

METHODS OF EDUCATION
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BY

ALICE ZIMMERN

*Late Scholar of Girton College, Cambridge
Mistress at the High School for Girls, Tunbridge Wells*



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P R E F A C E

IN view of the growing interest in Secondary Education in the United Kingdom and the important problems awaiting solution, the Gilchrist Trustees decided in the early part of 1893 to send five women teachers to America, for the purpose of studying and reporting upon Secondary Schools for Girls and Training Colleges for Women in different parts of the United States. The Trustees made their intention widely known, and invited the governing bodies of the various women's colleges and associations of teachers to submit to them names of persons specially qualified. Out of the list of able and experienced women teachers thus furnished to them, the Trustees, after careful consideration of the qualifications of the numerous candidates, selected the following five and awarded to each of them a travelling scholarship of £100 to enable them to spend two months in the United States in prosecuting their enquiries:—Miss A. Bramwell, B.Sc. (Lecturer at the Cambridge Training College); Miss S. A. Burstall, B.A. (Mistress at the North London

Collegiate School for Girls); Miss H. M. Hughes (Lecturer on Education at University College, Cardiff); Miss M. H. Page (Head Mistress of the Skinners Company's School for Girls, Stamford Hill); and Miss A. Zimmern (Mistress at the High School for Girls, Tunbridge Wells). The five scholars visited America in the summer of 1893, and submitted to the Trustees carefully prepared reports, one of which—viz. that by Miss Zimmern—is presented to the public in this volume. The Trustees have aided in the publication of these reports, because they believe that a knowledge of the educational systems and experiments which have been tried in America cannot fail to be of interest and value to those engaged in teaching in the United Kingdom.

R. D. ROBERTS,
*Secretary to the Gülchrist
Trustees.*

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INTRODUCTION

IN the summer of 1893 I was enabled, by the kindness of the Gilchrist Trustees, to spend some time in the United States, with a view to obtaining information on educational matters. I left England at the end of April, visited New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, then travelled by way of Newhaven and Northampton to Boston, in which city I spent nearly three weeks. From Boston I went by Rochester and Niagara to Ann Arbor, the seat of Michigan University, thence to Chicago, where I spent four weeks. From Chicago I returned by the beautiful Canadian route *via* Toronto, the St. Lawrence, and Montreal; thence by Lakes George and Champlain to Albany, and down the Hudson to New York. I sailed for England on August 5th.

During seven weeks of my stay the schools were open, and I was able to visit these, hear lessons, and converse with the teachers. I saw schools in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Newhaven, Boston, and neighbourhood; visited the Educational Bureau at Washington, the Universities of Yale, Harvard, and Michigan, and the colleges of Vassar, Smith,

Wellesley, Bryn Mawr, and Swarthmore. During my stay at Chicago I attended the Educational Conferences, the meetings of which occupied a fortnight. I found the educational exhibits at the World's Fair useful in supplementing much that I had seen. I had the privilege of spending a week in one of the halls of the University of Chicago with members of the Society of Collegiate Alumnae, who were then holding their annual meetings, and this gave me an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the views of the best women on educational matters.

A stay of three months is, of course, insufficient for any exhaustive inquiry into the educational systems of so vast a country. I have only tried to deal with certain points, and on these too I desire to express my opinion with extreme diffidence. The subjects I chiefly investigated were: Arrangement of Studies; Methods of Teaching, in particular of Classics, Modern Languages, History and English Literature; Manual Training; and Women's Colleges.

I desire to take this opportunity of thanking the Gilchrist Trustees for enabling me to take so interesting a journey, and the Council of the Girls' Public Day School Company for giving me three months' holiday in which to travel, and for the kind interest they have taken in my tour.