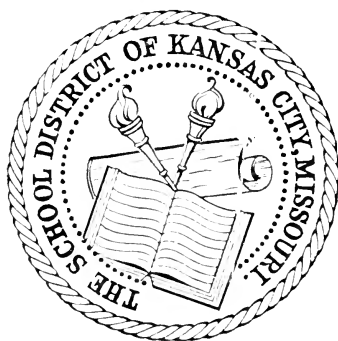




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Vol. XI. No. 1

APRIL, 1917

# The Playground

The World at Play



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Published monthly at Cooperstown, New York

FOR THE

## PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

1 Madison Avenue, New York City

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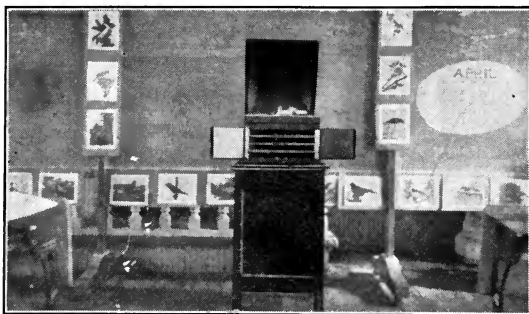
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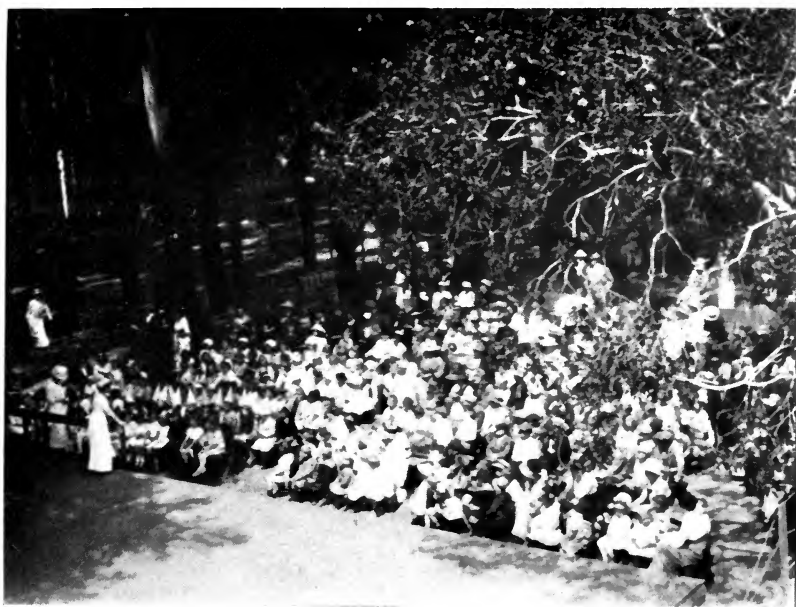
Play School University of California

## MANUAL ACTIVITIES



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## PLAYING GAMES IN GERMAN



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## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES—THE STORY HOUR



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## ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURE ACTIVITIES



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## RHYTHMIC AND MUSICAL ACTIVITIES



Play School, University of California

## BIG MUSCLE ACTIVITIES



## THE WORLD AT PLAY

### **Resting and Camping Spots.**

—Cyrus Kehr before the American Civic Association, in Washington, advocated public reservations for camping or rest:

"As further adjuncts to these highways there must be places for resting and camping—places in which tourists may procure water and rest for a half hour or an hour or camp for a night or longer. The ordinary highway affords no such places. Usually the traveler may now stop and rest or camp only by encroaching or trespassing upon private lands. There are already regions where few such private places can be found, and owners will gradually exclude the public from their lands. Before lands become more valuable and before places suited to this purpose are denuded of trees and otherwise spoiled for this purpose, such places should, so far as possible, be acquired for the public. These places should be for the use of those who travel for pleasure or business and for those who haul farm products, merchandise, or other freight.

"In some instances these rest or camp places may be added at one side or the other of the 100-foot right-of-way, and in other instances they may be put into the middle of the right-of-way,

the roadside being divided and extended along both sides of the rest or camp place and the right-of-way being correspondingly widened. Recently in the city of Ashland, Oregon, in a public park, camp lots were marked by suitable boundaries and the free use of these, including water and lights, granted to automobile tourists bringing their own tents."

### **Know the National Parks.**

—Booklets of lovely views and poetic descriptions issued by the Department of the Interior form part of a new effort to promote interest and knowledge and use of the National Parks. Fourteen parks, with a total area of 7,290 square miles belong to the people of the United States.

### **Enlarging the Value of National Parks.**

—Perfect quiet, or only primitive and natural sounds; distant landscapes; accessible mountains; natural phenomena—these four essentials of recreation for the modern city-dweller can now be well provided in the national parks and, before long, in the national parks only. Recounting the values of such recreation, Joseph Grinnell and Tracy I. Storer, in an article in *Science*, reprinted, urge the need for more thought-

ful preservation of wild life in the parks, including letting the parks alone—with trees, both dead and alive, underbrush and marshes left so animals may retain their natural habitat, for the benefit of the traveller and for research in natural history. The authors urge that a trained resident naturalist be placed in each national park, to supervise the protection of animal life and to awaken and satisfy curiosity regarding this wild life.

