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Box 09, Folder 39 - "Revelation and Revolution in Education" (E.M.S.)

Edwin Mortimer Standing

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REVELATION AND REVOLUTION IN EDUCATION

When future generations look back upon the Twentieth Century it will stand out as an epoch in which two important discoveries were made, - one in the world of matter outside us and the other in the human soul, the soul of the child. Both have led to the release of energies which hitherto had been unknown and never before implemented. The unlimited nuclear energies are, alas, being prepared for the possible destruction of our race, but happily the newly discovered psychic energies in children make directly for the building up of a better and more harmonious humanity.

Most people think of Montessori as the inventor of a new method of education, whereas her real claim to greatness lies in the fact that she made the startling discovery that children - all children in every land - possess, latent within their personalities, higher mental, moral and social capacities than we have hitherto attributed to them.

In a former book the author described how a group of slum children in Rome revealed such astonishing characteristics as the spontaneous acquisition of writing and reading at 4½ - 5 years of age, together with extraordinary powers of concentration, a love of silence and order and a self-discipline which has to be seen in order to be believed.

In the present volume the author outlines the general

psychological and educational principles behind the revolution in education which is the inevitable consequence of

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of the revelations manifested by children as they work freely and spontaneously in the disciplined liberty of the Prepared Environment of the Montessori school .

All this make strike you as a fantastic exaggeration . But read the book and you may change your mind , especially if you remember that this is only an introduction to a subject - a field of research - which is as deep and mysterious as Life itself , of which it is indeed its highest expression .

.....

(I was intending to bring in some remark such as the following ;

It is a curious but significant co-incidence that , in the same issue of TIME (May 12th) describing the voyage of the first American Astronaut into Space there was also an article Montessori's work and a visit to a Montessori School . (see appendix p.)