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Box 06, Folder 25 - "The Montessori Method of Education /An Excursion into Comparative Psychology" (E.M.S.)

Edwin Mortimer Standing

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THE MONTESSORI METHOD OF EDUCATION

Rev to etc

Say something in 15 minutes ----when 15 hours would be insufficient .

WHO WAS DR MONTESSORI ?

The first women in Italy to take a Doctor's degree

Began not as an educationalist - a lecture on Anthropology
University of Rome

How she came into education ? -----see the book .

WHAT IS THERE DISTINCTIVE IN HER SYSTEM, HER WORK, CLAIM TO FAME

She was the Discoverer of the REAL CHILD

THIS SOUNDS ABSURD . . . CHILDREN HAVE BEEN IN THE WORLD FOR
THOUSANDS OF YEARS .

SO HAS ELECTRICITY AND NUCLEAR ENERGY BUT WE DID NOT REALISE IT .

A FEW SIMPLE TRUE INCIDENTS))) and perhaps you will see what I mean

.....

IN PUNCH years ago

Mother (to daughter aged 8 and son Tommy aged three) "Mary
run upstairs and see what Tommy is doing --AND TELL HIM NOT TO .

WHAT DOES THIS INDICATE ?

1) That children are always active --moving about , doing
something -----what ? "exploring the World .

See Chapter V *The Young Explorer.*

2) that this activity is often not congenial to adults -- and
disturbs their environment , endanges their property, their peace.

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD ANY ONE SAY

"Oh , do sit still and BE GOOD " *Can't you*

St Augustine As if immobility was synonymous with goodness . *Goodness an
absolute thing*

It is the same thing, the child is IL DISURBAORE - The Disturber
of the Peace --- of the adults

VERY WELL WHAT HAS MONTESSORI DONE ?

...the first woman in Italy to have a doctor's degree
...a lecture on Anthropology
University of Rome
How she came into education
...her own system
...the discovery of the child
...CHILDREN HAVE BEEN IN THE WORLD FOR
...CENTURIES OF YEARS
...DO HAS ELECTRICITY AND NUCLEAR ENERGY BUT WE DID NOT REALISE IT
...INCIDENTS (?) and perhaps you will see what I mean
...IN FROM YEARS AGO
...mother to daughter aged 12 and son Tony aged three years
...AND THAT IS NOT SO
...WHAT DOES THIS INVOLVE
...I) That children are always active - they are busy, doing
...what is exploring the world
...see space
...2) that this activity is often not concerned to finish -- and
...features (development, eg. language, their property
...NOT YOU EVER HEARD - ALL ONE DAY
...ON ... IN ...
...has difficulty in ...
...is the ...
...of the ...
...VERY WELL ...

A MONTESSORI SCHOOL IS A SPECIALLY PREPARED ENVIRONMENT

for children

PREPARED FOR THE CHILDREN ---- TO BE ACTIVE IN
ACTIVE IN WHAT WAY ?

Casa del B.

ACTIVE IN TWO WAYS WHICH ARE REALLY ONE
ACTIVE IN BODY AND IN MIND .

IN BODY .. AN EXAMPLE FROM REAL LIFE

*Bodily
a mystery
no adhet*

THE TWELVE NAPKINS IN A PILE

WHAT THE LITTLE ONE DID

WHY DID IT DO THIS

SEEMS A SENSELESS THING TO DO ?

MONTESSORI HAS THE ANSWER .

SOME MORE STORIES

Jan fast.

OUT TO LUNCH Mummy must I use my fork or may I hold it by the WOOD ?

TONY (2" $\frac{1}{2}$) Here Mr S. is the tea for your pipe

What does that show ??? The mind working and comparing

observing qualities --abstracting and putting together

ARISTOTLE How does the mind work ? By decomposing and recomposing

Again THE HALL WITH THE BIG GAME TROPHIES

✓ Mummy may we go in next door ?

Whatever for my dear ?

*The Tables into Prams
2 heads*

I want to see the best of the stag .

Remorseless Logic

Reason, not instinct

How often have I told you not to play with the Jones boys they're
not good for you

Yes , but Mummy I must be good for them .

SO THE MIND GOES ON WORKING ALL THE TIME

ST THOMAS ACQUINAS SAYS " A FACULTY MUST WORK UNLESS IT IS IMPEDED .

