Grace Maxwell Fernald, Psychology: Los Angeles

1879-1950

GRACE MAXWELL FERNALD was born in Clyde, Ohio, on November 29, 1879. She died at Los Angeles, California, on January 16, 1950, at the age of seventy years. The life and accomplishments of this good, gracious and brilliant woman are of such a nature and importance that she will be remembered and valued for many years to come by innumerable students whom she instructed and the many persons she helped. Her research discoveries on theories and methods of learning influenced the lives of many directly in her time and will continue as an educational force in future generations.

Grace's early life was spent with her family in New York and New Jersey. The family roots were laid in Ohio. After graduation from high school, Grace continued her education at Mt. Holyoke, Bryn Mawr College and at the University of Chicago. She received her A.B. in 1903 and her M.A. in 1905 from Mt. Holyoke. In 1907 the Ph.D. was conferred on Grace M. Fernald by the University of Chicago in the field of psychology.

Grace Fernald came to Los Angeles in 1911 following positions held at Bryn Mawr College and the Juvenile Court in Chicago to join the faculty and head the Psychological Department and Laboratory at the State Normal School. She continued in this Normal School and in the University of California at Los Angeles from this time until the time of her death. She had the title of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor in these thirty-nine years of fine service. She was a leader in moves for the betterment of schools, corrective and penal institutions and for changes for the improvement of general civic conditions. In this connection she had many appointments of honor from the governor and city and state officials.

Grace Fernald was a member of top rank in all of the professional and scientific organizations related to her field of work. She was a Fellow of the American Psychological Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Association of Applied Psychology and, from its beginning, held the Diploma in Clinical Psychology awarded by the American Board of Examiners in Professional Psychology. She had earlier been elected to membership in Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi and Pi Gamma Mu.

Dr. Fernald was the author of many articles in scientific journals in the fields of experimental, theoretical, child, educational, clinical and mental measurement psychology. Her last major publication, *Remedial Techniques in Basic School Subjects*, continues to exert a profound influence in corrective education as well as in the field of prevention of maladjustment.

In addition to a teaching career of breadth and depth that has influenced many students through the years, Grace Fernald developed and directed the Clinical School in the University of California at Los Angeles. This Clinical School has served as a laboratory for research in clinical problems and methods. The children and adults helped by study and treatment in this clinic and the teachers and psychologists observing and learning in the Clinical School run into the thousands. Plans are in progress to assure the continuation and development of the Clinical School as a memorial to Dr. Fernald.

Grace Fernald was a warm and vivid person, completely unselfish and objective throughout her active life. She loved her family and friends. She loved children and animals and all living creatures. She felt a personal obligation to look after and serve them in their troubles no matter how inconvenient it might be. She traveled widely when she could...
escape the grueling schedule she set for herself. She was welcomed and sought whenever she came and wherever she went. We have been privileged to know Grace Fernald. We shall sorely miss her. She slipped away suddenly but quietly and peacefully. Her work will go on through all of those she taught and helped to a better adjustment and through the carrying out of the ideas in her books and published works.

Ellen B. Sullivan
Roy M. Dorcus
Bennet M. Allen
Louis K. Koontz