## PEDAGOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

## By MARIA MONTESSORI, M.D.

Translated by Frederic Taber Cooper

The translator writes of this book: "The author's chief purpose is to awaken educators to a consciousness of their heavy responsibility for the physical and moral welfare of future generations. The one place where every human being is for a number of critical formative years within reach of organized training is the school; the only way that teachers may fit themselves to make the most of their opportunity is by learning to know the pupils through a knowledge of anthropology, and by applying such knowledge to practical pedagogy.

"The author does not pretend to have written an exhaustive treatise; she has in many cases merely indicated paths of progress; but she has invariably done so with such luminous flashes of suggestiveness as to awaken not only in educators, but in the average reader who chances to fall under her spell, an answering enthusiasm for her unquenchable faith in the infinite possibilities of human development and the eventual perfectionment of the race."

Dr. Montessori defines "Pedegogical Anthropology" as "A method that systematises the positive study of the pupil for pedagogic purposes, with a view to establishing philosophic principles of education. As soon as anthropology annexes the adjective, 'pedagogic,' it should base its scope upon the fundamental conception of a possible betterment of man, founded upon the positiva knowledge of the laws of human life. In contrast to general anthropology which, starting from a basis of positive data founded on observation, mounts toward philosophic problems regarding the origin of men, pedagogic anthropology, starting from an analogous basis of observation and research, must rise to philosophic conceptions regarding the future destiny of man from the biological point of view."

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