Elmer Gates and the Art of Mind-Using

Whoso gazes, even for a moment of clear vision, upon the Torch of Psychurgy, will never again see any other light.

To get more mind, and utilize it as a machine, is to take advantage of the greatest force in nature—Consciousness—the cosmic force by which all other forces are known and harnessed.—Elmer Gates

ELMER GATES
AND THE
ART OF MIND-USING

by Donald Edson Gates

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Preface
This account of my father and his works tries to depict that “greatest of all observable phenomena—a Person,” to show the attitudes and points of view and methods and aims and accomplishments of a genius in a new and unique line, to view the workings of the mind of a man who was naturally a psychologist. His was the study of an individual mind and the methods it found natural in learning and teaching, in discovering and inventing, so he studied his whole life and recorded it as mental growth, as an actual experience. His work was his life.

The name of Elmer Gates is practically forgotten. Yet he pioneered in an improved scientific method and an art of research to discover a new world of mind and Consciousness. He published no books, wrote no papers for scientific journals, sought neither personal wealth nor reputation. His successful experiments were made only to convince himself, as he planned later to demonstrate his new methods. Two dozen public lectures in six years were augmented by a few interviews and articles, hurriedly dictated, and a flood of press notices, mostly appreciative, many inaccurate, others pure fiction or fancy; yet the impress on his times was immediate and far-reaching. His work attracted the sympathetic interest and moral support of many persons scattered over the world.

Eminent contemporaries endorsed his work and genius: “As a discoverer and practical demonstrator of the subtle laws of nature no man has achieved more and in so many departments of knowledge” (Elizabeth Bryant Johnston, author); “He has gotten nearer to the fundamental purposes of life than anyone else” (F. Parke Lewis, M. D.); “His educational ideas and experimental originality, fertility, and clearness are destined to produce far-reaching results” (Professor Patrick Geddes, Edinburgh, Scotland; biologist, sociologist, educator); “I cannot sufficiently express my admiration of the simplicity, the common sense, and yet also the startling originality of his scientific
methods” (Professor C. H. Hinton, mathematician and physicist);
“A man of decided genius, destined to important achievements”
(John W. Hoyt, former governor of Wyoming Territory and
founder and first president of the Wisconsin Academy of Science);
“He is opening a new world of marvelous interest, new paths for
the attainment of knowledge” (F. Guernsey, editor, Mexican
Herald); “One of the great mental leaders upon whose periodic
appearance the advancement of thought depends” (Theodore
Dreiser, novelist).

The name of Elmer Gates became a household word—“an
Edison of the mind,” the “Wizard of Chevy Chase,” and was even
used in breakfast food commercials. Grateful beneficiaries wrote
calling him “master of compassion,” and “choice and master spirit
of the age.”

Then an international figure, Elmer Gates, at the height of his
acclaim and prestige, changed his plans and withdrew from public
view back into the hidden depths of thought and research. What
compelling duty did some new insight into his mission bring?
What were his culminating discoveries that caused him to exclaim
late in his career: “If these discoveries are what they seem to be,
their promise glows like an aurora on the dawn of the world’s
hopes!”

There is an overwhelming wealth of material in twenty-five
thousand pages of his manuscripts, records, and letters. This book
is largely an editorial selection from them, and hopes to show the
significant difference between his scientific approach and that of
speculative thinkers, although language is often wanting in the
communication of new insights and methods. However, a start
must be made, perhaps in the manner of the artist, Thomas
Hovenden, for whom my father named his firstborn.

Hovenden was a close friend, and once wrote about his working
methods to my father: “My large picture is under way—so far as
thinking it out more clearly, and that is a good part of the work in
my case. But I have not touched a brush to the canvas yet . . . and have only drawn with charcoal one figure from life.” Likewise, this account may serve for the charcoal sketch from which a more finished portrait may appear on the canvas of progress as the teachings of Elmer Gates become better known and practiced.

In preparing this book I was first indebted to my father himself for early inspiration and for a wholesome respect for scientific method, and especially for my having been heir to a natural world-image unperturbed by myth and superstition. My debt to my aunt, Alma Pearl Edson, is also large for much help and encouragement, and for preserving the manuscripts as well as for typing most of them. Grateful remembrance goes to my wife, Eleanor, for her sympathetic interest, patience, and optimistic confidence during forty wonderful years together. Finally, my thanks must go to Nancy V. Teeple for her valuable and expert editorial assistance, conscientiously and painstakingly accurate. Her ability to spot error, clarify expression, and improve balance is responsible for much improvement in this book.

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Elmer R. Gates (1859 – 1923), the son of Jacob and Phoebe Goetz, American scientist and inventor; born near Dayton, Ohio, died in Washington, D.C. Gates’s inventions include the foam fire extinguisher, an improved electric iron, an aseptic brewing and fermenting process, electric loom mechanisms, diamagnetic and magnetic separators for extracting gold from sand, an incandescent gas mantle furnace, the educational toy “Box and Block,” and numerous other mechanical, scientific, psychological, and Start by marking Elmer Gates and the art of mind-using as Want to Read: Want to Read saving… Want to Read. Currently Reading. Read. Elmer Gates and the art by Donald Edson Gates. Other editions. Want to Read saving… Error rating book. Refresh and try again. Rate this book. Clear rating. 1 of 5 stars 2 of 5 stars 3 of 5 stars 4 of 5 stars 5 of 5 stars. Open Preview. See a Problem? We love your help. Let us know what’s wrong with this preview of Elmer Gates and the art of mind-using by Donald Edson Gates. Problem: It’s the wrong book It’s the wrong edition Other. Details (if other): Cancel This site uses cookies to deliver our services, improve performance, for analytics, and (if not signed in) for advertising. By using LibraryThing you acknowledge that you have read and understand our Terms of Service and Privacy Policy. Your use of the site and services is subject to these policies and terms. Hide this. Results from Google Books.