**Prize for City Park Plans.**—Missoula, Montana, is offering a prize of one hundred dollars for the best plan for a city park plot recently donated to the city.

**Where Is the Sedate Adult?**—An exchange, commenting on a plan for a "model park" to include tennis, baseball, race tracks, wonders what the sedate adult is to get out of it. In a really modern town everybody gets out and plays, no one has "spectatoritis," and the "sedate adult" is not!

**Use the Vacant Lots.**—One property owner in Brooklyn is tired of having property values spoiled by vacant lots adjacent or across the street being turned into refuse heaps. He is Eugene R. Hudders. Mr. Hudders has started a campaign for legislation to cover the matter. He

suggests that it should be made a misdemeanor to dump rubbish on vacant lots; that such lots should be enclosed by iron or wire fences rather than the usual high board fence with its unsightly billboards and its temptation to use the ground as a dump. Finally, Mr. Hudders wishes to give the city the right to take over such lots, using them for playgrounds until the owners can sell or improve them.

Joseph Lee comments upon Mr. Hudders' scheme as follows:

"I think Mr. Hudders' proposition about lots is a mighty good one. I don't see why people should be allowed to make their empty lots a nuisance to their neighbors, and the law will soon recognize that the sense of sight has some rights in the court as well as the sense of smell or that of sound.

"On the positive side also, that of permitting the city to make the lots into playgrounds, I think the idea a good one, though I doubt the likelihood of permitting the city to *forcibly* take possession of land for that purpose without compensation and without the consent of the owner. As a matter of fact I believe that if the city had the money to clear up the lot and to put in a supervisor,

an attendant of whatever kind the particular playground required, most owners would be glad to have it done; and the use of compulsion would be unnecessary.

"This whole matter of the utilization of spare lots has become a very interesting one. I know that people feel as I used to feel myself, that a vacant lot was a temporary piece of luck and there was no particular interest in developing it as a playground. But there is a fallacy in that idea. The vacant lot will always be frequent in residential districts, and although the old ones may be built over, that will largely happen when a section has ceased to be residential, which is exactly the time when you can dispense with playgrounds. In other words, although the particular vacant lot may pass, the vacant lot as an institution may keep on in a new incarnation, as a city, however much it grows, will always have an edge somewhere, and it is largely on the edge that the people live.

"I believe that with the proper development of vacant lots we could get about half our playgrounds and three-quarters of our playground space for nothing, so far as the cost of purchase is concerned."

**Exposition "Zone" Becomes a Permanent Play-**

**ground.**—Lobos Square, a field of eight or nine acres which was covered with buildings as part of the "zone" of the Panama-Pacific, will be turned over to the Playground Commission after it is replanted. The Japanese Pavilion, which was presented to the City of San Francisco after the Exposition by the Japanese Government, will be moved to Lobos Square to serve as a field house. Lobos Square was previously a park without leadership, used largely as a baseball field. It was turned over to the Exposition with the understanding that it should be returned to the city in the same condition as when granted.

**"Cash for Old Newspapers."**

—School children of Washington, D. C., have saved over one hundred fifty tons of old newspapers, for which more than \$2,000.00 was received. The money will be devoted to playgrounds.

**Children of the Neighborhood Are Welcome to the Use of This Playground.**—Thus an M. E. Sunday School in San Francisco announced at the gate its invitation to use a building lot on a busy corner which the church was not ready to build upon.

**Recreation in Religious Education.**—An enlargement of

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

the department of religious education in Boston University School of Theology provides for a demonstration center at Malden, Massachusetts, where through the cooperation of thirteen churches a city training school for religious workers has been established. The Boston courses include principles of recreational leadership, given by Professor Norman E. Richardson; the boy scout movement in principle and practice by Ormond E. Loomis, and practice work in the various aspects of scout craft, by James A. Wilder. A course on musical pageants and festivals for church and community is given by Professor H. Augustine Smith.

"A special foundation of \$10,000 created in memory of Arthur Howe Pingree, . . . a Christian minister of broad community interests . . . a zealous scout master" provides for a course of lectures on the theory and practice of boy scout leadership, both classroom and field work. General lectures on play are given by Joseph Lee, George Ellsworth Johnson, Ernst Hermann.

**Play as a Substitute for the Saloon.**—A correspondent declares that unless "something is done to replace the social features of the saloon, we can be quite certain that it will come

back." Perhaps the answer is found in a great "poor man's club" in Portland, Oregon. Before Oregon "went dry," Mr. Fritz ran one of the largest saloons in the West. Afterwards it became "Fritz' Great Workingmen's Resort," in which the proprietor takes great pride. There are baths, lunch counters, a restaurant, employment office, soft drink bar, a lodging house and free reading rooms and motion pictures are exhibited without charge.

In Memphis, Tennessee, the neighborhood centers, established just at the time that prohibition was becoming effective in that city, have proved wholesome substitutes for the saloon. In the cities and rural districts of Georgia, Michigan and Virginia, the field secretaries of the Association are helping to supply similar substitutes.

