

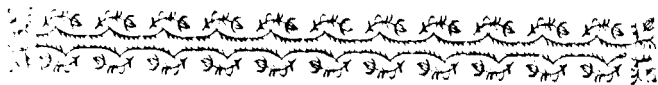
H. G. WELLS:
EDUCATIONIST

by

F. H. DOUGHTY



JONATHAN CAPE, 30 BEDFORD SQUARE



H. G. WELLS: EDUCATIONIST

A GENERAL survey of the lines along which Mr. Wells' educational ideas have developed, and a criticism of these ideas. Mr. Wells has always regarded education in the broadest light—never as a narrow academic or scholastic affair, but as a process that touches life at all points. Education in this wider aspect has, therefore, assumed so great an importance in his work as a whole, that a survey such as this amounts to a more or less complete review of his philosophy.

While therefore, the book appeals first to the educationist, it is also of value for the general reader, particularly those who regard Mr. Wells as one of the most significant figures in modern literature.

H. G. WELLS: EDUCATIONIST

By the Same Author

★

EDUCATION AND THE SPIRIT

H. G. WELLS

EDUCATIONIST

by

F. H. DOUGHTY



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TO
E. A. D.
K. F. W. D.

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P R E F A C E

My thanks are due to Mr. Wells, who by permitting me to read his novel, *The World of William Clissold*, in typescript, enabled me to bring that work within the purview of my study without delaying its completion.

To Mr. George Sampson also I wish to offer my sincerest thanks, both for the encouragement I received from him while the work was in preparation, and for his kindness in reading and offering valuable advice on the completed typescript.

To M. Georges Connes of the University of Dijon I am further indebted, first for the help I received from his very adequate *Etude sur la Pensée de Wells*, and second for his *H. G. Wells Dictionary* (privately printed, Dijon, 1926) which he was good enough to send me, and which I found invaluable for reference.

F. H. D.

The personal element cannot be eliminated from the consideration of works written by living persons for living persons. We want to know who is who - whom we can depend upon to have no other end than the making things clear to himself and his readers, and whom we should mistrust as having an ulterior aim on which he is more intent than in the furthering of our better misunderstanding - who is trying to bolster up the system in which his interests are vested.

SAMUEL BUTLER: *The Humour of Homer*

Une fois prêtre, toujours prêtre; une fois pédagogue toujours pédagogue. Wells n'a jamais oublié qu'il avait enseigné: quand il parle d'éducation, c'est un ancien professionnel.

GEORGES CONNES: *Etude sur la Pensée de Wells*

APPENDIX A

*A Chronological Bibliography of Mr. Wells' Principal Works.*¹

- 1895 Select Conversations with an Uncle.
1895 The Time Machine.
1895 The Wonderful Visit.
1896 The Island of Dr. Morean.
1896 The Wheels of Chance.
1897 The Invisible Man.
1898 The War of the Worlds.
1899 When the Sleeper Awakes (1911 The Sleeper Wakes).
1900* Love and Mr. Lewisham.
1901 Certain Personal Matters.
1901* Anticipations.
1901 The First Men in the Moon.
1902 The Discovery of the Future.
1902 The Sea Lady.
1903* Mankind in the Making.
1904 The Food of the Gods.
1905* A Modern Utopia.
1905 Kipps.
1906 In the Days of the Comet.
1906 The Future in America.
1907* First and Last Things (Revised 1917).
1908* New Worlds for Old.

¹ Those marked * are of special interest to the educationist. I have omitted the various volumes of short stories that Mr. Wells has from time to time published, but included his own selection in *The Country of the Blind*.

- 1908 The War in the Air.
1909 Tono-Bungay.
1909 Ann Veronica.
1910 The History of Mr. Polly.
1910* The New Machiavelli.
1911 The Country of the Blind.
1912 Marriage.
1913* The Passionate Friends.
1914* An Englishman Looks at the World.
1914 The World set Free.
1914 The Wife of Sir Isaac Harman.
1914 The War that will end War.
1915 The Research Magnificent.
1915 Boon.
1915 Bealby.
1916 Mr. Britling sees it Through.
1916* What is Coming?
1917 God the Invisible King.
1917 War and the Future.
1917 The Soul of a Bishop.
1918 In the Fourth Year.
1918* Joan and Peter.
1919* The Undying Fire.
1920* The Outline of History.
1920 Russia in the Shadows.
1921* The New Teaching of History.
1921* The Salvaging of Civilization.
1922 The Secret Places of the Heart.
1922 A Short History of the World.
1922 Washington and the Hope of Peace.

