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Box 06, Folder 35 - "Reading" (E.M.S - ED-437 folder)

Edwin Mortimer Standing

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Reading

Up to Now First Stage

Lower - mechanical

auditory image.

Always a word given by another
(or a picture)

Now something new higher.

Distinguish

a) Reading on a Cultural Level.

Poem, Science, Gospel, literature

b) The simple fact of reading
a written language

So Analysing - we get

a) A maturity of mind

b) Power to recognize letters of alphabet.

"We must wait until the child, who knows
the letters of the alphabet, is mentally mature.

It suffices that something interesting can
be read by him."

"We must strip this fact - essence - of reading
that confuses it with other things,
which have nothing to do with the case

Must offer to Faet of Reading in its
notable grandeur.

Child must recapture for himself the
essence of the discovery.

Child is an Explorer

Child will do this because he is an Explorer.
"a continuous exp. of his envt. who is
escalated when he himself goes forth to meet
new things"

Must find out for himself.?

Smile of a Novel - to end

"~~Gods Spies~~ who take upon themselves to
murder things as if they were Gods Spies."

We must arrange things so that to C
feels interest & discovers these things step
by step. + we must offer him these
things in their birth + simplicity - +
above all in their dignity -

and - as always - with the
necessary minimum; So that he can
go on his way alone.

What is the Mystery Degree of Reading

A Great Discovery

Marks the passage fr. Pre-History to History

"Now the essence (~~of written language~~ lies in the possibility of ~~denoting~~ the ~~high~~ thoughts of best men & in the possibility of being able to take their thoughts by reading.)

It is no longer the tongue that speaks - The Person who speaks is silent. The word when spoken is finished & the spoken thought may remain or not but in comparison w. the written word it evaporates. The written word remains; but it remains without a sound - indelible not to be cancelled & always to be found.

By means of the alphabet this word represents - almost - a man's voice in all its sounds - yet a new language wonderful, immortal

The true way to teach R. is in such a way that the Ch. can feel something of this mystery, this greatness, immortality

and we must give him a spiritual ~~and~~
method of learning to read.

The Written Word

Writing permits of a species of Indivinitation
It is nothing but a scrap of paper, a
stone, a slate with signs on it — but as
we look ~~ing~~ at it those signs come as it
were to life: they begin to become active
/placing themselves in union together
And lo! behold! there suddenly comes
to the child of Sam Sauls a word, the
expression of a man's thoughts. It as if
this piece of paper ~~cd.~~ speak; yes it has
~~ignoble~~ immortal & mute object suddenly
achieved a tongue & made utterance.

It is ^{is the} this mystery, this achievement, this
wonder that the child must appropriate
for himself, as did those first Primitive
Men.

Said is not simply a question of
Reading without Tears. It is a question
of reading with Rapture. ^{He must learn to read} with ¹⁰⁷
& enthusiasm. We do not wish
the children to become mechanical

men (Robots) learning like machines
or slaves under threats - judging &
with distaste as if humiliated & con-
demned to an unmeaning task

But Rather -

there should, & could be nothing
more exalting than being able to
interpret the thought of another person
from a different kind of language fr.
that of our day use. A language - he
I noted - whose very existence is as yet
scarcely known by the small child - it
is to him a new language.

Reading then is a Revelation

It is then a revelation which we
must give the child : & we must know
how to keep burning in the heart of the
child this flame of exploration - this
child who explores so passionately
everything in his environment. The more we know
how to keep this flame alive - the more
we shall have fulfilled our duty to
the next generation.

The Sacred Flame of Exploration

In fact everything wh. we see to be C. should revive the flame of exploration. as new air revivifies the flame of a lamp.

If we have not kept alive this flame we may know that we have made a mistake in our manner of presenting the concepts of culture. To return to Reading.

If in the past - grown-up men or women were enthusiastic about this new invention and saw by means of it all the means that came from it. These same things should cause enthusiasm in the Child.

It is the way of wonder. - as Plato says
"Wonder is the beginning of Philosophy."