**In the U. S. A. in 1917.**—A correspondent writes:

"If any one had told me that such conditions exist in school-houses in this day as I saw this morning, I should have doubted the truth of the statement. But I have seen with my own eyes!

"I arrived at one school at recess time, and because of the deep snow the children were in the basement playrooms. There were two—one for boys and one for girls. They were each about

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

seventy feet long and possibly thirty or thirty-five feet wide. The girls' room contained the furnace and a huge coal bin that was filled with slack. The ceiling in the boys' room was possibly nine feet high, but in the girls' I could touch it in most places without effort.

"It was so dark that even with my good eyes I could not see the faces of children half way down the room. Light is supposed to come through four or five small basement windows, you know the kind—half sashes set in horizontally. But ventilation is had *only* through the toilets and an outside basement door. The windows are nailed shut by order of the chief janitor.

"I half tumbled down some rickety stairs and found a howling, seething mass of boys of all ages and all grades tearing around like maniacs, not playing. The air was so full of dust from coal and the concrete floor that I choked. It was a perfect inferno. The girls weren't doing much except standing about, talking and laughing at the top of their lungs.

"Immediately after recess I saw some 'physical training' that I was told is required, although there is no director. It was awfully bad work, yet it seemed to pass.

"I suggested games in the school rooms instead of in that awful basement to the principal and I don't think he had the faintest idea what I meant for he seemed horrified."

Is there need for the promotion of play?

**From a Letter from Thomas Curley.**—"A good many play leaders and directors are not 'playing the game.' To illustrate, in a certain town in Massachusetts last season I went on a playground and found the two directors in one corner of it alone playing volley ball; at the other end of the ground, two or three hundred feet away, were 125 to 150 children and apparatus. Again, in another playground in that same town, on the same day, the director wanted to show me her work in folk dancing. She had the children give three; in one group she had six children; in another eight; in another ten; on the ground were about 175 children. You see what a tale both these incidents tell of officials without playground imagination."

**The Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement**, 48 and 58 Henry St., New York, October 24th, 1916. My dear Mr. Braucher, It was very thoughtful of you to write me of the anniversary meeting and I like to

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

know that the Association of which my husband was so very fond remembers him with affection. Nothing that he tried to do was more thrilling to him than the effort to give little children a chance for the right kind of play, and he rejoiced in the able work done by the Playground Association.

Yes, he was buoyant, and he gave of himself freely. For a long time I was resentful of the drains made on his radiant vitality by the public, but he was so glad to give always.

Thank you for your letter.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Mary Riis

**Community House.**—Reverend Arthur A. McKay writes of the community house of Oceanic, New Jersey:

"The work developed here, under the leadership of the Pastor of the Presbyterian Church—who happens to be myself. This is a small place surrounded by the homes of many of the wealthy people of New York City and I have succeeded in securing their cooperation in the work I am doing. Though we have no organized recreation societies, we have a parish house which we recently built from an old church, remodelled it—added to it at an expense of forty-three hundred dollars, raised by public subscription. The building

is open to all denominations, controlled by a board of directors made up of prominent men of the place."

**Community Service.**—The Community Service School for Sampson County, North Carolina, held at Laurel Hill for four days, discussed "Holiday recreation for whole families," "Making the most of the community fairs," "Plays and games with educational factors of the community," "Neighborhood socials for old and young," "Revival of some old-time entertainments."

There were also discussions of education, of fair progress, cooperative marketing, of health and the home and the family.

**Neighborhood Center Work in Snoqualmie, Washington.**—H. L. Rowley, Principal of Schools, has been able to develop rather remarkable community feeling in Snoqualmie. Living in a "school cottage," the principal and his wife have been able to gather the teachers into friendly and helpful social gatherings, to look after the playground and school gardens adjoining. Community dinners, given each month, with a banquet at the end of the school year, have drawn the people together. Public athletic games and school entertainments have enticed forth even the most in-

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

veterate stay-at-homes. Nearly three hundred attended the community Christmas tree—the one public Christmas celebration, which all united to promote.

A beautiful bungalow playshed, built at a cost of \$1500, is one of the years' achievements. The building is fifty by seventy-two feet, lighted by electricity, heated, and the canvas curtains at the sides may be rolled up so as to make an open-air play court. Four hand ball courts at the ends and a surface satisfactory for tennis, basket ball or gymnasium games assure the usefulness of the building for games, as well as for fairs and exhibits.

**Successful Summer in Ponca City, Oklahoma.**—Beginning with an enrollment of 130, an increase was made to 180 by the close of the summer. The proprietors of the swimming pool gave its use free to the boys for an hour each afternoon. The boy scouts spent a week at Ranch 101, the guests of Mr. Joe Miller.

**Answer Requested.**—One superintendent of schools worked for recreation by sending out over the village the following letter: "A COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER is a tract of land or building developed, equipped, and under trained leadership, to furnish oppor-

tunities for the people to engage in wholesome games, sports and exercise.

"Such centers have been established in many communities throughout the land and the movement is making rapid progress.

".....greatly needs such a center for its young people especially, provided with a gymnasium, baseball diamonds, lawn tennis courts, running track, apparatus for outdoor sports and games.

"The.....School grounds might be admirably developed for such a purpose. If this does not seem advisable some other tract of land can be secured.

