

code, syllabus, and instruction has finally to be administered to the child through the teacher. To a practical mind, the question of education resolves itself into a series of problems, the very first of which is the type of teacher to be employed. In the popular discussion of the day, we may suppose that this problem will be the last to be considered. So far, at any rate, it has not risen above the horizon.

As a pupil teacher and Queen's scholar I served my apprenticeship to the profession of teaching, and was finally let loose on juvenile humanity in the year 1894, registered, and approved as trained and qualified to instruct pupil teachers. I got an appointment under the School Board of one of the large manufacturing cities of the North, and was sent one morning in January to assist in one of the schools of the Board.

The school was what is known as a slum school, that is, it was down in the slums and was attended by slum children. (Dear boys, I afterwards came to love them above all others!) It was not a large school, the boys' department in which I was to teach having accommodation for no more than two hundred and fifty. The headmaster was a kindly old gentleman, who had been taken over by the Board from a Church School. He was singularly incompetent and ignorant, but very lovable when one got to know him. After prayers and a hymn sung by the school in unison, I was put into a class-room with fifty or sixty boys, ranging in age from eleven to fourteen years. The headmaster introduced me by name to the boys, and then left me to my own devices.

The facts to realise are these. As a pupil teacher I had served my time in a little village school in the South of England, under almost ideal conditions of work and friendly relationships. There I had known all the children from babyhood, and the classes given me to teach were small and most amenable to what is called discipline. I had never punished children in any way, for the simple reason that I had never needed to do more than be a little cross in order to distress them. From that school I passed to a training college, where