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CHILD STUDY IN BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA

In a recent book entitled "Studies of School Children," Dr. Frantisek Căda, Professor of Philosophy and Education in the University of Prague, gives a sketch of the beginnings of child study in Bohemia. The first recognition of its importance is to be found in two articles published in the Bohemian Pedagogical Review, "Komensky," in 1882, "A letter from the First Standard," by Y. Funticek, and "How to Popularize the Science of Child Study," by Jos. Klika.

In 1884, L. Pivoda translated from the Polish "Recent Advance in Education." In his article Dr. Hall's investigation on "The Contents of Children's Minds on Entering School," made in the Boston schools, was described at length. In the same year, a schedule of seventy-one headings for the observation of pupils was published by Y. Funticek.

A still more important movement was inaugurated in 1894 by Jos. Pavelka, who translated the book of the Polish psychologist, Professor David, "A Program for the Psychological and Educational Observation of the Child." In the twenty-nine chapters of this book, the author sets forth the results of experimental investigations in North America and in European countries, while the last three chapters give a summary of pedagogical researches in Bohemia and Moravia. Since this year, 1894, many Bohemian colleges have initiated courses in Child Study. In Pilsen a special inquiry with a hundred and sixty-eight rubrics was carried out by the teachers Boh. Bennes and Al. Bilek. The pupils of the first standard were studied by the director Jos. Simek and teachers Wil. Küller and Jos. Groh. In the Training College in Kr. Hradec courses were given to the students in the bodily and mental development of the child. Child study was also established as a regular course in the Training College of Brünn.

The Bohemian pedagogical reviews have since that time published many observations on children. Among these was an inquiry in regard to the concepts of children in the third standard of the Bohemian schools.

The best child studies have been published in the Bohemian Pedagogical Review, "Pedagogické Rozhledy." This is a monthly having fourteen sections, each with its own editor, and has been published for twenty-six years. Among the child studies published in this periodical are:—

In 1888, "The Bodily and Mental Development of the Child," by E. Formánek; "Sex Differences," by J. Kapras; "Studies of Pupils in the Secondary Schools," by F. Havlik.

In 1891, "Play and the Mental Development of the Child," by J. Kapras.

In 1893, a review of the translation of Professor David's book, in which A. Svoboda called attention to the progress made in psychology through methods of investigating school children, and a proposition was made to establish stations for pedagogical research. He made a plea in this article for individual biographical records of children before school age. These records should be kept in the pedagogical archives of each school.

From 1888 to 1897 there have been published reports of the child studies made in other countries by K. Lange, G. Stanley Hall, S. Berthold, A. Rude and others.

In 1898 were published a review and epitome of Baldwin's "Mental Development in the Child and the Race" and reports on the pathology of children from French, Russian and German reviews.

In 1899 "The Necessity of Experimental Investigation for Ascertaining the Principles of School Hygiene," by Jos. Cerny.

In 1900, "Measurement of Mental Phenomena," by V. Krcek, and a translation of Sully's "Psychology of Childhood."

In 1901, "Hygiene of Attention," translated from the Russian.

In 1902, Preyer's "Mind of the Child," translated by J. Zeman, Perez' "The Child," translated by V. Cerny, Ebbinghaus's "Experimental Psychology," and James' "Psychology."

