

partem, et superare, mendosum est; tum verborum omnium definitiones, in quibus neque abesse quidquam decet neque redundare.

84 XX. Sed hoc si in iure civili, si etiam in parvis aut mediocribus rebus doctiores assequi possunt, non idem sentio tanta hac in re, tamque immensa, posse fieri. Sin autem qui arbitrantur, deducendi sunt ad eos, qui haec docent; omnia iam explicata et perpolita assequentur: sunt enim innumerabiles de his rebus libri, neque abditum neque obscurum. Sed videant, quid velint: ad ludendumne, an ad pugnandum arma sint sumpturi; aliud enim pugna et acies, aliud ludus campusque noster desiderat. Attamen ars ipsa ludicra armorum et gladiatori et militi prodest aliquid; sed animus acer, et praesens, et acutus idem atque versutus, invictos viros efficit [non difficilius arte coniuncta].¹

85 Quare ego tibi oratorem sic iam instituam, si potuero, ut, quid efficere possit, ante perspiciam. Sit enim mihi tinctus litteris; audierit aliquid, legerit, ista ipsa praecepta acceperit: tentabo quid deceat, quid voce, quid viribus, quid spiritu, quid lingua efficere possit. Si intellegam posse ad summos pervenire, non solum hortabor, ut elaboret, sed etiam, si vir quoque bonus mihi videbitur esse, obsecrabo:

¹ Ellendt, Sorof and others reject the words in brackets as a copyist's addition.

species is a fault, and finally the definitions of all terms, in which nothing ought to be missing and nothing redundant.

84 XX. "But, granting that the more learned can attain such orderliness in common law and also in matters of slight or no great importance, I do not think the same is possible in this subject, with its vast significance and range. If however some hold otherwise, they must be brought to the teachers of these studies; they will find everything already displayed and highly finished; for there are countless books on these topics, neither recondite nor hard to understand. But let them consider what they want; whether it be for sport or warfare that they mean to arm; for the requirements of a pitched battle are not those of a sham fight or our own training-ground. For all that, the management of arms in mere sport has its value for gladiator and soldier alike, though it is the keen and ready intelligence, endowed with sharpness and resourcefulness, that secures men against defeat, and no less easily when allied with art.

85 "And so I shall now begin making an orator for you, if I can, by first discovering the extent of his capacity. I would have him be a man of some learning, who has done some listening and some reading, and received those very teachings we have mentioned; I will make trial of what suits him, and of his powers of intonation, physique, energy and fluency. If I find him capable of reaching the highest class, I will not merely encourage him to work out his purpose but will positively implore him so to do, provided that I also think his character sound—so much glory to the whole community do

It is natural capacity that matters.