How are We to Do It

The essence of Reading is a Revelation of this wonder. Therefore we must not give the secret away.

Simile of the End of a Novel

Child reads because he wants to know something.

So - first

First Prepare the Mechanism

Second Await for the maturing of the Intelligence.

Example a) Speech Baby language

b) Explosion into Writing
Age 5

But

c) Child of Six will use the mechanism for a story. — not like them.

Alas if the Intelligence ripens and the Mechanism is not ready.
(Heaven's)

Rises to a Higher Centre

Demands on the Motor Ego which chooses
"The real master on whom all depends"

"The word seen moves into a higher centre. This comes a time when the motor-ego takes an interest in the written word. It chooses. This is the moment we must awaken. It is a new thing

It's not like falling up on the same floor
 but we come to the top. It's the motor-ego
 who chooses the thing. We must not choose it.
 This internal interest will throw itself
 on words. The first word that comes
to me not pronounced by another.

Then it becomes insatiable for
 words. The discovery of the written word
 has been made.

Heslogy Reading Explosion

For months written work.
 Six months of continuous unbroken exercise.
 All this energy & enthusiasm.
 But not Reading.

Bath of Reading Commands

D) If you can read this come to me.
~~Give me a kiss~~ ^{2) Do you love me?}

Nothing happened for days. The thought.....
 Then "Eccomi" . . . Yes, I do.

So then I wrote. a list:

Draw a curtain

Sing a song

Call some friends & march

They understood + answered. Their answer was to carry out what he had read.

Thus it was made clear to me that the enormous way was to

read silently. — then
carry out an action

What on Earth is Happening

The other children saw all these actions go on. + could not imagine what was toward. Oh day might but this is ridiculous strange! They asked "What are you doing and why are you doing it?" They replied "It's on my slip of paper"

Astounding! miraculous! The masters said not a word; made as if were a sort of drawing on a scrap of paper — + lo! they understood his wish. This is the fascinating + marvellous thing abt R.g. His mysterious transmission of thoughts without spoken words. It's a secret. a marvellous thing. The spoken word flies away. The written word remains.

"It Says" — description

- Get a dustin.
- Drink a glass of water
- Open & shut the door.
- Button a frame
- Take off your shoes.

This mysterious command
 the way of carrying out the action

Reading an Individual Thing

Not aloud.

Sumo. "This Poem"

Words Words Words. (Hamlet)

Words - Objects. -

"Need we take away the object."

Still use this principle. - esp. ^y difficult words
"helps the indwination"

Corrections

"Do not disturb this idyll between the
written and the child"

niggard's corrections

"A Poet and a semi-colon."

The Principle

- 1) Arouse enthusiasm & interest in the
matter as a whole.
- 2) Use this "motor-force" for a
Patient Analysis & Study of Details
& Special Difficulties.

"It does not matter if the C. makes some mistakes
in writing or reading. The important thing is that
the C. should be passionately interested in what
he is doing" In Writing & Reading

We sh^d be deliged if he goes on Reading: it
shows he understands.

It is important that graphic language has
been born in the spirit's dwelling. & that he
can express himself in this supra-lingue - a
language wh. can be used without a word
being uttered. "(Do it on each other)

This opens up a New World.

Passage from Infant to Element School.

WORD EXPLORATION

Reading Words (Baskets)

graded.

(with or without objects)

Reading Commands (simpler)

single words

Phonetic sentences.

Word Families and Groups

a) Prefixes Suffixes etc

b) The Fam. Family Read.

c) Opposites d) Geometry. Geog.
Biology Cards.

Spelling Difficulties

Sing & Plurals

Phonograms etc.

Spelling Dictionary -

His Own Word-Book

Interpretive Reading

Grammar

Nouns & Verbs

Masc & Fem.

Articles & Nouns

Adj & Nouns (same)

Grammar Commands

Parts of Speech

Grammar Symbols

Books

Children's Library.

Enthusiasm

