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**Originality & Invention  
Applied to  
Livelihood & Business**

**by Elmer Gates**

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***Originality & Invention  
Applied to  
Livelihood & Business***

***The Curriculum  
for  
Doing the New***

***by Elmer Gates***

***edited by Donald Edson Gates***

***Elmer Gates Institute of Psychurgy  
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ELMER GATES INSTITUTE OF PSYCHURGY  
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*Editor's Preface and Biographical Sketch of the Author*

The new achievement in invention, discovery, and creative work is the most important contributor to progress. This originality is the result of individual development which needs freedom to follow its predilections, purposes, and opportunities. This independence of thought and action must be supported, so it is essential that the livelihood and business arise from and be based on these factors and not be forced into the ruts of established enterprise. One of the greatest advantages that a creative worker can gain is to have his time and thought his own, which means that his creative work, discovery, and invention should be his livelihood or business.

This subject of originality and self-expression, of invention and discovery and creative work, has been much misunderstood. The author found that creative workers when questioned were not aware of their own mental methods and processes or that there were right and wrong ways of using the mind. His study of the recorded lives of famous workers indicated that they also violated most of the conditions of psychological and physiological efficiency.

It should be realized that the curriculum in *Doing The New* herein described is not mere theory or opinion, but is a highly concrete and practical training based on many tested discoveries and principles. There has been no systematic and practical training for the development of originality and invention in creative work

based on psychological principles and a fundamental understanding of the mental processes involved. Those who have the ability and really accomplish the steps of the curriculum will attain the growth that brings results. They will gain the secrets of the power of genius — the power to make discoveries and inventions.

By a fortunate combination of circumstances, genius, and predilections the author very early in life discovered the elements of the new mental methods which were applied thereafter to the constant improvement of these very methods. His scientific study of mind and mental methods by making discoveries in the sciences and inventions in the arts led into new and fruitful fields not covered before or since.

The author, Elmer Gates, 1859-1923, scientist, consulting inventor, was founder and director of The Elmer Gates Laboratories of Psychology and Psychurgy. In 1894 he founded his first large laboratories at Germantown, Pa, but in 1896 removed to Chevy Chase, Md., a suburb of Washington, D.C., where he “built and equipped the most extensive and, best furnished series of private laboratories in this country.” He

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operated them until 1909, after which he devoted his time to systematic ideating and thinking about his extensive accumulated researches.

He was uniquely well qualified to write this book. He studied inventions, discoveries, and creative work as products of mental activity. He made discoveries in the sciences and inventions in the arts. He carried on a systematic and long-continued study of living inventors, discoverers, and creative workers generally; and analyzed the recorded lives of famous workers. He financed his life-long scientific researches by return from his invention. But in particular, his main specialty and life-work was the discovery, formulation, and testing of an art of using the mind, which he named “Psychurgy.” He made discoveries and inventions primarily to study the mental processes involved, the data in his mind before the result was obtained, the environmental and subjective conditions, and other relevant facts. He learned and taught selected branches of science to investigate the related mental processes. Possessing unusual powers of introspection very early in life, he trained himself through maturity as a specialist in this rewarding field, adapting and extending it as an invaluable aid in his psychological studies.

His improved art of mentation applied to electricity in 11 months produced 100 devices in electrical separation, with 14 method and 15 apparatus patents allowed. His attorney wrote

concerning them at the time that Gates had been granted more method patents along one line than to any previous inventor; “he is the most original man in America.” When he applied his art to looms and weaving, a subject with which he was previously unfamiliar, in nine weeks 22 inventions were made (later increased to 42), constituting the electric method of weaving; the four basic devices being patented in the five chief weaving countries. His method of extinguishing fires was later adjudicated the basic patent (U.S. 749,374) of all the fire-foams that have become widely used. His method of augmenting X-rays magnetically (Popular Science News, October 1900) and the use of lead to shield front X-rays (U.S. patent 653,383) have come into general use. His cotton delinter (patent application 101,088[?], 1906 allowed) is the basis of those in use. His educational Box & Blox (U.S. patent 741,903) has come into wide use for psychological testing. Many other inventions related to the arts and to medicine, including numerous psychological, scientific and educational contrivances.

“I have been out many times to see my friend Elmer Gates at his researches,” said Major John Wesley Powell, founder of the Bureau of American Ethnology, Director of the U.S. Geological Survey. “I have seen him successfully take gold out of sands by

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electric attraction; turn sunlight directly into electricity charging a storage battery therewith. I saw him successfully demonstrate his double microscope to Langley and Tom Reed, whom I took out to his place. I have read his psychological manuscript, four thousand pages of it, and have seen some of his demonstrations. I think he is doing more for education and research than any man in the world has ever done, and his discoveries will revolutionize philosophy.”

“I have known Elmer Gates for a long time,” wrote Major Cassius E. Gilletts, former Chief U.S. Corps of Engineers. “I consider him far and away the ablest, most scientific and accurate investigator of scientific matters that this planet has yet produced. His system of work is such that he practically has physical science mentally card indexed.”

Another eminent contemporary, Prof. J.W. Spencer, Chief, Canadian Survey of the Great Lakes, said: “Elmer Gates is the most remarkable and original man I know. I have been amazed at his successful investigations. He is a wonderful inventive genius, only more scientific than usual.”

“I cannot sufficiently express my admiration for the startling originality of his scientific methods. Elmer Gates makes me feel that the mind is a wonderful machine and he knows how to drive it.” (Prof. C.H. Hinton, mathematician and physicist.)

These methods which so amazed his contemporaries have

never before been published. The author made no attempt to publish the results of his successful experiments as he was working only to convince himself, expecting later to make a preliminary demonstrative exhibit and train one or more classes of students so his main work would be gradually tested and made available to others. Some public lectures, articles, interviews, and press notices, usually on side issues of his main work, widely quoted and misquoted, aroused an extensive public interest which he was not ready to organize, so further public utterance was stopped. His extensive scientific manuscript was written for his record and use of personal students. Much of this present work was written originally as part of material to be taught to a few selected students. It consists of one of the most important and useful portions of my father's work that can be applied without special preliminary preparation and facilities. Specifically is described the process of "Linguistic Mentation" and its related arts as a technique for Doing The New.

A First Lesson clarifies the much misunderstood subject of predilection, self-expression, and originality, with insight into systematic mental method, amplified by a brief account of a few of the author's original experiments. Steps in the curriculum of Doing The New are outlined especially for invention. Not only

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must creative work be supported, but it happens that the best way to learn these new methods is their application to livelihood and business, on which the curriculum is based. Not only a curriculum for the development of originality in predilective lines, but a working method for any student or creative worker to organize his studies, his knowledge and skills and purposes, as well as his career or life.