

and, with all that they involve in the way of spelling, punctuation, letter-writing, composition, pronunciation, good handwriting, neatness and aptness at figures, they furnish an excellent beginning. In themselves they are not an end, they are a beginning—a foundation on which may be built a sound commercial career.

Other subjects which are particularly necessary are: English literature, history and geography (general as well as commercial), at least one science, and if possible one language—at any rate, a good knowledge of the formation and derivation of English words and current foreign phrases; an understanding of the principles of Political Economy; and last, but by no means least, a good store of what I may term “general knowledge.” The confines of this last-named are difficult to specify; but I think I am right in saying that they are

almost invariably beyond and outside the curriculum of the ordinary secondary school, and that for the advanced student the best place to acquire this general knowledge is the world of men and women around him, and the best reading-book, the daily newspaper.

I have no sympathy with the opinion that would seem to prevail in some educational circles in New Zealand, and, I am informed, in all educational circles in China, that the more useless and inapplicable certain information is, the more important is its acquirement. Our watchwords should be “Thoroughness” and “Usefulness.” Whatever knowledge is acquired, should be acquired thoroughly, and it should be worthy of acquirement here and now for the practical needs of modern life, for now more than ever:

“Utility is the measure of value.”



C. E. Caley, photo.

Ohinemutu.