

**THE AUTOMATIC  
INSTRUCTOR, A  
PRACTICAL SYSTEM FOR  
HOME STUDY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649313297

The Automatic Instructor, A Practical System for Home Study by George Windle Read

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**GEORGE WINDLE READ**

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THE  
AUTOMATIC INSTRUCTOR,

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PRACTICAL SYSTEM FOR HOME  
STUDY.

*G. W. Read*

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St. Paul Book & Stationery Co.

ST. PAUL, MINN.

WM. KENNEDY PRINTING CO.

1898.

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THE  
AUTOMATIC INSTRUCTOR.

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INTRODUCTION.

Some years ago I was very anxious to obtain a certain appointment to be made by competitive examination. One of my friends whom I consulted about the matter and who had previously won a similar appointment, told me that the key to success in a competitive examination was a determination to win, and that with such a determination, backed by persevering and diligent study, failure would be unlikely if not impossible.

It occurred to me that if the other candidates were also imbued with this spirit of determination, success would fall to the



one who was most earnest and careful in his preparation. I made up my mind no one should surpass me in this respect.

After studying hard for a week or more, I became discouraged. My progress in no sense corresponded with the efforts I was making. This, I now see clearly, was due to the following circumstances :

1. I had been out of school for a long time and my mind had lost the training acquired by the habit of daily study.

2. In the absence of an instructor to guide them, my efforts were not sufficiently systematic and the actual progress made was uncertain.

3. In my anxiety for thorough preparation in a limited time there was a constant tendency to hurry and an effort to learn more in one day than the mind could possibly assimilate.

This led to mental fatigue and mind wandering. I often became conscious of having read a dozen pages or more while

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thinking of what I would do after getting the appointment or of something else entirely foreign to the contents of the book.

It also led to the belief that my memory was weak, for a carefully studied lesson would soon become confused and indistinct. The conviction that I was wasting time of which every moment was precious led to a careful consideration of the case and to the discovery of a system so simple, so easy of application, and so effective, that I was able to learn with absolute thoroughness the various subjects to be covered by the examination.

I attribute my success in the competitive examination, and in obtaining the coveted appointment, entirely to the system described in the following pages. While especially adapted to use in preparing for examinations, it is believed this system will be found of value by anyone pursuing a course of study or reading at home, without an instructor.

## I

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE  
SYSTEM.

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Every practical system for learning a book is based on the following fundamental principles :

a. The mind must be concentrated upon what is read.

b. An analysis must be made, separating the essential from the immaterial.

c. The impression produced by the essential must be strong enough to cause the mind to retain it, or the original impression must be sufficiently strengthened.

These three principles may be summarized in the three words.

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