

is our observation that children have, seemingly, a universal vividness of creative imagination. They make original patterns of play. They do it easily, natively, not laboriously. However difficult it may be for our mature leaders to develop original inspirations, the children in whom it is a living process, appear one and all to possess the creative faculty.

Now if that faculty is so universal in children, and so rare in our mature leaders, after they have completed their training, where was it lost along the line? Apparently, it disappeared during the years devoted to education. If early in life we employ the left arm of original creativeness, where do we become right handed? Does this left arm-originality-atrophy, through disuse, while we concentrate on appropriating the accumulated wisdom of mankind, the truths which others have discovered and recorded for us merely to perceive and commit to memory? As we reach out to grasp this recorded lore with the right, does the left hand lose its cunning? If so, how can education make us more nearly ambidexterous? How keep learning exact, faithful to the record, disciplined, without too much of untested and unscientific personal interpretation on the one hand, and on the other hand still preserve a vivid individualism which continues to explore and invent originally, and for itself?

Perhaps this isn't a fair indictment of education, stated thus badly. The laboratory method no doubt is an attempt to force the student's growing knowledge, creatively to grapple with life situations. One must admit that creative writing today is an improvement upon the themes we composed. Art is infinitely more spontaneous and original than the copying I did as a student. Some forms of improvising and transposing music are advances in the direction of creative training. But one must still maintain that there yet remains a vast amount of improvement to be accomplished before education can generally establish itself as an exercise effectively developing original inventiveness.