



SKIPPING HARD THINGS

SOME young folks have the habit of skipping everything that is difficult. This habit begins in childhood, in school. Easy lessons are learned because they require no great effort; but when a hard lesson comes in the course it is given only a half-hearted trial. When reading a story the hard words are skipped over.

The habit thus allowed to start from childhood easily finds itself working into all the life. The boy does the same on the playground. When the game needs no special exertion he gets through it fairly well, but when hotly contested, and the victory can be won only by a struggle, he drops out. He does not have the persistence for a great effort.

The girl who lets her school lessons master her, who leaves the hard words unread, and the hard problems unsolved, soon begins to allow other hard things to master her. The home tasks which are disagreeable or those which require special effort she leaves untended to, for others to do.

And so the habit of doing only what is easy and pleasant, and skipping what is difficult and disagreeable, pervades the entire life, with the result that nothing noble or brave is ever accomplished, and the person never rises to anything above the commonplace.