

EXPLAINS MONTESSORI KINDERGARTEN METHOD

**Miss Anne E. George Lectures at Central High School on Instruction
of Children—Observation of the Young, Their Needs,
and Lines Along Which Their Minds Work
Given as Essentials.**

The method of instructing kindergarten children according to the theories of Dr. Maria Montessori, the Italian instructor, was explained fully by Miss Anne E. George in a lecture delivered yesterday afternoon before the District Kindergarten Association and a large audience of teachers and others interested in the work, in the assembly hall of the Central High School. Miss George explained that the method was nothing more than careful observation of the children, their needs, and the lines along which their minds worked. She told how Dr. Montessori first became interested in the work, how she brought a class of mentally deficient children to such a state of education by her simple methods that when given the same examination as a set of normal children they passed with better grades.

Proper Surroundings.

Miss George explained the need of pleasant surroundings in the schoolroom, which, she said, should be light and airy. She gave her ideas as to the proper furniture, and the importance of having rugs so arranged that the young ones could do much of their work on the floor. She showed many different articles used by her in instructing the children, and explained their uses. Blocks, slides, colored cards, silks, and many other articles, with the aid of which the young are taught, were shown, and their uses explained.

Miss George is the only American who has taken the course under the direction of Mr. Montessori. Before taking up the course, she was a teacher in Chicago, and, on becoming interested in the line of work which she is now following, studied Italian, and worked with Dr. Montessori for two years. She said that arrangements have now been made for

the instruction of Americans interested in the work, and that a class will start next January.

Caused Translation of Work.

Miss George is responsible for the translation of the work on the education of children by Dr. Montessori from the Italian to the English. The funds received from the lecture are to be used in entertaining the delegates to the National Kindergarten Association convention, which will be held in this city early next spring.

MONTESSORI SCHOOL IN D. C.

Dr. and Mrs. A. G. Bell Sponsors for Test of Italian Method.

Interest in the Montessori system of child education, which may eventually cause this system to be tried out in the public schools of this city and make Washington the Montessori center of America, has been stimulated through the establishment of a school under the auspices of Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell at their home, 1331 Connecticut avenue. Besides Dr. and Mrs. Bell, a number of prominent women in the National Capital have become interested in promoting the Italian system of education, and are urging that it be introduced in the public schools of the city.

A large room in Dr. Bell's residence is used as the home for the school, and Miss Anne George, the first American graduate of Dottorressa Maria Montessori, of Rome, and the translator of the teacher's book into English, with Miss Roberta Fletcher, is conducting the school. The children have been following instruction under the new method since November, and those who have witnessed their progress pronounce it to be remarkable.

Second Lecture by M. Firmin Roz.

M. Firmin Roz delivered his second lecture before the Alliance Francaise of this city yesterday afternoon at the Washington Club. At the request of several members he changed his subject. Instead of speaking on "Le Socialisme Francais et le Mouvement de 1848," he continued the subject of his first lecture, "L'Ideal Classique de la Societe Francaise au XVII Siecle, L'Influence Litteraire de la cour de Louis XIV." Yesterday M. Roz spoke of the rationalism of the eighteenth century. On April 8 he will speak of "Le Romantisme."

EDUCATOR TO LECTURE

Mme. Montessori Will Explain Her System of Teaching.

MISS WILSON ON COMMITTEE

Motion Pictures Taken at Rome Will Be
Shown in Connection With Lecture in
This City Next Saturday Evening—S.
S. McClure Will Speak in Different
Cities on Her Tour.

Dr. Montessori will lecture at the Ma-
sonic Temple next Saturday evening, in
explanation of the Montessori system of
education. This will be her first lecture
in America and will be of national signifi-
cance because of the interest which
President Wilson and his family have
taken in the Montessori school here. Miss
Margaret Wilson is a member of the
executive committee of the Montessori
Educational Association, under the aus-
pices of which Dr. Montessori is coming
to this country.

Dr. Montessori will arrive in New York
Wednesday. She will be met by a com-
mittee from the headquarters of the as-
sociation here and will be brought to this
city as soon as she has rested from her
voyage.

Lecture to Be Illustrated.

Her lecture here, as elsewhere, will be
illustrated by motion pictures taken at
her school on the Ula Guisti in Rome.
Mme. Montessori will deliver her lectures
in Italian, but a competent interpreter
has been engaged and none of the import
of her tasks will be lost to those who
do not understand Italian.

