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Notes for Dewey Chapter 1 and 2

Discussion Topics at the Bottom

- continuity of life means continual adaptation and renewal of the environment
 - everyone is born immature, helpless, without language, beliefs, ideas, and social standards
 - as we grow, we develop knowledge by gathering and carrying life experiences
 - different people carry different purposes, information, skills, and practices
 - as we die, the knowledge we have acquired is passed down to the next generation

- mere physical growing up and mastery of the bare necessities of subsistence will not suffice to reproduce the life of the group
- the most civilized groups are at bigger risk if elders are destroyed in a plague

- training vs. education
 - the giving and taking of orders or superiority modifies action and results, but does not of itself affect a sharing of purposes and a communication of interests
 - the young can assimilate the point of view of the elders
 - the very process of living together educates
 - habits are controlled by controlling natural stimuli

- environment is our connection between tools and the knowledge we gain from using those tools
 - either hinders, stimulates, or inhibits our experiences
 - can be the expectations, demands, approvals, and condemnations of others
- we never educate directly, but indirectly by means of the environment
 - setting up conditions which stimulate certain visible and tangible ways of acting and making the individual a sharer or partner in the associated activity so that he/she feels success and failure
 - our net result with social environment forms the mental and emotional disposition of behavior in individuals by engaging them in activities that arouse and strengthen certain impulses, purposes, and consequences

- schools need to provide a simplified environment, to eliminate, so far as possible, unworthy features and outdated material, and to keep balance so that every student has opportunity for learning
- organizations, clubs, extra curricular activities are a way to control the environment and give students opportunity

Discussion Topics:

Every generation of human beings starts out as primitive as all the generations before, but having more knowledge to acquire and carry in the same life span. The amounts of knowledge we possess keeps building up. Throughout history different knowledge is passed on through different people, making us all different individuals with different characteristics.

Our following generations need to understand how knowledge has been obtained, and must know how to gain knowledge for themselves. The more evolved we become, the greater the loss of knowledge there would be, should there ever be a disruption in the existence of those that have carried knowledge, but not yet passed it on.

Training is the changing of habits by controlling natural stimuli. Education is the changing of emotional dispositions of behavior. Training could be viewed as responses to pain or pleasure. Education could be viewed as failure or success.

We as teachers need to control learning environment to fit the needs of our students, because the environment is where students gain education.