

will be an end to racism, nationalism, the fight for the supremacy of one man over another, of one people over another, leading to colonialism and other forms of exploitation.

Today we are fighting for these ideals which are appearing on the surface of the universal consciousness. However, wars and rebellions stain with blood and destroy the world. It seems, therefore, that this generation of our youth must be the point of crystallization around which will be realized the conscious maturation of ideas already centuries old in history but which have not yet been incarnated.

All these ideas can be summed up as respect for the human person. But this idea was never incarnated because the child could not absorb it from the environment. The child absorbs respect for the human person from the behavior of his parents toward him, and of

the educator toward his pupils, of men toward other men, of a people toward other peoples. This is what the young people of today want to achieve when they face the problems of the school, of politics, and of relations among people. They sing for a better world, they cry for the coming of a more truthful world where the skin of Man has the colour of the skin of God. Maybe this new generation will create an environment more propitious to overcoming the ancient ills of the soul, an environment more propitious to those values for which we are fighting in vain today.

Conscious, therefore, that history is made by the child, let us work to create for him the possibilities of creating a new Man who will begin a new and better era in history.

Maria Teresa Marchetti

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Regarding grading of diplomas

Lately, speaking to trainers and students coming from all parts of the world, the question of grading or not-grading of diplomas came up repeatedly.

More and more voices expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that the diplomas are distinguished, either with a simple "pass" or with "merit", "credit" or "distinction". As some times students with a distinction diploma show less teaching ability than those who have received a mere pass, the general feeling was that such grading

should be abolished in the same way as Dr. Montessori abolished rewards and punishments. As things stand at present, in some cases, courses have decided to do away with grades, whereas some others wish to maintain them. Both have asked a ruling from A.M.I. A.M.I. feels that the matter requires no special ruling. As a matter of history it might be appropriate to comment here that, when Dr. Montessori gave her own diplomas, she did not grade them. Grading was instituted later on request of students and of people who employed them. The latter wanted to

know how the student had "worked" during the course: whether they had done well or just managed to scrape through, so grading was instituted, but when prospective employers wrote (or write) for information about a student, the answer is that neither the direction of the course nor A.M.I. Headquarters are in the position of giving information on the student's teaching ability. This

can be ascertained only after a period of actual teaching on the part of the student. The only information that can be given is whether or not he or she has passed and how their work was done.

As far as A.M.I. is concerned, the question of grading is left to the discretion of the single courses.

Mario M. Montessori

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News items

MEXICO.

The first A.M.I. Montessori Training Course started in Mexico City at the end of September 1971. It is conducted by Mrs. C. Hanrath and will have a duration of two years. A first report of the course appears elsewhere in this issue.

RUMANIA.

Prof. Ilea Sulea - Firu was selected to be the A.M.I. Pedagogical representative in the country.

U.S.A.

Requests have been received from: Volunteer Film Association, St. Louis, to record the books *The Formation of Man* and *Education for a New World* by Maria Montessori, and from: Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, to transcribe into recorded form *The Absorbent Mind* by Maria Montessori.

U.S.A.

The Montessori Symposium, masterly organized, was held in Palo Alto, California, from March 25 to 31. It was a great success. The attendance was about 400. The President of A.M.I., Prof. Dr. J.A. Lauwerijs inaugurated it.

During the Symposium the new premises of the Palo Alto A.M.I. Montessori Center was inaugurated. A fuller report will be published in one of our future issues.

A.M.I. HEADQUARTERS

The general director of A.M.I., Mr. Mario M. Montessori, will be awarded the honorary degree of

Doctor of Laws

of the Edgecliff College in Cincinnati on May 14, 1972.