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## **MONTESORI AND HER INSPIRERS**

# MONTESSORI

AND

## HER INSPIRERS

BY

ROBERT JOHN FYNNE

M.A., DUBLIN, TRINITY COLLEGE;

M.A., LONDON, KING'S COLLEGE

PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION IN THE UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN



THE EDUCATIONAL COMPANY  
OF IRELAND :: :: LIMITED  
DUBLIN AND CORK

Printed by  
The Educational Company of Ireland  
Limited,  
69 Talbot Street, Dublin

TO  
JOHN WILLIAM ADAMSON,  
PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION  
IN THE  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON,  
KING'S COLLEGE.

## PREFACE

THE principal objects of this little work are to trace the history of the "Montessori Method"; to discover and explore the main sources from which its author received her inspiration and guidance; to show that her work is definitely concatenated with that of Pereira, Itard, and Séguin; to attract attention to the value and importance of the thought and achievements of these three very remarkable pioneers of modern education; to expound and examine from the point of view of the educational thought of to-day the principles and practice of the "Method."

The pages that follow contain many quotations from the works of Dr. Montessori and her inspirers. Several of these are introduced for the purposes of argument; others for exposition and illustration. It is the writer's hope that their use will enable the reader to appreciate more keenly than could any elaborate paraphrase or interpretation the finer qualities of the original writings. That hope has also induced him to refrain from translating from the French several of the shorter extracts contained in the text or given in the footnotes.

The writer wishes to acknowledge gratefully his indebtedness to Messrs. Heinemann for their permission, given with kindly courtesy and good will, to quote so freely from the works of Dr. Montessori which are published by them.

R. J. FYNNE.

Trinity College, Dublin,  
*July, 1924,*

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