

**THE DRAMATIC
INSTINCT
IN EDUCATION**

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The dramatic instinct in education by Elnora Whitman Curtis

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BY

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WITH A FOREWORD BY

G. STANLEY HALL, PH.D., LL.D.



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TO MY PARENTS

PREFACE

A SMALL portion of this book was first given to the public as a tentative study, under the same title, published in the *Pedagogical Seminary* (1908, vol. xv, pp. 299-346).

Many of the subjects treated under the chapter headings were then far less in the public eye. Six years ago only the first of the playground congresses had been held; story-tellers' leagues and clubs in town and city were exceptions rather than the rule; dancing was utilized far less than at present, in schools and other institutions; and pageantry, in its modern form, was not yet introduced into this country. Also, conditions affecting public amusements were less subject to scientific investigation. The delay in publishing has, however, had its advantages. The subjects have now become matters of popular knowledge and interest.

An effort has been made to present the different phases in which dramatic instinct finds outlet, and to unify the many ordinary forms, perhaps unrecognized until brought into psy-

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chological relation with those more commonly understood as its expression.

The book is a plea for the intelligent comprehension and immediate application of *principles*; the purpose is to stimulate by suggestion here and there, rather than to give formal *rules*. The author hopes that it may prove of use and interest to teachers, giving them greater insight into the needs of pupils and the value of uncurricularized forms in which such needs may find expression; also that it will appeal to persons interested in social betterment.

Thanks are due to school principals, teachers, library assistants, and others too numerous to mention individually, who have rendered kindly assistance during the course of the work; but to the late Mr. Walter Small, Superintendent of Schools in Providence; the late Herr Direktor Ferdinand Kleinwächter, Berlin; Dr. D. P. MacMillan, Director of the Psychological Laboratory of the Chicago public schools; and Dr. Louis N. Wilson, Librarian of Clark University, special acknowledgment is due. To the late Dr. Theodate L. Smith, of Clark University, I am deeply indebted for much kindly assistance; and in the final preparation for the press, to Miss Czarnomska, my former professor at Smith College. To

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President Hall I wish especially to express my gratitude for his unfailing interest and encouragement.

E. W. C.

CLARK UNIVERSITY

