

"Y'know, Mr. Needle, I don't reckon I would have had my record of violence if I had had this as a kid. But when littler kids pokes fun at you and calls you 'dunce', what else can you do, but thump 'em?"

This, surely, is the nub of hooliganism? Nobody likes a contemporary who is cleverer than he should be. But the gorge really rises when inferiors abundantly clearly reveal their mental superiority. It evokes an urge to rend and destroy.

It is a malaise that occurs in every walk of life and explains, among other things, why so many British inventions are lost to foreign competitors. It is all, as has been said before, a question of injured vanity.

At Haslar we try to implant in the minds of our illiterate intake a new, uplifting vanity born of achieving a measure of normality in a remarkably short time. The occasional letter that arrives sometimes months after a pupil's discharge suggests that here and there we succeed.

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