

Informal statement that there will be a question and answer period. -1-

In this talk I am ^{a little} telling of how other teachers and I relate the principles of Mabel ^{Ellsworth Todd} to the field of dance, voice, and acting.

I have mentioned the principles of Miss Todd's instruction here I must start with Isadora Duncan. Miss Duncan ^{as} some of you may recall, was a dancer who was well known in both Europe and America in the late 1800's. Two of the outstanding features for which she was famous were 1. Removing a few of the layers of robes the dancers had always worn, and 2. Freedom of movement in the dance. (This freedom considered too free by many people of that day)

John L. Martin (dance critic of the N. Y. Times) once wrote that Miss Todd's principles stemmed from Isadora. /

new paragraph Miss Todd from childhood had a scientific mind, but there were defects in her body that even the doctors are still puzzling over. Because of her scientific mind she used her own body as a laboratory just as other teachers including myself have done.

In her researches she first studied several of the sciences, as anatomy, physiology, biology, psychology, architecture and engineering. She started as a teacher of voice after graduating from the Emerson College of Oratory in Boston, where physical movement was also included in the school curriculum. In her early teaching she found that her interest became centered in her pupils' argument cause she soon came to see what an important part body

alignment played in voice projection and control. Friends of hers who had graduated from the same school and were teaching in nearby areas were not as interested in teaching their ^{and her friends} students to stand correctly. So Miss Todd exchanged students, Miss Todd limiting herself to those needing body alignment and her friends taking those not needing it.

A second major factor in starting Miss Todd's career was a situation arising out of the 1st World War. As you know many society women undertook the work of supplying the hospitals at home and at the front with the needed supplies. Many of these women had not been used to the long hours and hard work involved. One by one they discovered that a so-called "lesson" from Miss Todd kept them going and brought them back. This lesson substituted lying on a table and responding ² to the teacher's touch ¹ through mental imagery.

Among her students was Mrs J. J. Storrow ^{and} the wife of a prominent man of that time. Mrs. Storrow had been in a bad auto accident and was so happy over her recovery through Miss Todd's lessons that she wanted to express

her gratitude in ³ a tangible way. She wanted to endow this new form of therapy with sufficient money to create a foundation to carry on and extend the work. (The sum was 100,000 dollars which Miss Todd however refused because working with a board she thought would limit her freedom of action. She therefore continued to confine herself to individual lessons and trained a few teachers & helpers. I was one of those teachers.

Barker

Before I graduated from a nurses training school I was already looking for a field in which I would work with young children. An aunt of mine was studying with Miss Todd and her teachers. Observing my aunt practicing her exercises I was greatly interested and decided to take lessons with Miss Todd and apply the technique with children. My first 15 yrs in teaching was spent largely with children of nursery school age. It was at a period of time when nursery schools were first being established (Miss ^{Abigail} Chateaux) ^{Martha} ^{Wash D.C.} Bureau of Child Welfare

During this fifteen years I combined therapy and education in my research. In therapy I took the individual child and applied and modified

← Miss Todd's principles and modified them as necessary. I found that these principles improved not only children with slight defects but also those who were

who were autistic or had been polio victims.
 Incidentally I took some of the children's
 parents as students many of whom had various
 difficulties, for example arthritis. One of these
 parents was the head of a dept. of Howard Univ.
 He was so pleased & satisfied with my work with his children
 his wife, himself and others which he had observed that he
 recommended me to members of his acquaintance ^{and university groups.}
 and I continued my work with the children I did
 not want to stop with therapy and too the nursery
 schools were asking ^{me} to take the typical children
 in small groups and apply the principles ^{I was using} through
 various types of play. To stimulate their interest
 I used their dramatic interest in the games I
 devised. At that time I had no idea it would
 lead into the acting field.

Several years later I was in that acting field.
 As time went on I realized that my primary interest
 was in research rather than in any specific age
 group. I was advised that New York would give me
 a wider field of opportunity.

Various students in ¹ acting & ² dance began coming
 to me as students. The most promising student in
 dance, after an interval of time, began working
 with me on a pre-dance technique. Joanne Emmons

John Martin to whom I referred previously
 had ^{once} written that anyone who desired to go far
 in acting and dancing would need to study the
 principles taught by Miss Todd or someone
 trained in her principles. This pupil of mine
 used the principles so well that many people have
 spoken of the beauty of her dancing. She has continued her advanced studies in
 dance and reached the point where ^{I have left} that field
 to her to develop. She is now beginning to write with
 altho a mother of 2 children.

An actor who was looking for what seemed to
 him the best training in body alignment
 had been studying with our group in dance
 for fifteen or so years. He was in a large acting studio in the city.
 He decided to start a studio of his own
 so that he might feature our technique.

in the classes there. Anyone of you who has
 seen our brochure can notice that he has me there
 just how we work in acting classes
 as supervisor and the friend who first introduced
 him to me. Wm. Bernard is my first assistant.

Question. Demonstrate some of ex.
 Lying on back - feet on chair - drawing foot
 toward edge of chair nearest you.
 Rolling 1/4 position