AMBITION TALKS
BY
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ALL "EASY ROADS TO SUCCESS" LEAD THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.
Almost without exception the great scholars of the world have been men who have studied continuously from young manhood to old age; and in this class are included both those who were quick and those who were slow at the start; for in the race for scholarship the track is so long that the handicap at the start is not a matter of great consequence.
The familiar illustration of Catu, that old Roman philosopher, with the large Adam's apple, comes readily to mind here.
Cato began the study of Greek at 36 with the poet Ennius, and took up Greek literature again at 83, simply for the sake of keeping his brain in trim.
Henry Clay, brilliant as he was in his youth, did not consider that the real foundation of his future greatness as an orator was laid until at the age of 27 he began the practice of temporizing daily upon some current topic, his efforts being witnessed by an audience of cows and hens. And there is many another, young orator who ought to do his practicing on the same kind of an audience.
Dr. Robert Hall, the eminent English divine and scholar, in his old age, was once found lying upon the floor, racked with pain, engaged with the study of Italian, in order that he might become able to test the correctness of Macaulay's famous comparison of Milton and Dante.
How weak and feeble, in comparison with this, becomes the "painless method" adopted by many of our modern educators, who want the pupil to have education pumped into him with the aid of laughing gas and local anesthetics! And whose chief concern in life is to invent games and tricks whereby the unsuspecting child may get a thimbleful of brains without knowing that he's got em.
Does Willie object to eating meat? Then chop it up into tidbits and mix it with candy, or else put on so much tabasco sauce that he'll never recognize the taste.
Does he refuse to work? Then build a toy automobile around his lawn mower, so he'll think he is violating the speed ordinance while he cuts the grass.
My word!