

(C)

In teaching my own children, I have found that the difficult words in the first two pages of the First Primer were *the, this, that, has, had, an, and and*. These are words which are purely relational, and convey no image or emotion to the child's mind. Moreover, it was always found that the children found it much easier to point out these words when named than to name them themselves.

I have lately been giving lessons to an adult. It was wonderful to see how, after he had been presented with a stock of about twelve words, he worked his way through the First Primer without my *telling* him a single word. I asked him questions; I pointed to this word and to that; I printed words of the same final and of different initial letters under each other; I brought together a known element from one word and a known element from another, and asked him to combine them; but in no single instance—after he had received his small stock-in-trade of twelve words—did I tell him anything. And it was one of the most remarkable and pathetic sights I ever saw to see the awe and wonder of the young man as he felt his faculties slowly unfolding and stretching themselves out—like limbs that had been long atrophied and pulseless. If any Teacher wishes to test his art, to see how far it can carry him, and to witness one of its greatest and most encouraging triumphs, let him set to work and teach a completely ignorant adult. The specimens are becoming every day rarer; so he must make haste. It remains, however, to be seen whether in our hurry to have the fruit of our labours—whether in our haste to collect 'results,' we are not becoming mechanical, forceful, and unthinking in many of our so-called methods.

(D)

It has long escaped from the consciousness of grown-up people—it has passed completely into the 'river of forgetfulness,' how difficult and troublesome it was to take note of all the small points in each letter which make up its existence, differentiate it from other letters, and call for recognition. This was brought very strongly before my mind to-day in visiting a shop for stereotyping. I took up a paper matrix into which the leaden type is cast; and, though the words are printed straight

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the use o
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through
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at the top
limbs and
the round
square—a
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much by
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