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- 1923* Men Like Gods.
- 1924 The Dream.
- 1924* The Story of a Great Schoolmaster.
- 1925* A Year of Prophesying.
- 1925 Christina Alberta's Father.
- 1926* The World of William Clissold.

APPENDIX B

Brief notes on some works of Mr. Wells of special interest to the educationist.

MANKIND IN THE MAKING

See pages 28, 134 and 151 of this essay.

FIRST AND LAST THINGS

A statement of the metaphysical, ethical and 'personal' groundwork of Mr. Wells' philosophy. Contains no specifically educational ideas, but valuable not only *quâ* statement, but also as the statement of one trained, so far as these philosophical subjects are concerned, along educational lines. Mr. Wells studied for the diplomas of L.C.P. and F.C.P., and he writes: 'These courses . . . set me thinking and reading further.' This book is to a great extent the direct result.

NEW WORLDS FOR OLD

A 'compact exposition of modern Socialism.' Like the preceding contains little of direct educational value (except the picture of the elementary school teacher under Socialism, Chap. XIV, sec. 1), but valuable as a reasoned and temperate discussion of the immediate problems of social reform, approached from the socialist point of view. The 'sociological' complement to *Mankind in the Making*.

AN ENGLISHMAN LOOKS AT THE WORLD

Chap. 16. *The Schoolmaster and the Empire*.

A plea for schoolmasters of 'insight and creative intelligence,' a criticism of the modern schoolmaster who is merely a decorous, evasive and thoroughly sterilized and

safe subscriber to tradition, the 'zealous and grateful agent of the powers that be,' with a dread of 'idiosyncrasy, of positive acts and new ideas.' 'Boys who are to be free, masterly men must hear free men talking freely of religion, of philosophy, of conduct. They must have heard men of this opinion and that, putting what they believe before them with all the courage of conviction.'

Also indirectly useful:—

Chap. 19. *An Age of Specialization.*

Chap. 24. *The Ideal Citizen.*

WHAT IS COMING?

Chap. VII. *The New Education.*

The expression of a hope that Oxford and Cambridge, after the disorganization due to the war will not again 'pick up and resume upon the old lines,' that the old University is dead; and of a hope that an attempt will be made to seize the opportunity offered for rebuilding it upon certain suggested lines. A foreshadowing in part of the educational programme of *The Salvaging of Civilization.*

JOAN AND PETER

The sub-title of this work is *The Story of an Education*, and (more or less) it lives up to it. A vast storehouse of ideas on education (and numerous other subjects), but rather weak on the constructive side. Plenty is said about inefficient and bad schools, but little, for example, about the education at Caxton under Henderson—possibly the late F. W. Sanderson.

THE UNDYING FIRE

There are indications that Mr. Huss owes some part of his material history (if not his theoretical speculations) to the influence of Sanderson. An exceedingly stimulating and valuable work, and essential to the student of Wells.

THE SALVAGING OF CIVILIZATION

Contains the fullest expression of Mr. Wells' educational ideas as they were directly affected by the War.

Chap. IV. *The Bible of Civilization*, Part One.

„ V. „ „ „ „ Two.

„ VI. *The Schooling of the World*.

„ VII. *College, Newspaper and Book*.

(Also contains *The Project of a World State*.)

THE STORY OF A GREAT SCHOOLMASTER

'A plain account of the life and ideas of Sanderson of Oundle.' Valuable as one of the few instances in which Mr. Wells has 'given himself away' in a positive direction.

A YEAR OF PROPHESYING

XXI. *The Mandarins at the Gate: The Revival of the Old Learning*.

'At no time in the world's experience has the need for a creative education been so manifest as it is to-day,' and, therefore, Mr. Wells notes with dismay and 'bitter derision' the signs of a revival of classical teaching – not only in Great Britain but in France – and states the basal needs of the new education.

XXIV. *A Creative Educational Scheme for Britain: A tentative Forecast.*

Brief in comparison with its theme, but suggestive.

XLI. *Blinkers for Free Youth.*

The chief activity of the University seems to be 'to get youth apart from the world and conceal the forces of change from its curious and intelligent eyes.' A plea for recognition and guidance of the 'rebellious vitality in our youth.'

XLIII. *The Shabby Schools of the Pious: Drains and the Odour of Sanctity.*

A contribution to the non-provided school controversy.

XLVII. *The Schools of a New Age: A Forecast.*

Not so constructive as its title would imply.

Mainly an expression of his faith that the school must be the centre of the new civilization—its place of birth.

APPENDIX C

A list of Mr. Wells' teachers: not including governesses, etc., nor university lecturers, demonstrators, professors.

