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n.d.

July 2022

Box 06, Folder 09 - "Certain Misconceptions/Objections..." (Our Lady Nursery School, Portland, OR) (E.M.S.)

Edwin Mortimer Standing

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Recommended Citation

Standing, Edwin Mortimer, "Box 06, Folder 09 - "Certain Misconceptions/Objections..." (Our Lady Nursery School, Portland, OR) (E.M.S.)" (2022). *Lecture Outlines, 1962-ca.1963; n.d., Edwin Mortimer Standing, ca.1963; n.d.*. 5.

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The inner significance
Show the Cosmic Chart.
Man's place in Nature.
Soul and Body
Reasoning Soul
True freedom comes with power to reason and choose
Animals no real freedom
Simply Obey their instincts
Man The animal incarnates an instinct
Man incarnates a reasoning soul
HAS TO MAKE HIS BODY HIS OWN INSTRUMENT
Body belongs to me in a very special way .

SO EXERCISES OF PRACTICAL LIFE

THEIR AIM ----- TO BRING SOUL AND BODY TO UNISON

that is to CO-Ordinate the muscular system
to follow out the will of the individual

ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS

The string trick --- show them

So --- tying a bow

We have to analyse the movements

isolate each difficulty .

The Tying frame --- show it.

ANALYSE THE SUBSIDIARY MOVEMENTS IN A BIG MOVEMENT

e.g Hand washing

Opening and shutting the door .

Pairing out the water (rice)

INFINITE IMPORTANCE OF THE EXERCISES OF PRACTICAL LIFE

They are real work as much as the writing or counting

Definition of work --- what helps on the development

Work and not play --- things are real taken for what
they are .

S/COND OBJECTION ---FOR DEFECTIVES

-6-

The story --How the defectives equalled the normal children

Something dreadfully wrong with ordinary education .

Some of the same material -- (but there is much besides)

Montessori's reply

Many cures and surgical operations have been first
tried out on monkeys ---my child is not a monkey.... therefore etc.

THE METHOD ONLY FOR THE VERY ADVANCED

It is the best for them--too ---because the children
work individually so the quick not held back

or the slow dragged on out of their depth

EACH GOES AT HIS OWN PACE BUILDING A SURE FOUNDATION

Forty children in the same room 9 public schools 9n Holland and
England .

Fifth objection IT SUPPRESSES THE CHILD'S FREE EXPRESSION

(NOTE OTHERS SAY JUST THE OPPOSITE

DO ANYTHING HE LIKES)))) ---A good sign when that

happens --- the truth lies in between -- THE VIA MEDIA

IT IS TRUE THE CHILD MUST RESPECT THE RIGHT USE OF THE MATERIALS

E.G. the cylinders make a puff puff

but that is not the aim

an internal growth .

Why the repetition (read from Secret of Childhood

What is the secret of that concentration

an inner growth is taking place -- knowledge of

dimensions --- and the idea of length or height etc

The Colour Tablets

To build a house

KEYS TO THE UNIVERSE

CONCENTRATE ON A PARTICULAR QUALITY

AND SO The Sky is blue

your dress is the same shade as the flowers in the next room

the Geometric material

my plate is a circle

the window is a rectangle

The Story of the working woman at supper

1) I- a rectangle 2) a triangle 3) Trapezium

Proper use of the materials open up a new horizon

Each material does this

All experience is an arch where through gleams that untravelled
land whose margin fades for ever as we move .

EUCATIONAL MISCONCEPTIONS

Must have large movement Yesterday a child brought me
her numbers --- so small .

When to teach Reading and Writing

Dewey --- at six or seven as "Tool subjects " with
no intrinsic interest .

WHO CAN BE AND WHO IS THE FINAL JUDGE .

THE CHILD --- THE FREE CHILD .

e.g. Writing "The explosion into Writing

Extract from the secret of Childhood .

How was it done

1) The sand paper alphabet .

the sense of touch in little children

Don't touch Tommy or Bill smack you

OFTEN CAN REMEMBER THROUGH TOUCH AND NOT SIGHT

SHOW AN EXAMPLE

THE DOCTRINE OF SENSITIVE PERIODS

Suppose we all went to the middle of China
or some tribe in central Africa

STARTED TO LEARN THE LANGUAGE

the children would beat us out of hand ---or mouth
acquire it at once

and more perfectly

WHY ?

They are passing through a S.P. for language

It won't last for ever

S.P. come - stay a while and then go

Education must be based on these S.P.

SENSITIVE PERIOD FOR INTEREST IN SOUNDS OF THE LETTERS

PHONETIC APPROACH

t not tea ess on ess Parents can help

I see something beginning with f (fork) fire place

S.P. FOR COMPOSITION OF WORDS

see Formation of Man Discovery of the child .

sofa fabric . misfit etc

panama , even hippopotamus

Will do this a four years to five but not a seven or eight .

Incidentally THE STRANGE THING

Can't read the word he has himself composed

WHY NOT ---- ANOTHER SECRET OF CHILDHOOD.

LEAVE IT TO YOU TO FIND OUT .

SPELLING DIFFICULTIES COME AFTERWARDS

SEPARATE AND ORGANISED AND TAKEN ONE AT A TIME

AND THROUGH AN ACTIVITY)))AS ALWAYS

WE go in for sensory motor aids --not visual only

6
WRITING COMES FIRST

READING AFTERWARDS

LEARN TO READ TO ENJOY BOOKS --not struggle to read by means of
a reading primer --- and hate books afterwards .

THE MONTESSORI METHOD IS BASED ON THE REVELATIONS GIVEN TO US
BY CHILDREN WHO LIVE AND ACT AND WORK FREELY IN A PREPARED
ENVIRONMENT .

THIS IS MONTESSORI'S GREAT DISCOVERY THE
HIDDEN
RELATION TO THE CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDHOOD

THUS

Long periods of ~~intense~~ concentration on purposeful
activity

Long periods of intellectual concentration ... arithmetic
reading , grammar , history , etc

Love of order .

Love of work in preference to play (people can't believe it)

Respect for their environment and attachment to the things
in it -- not for possession but to work with

Lovers of silence and order

Power of initiative -- to choose their own work

Mutual helpfulness ---- living in a free society

Astonishing self - discipline

A deep and serene joyfulness --- which Nature always gives
to the right use of our natural faculties .

THE NEW CHILDREN)) ARE A SCIENTIFIC FACT .