At each lecture S. S. McClure will
speak from the same platform.

From Washington Mme. Montessori
will go to New York, where she will
speak at Carnegie Hall on the evening
of December 8. On December 9 she will
be in Philadelphia at the Academy of
Music, and on December 11 she will speak
at the Academy of Music in Brooklyn,
under the auspices of the Brooklyn Insti-
tute of Arts and Sciences.

Further than that Mme. Montessori's
tour has not been outlined by the com-
mittee in charge of her visit. She prob-
ably will go to Boston, Pittsburgh, Cleve-
land, and Chicago.

FAMOUS WOMAN EDUCATOR OF ITALY
WHO COMES HERE TO PROMOTE IDEALS



MME. MARIA MONTESSORI.

Dottoressa, which is the Italian feminine of doctor, Maria Montessori, one of Europe's foremost authorities on child education, has arrived in Washington to expound the famous Montessori system for the benefit of American educators and to make a passing study of some of the systems of education in the District of Columbia and some of the States.

HER SCHOOL REFORMS

Dr. Maria Montessori Arrives to Lecture on New System.

HAS WON WORLD FAME

"Let Schools Replace Hospitals and Penitentiaries," Her First Message to Washington Mothers—Calls Desks and Seats of Present Buildings "Instruments of Torture"—Control of Crime.

"Let the schools take the place of the hospitals and penitentiaries," is the message which Dr. Maria Montessori, originator of the educational system which bears her name, has brought to the United States from Italy, where her methods of instruction are now being pursued. While disease and crime may not be entirely eradicated, Dr. Montessori, basing her conclusions on her study of children, is convinced that both may be minimized to a point of practical elimination if the proper attention is given children in their early school years.

Guest of Dr. and Mrs. Bell.

Dr. Montessori, who is making her first visit to this country and has come for a lecture tour of several of the Eastern cities, arrived in New York Wednesday and came immediately to the home of Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell, whose guest she will be during her stay in Washington.

A robust woman, in the early prime of middle life, possessed of the pronounced brunette coloring typical of the south European, Dr. Montessori would scarcely convey through her personal appearance an impression of her wonderful achievements, which have already done much to revolutionize educational methods adapted for children. Not being proficient in English the Italian educator speaks through an interpreter.

Graduate of University of Rome.

Dr. Montessori is a graduate of the University of Rome, and holds the degree in medicine as well as that of doctor of philosophy. Having entered the educational field she first applied herself for two years to a study of defective children. She then concluded that she preferred to work with normal children, and returning to the University of Rome spent three years in training for this work. In 1906 she began to perfect the system, or rather series of principles which are now attracting the attention and receiving the commendation of the leading educators of the world. In discussing her system, Dr. Montessori said:

"The system in which I am interested and to which I am devoting myself is based on a series of principles, the two fundamental ones of which are:

"Children shall be met with no artificial interference in the schoolroom—they are disciplined by the work they do.

"Secondly, in all the work that the child does there shall be a separation of the mental and physical acts involved."

"The desks and seats used in the average public schools are barbarous affairs," she remarked. Future generations will place them in museums as examples of torturing instrumentalities used in this enlightened age."

No Place for Punishment.

"We do not use the term teacher, but director. The director is present to repress antisocial acts. Otherwise, the child is left free to do his work in its own way. There is no place for punishment in this system. The normal child, placed in natural surroundings, is always good. Consequently, if one finds that a child in such surroundings persists in being bad it is patent that it is abnormal, being either physically or mentally weak. I immediately take that child to a specialist, determine what is wrong with it, and then begin to give the attention necessary to correct its failing.

Dr. Montessori will visit the Montessori School, at 1840 Kalorama road, which was established at the instance of Dr. and Mrs. Bell, and the institution established on similar lines at the Neighborhood House. Tomorrow night she will make her first public appearance, lecturing at the New Masonic Temple. S. S. McClure, who, with his wife, accompanied Dr. Montessori from Italy, will introduce her and explain the work that she has accomplished. Dr. Montessori will speak in Italian, and Miss Anne E. George, director of the local Montessori School, will interpret the address. Moving pictures, portraying the Montessori method, will be exhibited.

Reception in Her Honor.