SO OFTEN IMPEDED BY THE TEACHER

(Yes , believe me . !)

A MONTESSORI SCHOOL IS A PLACE WHERE THE CHILD CAN BE CONTINUOUSLY
ACTIVE IN BODY AND IN MIND)))-----AND BOTH TOGETHER)))A UNITY .

ONE MORE STORY

Tutor in a family- few years ago

Told the Story of the Centurion

Our Lord was surprised at the Faith of this Gentile

"Yes , but He was not surprised ~~at~~ ^{with} the God-Part of Him ,"

Opened ^{tell} suddenly a shining abyss of profound knowledge *had been opened*

"I thank thee rather that Thou has hidden these things from
the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes and sucklings.

Out of the Mouth of Infants thous has perfected praise .

THE KINGDOM IS FAR MORE WONDERFUL THAN WE THINK
OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN .

Time is more than up --- You are invited to come ^{into} ~~into~~ the
Kindergarten room , where there is on show some of the wonderful
Montessori Teaching materials -- for Writing , Reading , Arithmetic
Geometry , and Sense Development.

Three Montessori ladies there to explain .

Exhibition of Photographs .

Books on sale ,

(Thank You)

March 8th 83

Providence August

AN EXCURSION INTO COMPARATIVE PSYCHOLOGY

"Look on this picture and on that"

TWO FORMS OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

1
a

A bare room : wooden benches : bare walls :
no coloured windows : no pictures : no altar :
no decorations : no flowers : No pulpit : no organ :
no hymn books : no set form of worship --
---even no collection $\frac{1}{2}$!

What are the people doing ?

Sitting motionless in silence - waiting
for what ?

for the spirit to move someone to preach or pray

(empty all the week)
THESE ARE THE QUAKERS

God is a spirit & those that
worship ... in spirit & truth
belonging to Protestants

1
b

Or again Wesleyan or Baptist

The minister directs everything .

Bare and severe room .

The rev . So and So will preach

THE SERMON IS THE MAIN THING

DID YOU HAVE A GOOD SERVICE ?

Ans Depends on the preacher .

chooses the hymns , says the prayers (ex tempore)

Long Sermons (He can have my place ?) *How long!*

Nothing happens during the week .

empty and forbidding .

Collectives always

2

And now

ANOTHER PICTURE

2

A large Catholic church or basilica

A place of beauty --

of architecture , colour , pictures , statues , altar , lights

Any time of day ...

Activities going on - individual ---

Some

Saying the rosary ; stations of the cross ; going to confession

:Lighting a candle before a saint.

Putting flowers before statues or altar

Book stall , looking at newspapers

Processions :

Ashes Asg wednesday : Candle mass :

St Blaise and the throats

People

Praying here and there

("Now and then I caught them at it ")

Story.

The little child coming in and throwing a kiss .

Individual actions and occupations

Even at Mass there is Action

THE MASS ITSELF IS AN ACTION

A SACRIFICE .- the priests activities

"impersonal " (often don't know his name or even think of him as a person)

He administers the Sacraments -- material elements .

Congregation too Actions ,

+ sign of cross , kneeling and sitting , genuflection

hand

beating the breast . going to Communion .

AND NOW LOOK ON TWO KINDS OF SCHOOLS .

THE TEACHER DOMINATES

1

all depends on the teacher .

sit still and listen

talk and chalk

Black board (visual aids)

addresses herself directly to the children

a collective situation

no freedom to move and choose one's own action or

occupation *continue (9.45 History)*

Knowledge comes directly from the teacher to children

Preparation of her lesson

of Point of Contact in book

Herbartian steps .. preparation

presentation .

development

assimilation etc

She keeps the discipline — *Gullies to Shelves*

A bare room --

pulls their minds along

all stop at 9.45 and begin History

None

to class

Could move from one room to another - no difference .

No. Prepared Environment

NOW THE MONTESSORI CLASS

Enter the room may not see the teacher —

See to children

all at little tables here and there —

working individually (or tiny groups)

All using materials (hand and brain)

Children coming and going

Even talking to each other freely , *!!*

Everything is activity - quiet , ordered disciplined free .