"If the churches, public school officials, grange, business men's association, village improvement society, Y. M. C. A. and other organizations, and also individuals will cooperate such a center can be easily provided.

"What do YOU think about it?"

.....

**Superintendent of Schools Volunteers Help.**—Many volunteers are doing much to spread the play movement in this country. Mr. Sidney A. Teller, Resident Director at the Irene Kaufmann Settlement, Pittsburgh, delivered during 1916 some ninety-eight lectures, most of them on the recreation move-

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

ment. His audiences totaled over fourteen thousand people. It is possible for much to be accomplished in this work because of the large number of volunteers who are so generous in giving their services.

**Let the People Sing.**—The Civic Music Association of Chicago, reports, after three years' effort to stimulate musical expression throughout the city, especially in community singing, the following achievements:

- 549 Children's classes in small parks and schools
- 28 Children's classes at the Municipal Pier
- 69 Dalcroze lessons for children
- 18 Violin class lessons
- 307 Choral rehearsals in small parks and schools
- 9 Community "Sings" at the Municipal Pier
- 25 Programs by local talent
- 2 Spring festivals by civic music clubs
- 1 Children's Christmas carol program in the Venetian Court of the Fine Arts Building
- 147 Artist programs in small parks and schools
- 20 Popular concerts by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra
- 1 Community concert at the Lane Technical High School
- 3 Community concerts at the Municipal Pier

**Music for Little Money.**—Pasadena, California, gave a series of concerts at motion picture prices. How often has the music-lover with an hour or so free longed for good music which one might "drop into" as into the moving picture houses!

**Little Theatre in Detroit.**—The Little Theatre of the Society of Arts and Crafts in Detroit has been completed and will be used for amateur productions.

**Children's Theatre, Berkeley, Cal.**—The Children's Theatre recently established has been so successful that it is expected that it will become a permanent institution. The first performance was fairy scenes from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It is planned that for the present the children will give only Shakespeare. In an effort to eliminate the individual and to emphasize the group, the names of the children taking the various parts are not printed and there are no flowers given to the performers.

**Making Music Democratic.**—Milwaukee, Wisconsin, during the last of October conducted "Music Boosters' Week." The object of this movement was to make music more democratic. Lectures by prominent musical authorities, a luncheon, and other features were used for publicity purposes. At the close



of the week a musicians' club was formed.

**Play and Art.**—J. H. Stine, Norwood, Massachusetts believes that the playground has a vital function in the artistic development of America:

"I am tremendously interested in seeing the public recreation movement make use of every phase of play life that may contain *spirit* and make for the development of the imaginative powers and resource and initiative. It seems to me that all playground work ought to be tied up closer to all forms of *art expression* in the several communities. It is great to build strong, healthy, sturdy bodies through active games and plays, but we should not be content with that alone. Health should be only the starting point of a play program rich in the fundamentals which constitute culture, power, vision. Correlate our playgrounds with the art interests of the cities: the musical organizations, the men and women of letters, the painters, the poets,—and I believe we shall soon rise high above the plane where a handful of politicians may sway the destinies of this great work.

"The children in the cities may never be 'rich in lore of fields and brooks'—but don't you pity the youngsters of ten-

der age who are plunged into the intricacies of track athletics and baseball at seven and eight years of age? Through the festival and pageant and drama we can provide in a measure, artificially, for that exercise of the imagination which was as free as air when I was a boy—when I took out sail boats at the age of ten, all alone, and played at being a pirate captain with a bold and saucy crew, one minute standing on the deck and crying orders to my imaginative crew, the next jumping to the tiller and sheet and executing them."

**Moving Pictures in a Public Library.**—The Public Library at Youngstown, Ohio, recipient of a moving picture machine, plans to show films on Saturday afternoons to the children and Saturday evenings to the adults of the town. Pictures already secured include *David Copperfield*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Ramona*, *Treasure Island*, *Les Miserables*, and some of Shakespeare's plays.

**"Class Legislation."**—The New York State law prohibiting the admission of children under sixteen years to moving pictures, unless accompanied by parents or guardian, has recently been before the Court of Appeals. The case was based upon the complaint of a pro-

prietor of a New York City moving picture theatre who appealed from the Lower Court's conviction, who contended that the law was "class legislation" in as much as it permitted children unaccompanied to attend performances conducted for the benefit of religious and educational institutions. The Court of Appeals confirmed the judgment of the Lower Court.

**Municipal Golf in Sacramento.**—Golf is being added to the sports that have been municipalized by Sacramento, Cal. An eighteen hole links was opened for public use on August fifteenth. The course is in Del Paso Park, a wildwood park of nearly 1,000 acres acquired a few years ago by the City of Sacramento when the Rancho Del Paso, one of the last remaining Mexican grants, was subdivided. The municipal links are within a short distance of the course of the Sacramento Country Club. Both courses are in a part of the primitive forest of scattered weeping oaks that once covered the entire Sacramento Valley floor.

**Golf for Children.**—Ward Brennan, Director of Pratt Playground, Brooklyn, has laid out a three-hole golf course for boys and girls. The holes are forty-two yards apart. For bunkers, boards twelve feet long by six

inches wide are used. The boys make three rounds of the course, playing nine holes. One boy made an average of thirty for a week. Over sixty boys entered a playground championship contest.

