

MONTESSORI SCHOOLS.

Mme. Montessori Tells of the Spread of Her Teachings.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

Referring to THE TIMES'S inquiry about the students enrolled in my training course and the spread of the method in the various parts of the world, I give the facts herewith, in view of the encouraging interest shown in America, where the first translation of my book appeared, and from which country come the large majority of my present training course. Almost all States in the Union are represented by the students in the class, New York heading the list and California coming second. One American student comes from the Philippine Islands, where she is the Government Supervisor of Manual Training and Kindergarten work, another comes from Panama, where she hopes to spread the method among the Latin Americans, still another from Canada, and so on.

Among the other students are representatives from England, Ireland, Switzerland, Germany, India, and Australia.

Interest has been manifested in almost all parts of the world as shown by press articles, by lectures, and by the heads of educational establishments who have come to Rome to visit the schools, even from the most remote corners of the earth, among whom may be mentioned the Minister of Education from New Zealand, and the Supervisor of Education sent by the Government of New South Wales.

Schools to carry out the teachings of the method have been established by the Governments of Switzerland and of Australia and by the municipalities of London, Rome, Stockholm, and Johannesburg. Schools have also been founded in America in the Argentine Republic, where a magazine is undertaking a special mission of propaganda and is obtaining contributions for the foundation of schools. In England, in Paris, in India schools have also been founded, and through the work of the Franciscan missionaries in Syria also, and in Japan.

Translations of my book are to-day in existence in English, French, and Russian, and translations into German, Spanish, Rumanian, and Polish are in course of production.

The English translation published in New York was exhausted in four days, a first edition of 5,000 copies, and at the end of five months a sixth edition was in circulation.

The interest shown in the British Isles and British colonies has been an encouraging feature. A Montessori Society has been formed in England for the spread of the method by the founding of schools, lectures, scholarships, &c., and as a result of the society's representations to the British Government the method is being adopted in penal establishments for minor delinquents. A scholarship has also been founded at Trinity College, Dublin, to enable an Irish student to enter the training course at Rome.

Letters requesting information on the method and training of teachers are received daily from all parts of the world, and one secretary is kept busy interviewing visitors to our schools and those in search of further information on the method or in regard to the foundation of schools in various parts of the world.

In view of this widespread interest I feel that the public should be able to obtain accurate information about those teachers who have been specially trained by me. Owing to the short period of the training course it has been possible to give, and also to the fact that the method has not yet attained to its full development, I feel it would be premature to establish training schools which were not under my direct supervision, so that for the present no training courses for the preparation of teachers except those held here in Rome, will be authorized by me.

MARIA MONTESSORI.

Rome, July 20, 1913.

The New York Times

Published: August 10, 1913

Copyright © The New York Times