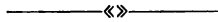


tage as clearly as the eye discerns the grain of wheat from the chaff. In the same way as gymnastic exercises render the body more graceful, healthy, and erect by training it to self-denying labour which drives out the superfluous humours, and thus aids in the correction of bad habits, so, mathematical knowledge subjects the mind to a gymnastic training which makes it more healthy and straightforward.

Finally, mathematics enables a person to form a true estimate of practically everything, especially of one's own attainments. Take as an example the great Sir Isaac Newton, the greatest mathematician of modern times, a man remarkable both for the urbanity of his manners and the simplicity of his mind. His extensive knowledge tended only to give him a true estimate of himself and of his varied attainments.

The same may be said of many other great scientists and statesmen. Richard Porson, one of the finest classical scholars that England ever produced, was trained by his father from earliest youth in the rudiments of Arithmetic, and he attributes his classical greatness to the accurate thinking acquired during those early years of patient labour. Lord Bacon, in one of his famous essays lays down the injunction that if a man's wit be wandering, he should study mathematics; for in demonstration, if his wit be called away never so little, he must begin the whole discourse over again.

Hence we may truly say, with the great Dr. Jones, that Mathematics and the severer sciences, with logic and metaphysics, bestow an acuteness and an endurance upon the mind, which serve essentially to call forth and strengthen the abstract reason.



Our Lady's Tears

Beneath the cross Our Lady stood,
And down her tear-drops fell like rain;
For there, in anguish, Jesus hung,
And she so shared His bitter pain.

Unseen, there came an angel fair,
Who in a chalice wrought of gold,
Those tear-drops gathered tenderly,
Until the cup no more could hold.

And since that Crucifixion day,
I think, through all the years,
The hardest hearts, God melts at last,
Most surely in Our Lady's tears.

Alberto J. Oben.