



# Course of Study: Manual Training Department of the Elementary Public Schools, Chicago; 1899- 1900 (Classic Reprint)

*R. F. Beardsley*

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Excerpt from Course of Study: Manual Training Department of the Elementary Public Schools, Chicago; 1899-1900

This manual is designed as a guide to the teachers of constructive work in the Chicago Elementary Schools. The models shown are such as have proved of value in developing, not alone manual skill, but such as will tend to lead children to independent thinking.

Many forms of hand work are being used as a means of education. They have come to us under various titles. An explanation of the most important forms of constructive work which are used as Manual Training, will perhaps serve as an aid to the further investigation and to a clearer conception of the purposes for which the work is given.

"The Russian Method" of tool instruction consists in a series of exercises based upon and accompanied by an analysis of three things: the tools, the materials and the elements of construction. Pieces of wood or other material are made into joints and fittings, each one showing, in abstract form, some mechanical principle.

The training for skill in tool practice, the intimate acquaintance with materials and the study of a limited number of elements of construction, are the basis and aim of this form of Manual Training. Objects of utility are seldom made.

In "Sloyd" a series of models is planned by the teacher, each model being a useful object (usually for the home), and each so designed that its execution introduces both a new tool and a new exercise in the use of tools already familiar to the pupil. Progressive training in tool practice and an incentive to careful work is thus attained. The models are usually made pleasing in form and proportion, and the exercises in tool work are arranged to give good physical training.

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