



Fine and Industrial Arts in Elementary Schools

By Walter Sargent

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CHAPTER I. EDUCATIONAL AND PRACTICAL VALUES OF THE FINE AND INDUSTRIAL ARTS Since 1870 drawing, constructive work, and design as common-school studies have been subjects of general discussion. The Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876 exerted a strong influence in favor of public education in the industrial and fine arts. The educational exhibitions were a revelation to the American people of the possibilities along these lines, and of their own shortcomings. Since then drawing, constructive work, and design have received steadily increasing recognition in elementary education so far as provision for instruction and equipment has been concerned. Until recently, however, these subjects have been left largely in the hands of specialists. Boards of education, superintendents, and principals have often hesitated to make suggestions because they felt that they had not received the sort of training which would fit them to judge methods and results in these subjects. This feeling has been re-enforced by the influence of the tradition that even ordinary ability in the arts comes more as the result of intuitive...



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