At 10 o'clock tomorrow evening Dr. and Mrs. Bell will hold a reception for Dr. Montessori, at which they will be assisted by Miss Margaret Wilson, daughter of the President and Mrs. Wilson, who has been deeply interested in Montessori work for several years.

EXPLAINS MONTESSORI PLAN.

Miss Bateman Tells Mothers About New Method to Teach Children.

Miss Zoe Bateman, secretary of the Montessori Educational Association, discussed this method of education before members of the District of Columbia Congress of Mothers at the Raleigh yesterday afternoon.

Mrs. Fred T. DuBois spoke briefly upon the "Big Brother and Big Sister" movement. She was followed by Mrs. Tate, of the National Correspondence School of Eugenics, who told of her lecturing tours over the country in the interest of the eugenic movement.

The afternoon was ended by a silver tea, given for the benefit of a boy taken from the juvenile court by the congress, and placed in the George junior republic. Among those present were: Mrs. A. A. Birney, Mrs. Giles Rafter, Mrs. F. J. James, Mrs. Edward B. Olney, Mrs. Henry T. Rainey, Mrs. Fred T. DuBois, Mrs. Millard J. Moore, Mrs. Sarah K. Lamb, Mrs. Richard Sylvester, Mrs. Ben Hastings, Mrs. Ella Thatcher, Mrs. Anne McCole, Mrs. Susan P. Marshal, Mrs. Julia M. Willis, Mrs. George T. Pruitt, Mrs. Marion R. Little, Miss Elizabeth Little, Mrs. C. N. Culbertson, Miss Ramona Zander, Miss A. B. Neumeyer, Dr. Cora Smith King, S. E. Kramer, Dr. E. G. Kimball, Mrs. Grayson W. Foote, Mrs. J. H. Branson, Mrs. Anna B. Sloan, Miss Elizabeth Timlow, Mrs. J. C. Weedon, Dr. Hosmer Johnson, Miss Flora Hindley, Miss Anne Beers, Miss Lillian Cohen, Miss Gail Mattox, Mrs. Lyman Kebler, Mrs. G. G. Dawe, and Mrs. Gale Davis.

BETROTHED AT ELEVEN YEARS

Daughter of Gen. Li, Vice President, Is to Wed Yuan's Son.

Shanghai, China, Dec. 16.—It was announced here today that President Yuan Shi Kai's youngest son is to be betrothed to the 11-year-old daughter of the vice president, Gen. Li Yuen Hang, who arrived recently in Peking.

San Francisco, Dec. 15.—Five hundred members of the Chinese colony here met yesterday to take steps to finance a revolution to oust President Yuan Shi Kai of the Chinese republic from office. The meeting proclaimed that the president was trying to have himself declared emperor.

Ying Pah Hsieh, of Canton, head of the Chinese national party and personal representative of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, addressed the meeting.

Churchill Not Going to Germany.

London, Dec. 16. — Winston Spencer Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, today denied the report that he is to spend three weeks in Germany during the Christmas holiday season, presumably in connection with his naval holiday proposal. He is to visit Paris, but not Germany.

ADVOCATES CHILD FREEDOM.

Dr. Montessori Explains This Doesn't Mean Abandoning to Its Own Devices.

From the Outlook.

Her lecture before the Brooklyn Institute, given in the Brooklyn Academy of Music, may serve as an example of her method of presenting to American audiences her theory and her practice. First she gave an address in Italian. She would in a few sentences make a point, and then pause while her coadjutor, Miss Anne E. George, interpreted her words in English. There is one great advantage in this form of lecture; it allows the succession of points to sink into the minds of the hearers.

That lecture of Dr. Montessori's followed this course: Everything that grows must have its own freedom; and its freedom must be respected—the freedom of the bird to fly, the freedom of the tree to sink its roots into the ground. If we prevent the bird from moving freely it ceases to be what it ought to be; if, on the other hand, we root up the tree and move it about from place to place, we deprive it of its freedom to grow and we injure it. We recognize the freedom of the bird as being different from that of the tree. We should also recognize the freedom of the child, but we should try to discover what that freedom is.

It is certainly not abandoning the child to its own devices. We know a good deal about the physical freedom of the child, but the inner freedom of the child—the freedom of his mind—is harder to understand. To learn about it requires study. Children have before them a great task in the process of learning, incomparably more difficult than that which confronts an adult who goes into a foreign country.

