6 "
Arrive at Springfield	6.15 "	6.00 "
Leave Springfield	6.5 "	6.10 "
Arrive at Virginia	8.5 "	8.15 "

SOUTHERN DIVISION.

TRAINS GOING SOUTHEAST.

Leave Edgewood	5.30 a. m.	10.10 p.m
" Flora	8.5 "	11.40 "
Arrive at Shawneet'n	35 "	5.15

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