Asst. Master.	Bladesover School An,	Tono-Bungay
Beldame, Mr.	Visiting Math. master at the School of St. George and the Ven. Bede	Joan and Peter
Bonover, Mr. George	Head master, Whortley Proprietary School	Love and Mr. L.
'Broomie'	Head master: 'rots' a little boy whose father writes 'stuff' about flying	World Set Free
'Buzzy'	Master at Caxton	Joan and Peter
Clavier, Miss Beeton	Head mistress of Wim- bledon School at which Lady Harman was educated	Wife of Sir I. H.
Corner, Cecily	At Mr. Britling's. Study- ing for London B.A.	Mr. Britling
Dunkerley	One of Lewisham's Col- leagues	Love and Mr. L.
Flack, Mr.	City Merchant's School	New Mac.
Gambard	Sir Isaac Harman's old head master	Wife of Sir I. H.

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Gardener	Former head of City Merchants	New Mac.
Garvace, Miss	Fellow Student of Ann Veronica	Ann V.
Gates	Head of City Merchants in Remington's time	New Mac.
Gould	Probationary Assistant at Iping	Inv. Man
'Head master'	Of George Ponderevo's School	Tono-Bungay
'Head master'	of Harbury	Wife of Sir I. H.
'Head master'	Of Minchinghampton	Research Mag.
'Head master'	With whom Oswald Sydenham has interview	Joan and Peter
Henderson	Of Caxton	Joan and Peter
Henson	Master at Harbury	Pass. Friends
Hinchcliff, Mr.	Given the apple from the Tree of Knowledge	'The Apple' (Plattner Story)
Huss, Job	Protagonist of 'The Undying Fire'	Undying Fire
Jarvice, Miss	Siddermorton school-mistress	Wonderful Visit
Jevons, Miss	Head of Highmorton	Joan and Peter

Kahn	Assistant of Mainwearing (q.v.)	
Klegg, Miss	Fellow Student of Ann Veronica	Ann V.
Latimer	Sixth-Form master at Harbury	Pass. Friends
Lewisham	Hero of Love and Mr. L.	
Lidgett, Mr.	Principal of Sussexville Preparatory School	Plattner Story
Mackinder, Mr.	Head master, White Court Prep. School	Joan and Peter
Mainwearing, Mr.	Head master, High 'Cross School	Joan and Peter
Maltby-Nevers- son, Miss	Head mistress of the Taverner's School	Ch. Alberta's Father
Marcus, Hetty	H. M. Smith's first wife	Dream
'Master'	Mathematical: at High- morton	Joan and Peter
Mergle, Miss	Former Schoolmistress of Jessie Milton (Beaumont)	Wheels of Chance
Merrick, Miss	Teacher in H. M. Smith's (Sarnac's) School	Dream
Mills, Miss	Miss Murgatroyd's Ju- nior Assistant	

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Moffatt, Miss	Mistress ('history and moral inst.') at Ann Veronica's school	Ann V.
Murgatroyd, Miss	Head mistress of the School of St. George and the Ven. Bede	Joan and Peter
Noakley, Mr.	'Noser,' Asst. at High Cross	Joan and Peter
Overtone	Of Hillborough. One of Sydenham's 'examiners'	Joan and Peter
Plattner, Gottfried	'The Plattner Story'	
Ratten	A new head of City Merchants	New Mac.
Remington, Mr.	Grandfather of Richard	New Mac.
Remington, Mr. Arthur	Father of Richard	New Mac.
Roddles	History master at Minchinghampton	Research Mag.
Rowton	Head of Pinner	Love and Mr. L.
Sandsome, Mr.	'The Phases of Mr. Sandsome'	Certain Personal Matters

'Schoolmaster'	Of Hoopdriver	Wheels of Chance
'Schoolmaster'	Young German. Killed woman and baby	Mr. Britling
'Schoolmaster'	Of Hardy, Capable, Sane, etc.	Secret Places of Heart.
Schoolmasters	Three - Science - at Har- bury	Pass. Friends
'Schoolmis- tress'	National Sch. at Otfield (under Lady Charlotte Sydenham)	Joan and Peter
Siddons, Mr.	Tutor to Stratton	Pass. Friends
Smithers, Mr.	Mainwearing's first Asst.	Joan and Peter
Snooks, Mr. E. K.	Hero of 'Miss Winchel- sea's Heart'	Twelve Stories
Stent, Walpole, Jr.	Selected by Clissold as typical of the Public schoolmaster	William Clis- sold
'Teacher'	Male: in H. M. Smith's first school	Dream
Topham	Master at City Merchants	New Mac.
Winchelsea, Miss	See 'Snooks'	
Woodrow, Mr. Geo. Gor- don, F.S.Sc.	Kipps's head master at the Cavendish Acad- emy	Kipps

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