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Notes on the Education and Training of Teachers at McGill.

There are four factors in the making of a successful teacher. 1. The education of the candidate, that is the subjects he has studied, their correlation and sequence, the time spent upon them and the results achieved in the end. 2. The examples of education and scholarship and of methods and manners of teaching which the candidate has enjoyed or suffered at the hands of his own teachers in his own day. 3. A genuine personal interest in teaching and a strong belief in the importance of education in the community. 4. Professional teachers training.

Number one is essential. No person can teach what he does not know. No person can teach well what he does not know well. The master must know his subject in a much more fundamental and critical way than the student. If he does not he will miss all those fundamental simplicities in every subject of study which are always the most powerful weapons of the master teacher. If he does not appreciate these fundamental simplicities in his subject he is only a retailer of knowledge from text-books and that is not teaching or at any rate, is very poor teaching. In other words the successful teacher must not only know his subject; he must also know what his subject is about and what it means in the education of the mind.

Number two, while perhaps not wholly essential, is nearly so. I venture in any case, that number two is more important than number four. Example is better than precept especially when example is touched by the live-coal of personal contact and sympathy. It is in this way, indeed, that the human mind really learns all it knows, namely, by watching master minds and hands at work both in the realities of nature and in the artifacts of human society.

"Here work enough to watch
The master work, and catch
Hints of the proper craft, tricks
of the tools true play."

Number three is essential. No teacher who is not interested in teaching and in the importance of good teaching or whose interests in teaching are only secondary