

**OBJECT LESSONS:
PREPARED FOR TEACHERS
OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS
AND PRIMARY CLASSES**

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Object Lessons: Prepared for Teachers of Primary Schools and Primary Classes by A. S. Welch

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A. S. WELCH

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OF

PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND PRIMARY CLASSES.

By A. S. WELCH,

PRINCIPAL OF MICHIGAN STATE NORMAL SCHOOL.

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Intellectual progress is, of necessity, from the concrete to the abstract.  
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P R E F A C E.

The first instruction given to the child in school, should be based on the fact that his intellectual activity consists in seeing and hearing rather than in reasoning and reflecting. His restless curiosity about material things is natural and proper to childhood, and equally natural, also, is his aversion to abstract thinking. Any mode of teaching, therefore, which thwarts the former while, it seeks to overcome the latter, is false in its philosophy and bad in its results. Since the senses of sight and hearing are first in exercise and development, the first step in school training should be to give them a systematic culture, and the period between the ages of five and ten years ought to be devoted mainly to this object.

The order of instruction which I have thus briefly indicated, was announced sixty years ago by Pestalozzi, an eminent Swiss teacher, as the only natural order. Since that time it has prevailed in the schools of Germany and England, and is now being adopted in the better class of schools in this country.

But the want of a suitable book, from which teachers could learn the best methods of training the senses of children by means of their appropriate objects, has proved a serious obstacle to the introduction of the Pestalozzian system into our primary schools. While lecturing on this subject before teachers' institutes and educational conventions held in different States of the West, I have been invariably met with the question, "Where shall we find the right book?"

It was this general inquiry that suggested the idea of publishing the series of Object Lessons which I had prepared in MS. for the

experimental department of the Michigan State Normal School. These lessons have been given to large classes by the teachers of that department, and are found to answer fully the object designed. Similar lessons have also been given by normal pupils in various schools of the State, with similar success. It is hoped that the same matter, in the form of a book, will be equally acceptable to primary teachers generally. I may add that I have limited the number of pages, so that neither its price nor the time required for its perusal, shall operate as a hindrance to its circulation. The youngest teacher will be able to prepare additional object lessons at pleasure from the models furnished.

It is not intended that this book should supersede any of the text-books now in use. In following the plan of the first ninety pages, the teacher need not depart from the ordinary course of instruction first given to the child. I have only sought so to modify that course as to make it subserve the object of all primary instruction, namely, the cultivation of the senses of the pupil.

In the course of my labors I have consulted freely the English and German books on primary teaching, and in preparing my last sixty pages I have received valuable suggestions from the works of Miss Mayo.

I gladly acknowledge my obligations to Mr. John Goodison for his aid in the Drawing Lessons and in the first series of Lessons on Colors. I also proffer my hearty thanks to friends who have kindly commended the work in advance, especially to Mr. Wells, Superintendent of the Public Schools of Chicago, and to Mr. Gregory, Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of Michigan.

A. S. WELCH.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, YPSILANTI,
January, 1862.

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