Agree agree agree

Individual choice of occupations (as long as they like)

THE PREPARED ENVIRONMENT

LIKE A HOME)) FLOWERS PICTURES reading alcove ,

colours everywhere .

an quiet hum of activity

~~AGIRE AGIRE AGIRE~~

WORKING WITH OBJECTS

~~CAN CHOOSE THEIR OCCUPATION~~

MATERIALS OF TWO KINDS

A) SENSORIAL) COLOURS : SOUNDS : SHAPES :
TEXTURES :ETC

B) MATERIALS FOR CULTURE
E.G. MULTIPLICATION TABLE .

Show?

NOT JUST VISUAL AIDS

SENSORY MOTOR AIDS

HAND AND BRAIN GO TOGETHER .

Geometry , reading , writing , grammar , hisotry etc.

music , — *Preparatory Packs*

THE CRITICISM

THE ORDINARY TEACHER

CAN'T BELIEVE THEY ARE REALLY LEARNING

NO INTELLECTUAL PROGRESS *Possible*

" FIDDLING ABOUT WITH BITS AND PIECES "

MOVING ABOUT WALKING (FORGET ARISTOTEL

THE PERIPATETIC PHILOSOPHER)

Why! WORKING ON THE FLOOR!! DID YOU EVER HEAR SUCH
A THING)

Cant keep thinking — THE REAL LEARNING MUST COME THROUGH HER (the Preacher)

SHE IS THE BEACON LIGHT OF KNOWLEDGE

(ACTUALLY THE REAL ILLUMINATION IS FORM WITHIN)

3 x 8 equals 8 x 3 (nobody told me)

*Show
Exposition*

CRITICISM IN RELIGION

CRITICISM (2)

WHAT THE QUAKER THINKS

ALL THIS IS NOT A SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

THESE BOBBINGS AND SCRAPINGD

EXTERNAL FORMS : RITES? CEREMONIES ?

ALL MATERIALS

all Matter not Spnd

ACCRETIONS ADDED ON TO THE SIMPLICITY OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

ALL MATERIAL NOT SPIRITUAL

HIDE-BOUND BY CUSTOM

Will custom lie upon us with a weight heavy as frost - deep as a life itself

BETTERS THE FREEDOM OF THE SPIRIT .

PAGAN ACCRETIONS

?Y EXPERIENCE IN INDIA

LEENA AND HER RICE ?

MRUDULA AND HER GHI LIGHTS

THE GAZELLES AND THEIR HOLY WATER

THE BRAHMIN WAITER ANF HIS BEADS

IT IS AS CLEAR AS DAYLIGHT .

THE REAL ISSUE

MAN IS A TWO FOLD BEING

not an angel

BODY AND SPIRIT

NOT A PURE SPIRIT

NOT A PURE INTELLECT

THE CHURCH KNOWS IT

AND FOR THE VERY BEST REASONS

THE METHOD OF THE INCARNATION

EVEN GOD TOOK MATTER

TO himself - Raises Matter

DOES NOT SCORN MATTER (BISHOP BERKELY)

HE KNOWETH OUR FRAME HE REMEMBERETH THAT WARE DUST

THE SIN OF ANGELSIM

So Here - THE STRIKING AFFINITY

MONTESSORI METHOD AND THE METHOD OF THE CHURCH .

Q UOYE FROM ARTICLE

)E)

THE PRIEST IS FIRST AND FOREMOST THE MEDIATOR THE DISPENSER OF
THE SACRAMENTS ...

THE MATERIAL ELEMENTS

BUT THE WORK OF SANCTIFICATION COMES NOT FROM HIM
BUT THROUGH THE SACRAMENTS

AND THE INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES IN THE PREPARED ENVIRONMENT

some examples

THE THOUSAND CHAIN

YOU CAN JUST TALK ABOUT A THOUSAND

OR

SHOW A THOUSAND DOTS .

BUT HOW DIFFERENT THIS

(THE ARTICLE IN THE PAPER) THE RAJAH'S FINANCIER)

(PUT IT OUT ALONG THE FLOOR

THE CARDS ALSO

THE MORE DETAILED CARDS .

THE GOLDEN ROAD TO SAMARKAND .

THE LITTLE PILGRIMS

THE POINT OF CONTACT

NOW A MORE ADVANCED ASPECT .

TURN IT INTO A TIME LINE

JUST A QUICK BRIEF SKETCH .

FINALLY THIS DEEP AFFINITY

MONTESSORI RECOGNISED IT AND WENT FURTHER

QUOTE PAGES 20 -

counting all way

Ree