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THE FUTURE OF THE KINDERGARTEN *

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The kindergarten is in a full career of progress here in America, to-day. Every new inventory of existing school systems finds an increase in the number of cities that have adopted it as an introduction into the elementary school work. More and more villages have private kindergartens with full quotas of pupils. Six years ago there were one hundred thousand pupils in such schools, one year ago there were two hundred thousand—the number had doubled in five years. While no signs of abatement of this progress are visible in the statistical returns, there are tendencies in the management of the new department which may lead to a reverse in the course of a few years; and it is because I have been pained to observe those tendencies that I have come here to-night to speak of the future of the kindergarten.

The first danger is the financial one. * * * But I do not intend to dwell on this feature of kindergarten management, because I think the danger of too great expense may be easily met by some effective plan, that will not diminish, but on the contrary enhance, the value of the in-

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