FIVE YEARS OLD OR THEREABOUTS; SOME CHAPTERS ON THE PSYCHOLOGY AND TRAINING OF LITTLE CHILDREN

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Five years old or thereabouts; some chapters on the psychology and training of little children by Margaret Drummond

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MARGARET DRUMMOND

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My Unconscious Collaborator

FIVE YEARS OLD OR THEREABOUTS

SOME CHAPTERS ON THE PSYCHOLOGY AND TRAINING OF LITTLE CHILDREN

BY

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WITH FRONTISPIROR

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TO MINU AMMONIJAO

These things shall be! A loftier race
Than e'er the world hath known, shall rise,
With flame of freedom in their souls,
And light of knowledge in their eyes.
J. A. Symones.



PREFACE

In view of the activity and interest at present displayed in child-welfare schemes and nursery schools it is important that we should all realise that, unless such plans are based on a true knowledge of the nature and possibilities of the little ones concerned, much harm may be done and many opportunities will certainly be lost. The day is long past when it could be maintained that the education of the early years can be safely trusted to the maternal instinct. We all now recognise that instinct requires to be supplemented by knowledge; and the essential knowledge is to be obtained only by close study of the child. In a former book, The Dawn of Mind, I described the beginnings of such a study; in the present work I have set forth some of the further results which I have obtained during the last three years. Each child, no doubt, is different from all others; yet the path that all traverse in the course of their intellectual development is broadly the same, and the aim of this book will be attained if by its means the windings of that path are to some extent illumined for those who aspire to guide the little wayfarers.

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