**Roller-skating on the Street for Adults.**—A correspondent appeals for suggestions for popularizing this sport, confessing that she never enjoyed any other one so much—but she couldn't be the only adult doing it! Her opportunity to enjoy it came in Coldwater, Kansas, where high school boys and girls started it and those of maturer age joined in. "It is cheap, in the open air; it is possible everywhere in towns; ill manners are almost impossible; no one can skate and talk scandal at one and the same time!" How can it be done?

**"Sand-craft" on Philadelphia Playgrounds.**—Supervisor J. Leonard Mason has worked out a combination of sand and clay, with which permanent modelling is possible. A Grecian amphitheatre, a modern home were among the exhibits of "sand-craft."

**Playground Apparatus as Shop Projects.**—The boys of the upper grammar grades in Wilmette, Illinois, made a set of six swings, a teeter-totter, and turning bars for use on the

playground. Lessons in public spirit and community property were learned as they could not have been learned through individual projects.

**Boys' and Girls' Exposition.**—Competition in exhibits, in judging exhibits and in demonstrations made up the junior activities in the Agricultural and Industrial Exposition of the Eastern States held in Springfield, Massachusetts. The exhibits were handiwork, cookery, canned goods and products of field and garden.

In the judging contests, teams from different states or counties passed judgment upon all exhibits, entering the judgment upon a score card, which was submitted to an expert to be compared with his own judgment.

Boys and girls individually or in teams showed how to prepare, sterilize, and can fruit; how to plan, cut, and sew a garment; how to bake bread; how to butcher; how to obtain and care for the various milk products; how to kill and dress poultry; how to plan and build various wooden structures; telling about the demonstration while it was being made.

Boys and girls took part, too, in races, and in jumping, throwing and lifting contests.

The Seattle Junior Exposi-

tion for October, 1916, was announced at the beginning of the summer vacation, thus giving incentive to vacation activities. The Exposition included "anything a boy or girl can make or do outside of school hours." Demonstrations of dramatic play, swimming, Camp Fire Girl activities, exhibits of pets were awarded prizes as well as countless departments of constructive activity such as work with wood, crayon, pencil, ways of saving, domestic science, photography, agriculture, collections, poems, plays, stories, music, records of hikes, shown by pictures, maps, equipment.

**Plan of Directed Activities.**—To promote *leadership* on the part of play leaders, E. B. DeGroot has instituted a plan of directed activities on San Francisco playgrounds. Team games, folk dancing, active games and singing games, apparatus play for girls, with track and field sports instead of folk dancing for the boys, are scheduled, one for each day. Two days are left free for the directors' hobbies.

The prescribed team games are baseball, playground ball, basket ball, volley ball, soccer football, field hockey. The track and field sports are broad and high jumps, shot put, pole

vault and matters of form. In the other lists may be found *three deep, black and white, leap frog relay, prisoners' base; Did you ever see a lassie, looby loo, muffin man*; and representative folk dances from various nations.

**Atlanta Training Courses.**

—One hundred nineteen students took the Atlanta, Georgia training course for recreation workers under the supervision of Mrs. Florence M. Tibbets. The course lasts ten weeks and is free to all applicants. A diploma indicating that the students have passed the playground examination is presented by the Department of Parks.

Dallas, Texas, carries on a playground course given by Myron A. Kesner in connection with the Free Kindergarten Association courses.

**Non-professional Course of Study.**—Elbert M. Vail, superintendent of Recreation, Fort Worth, Texas, has published, at the request of the Recreation Committee and members of the Parents-Teachers' Clubs, an outline of fundamental points in recreation, designed for fathers, mothers, teachers and others desiring general knowledge of the movement.

**Building for Health.**—The Open Stairway Dwelling Company recently laid the corner-

stone of its third apartment, built to prove that tenements may promote health and yet pay. At a rental of about thirty dollars a month, from two to four rooms with bath may be secured. All building is on the unit plan about a court thirty by forty feet. Open stairways lead to each apartment so no halls are necessary. The company has offered part of the most recently acquired land to the city for park or playground purposes at the price the company paid. The Commissioner of Health of New York City agrees with the company that its apartments are the most healthful which can be erected in accordance with the building code of New York State.

**Finds Filipinos Eager for Play.**—"The playground movement here is on a sound footing. At present there are eleven public playfields and sixteen tennis courts. More area is being acquired for this purpose. The playgrounds are part of the school system. I have now been here two months, coming from Seattle, and never during my playground experience have I had the pleasure of witnessing such whole-hearted enthusiasm and desire for play as the Filipinos display. They will turn out by the hundreds to witness a little indoor baseball game

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between school teams and will root and yell their heads off. They are as keen about social activities and dramatics. At present there are eight instructors employed full time. A public golf course is in the course of construction. The

public schools and the Y. M. C. A. have accomplished wonders in developing athletics throughout the Islands and in promoting the play movement."

.....Extract from letter from Superintendent of Schools Fred O. England, City of Manila....