The child is not only learning a foreign language, for all language is foreign to him, but he is learning to use his senses. He learns very largely at first, through the sense of touch, and yet he is being told by adults not to touch; he is constantly being asked if he cannot keep his hands off things. Children thus are learning in constant antagonism to adults; but in spite of the opposition they meet they go on learning, but often with a sense of irritation. They are bound to learn, in spite of adults. To give children a chance to learn is to release them from this restraint, and when they are thus released they expand at once. Children's interest in their environment is insatiable.

The new kind of teacher is the one who guides the child's discoveries, who distinguishes between the useful and harmful activities of the child, who knows when to interfere with the activities of the child so as to enable the child to avoid the harmful and to make the best use of the useful, and who, when interfering, does so in such a way that the child is not deprived of the consciousness of arriving at his knowledge himself. If properly carried out, this guidance of the freedom of the child will no more deprive him of the power of doing the things he does not want to do than hygienic care deprives infants of the power of overcoming disease. The stronger the child the more capable he is of making sacrifice. As we are preparing the race for physical conflicts by hygiene in infancy, so through spiritual and mental hygiene we can prepare the race for mental and moral conquest.

THE MONTESSORI METHOD.

From the Woman's Home Companion.

The Washington Post (1877-1922); Apr 26, 1914;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers *The Washington Post* (1877 - 1995)

pg. ES4

THE MONTESSORI METHOD.

From the Woman's Home Companion:

"Lady 'Bug,' Lady 'Bug,'
Fly away home.
Your house is on fire,
Your children will burn!"

The Lady "Bug" answered:
"I can't interfere;
That point Montessori
Makes perfectly clear.

"My babies are unfolding
Their 'will to achieve,'
That fire burns houses,
They want to believe.

"By multiple forms,
Is the infant mind vexed,
They must analyze first,
And synthesize next.

"So they're burning the house,
With intent to deduce
The simple concrete
From the complex abstruse.

"If I rush in and rescue
My babes from the blaze,
They'll depend on such help
All the rest of their days.

"And so," said the Lady "Bug,"
"I can't interfere.
That point Montessori
Makes perfectly clear."

The Montessori System.

From the Chicago News.

The Washington Post (1877-1922); Apr 27, 1914;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers *The Washington Post* (1877 - 1995)

pg. 6

The Montessori System.

From the Chicago News.

Old-fashioned mother—What is this Montessori system of child education that I hear so much about?

Old-fashioned father—I dunno exactly, but the keynote of it seems to be, "votes for children."

Too Much Publicity.

From the Seattle Post.

"I disapprove of the Senate having secret sessions. I favor the utmost publicity for everything."

"I did; but since the new gowns came out I think the women are going a bit too far."

Any Time.

From Judge.

Nell—Eliza went to an astrologer to find out when was the best time to get married.

Stell—What did he tell her?

Nell—He took one look at her and told her to grab the first chance.

TO HELP MONTESSORI WORK.

Washington Friends Form Chapter of Educational Association.

A Washington chapter of the Montessori Educational Association was formed last night at Rauscher's, with the following officers: Chairman, Mrs. H. G. Hensley, principal of Mount Vernon Seminary; vice chairman, Miss Roberta Fletcher; secretary, Miss Jean Cole, secretary of Mount Vernon Seminary; treasurer, George H. Myres. Members of the Montessori council are Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell, Miss Margaret Woodrow Wilson, Miss Anne E. George, Mrs. E. R. Boyle, Miss Jessie McDonald, Ernest L. Thurston, and Dr. George M. Kober.

Alexander Graham Bell, who presided, spoke briefly on what the Montessori Educational Association has done and hopes to do. Miss Anne E. George said that it was really surprising—the active, joyous, and vigorous growth of children who studied under the Montessori system.

Prof. Earl Barnes said that Dr. Montessori had put a new interpretation on educational processes in this country and that when Dr. Montessori's system is better understood, fathers and mothers will be following the lead of the children instead of the children following their lead.

Other speakers were Miss Jane Kenney, directress of the Demonstration School at Friendship House; Miss Birkin, director of Friendship House, and Dr. George M. Kober. A general discussion followed.

Motion pictures, depicting life in a Montessori school, were shown by Miss Anne E. George.