

**EDUCATION;
SELECTIVE, SPECIFIC,
COMPENSATORY**

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Education; selective, specific, compensatory by Michael West

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MICHAEL WEST

**EDUCATION;
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EDUCATION

SELECTIVE, SPECIFIC, COMPENSATORY

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EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY.

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LONDON, NEW YORK, BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, AND MADRAS.

EDUCATION

SELECTIVE, SPECIFIC, COMPENSATORY

BY

MICHAEL WEST

INDIAN EDUCATIONAL SERVICE

WITH A FOREWORD BY

HONBLE. MR. W. W. HORSELL

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, BENGAL

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FOREWORD.

MY DEAR WEST,

You have asked me to write a foreword. I can contribute nothing, but I must in gratitude comply.

Education is just one of those problems which are so personally vital, that the ordinary Englishman who is fortunate enough not to depend for his livelihood on anything connected with pedagogy is irritated by the very recollection of their existence. He eyes the schoolmaster with suspicion as a potential bore of amazing importunacy, while he regards the organizer of education, especially in India, as, at best, a charlatan, at worst, a fanatic. "Mr. Hornell," said a charming lady to me once (I had only made her acquaintance some five minutes previously), "they tell me that you and Messrs. Whiteaway, Laidlaw & Co. are ruining India. The latter provide cheap European clothes, while you purvey indifferent education at a shamelessly inadequate figure!" I had just started on a well-rounded period of defence when I looked up and the lady had fled!

A peculiar difficulty confronts one who comes to this country to deal, either as a teacher or an organizer, with the practical problem of the education of the youth of modern India. At first sight the Indian high school or

university college seems to contradict everything that one ever imagined about India and its peoples. The peculiar merit of this book of yours is, as it seems to me, that in it you have risen above the perplexities with which you are surrounded and have asked yourself the vital question, "what is the motive which impels the parent as such to lay out money on the education of his children?"

Any honest attempt to solve this question will explain why the masses in Bengal are demanding English education—why my *Khansama's* son—for my *Khansama* is a capitalist—is wasting his own vitality and his father's substance in a persistent but vain attempt to pass the Matriculation Examination. My *Khansama* is in this matter "a gambler". Education is to him for rising, not for living contentedly in that state of life to which it has pleased God to call him. This is the new wine which is being poured by the British Raj into the old skins of Indian Social organization! And the difficulties to which the use of education as a selective agency has led are not confined to India. The *déclassé* is everywhere, and it is not India alone which is proclaiming to a pleasure-loving world that the advantage of the State is not necessarily the advantage of any single member of it.

Some months ago I was forced to appear before the Indian Industries Commission. I know nothing whatever about industries; nor was I able to understand the list of questions with which that laborious body heralded its descent upon this much harassed Presidency. The receipt of the manuscript of this book rescued me from

a dilemma which promised to be a painful one. I analysed the general educational problem according to your formula, and then having quoted your description of the working of primary and secondary schools in Bengal, I boldly defied the Commission to consign me and my vapourings to the limbo of the superfluous by insisting that an attempt to understand the educational system of the Presidency of Bengal, how it arose, how it is working, and whither it is tending, is not irrelevant to their inquiry from which (thank Heavens!) the question of technical education had been excluded!

Now that your book is about to be published, I am going to defy the public to say that the study of the origin, purpose, achievement, and development of the school system of Bengal is not of practical interest to all who are looking on at the evolution of India, whether in hope or with fear!

I am,

Yours sincerely,

W. W. HORSELL.

THE BENGAL CLUB,
CALCUTTA, 27th March, 1917.

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