## THE STORY OF ROSE COTTAGE

Ginevra Harrison Potts, Wyebrooke, Chester County, Pennsylvania

When I came to the country to live, I was struck with the fact that the children seemed to have no real good times together, save during the school months, and at picnics and occasional gatherings. I love children and I wanted to help. I thought about it for some time, and finally decided to begin in the school. I was granted permission to have one hour a week of the school time. I gave the boys drawing books and lessons—and the girls sewing materials and lessons, which took courage since I neither draw nor sew particularly well. At the end of the year a small prize was given the best workers—and the work was exhibited. The children were interested and I learned a great deal. But the third year was not so successful because we happened to have a teacher who was not in sympathy with us. So I decided to abandon the school. I asked my husband to let me have a pretty little cottage beside a wonderful spring of pure, cold water—and that cottage with the addition of many porches on which nearly all our work is done—and the boys' room—is still our home today. I said frankly I did not know just what I was going to do—but I was going to do *something*.

Oh! those first days! I had only nine children but they were of both sexes and all sizes. I read fairy stories, which the children enjoyed, they brought me wild flowers, and we together learned all we could about them, in *How to Know Wild Flowers*. We played jackstraws, croquet, and on very hot days, even went paddling in the brook. We cooked—the children bringing each a potato or an egg. Then the girls prepared a dainty table and we all ate wonder-

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ful things, made with those potatoes and eggs,—and the butter, milk, bread and so forth, it was my share to bring. We met every Wednesday, during the summer months, from nine a. m. till twelve. Two friends helped me faithfully, and now after seventeen years, one of them is still a regular co-worker, and the other would be if she could.

Like Topsy, “we just grew”—at that time we had no age limit. I sat on the porch floor and built blocks for active little twin babies to knock down, more than once—without the twins, the older sister could not come, and we wanted the older sister. The twins, big boys now, are still with us but we no longer admit a child under three years of age, nor over sixteen.

When we had about fifty children in a year or two, we began to see the necessity of some system. We were able to get a teacher who had taught kindergarten work in Philadelphia, and who was a splendid help. Then we learned to weave paper mats, do a little work with pen knives, make our own jackstraws, began sewing lessons with a ground work, and made scrapbooks of paper muslin, with pictures pasted on the leaves in wonderful designs—and much love,—for the very sick children in hospitals who could not hold the heavier scrap books.

And still we grew, adding more teachers to our staff—always doing better work. We now have ten trained teachers and fifteen volunteer aids,—good friends who work nobly through heat and storm. We begin our course now, with bead stringing, cutting out Teddy Bears, dolls, and soldiers,—pasting, sewing cards, coloring pictures with crayon, or paints, paper weaving. Then boys and girls still together go on to simple raffia work. After that the boys go into the boys’ department where they hammer brass, make baseballs, and tie hammocks—on to sloyd work, and so into the big work room where with two manual training teachers they do carpentry work and, considering that we have at most only thirteen mornings a year—they do very good work.

After the girls leave the raffia class, they begin sewing. Two trained teachers and several aids take them through the work from the little square of white muslin on which they make their stitches—to the finished camisole, which ends the work in that department. They make a towel, needle case, Rose Cottage bags, initialed with their initials in white cotton in which ever after they keep their work until it is completed,—and on these things they get almost every stitch,—basting, even and uneven, overcasting, hemming, and

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buttonholing. They then go on to embroidery or crocheting, and some of my big girls do beautiful work, most of them, in fact.

We begin at 9 a. m.—at 11:30 work is put in the work cupboards,—and two by two the children march past a given place where they receive a sandwich and a cake—say “*thank you*”—and the day is over.

The work is absolutely free,—what the child makes is his or hers,—but we insist it shall be well done if possible, and it almost always is. We have grown enormously, have now from two hundred to two hundred and seventy-five children. I am sometimes asked if I am satisfied and I always answer, no.—We have to give up cooking,—and we ought to teach cooking, also dressmaking, and millinery. We are extravagant—we cost too much for the time we spend. But it is wonderful how kind the parents are about sparing children and horses in their busy summer time. If we tried to have all the things we want it would mean other days—We can do no more in our one morning could we get the children—I do not know. But I do know that I am so proud of Rose Cottage, that I am just around the corner from being satisfied, after all.

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Clark W. Hetherington, University of Wisconsin, Madison,  
Wisconsin

The Demonstration Play School of the University of California was a demonstration first, of the organization of an institution and, second, of the activities required for that institution. I shall speak briefly on the first item and Mrs. Hetherington will speak on the more interesting part: the activities.

Imagine, if you will, this demonstration carried on in a large eucalyptus grove with administrative and assembly space in the center, and radiating from this center, spaces for departmental activities, one of which was a playground. Of course the demonstration was out-of-doors, but this is not its essential characteristic as some people think. Every school should be at least a fresh-air school. It is ridiculous to keep children indoors until they become sick; then, put them in an outdoor school to make them well, in

\*Address given at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 2-6, 1916

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order that they may be put indoors again to be made sick. The fresh-air feature should be a characteristic of every school. So it makes little difference to us whether you think of this school as conducted on a one-acre or ten-acre lot, or in a one-story or ten-story building, provided the essential characteristic in the demonstration is understood.

