

PREFATORY NOTE

This exposition and criticism of the Montessori Method is the first of a series of Bulletins on subjects of interest to educationists which the Department of Education intends to publish from time to time.

Dr. Morgan, the author, possesses special qualifications for the preparation of this Bulletin. He is the Principal of the Hamilton Normal School and an experienced teacher of Psychology; and, besides seeing the didactic apparatus of the Montessori system in use during a recent visit to the United States he had an opportunity of discussing the merits and demerits of the Method with teachers of that country who are familiar with the subject.

Since the publication of Dr. Montessori's "The Method of Scientific Pedagogy," the system as set forth therein and the apparatus of the House of Childhood have attracted world-wide attention in educational circles. The Minister of Education, accordingly, believes that this Bulletin will prove interesting to those who are concerned in the problems of elementary education, and especially in the problem of providing for the education of the backward children in our Ontario schools.

The Kindergarten Regulations for the Ontario schools are at present being revised. A set of the didactic apparatus has been supplied by the Minister to each of the Provincial Normal Schools for the purpose of experimentation, and in the settlement of the course the reports of the staffs as to the advisability of introducing the Montessori Method in any form will be duly considered.

The Minister acknowledges with thanks the permission given him by Frederick A. Stokes Company, of New York, and the Methodist Book Room, of Toronto, to use some of the illustrations that appear in the American translation of Dr. Montessori's work, and by The House of Childhood, of New York, to use some of the illustrations of the didactic apparatus manufactured by that firm.