

machinery, publication, those whose occupations arise from the adaptation of the natural resources of the world to the needs of men, the sphere of action.

To discover to which class he belongs is the first problem for anyone studying himself or helping another to do so, for finding the right life work is a greater factor in making a satisfactory environment than any other except perhaps health. From the threefold point of view of happiness, success and service, it is important. We can all summon from among our acquaintances a mental vision of a round peg trying to fill a square hole, or a square peg striving to adapt himself to a round hole, neither of them very happy, very successful, or rendering conspicuous service as a result of their endeavours.

The reasons for the importance of wisely chosen work are obvious.

First, we like doing it, and as we spend a large proportion of our waking hours at work, this is a big consideration.

Second, when it is done, we contemplate the result with satisfaction, for as we like doing it, we enter into it with zest of heart as well as energy of hand and head and the efficiency which comes from this ensures self-respect and the respect of our fellows. This again leads to success both in the position occupied among men and in a monetary way, for though money is not the first nor only point to be considered in the choice of a career, yet the material returns are not to be despised nor neglected, for, as the old pioneer farmer said, "Poverty may be no disgrace—but it's mighty unhandy."

Thirdly, the right work draws about the worker persons of similar tastes and interests, and he finds a steadily enlarging circle of congenial friends and acquaintances. The outcome of this is almost sure to be the deepening and broadening of the powers and personality of the whole man so that he is able to render the greatest service of which he is capable to the community.

Clearly then, your Koh-i-noor, the big one among your diamonds, is the discovery of the work for which Nature has best fitted you. But how to proceed? What to watch for, and when, and where? There are four main lines of observation: temperament, tastes, talents, and health.

Make a sober, impartial study of yourself, being careful neither to overestimate nor underestimate. Write down the results. Put them away for three or six months, then take them out and go over them critically. Do you still agree with your self-estimate? Where are you strong? What are the weak points? How could the strong points be cut and polished, made more valuable? How could the weak ones be strengthened? Do this periodically.

Is your temperament quick or slow? Irritable or patient? Controlled or impulsive? Do you get the best general results from work which demands of you intense concentrated spurts or from that requiring calm, steady routine? Are you an individualist or a co-operationist?

Tastes reveal themselves at play, in the favourite books and magazines, in the choice of companions, and in school records.

In play, is it lively games full of action and companionship, of making and doing things, which appeal, or the quieter amusements, one or two companions, walks, talks, and explorations by stream and in field or woodland? What tendencies are revealed at play? Is the individual a leader, a follower, or a co-operator, good at team-work? On what occasions and under what circumstances does he show initiative? Do the favourite books and papers deal with facts, biography, science, the practical side of life, or do poetry, romance, adventure, the imaginative writings make the stronger appeal?

The kind of intimates chosen from among acquaintances is worth study also as an indication of tastes.