We should like to have you think of this organization as both a school and a play center including all that the school and the playground mean to child-life and civilization. It is not a playground only; it includes all that a playground means and expands its functions as a play center. It is not a school only; it includes all that we think of as belonging to the school and expands its functions as an educational center.

To bring out the nature of this demonstration, let me call your attention to two fundamental characteristics of child-life: *i. e.* play and infancy.

1. Play is child life. We speak of the child as active, spontaneous. The activity goes on irrespective of our will or desire. All the child's life forces are lived out in play; all his capacities exercised and developed. This play is the primary form of education because activity is the sole means of education. Interpret education as the total process and the total results of life experience, then compare the educational results of the self-impelled activities of life with the results of school room instruction and see which is most influential. Play is *child* life; it is nature's method of education. All that we do in education, or can do, is built on the development that comes out of these spontaneous activities called play.

2. Infancy is the recognized symbol of weakness and helplessness in the Christian appeal to human sympathy. The child is dependent and demands care and leadership. This dependence is complemented by the parental instinct to care for and instruct the child, and the child instinctively calls out this parental function. This demand for care and leadership is illustrated by the child's crying when hungry or hurt, and by the long years of "what?" and "why?" and "how?" This child dependence and demand for care and for leadership complemented by the parental instinct are the bases for all child welfare and educational effort.

Child life, care and instruction have come under institutional control. The original social institution to care for and train the child was the home. Under the rules of the home the child lived its



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spontaneous life in play. It entered spontaneously into the activities of the parents and the parents protected, cautioned, inhibited, encouraged and directed the activities. Part at least of the child's active energies were organized by the parents, but usually on the basis of the child's own self-impelling impulses; hence, the power of custom among savages.

With the rise of civilization and social organization, new needs for training developed. Chief among these the invention of writing created the need for learning to read the written language, especially by the governing classes. So the school arose. With the invention of printing this need spread to the masses, and the school as we know it today began its development. This school was an institution for the transmission of the written language. Its function was symbolized by the three R's. This function has expanded in recent years, though the school is still dominated by the linguistic ideal as the means of transmitting the written culture of the race. The school, therefore, has stood and stands today, increasingly as one great extra home institutional center of child life. The child still lives his own spontaneous life; he is controlled and helped in part by the home, and he is controlled in part by the school.

The rise of modern industrialism and related social changes have eliminated the home industries, the old family life, and the space and paraphernalia in house, yard and community. And so the playground has developed. The old opportunities for activity and an education have been squeezed out of the home and the community. The child can no longer enter into the highly specialized activities of the parents; his play in so far as he can play at all has become more conspicuously of the child type—a pure exercise of functions and capacity. Congestion of population in cities with the cramped opportunities for activity, on a background of sensitiveness concerning child nature created by child study, forced the idea of the playground. The idea evolved rapidly into an institution under adult control to meet child needs everywhere. So we have the development of a third institution controlling child life—the second extra home institutional center controlling child life. It is essentially a place for the organizing of activity from the child's standpoint.

There are, then, three types of institutions concerned with the organization of child life—two of them apart from the home. The child with a well-organized life is fortunate if he does not have his activities outside of the home cut up under several institutions of

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each extra-home type, such as the dancing school, the music school, the boy scouts and other clubs. Now the point to note about this triplicate organization of child life even with just one institution each of the extra home types, is that *it is impossible as an organization*. It is impossible from the standpoint of the child's time, energy and health; and impossible from the parents' standpoint (which I need not develop here) and it is impossible from an economic standpoint. This latter point is impressive. Imagine a city school organization within the required distance of every child; and then imagine the necessity of duplicating that organization by an independent playground within a quarter mile or half mile of every child. Such an organization if the schools and playgrounds were efficient would bankrupt any city. Survey the South Park System of Chicago with its splendid playgrounds as I have done and you can walk for miles in almost any direction and find thousands of children playing in the streets and in dirty vacant lots, who have no opportunity to get to a playground. The cost and maintenance of those playgrounds have been enormous; the cost of putting them within even a half-mile distance of every child would be staggering. The only solution is to fuse the school and the playgrounds into one. I am not arguing against the independent playground. There will probably always be some independent playgrounds. But as a general scheme of organization the duplicate extra-home organization of child life seems indefensible.

There is, however, a more profound reason than those just noted why these extra home institutions must be fused. To bring out this point I wish to lay down two fundamental propositions. First, any educational organization or school that does not recognize child life or play, is doomed to failure. Second, any play organization of child life, any playground, that does not recognize the child's social needs in relation to social demands or standards is doomed to failure.

Now let us apply these fundamental propositions to the three types of institutions controlling child life and welfare.

(1) The home is the fundamental institution concerned with child care and education. It always has been; it always must be. But under present day social conditions it cannot organize effectively either the educational activities or the play activities of the child, and in many cases not even the physical care. Most homes cannot have the necessary equipment and parents cannot prepare themselves for or give the time for the necessary leadership. This

leadership and care must be supplied by some extra-home organization or institution. To leave children to their own devices is a most destructive educational and social doctrine.

