

**SELF-RELIANCE; A PRACTICAL AND
INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF METHODS
OF TEACHING SELF-RELIANCE,
INITIATIVE AND RESPONSIBILITY TO
MODERN CHILDREN; CHILDHOOD AND
YOUTH SERIES. EDITED BY M. V. O'SHEA**

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DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER & M. V. O'SHEA

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A Practical and Informal Discussion of
Methods of Teaching Self-Reliance, Initiative and
Responsibility to Modern Children

By

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER

Author of

*The Squirrel Cage, What Shall We Do Now
A Montessori Mother, Mothers and Children, Etc.*

CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH SERIES /

Edited by M. V. O'SHEA

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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

It is a commonplace to say that education in the home as well as in the school is changing rapidly in every section of our country. Wherever one goes he hears teachers, parents and students of social welfare discussing educational reforms. Multitudes of suggestions are being constantly offered looking toward the modification of courses of study, methods of teaching and the organization and management of schools. There is evidently little, if anything, concerning educational procedure which is definitely settled.

What is the cause of this unrest in the educational world? Is it not that such profound changes are taking place in our social, economic and industrial life that every one who studies the matter realizes that the training of the home and the school must be modified or children will not be equipped for the requirements of every-day life? One can make observations relating to this matter in some of the older countries. The schools have little or no connection with the actual life of the people among whom they exist. They are set apart from the current of things, and they run along on a program worked out hundreds of years ago without regard to present-day needs. But happily in our own coun-