

**THE SCHOOL AND ITS LIFE, A  
BRIEF DISCUSSION OF  
THE PRINCIPLES OF SCHOOL  
MANAGEMENT AND  
ORGANIZATION**

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The school and its life, a brief discussion of the principles of school management and organization by Charles B. Gilbert

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Teach.

# THE SCHOOL AND ITS LIFE

A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF

The Principles of School Management  
and Organization

BY

CHARLES B. GILBERT

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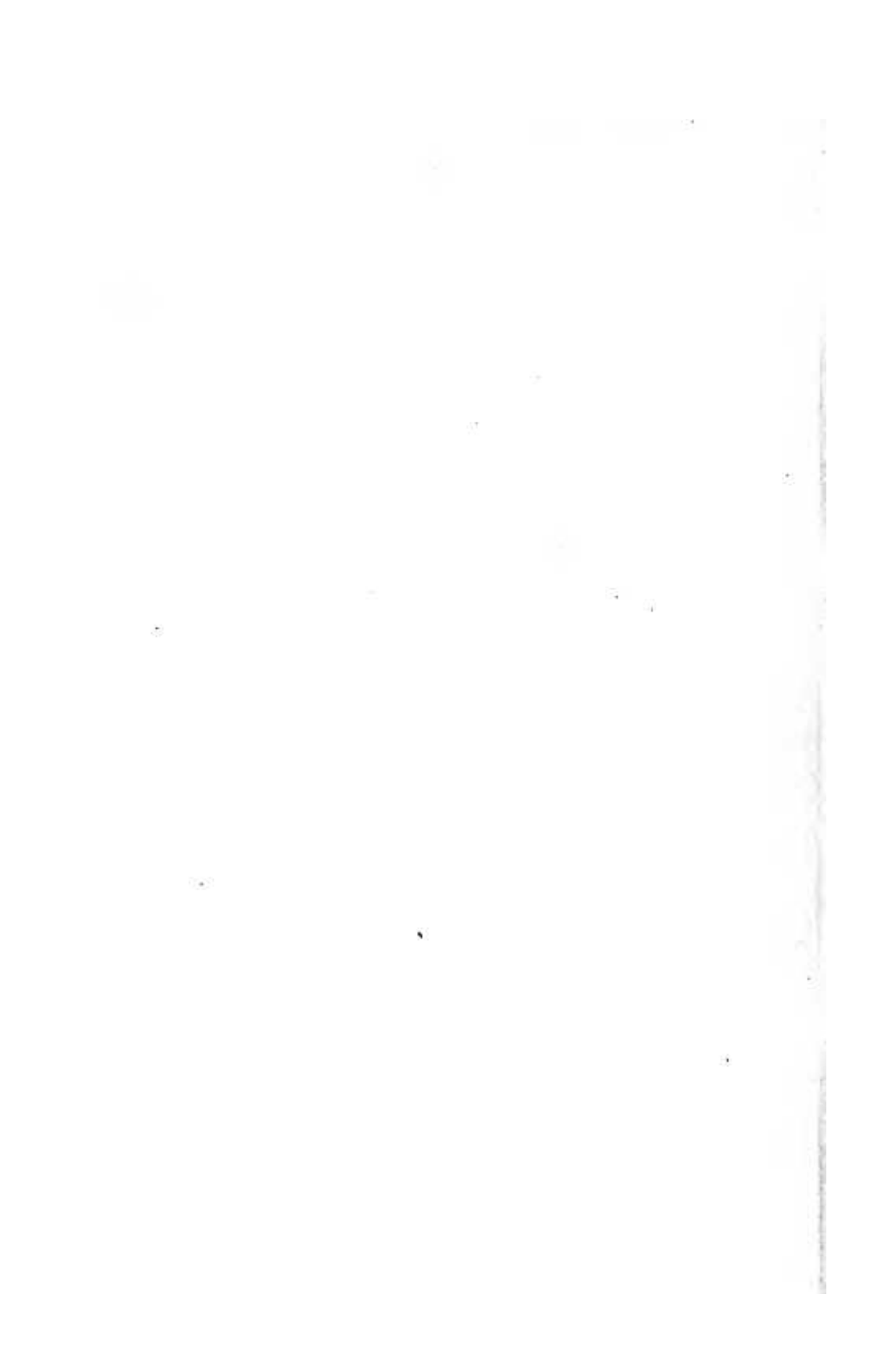
To

PRESIDENT CHARLES F. THWING

THIS BOOK IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED

*"Friend! gracious word! the heart to tell is ill able  
Whence came to men this jewel of a syllable."*

SANSKRIT BOOK OF GOOD COUNSELS.





## PREFACE

THIS book contains a brief discussion of a few of the vital problems that arise in schools and school systems. It does not claim to be a philosophy of school management, yet it endeavors to show the relations of these problems, as to both their sources and their solutions, to that comprehensive view of life which we call philosophy.

Its treatment is based upon the creed that life is one, especially that the single human life is simple in the midst of its complexity, that its thread is continuous and easily traced. No portion of it can justly be treated apart from the whole. The principles that determine its character at one time determine it at all times. Hence school life is to be judged and its office regulated not as apart from the wider life but as a part of it. During the school period and the subsequent period the laws of growth, which is education, are the same. There are no fundamental differences in principle. The differences are merely those of condition and environment.

In directing the life of the school, we need not to seek for new bases of conduct or new stimuli to activity, but merely to apply to the necessary conditions of the school those universal laws of life and growth that may be known and read of all men.

Much of the wastefulness of school life is due to attempts to do something extraordinary and unlike what is done in

the other affairs of life, to create a peculiar institution founded upon some mysterious peculiar principle. Hence our work has been so largely artificial and correspondingly futile.

It is life that educates, life in its totality, and school offers a life to the pupil. The character of this life determines the education.

Hence the aim of school should be to place the children in the midst of a natural, sane, and wholesome life, free from all false, ephemeral, and artificial standards and stimuli.

To show how this may be done in a few of the many possible instances is the aim of this book. It is hoped that it may at least stimulate thought, and suggest to some teachers and school officers, burdened with the responsibility of their work, a practical solution of some of their problems.

The foundations for this book were laid in a series of articles by the author, originally published in *Educational Foundations*.

C. B. GILBERT.

*New York*, March, 1906.

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