

# *Madame Blavatsky on how to educate children*



## Children should be taught self-reliance, love for all men, mutual charity, and more than anything else, to think and reason for themselves.

**I**F WE HAD MONEY, we would found schools which would turn out something else than reading and writing candidates for starvation. Children should above all be taught self-reliance, love for all men, altruism, mutual charity, and more than anything else, to think and reason for themselves.

We would reduce the purely mechanical work of the memory to an absolute minimum, and devote the time to the development and training of the inner senses, faculties and latent capacities.

We would endeavour to deal with each child as a unit, and to educate it so as to produce the most harmonious and equal unfoldment of its powers, in order that its special aptitudes should find their full natural development.

We should aim at creating *free* men and women, free intellectually, free morally, unprejudiced in all respects, and above all things, *unselfish*. And we believe that much if not all of this could be obtained by *proper and truly theosophical* education.<sup>1</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> *Key to Theosophy*, § XIII (MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY) pp. 270-71

# The cultivation of mere intellect, as the means of material advancement, is the cause of ill-shapen monstrosities.

**The first eighteen years of life, after the first dawn of intelligence, are more than enough for the whole curriculum to be delivered.**

First published in *The Theosophist*, Vol. V, No 3 (51), December 1883, p. 101. Republished in *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, Vol. VI pp. 45-48. Review of MORAL EDUCATION: ITS LAWS AND METHODS, a monograph by Professor J.R. Buchanan, M.D.,<sup>2</sup> pp. 47-48. Full text under the title “The noble aim of education is to awaken the divinity within,” in our Living the Life Series.

Professor Buchanan, a student of the true science of man, has put forward a system of education which is as scientific as beneficial. Education naturally admits of division into five classes, in accordance with the different classes of faculties to be dealt with.

- 1 Physiological Development, aiming [at] the formation of the manly, healthy constitution capable of lasting a hundred years and competent to enjoy life and make it a source of benefit to humanity.
- 2 Industrial Education, which alone can lead to the disappearance of those unproductive classes, now preying upon the life-blood of society like vampires.
- 3 Medical Education, supplying the people with means to stamp out diseases at their first approach and eradicate our splendid heritage of diseases.
- 4 Moral or Religious Education, whereby the life secured by the other three kinds of education, is made worth living.
- 5 And lastly comes Intellectual Education, which now holds its revels on the ruin and degradation of man.

The scheme is complete but it is likely to provoke a sneering smile on the self-satisfied dogmatic lip, as being quite utopian. Life is not long enough, it may be urged, for such elaborate training. But the utter silliness of such objection has been conclusively shown by the learned Professor. The first eighteen years of life after the first dawn of intelligence is quite enough for the whole curriculum being gone through. We heartily commend this able and original work to our readers. Let it not be taken as unforgivable sin that the book has come into the world a little too soon.

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<sup>2</sup> [Joseph Rodes Buchanan, M.D., *Moral Education: Its laws and methods*. Governments, Churches and Colleges for many thousand and years have striven in vain to conquer crime, disease and misery — a new method must therefore be adopted — if that method can be found in this volume, does it not indicate a better future for humanity? New York: Printed for the author by S.W. Green, c. 1882; 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.

Medical doctors may consult with profit Joseph Rodes Buchanan’s magnum opus, *Therapeutic Sarcognomy. The application of Sarcognomy, the science of the soul, brain and body, to the therapeutic philosophy and treatment of bodily and mental diseases by means of electricity, nervaura, medicine and hæmospasia, with a review of authors on animal magnetism and massage and presentation of new instruments for electro-therapeutics*. Boston: J.G. Cupples Co., 1891 — ED. PHIL.]

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