The systematic guidance of child study was established in this review, *Pedagogické Rozhledy*, by Professor Cádá in 1903. A study of children's drawings was undertaken under his direction. His energy and skill inspired many zealous workers and made this section the center of the review. Many original articles, reviews and notices of American, English, French, German, Italian and Russian books have been published in this section during the last ten years. Contributions by the editor himself are: "A Study of the Speech of Children," 1905-07, and "Pedagogical Studies of School Children," 1910-12. Other contributions are: "Pedagogical Investigations in the First Standard of the Elementary School in Krasna," by Mil. Silhan, 1908; "Environment of Children in the Elementary School in Doksany," by V. J. Rehák, 1907; "Study of the Valach Child," by V. Mrihlad, 1907; "The Investigation of School Children by Teachers," by Dr. T. Janek, 1908; "The Slovak Child," by F. Bobek, 1909; "The Child and Nature," by F. Hajn, 1909; "An Investigation of the Children in the First Standard of the Practice School in the Training College in Kr. Hradec," by V. Küller, 1908-10; "The Perception of Colors by School Children," by F. Kotoun, 1910; "A Contribution to the Perception of Colors by School Children," by L. Novotny, 1910; "Child Study Schedules in the Hands of the Teacher," by J. Veprek, 1910; "Children's Abilities," by Jos. Kubálek, 1911; "The Bohemian Child at Tesin (Silesia)," by F. Prazák, 1912. "Child Study in the Training Colleges," by J. Kubálek, 1910; "A Sketch of Child Study in the Training College at Brünn, by Jos. Sustal, 1910; "Children's Drawings in a Moravian Slovak School," by J. Hodek, 1912; "The Bodily and Mental Condition of the Child of Six," by J. Kubálek, 1912.

The following investigations were made in Bohemia: "Contents of Children's Minds," made on the basis of Dr. Hall's schedule, with 119 boys of the first standard. In Prague a study of 232 girls and 42 boys was made by Professor Cádá. The experience, knowledge, habits and behavior of his pupils, both at home and in school, were observed and recorded. The children had no knowledge that they were under investigation. Materials were obtained in the regular course of school work through compositions or through questions, and each child's record was preserved throughout the year. There were some two hundred headings used in the schedule.

In the year 1910, an association of child study was established in Prague. The educational committee of the city council of Prague voted a sum of one hundred dollars for the new institution.

In addition to the books and articles already mentioned, the following books were published in the Bohemian language:

G. S. Hall, Ph. D., "Selected Essays on Child Study," translated by J. Mauer.

Fr. Cída, Ph. D., "Hyn's Psychology."

Ot. Kádner, Ph. D., "Contributions to Experimental Pedagogy."

Fr. Náprstek, "The Child and His World."

Rud. Neuhöfer, "Introduction to Child Study."

J. Sully, "Child Study," translated into Bohemian by Telcl.

EMANUEL LIPPERT.

REPORT OF THE BOHEMIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

It is only within the last decade, that the care and protection of the child has attracted the attention of the Austrian public. There were already in existence many institutions for the care of children, but since the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the reign of the emperor Francis Josef I the public has begun to recognize the need of organization of that care and protection.

The movement for child protection in the kingdom of Bohemia resulted in an organization, created by the committee of the national parliament. The law of 1901 made a great improvement in public care for destitute and neglected orphans by giving the administrative surplus of the orphans' treasuries for the above mentioned purpose for ten years. In this way the nation obtains about 600,000 crowns (= 60,000 dollars) yearly and from this fund more than 5,000 orphans are cared for and educated. The children are placed either in families or in some institution. (There are about 100 private institutions for the protection or education of deficient children in Bohemia.) In each district there was established an orphans' council especially for inspecting the children located in families.

The first Austrian congress for protection of children, held in Vienna, (1907) showed clearly the need for more energetic protection of children in the empire, which in this respect was far behind England, France and Switzerland. Therefore a central Austrian council for protection of children was founded in Vienna and at the National School Council committees for protection of children were established. The Bohemian National Committee recognized that great numbers of the bodily and mentally defective, destitute, neglected and delinquent children were insufficiently cared for, because of lack of organization, to keep records of the children and coördinate the institutions already at work. The first president of the B. N. C. was Fr. Count Thun, LL. D. After a year he was appointed viceregent in Dalmatia and then Fr. Cída, Ph. D., Professor of Philosophy of the University of Prague was elected to the presidency in acknowledgment of his great services in the work of the Committee.

In examining the results of the B. N. C. during the past 3 years one must acknowledge, that a remarkable piece of social work was performed: The organizing of the Committee for Protection of Children aroused a powerful movement in this direction so that in each district an association was founded¹, which ensured active coöperation between the public organizations for the protection of the child and private beneficence. Thus 82 district Committees for child protection were established. The B. N. C. is in constant communication with these Committees. The work is thus divided: The district committees undertake the care of the *poor* young people in their districts.