Biographical sketch of Arthur Mac. Donald.

Mac Donald (A.)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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ARTHUR MAC DONALD.

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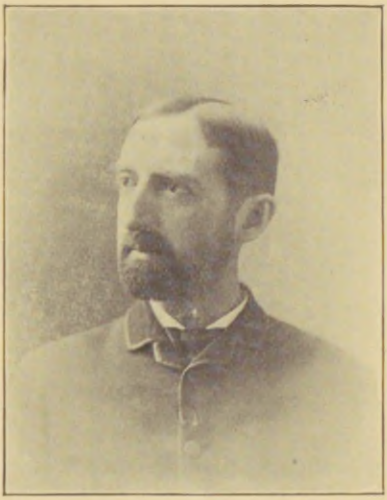

Arthur MacDonald.

IT is an opinion of Dr. MacDonald's that ordinary ability, plus a thorough and extensive training, can, in general, accomplish as much in the world as more talent with less training. Whether this be true or not, Dr. MacDonald cannot be accused of a lack of enthusiasm on the side of training.

He was born, July 4, 1856, in Caledonia, N. Y. He received his early education in the public schools of Geneva and Rochester, N. Y., graduating from the Rochester Free Academy in 1874. He took the degree of A.B. from the University of Rochester in 1879. His father, who was Assistant District-Attorney at this time, insisted that his son study law; but both being of Scotch descent, neither would give up his purpose, so that the son, under protest of the father, went to Princeton Theological Seminary. He was sent out as missionary in Northern Canada for two summer vacations by the Sunday-school over which he had formerly been Superintendent. Being fond of mission work, he went where there was more opportunity for it, and concluded his studies in Union Theological Seminary, New York, graduating with the class of 1883.

Not being satisfied with some of the theological dogmas taught him, he spent a term at Andover, and then pursued post-graduate studies in philosophy at Harvard for two years.

At the end of this period (1885) he was appointed "Fellow in Psychology" at Johns Hopkins University. This appointment was, however, declined, on account of an opportunity to study in continental universities, which Dr. MacDonald had looked forward to with such a desire that he had in advance gained a fluency in speaking German and French. He pursued many lectures in medicine and science, taking up also experimental work in psycho-physics. Two years were occupied in this way in laying a founda-

tion, and then he entered more into the fields of clinical and experiment. medicine, giving special attention to insanity, hypnotism, and criminology. His method was to go to the universities where he could find the best men in these several lines, which took him to Berlin, Paris, Leipzig, Vienna, and Zürich. At the end of these four years of European study he returned to America, and was appointed "Docent" in Applied Ethics and Criminology at Clark University, Worcester, Mass. After holding this position for two years, he was called to the United States Bureau of Education to be specialist in Education as Related to the Abnormal and Weakling Classes.

Dr. MacDonald is enthusiastic in encouraging bright students to pursue their work in continental universities. As an argument he uses his own experience. His entire expenses for lectures, living, and everything, including summer travelling, were a little less than one thousand dollars for nearly four years; his expenses to Europe and return were not included. These did not exceed two hundred dollars. He finds that too many students after leaving college do not seem to know definitely what they are to make their life work. Many seem to be aiming at nothing, and he thinks they are in danger of hitting it.

Dr. MacDonald was sent as an official delegate by our Government to the late International Psychological and also Criminological Congresses, and after attending these, was directed under the Bureau of Education to visit European prisons, reformatories, insane asylums, asylums for inebriates, etc., and especially to study the slums of the great cities. While making an investigation of the Salvation Army in London, he ran across Editor Stead, with whom he lunched long and often. As a result, he has been introduced in Stead's *From the New World to the Old* and in *Two and Two Make Four*, as "Professor Glogoul." Here in the first story his general character is fairly described, but with some exaggerations. While it is an occasional study with Dr. MacDonald to make a laboratory out of the ocean steamer, in this instance Stead made a laboratory out of him.

Dr. Macdonald is the author of three works, entitled: *Criminology*, *Abnormal Man*, and *Le Criminel Type*. This last work, which has not been published in English, is an original study of the celebrated cases of Jesse Pomeroy, "The Boy Torturer," and Piper, "The Brainer," both of Boston, Mass., and "Jack the Ripper," of London. These cases, with others, form the most terrible and saddest chapter in social and individual degeneration.

One general object of these investigations is to suggest ways of lessening mental and physical pain by a scientific study of its causes. Most of these methods he believes to be of an *educational* nature, and the most important and practical part lies in the *moral*, mental, and physical development of children.