

Helen Keller is the living example of the new education. She is perhaps the first pupil of the School of the Future. As Dr. Montessori has said in her preface to "The Montessori Method." "If only one of the senses sufficed to make of Helen Keller a woman of exceptional culture and a writer, who better than she proves the potency of this method of education? If Helen Keller attained through exquisite natural gifts to an elevated conception of the world, who better than she proves that in the inmost self of man lies the spirit ready to reveal itself?"

To that wonderful woman, Dr. Marie Montessori, belongs the honor and everlasting gratitude of mankind for having systematized these ideas of education and recorded them in her book, a book that is at once a thrilling human document, a scientific text book, a prophecy and a torch unto all those whose work it is to teach little children. Dr. Montessori learned, as I learned, and as every teacher must learn, that only through freedom can individuals develop self control, self dependence, will power and initiative. There is no education except self discipline. There is no effective discipline except self discipline. All that parents and teachers can do for the child is to surround him with right conditions. He will do the rest, and the things he will do for himself are the only things that really count in education.