

**THE ESSENTIALS OF
TEACHING: A BOOK
FOR AMATEURS**

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The Essentials of Teaching: A Book for Amateurs by T. J. Burnett

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A BOOK FOR AMATEURS

BY

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L.T. 18
L. 18

Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children,
whom thou mayest make princes in all the
earth.—*Psalms xiv. 16.*

TO VINU
AMBROGLIAO

PREFACE

THIS book is intended to serve as a primer of method for amateurs and beginners in the art of teaching. It is based on a series of lectures delivered during the winter session of 1914-15 to the non-professional teachers engaged in teaching *practical* subjects in the continuation classes of the Edinburgh School Board.

The evolution of the continuation class has called forth a new type of teacher. For the important work of instruction there is urgently needed a large army of well-educated men and women who, in addition to being in close touch with practical affairs and having expert knowledge of a particular subject, possess some aptitude for teaching. One of the most pressing problems of the hour is to devise a means of providing a sufficient supply of competent teachers of technical and commercial subjects.

If Germany has taught us any lesson at all, it is surely that of the value of *preparedness and organisation*. For more than fifty years Germany has been assiduous in organising technical instruc-

tion and, as the result of years of practice and experiment, had, at the outbreak of war, an expert body of trade teachers unrivalled throughout the world. No matter how ruinously crippled, politically and economically, our enemy may be as a consequence of her ambition, it may be regarded as certain that her *educational machine* will remain hardly at all impaired. And this instrument she will surely employ, with all the energy of desperation, to retrieve her industrial and commercial prestige. There are many far-seeing people who believe that the commercial competition which will ensue between Britain and Germany when the war is over, will be as keen and ruthless as any fighting in the military campaign. We can scarcely hope to reap from the struggle any reward that will be commensurate with the sacrifices we have made, but, if in the future contest for commercial and industrial supremacy we are even to hold our own, we must be prepared to meet our rivals on level terms, equipped with weapons of equal efficiency. One of the most important of these weapons must be an adequate supply of *trained trade teachers*. When peace returns to a distracted world, it will surely be the greatest folly if we are content to slide back once more into the old slough of easy-going, slipshod methods. The problem of the training of the teacher, always important, now clamours for solution with fresh emphasis and insistence. Till a national scheme is forthcoming, we must, however, be content to make the most of the material at our disposal, and these lectures are published in the

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hope that they may do something to help the *untrained* teacher to perform his work with a new interest, with higher motives, and with more efficiency.

THOMAS J. BURNETT.

45 DALHOUSIE TERRACE,
EDINBURGH.
May, 1916.

