

the little girl, so silent before, talked easily."

"A boy after having made sums with the decimal system material takes the beadframe. I give him a short introduction and suddenly he calls out quite excited: "oh, how wonderful, with this also I can make large sums and yet I do not need so many beads. It is as if one had many shillings and pennies and used paper money instead".

NEWS ITEMS IN THE MONTESSORI FIELD

Our news items can give but a glimpse of all the happenings in the various countries. To give a complete information would be impossible. It would assist us if indications were received as to what items are desired.

AUSTRALIA

Montessori work is starting again.

The first Montessori class is to be opened in Melbourne in a modern children's hotel. A teacher, either from Holland or from England has been requested.

ENGLAND

Organised by the English Montessori Society two lectures were held in London on subjects which are of particular interest especially to the Montessori movement. One of the lectures was held by Miss A.A. Hill on Spastic Children, and the other by Miss J. Bower on Hospital school.

The 34th. International Montessori Training Course was closed in London by Mr. Mario M. Montessori at the end of March.

The Maria Montessori Training Organisation at 1 Park Crescent, London W. 1 is planning the following courses to be held in its own premises:

- 1 A Junior School Course, May 2 - July 4, 1955
- 2 An Intensive Course for Beginners, August 8 - August 19, 1955
- 3 A Diploma Course, September 26 - 1955 - March 31, 1956.

FRANCE

This is the second term that the Club for Children between 7

and 15 years of age is functioning in the premises of the Training Center in Paris. The Club admits all children provided they are introduced by parents of pupils of the school or by members of the Montessori Society. Special features of the programme thus far developed have been:

- a) History of Music, then pieces were played or sung and songs taught to the children.
- b) Filmstrips, showing the life, the customs, the habitations etc. of countries the children wished to know about, such as the Eskimoes, or special features of Paris itself, etc.
- c) Handi-craft, under the guidance of teachers, in which the children collaborated to reproduce in clay and raffia and painting environments which had particularly impressed them on seeing the films and listening to their illustration.

GERMANY

In January the Catholic Work-group, a section of the German Montessori Society held its inaugural meeting in Cologne.

On November 24th. the Berlin section of the German Montessori Society was reorganised. Their programme includes the formation of an editorial board, of a finance committee and the organization of an international Montessori Training Course to be held in Berlin. They have asked the A.M.I. to assist them in organizing a study trip to Holland next autumn.

HOLLAND

Teacher-meetings are held at regular intervals. They take place in different towns so as to give each part of the country the possibility of permitting its teachers to remain in touch without having to travel too long a distance. For each meeting a special subject is announced, dealing with practical aspects of the work in school, or with the illustration of some special item of Montessori material, such as stripboards for arithmetic or sentence analysis, biology or history. The subject is developed by one of the teachers, after which usually a discussion follows.

INDIA

Mr. A.M. Joosten is at the moment directing the 19th Indian Montessori Training Course, the second to be held in Calcutta. He informs us that the West Bengal Government is the 18th Indian State which, on recommendation of the Central Government, has given official recognition to the Montessori Diploma awarded by the A.M.I. as the only authorized qualification for Montessori teachers.

ITALY

Last December the newly constituted Umbrian section of the Opera Montessori held its first meeting in Perugia.

So as to be able to comply with the growing demand made by private families the Institute in Rome for the training of the "Montessorine" (students specially trained for the care of children from 0 to 3) obtained permission to accept students for one year training. The Institute already conducted 2- and 3 years courses.

The Bergamo section of the Opera Montessori, the first in Italy to start Montessori work after the war, inaugurated last December, its new model school, specially built to satisfy the requirements of the Montessori method. The money was collected through the interest aroused by the efforts especially of Countess Agliardi, Mrs. Honegger and Miss Sorge.

The new building was inaugurated by the Hon. Maria Jervolino, president of the Opera Montessori in the presence of the Ecclesiastic and Civil authorities. The school is one of the most advanced Montessori schools in Italy, catering for children up to 12 and has assumed the name "Maria Montessori".

SWITZERLAND

Due to difficulties encountered in the organization the Montessori Conference announced for next April has been postponed. The new date will be announced later.