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BULLETINS FOR
TEACHERS - NO. 6;
AESTHETIC EDUCATION**

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Cornell Study Bulletins for Teachers - No. 6; Aesthetic Education by Charles DeGarmo

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CHARLES DEGARMO

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ÆSTHETIC EDUCATION

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ÆSTHETIC EDUCATION

BY

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MOTTO:

An æsthetic view of the world for every child

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PREFACE

THIS BOOK maintains that every child should acquire in school a first-hand æsthetic view of the world, as he now acquires an intellectual or a moral view of it.

Our present æsthetic teaching is defective in several particulars: First, in that it is left to specialists alone; second, because, in consequence of this fact, it covers only a part of the world that is beautiful; and, third, because it tends to lead the pupil to look for beauty only at second hand, as in pictures of things rather than in the things themselves.

The first requisite in giving the pupil this first-hand view of the beauties of the world is that the teacher should acquire it himself. To this end, the book attempts to give a direct, non-technical analysis of the meaning and expression of the beautiful as seen in nature and the arts. It shows how and where to look for beauty, not alone in pictures and statues, but also in nature and in the domain of mechanics and of the arts that pertain to daily living.

The second requisite is that the teacher should be able to impart the canons of good taste to the pupil, to lead him to see beauty wherever it exists, to distinguish the pretension of beauty from its reality, and to found and reinforce his appreciation by efforts at artistic creation, in drawing and music, to be sure, but also in language and in those everyday arts that enhance the pleasures of life. Many suggestions as to how these ends may be effected are given throughout the book, and especially in the concluding chapter.

Only the general problem of æsthetic education is discussed. No attempt is made to instruct teachers of music or drawing, though it is hoped that they will find their work reinforced and universalized by what is here presented.

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