

EDUCATION

A FIRST BOOK

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PREFACE

THIS book furnishes an introduction to the study of education. It is, as entitled, a beginner's book. It will, I hope, prepare students in colleges and normal schools to see the significance of their more specialized studies in educational psychology and sociology, methods of teaching and class management, the history of educational theory and practice, and the applications of philosophy and ethics to education. It will also be of service to those whose study of the general facts and principles of education must be restricted to a brief course.

Ideally, a student of education should first know many facts of biology, psychology, sociology, ethics and the other sciences of man. But he also needs to know something about education in order to make his studies in these sciences theoretically and practically fruitful. So it seems desirable to have some brief, simple, untechnical account of the aims, means, methods and results of education, of the conditions set by the laws of human nature, and of the part that school education plays in American life. The account given in the present volume is necessarily very limited, but nowhere, I trust, inaccurate or misleading.

Teachers College,
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