

**THE THINKING HAND; OR,
PRACTICAL
EDUCATION IN THE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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The thinking hand; or, Practical education in the elementary school by J. G. Legge

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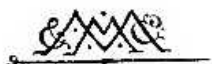
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THE THINKING HAND



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THE THINKING HAND

OR

PRACTICAL EDUCATION IN THE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BY

J. G. LEGGE

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION IN THE CITY OF LIVERPOOL

UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

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1950

To

G. STANLEY HALL,

Ph.D., LL.D.,

PRESIDENT OF CLARK UNIVERSITY, U.S.A.

AUTHOR OF "ADOLESCENCE" AND OF "YOUTH,"

THIS VOLUME IS

VERY RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.

333906

“ Thatiger Geist und sinniger Hand
Ziehen den Segen ins Vaterland.”

“ Non ha l'ottimo artista alcun concetto
Ch' un marmo solo in sè non circoscriva
Col suo soverchio ; e solo a quello arriva
La man che ubbidisce all' intelletto.”

MICHAEL ANGELO, *Sonnet XV.*

PREFACE.

LORD HALDANE has recently been delivering his views on our educational system or want of system. He appears to regard the situation as chaotic, and to be as much troubled by chaos in education as by unrest in society. Obvious remedies are parliamentary action and administrative action; a new bill, more codes and regulations. But Lord Haldane is more than a mandarin; he is also a philosopher. And the philosopher brooding over chaos has conceived an additional remedy for all ills—cheap access to universities. Harmony, of which universities in general furnish so many rich examples, is to be restored to society and education by a touch of the academic wand.

One object of this book is to show that the workers on lower planes of education than the universities are not conscious of living in a state of chaos, but are progressing steadily without the intervention of the Homeric heroes of Parliament and the Board of Education. The *Zeitgeist* is abroad, and the rank and file, in obedience to it, are, as they ought to do, working out their own salvation. One of the lines, perhaps the main line, on which the elementary school system is advancing is the movement towards the introduction of a manual side into the activities of our elementary schools. This movement has made astonishing progress in recent years, not merely, or chiefly, in England, but all over the world, in the British Colonies, notably Canada, in the United States, in Scandinavia, in Germany, and no doubt elsewhere. In Canada indeed certain illustrated official publications lead one to the view that, despite the fine efforts of several of our English counties, a distinctively rural education, so far as practical gardening and estate carpentry are concerned, is more general there than in the old country.

This book deals with the movement as it displays itself in city schools. Liverpool's reputation for modesty will save the writer from any accusation that he is glorifying the city which he serves. The fact is that dwellers in Liverpool are no better informed of what is going on inside their own schools