



Swindon Mechanics Institution

New Swindon Mechanics' Institution

This useful and excellent Institution, the life of the new locality, has, in the course of the past week, had "a feast of reunion."

In the shape of two lectures, delivered at the school-room by Mr. G. J. Holyoake, of the city of London Mechanics' Institution. The subjects on which he extemporized were, "Knowledge without books," and the "Characteristics of Genius". In the former the lecturer expatiated on the value of observation, that,

"To know that which before us lies in daily life, is the prime of wisdom."

And in the latter, that genius is not so much as innate principle conferred upon a favoured few, as a latent embryo, common to our nature, and which developed in those few, by application and perseverance. His lectures received that merited applause, which is the sure result of spontaneous but well digested ideas, evolved from an independent mind; in fluent language, intelligible to all. Mr. Holyoake is an example of the principle he endeavoured successfully to elucidate – that to attain excellence in any department of science or art, we must, as Cobbett characteristically recommends, "*Begin and stick to it.*"

We heartily wish Mr. H. that success which he so well deserves.

(From a Correspondent).

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