(2) The school in the organization of the child's activities has rightly emphasized social needs and social standards, but it has neglected the real life of the child, his own life, his play life. Dr. Lange of California once said that when he was a boy he went to school three months in the year, and then had nine months in which to get an education. Today that situation is reversed. We put the child in school nine months of the year and not only neglect the three months but neglect all through the nine months the real source of education—the child's self-impelled activities. This neglect is the source in most children of the dislike for the school. Thoughtful parents are now tending to support, and society will ultimately support, them in that dislike. So long as children go to school with reluctance instead of joyous anticipation and leave school with glee instead of with regret, the school is failing in the very foundation of an effective educational organization,—the *fostering* of the *enthusiasm* for *activity*, the essence of life and a progressive education.

(3) The playground is organizing activity from the child's standpoint. The emphasis in organization naturally has been on big muscle activities i. e., apparatus play, games, athletics, dancing, swimming. The playground properly speaking, as distinct from a play center, is a place for just such activities but they are not all of play. A Russian visiting this country said to me in conference that we seemed to know a great deal about physical play, but not very much about mental play. The child plays many forms of play besides the big muscle plays of the playground. The best playgrounds recognize this. They are not only organizing big muscle activities, but manual activities, storytelling, music, dramatics, excursions, and other activities. The big muscle activities alone are not sufficient to satisfy the child. Hence the playground in its organization is approaching a duplication of the activities of the school, but educational standards in this organization are almost if not entirely lacking.

Though playground directors have a great many very enthusiastic notions about pleasure, physical development, health conservation, social and moral training, the creation of good citizens, and there is no doubt that all these values are secured, yet the playground has set up no standards for

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judging either the process or the results. The phrases "pleasure," "happiness," "a good time," of the play director are as superficial as the externally aroused "interest" of the school men, because of two activities giving equal pleasure one may be mere fooling, the other profoundly educational. Even the big-muscle activities are frequently pathetically valueless. Therefore if the playground is to succeed it must standardize its activities according to criteria of educational values that appeal to earnest workers. Otherwise society will condemn the playground.

To sum up these criticisms of the three types of institutions, we may conclude that the home alone without the school and the playground is inefficient; that the school alone without the spirit of the playground in the organization of activities is inefficient and finally that the playground, without the social purpose of the school is inefficient.

The only solution of this problem of an efficient organization of child life and education seems to be a complete fusion of the two extra-home centers into a single center with a single purpose. The addition of a playground to the school and the organized direction of the activities on the playground will not satisfy the need. This is being done. It merely adds another department or activity to the several that are already organized in the school. What is needed is the incorporation of child life or play into the school, and the injection of real life or play into every single study in the school, as well as an injection of purpose into what is ordinarily called play.

This is the organization of the Play School. Through leadership it fuses the joyousness and dynamic power of play and the social purpose of education. In this fusion there is absolutely no conflict. Yet many times when I explain the play school I am asked, "What do you do about the discipline of the child?" "How will you train him to meet the disagreeable side of life or do things that are not pleasant?" These questions miss the point. They think of schooling and discipline as something hard and dry and of play as fooling or a mere pleasurable use of energies. Yet play to the child is the most serious activity in life. It *is* life; and a mastery of the issues of life is gained through virile living, not through imposed suffering.

Now I have shown that there are two related characteristics in child nature: the child's spontaneous educational activity or play, and the child's educational dependence or needs complemented by the parental instincts. Next I have shown that in the organization

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of the child's educational activities three types of institutions have evolved—the home, the school and the playground—two of them being extra-home institutions. And I have shown further that no one of these institutions alone is efficient and that the two extra-home institutions are peculiarly inefficient because each neglects an essential which the other supplies inefficiently; and that what each supplies should be part of a single organization—a single extra-home center of child life—a center in which the child finds the fullest life and society guides that life according to the educational ideals of the race.

This single extra-home institutional center of child life requires a pedagogical classification of the child's activities that will cover in one harmonious whole the spontaneous play forms and the more formalized educational activities and that can be administered as the older subjects of study are administered.

We have divided life into seven fundamental classes of activities. Mrs. Hetherington will talk to you about the organization of these activities.

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Mrs. D. Alford Hetherington, Madison, Wisconsin

The Play School was organized under the department of education of the summer session of the University of California in 1913 and was conducted during three consecutive summers, culminating in the exposition summer of 1915.

We enrolled about three hundred children from three and a half to eleven years of age. Hundreds were turned away and the summer of 1915 found the enrollment closed before the session opened. The climate of California is such that little thought need be given to the elements, so we were able to spread out over about three acres of ground in a glorious old eucalyptus grove. To the trees our manual training benches were nailed as well as our blackboards. Much of the equipment was borrowed from other schools and in every way the material equipment was most simple. We did have some wonderful leaders, plenty of oxygen, plenty of free-

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\*Address given at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Oct. 2-6, 1916

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dom and immeasurable earnestness and joy on the part of the children.

It seems to me that in a broad, general way, the final goal of education has been determined. But what we have not done, what we have failed most lamentably in, is to find a natural way of reaching this goal. At the meeting of the National Education Association in New York City last July, I noticed that every paper given in the elementary sections, was an attempt to get away from the *artificiality* of our present methods in education. Each speaker offered a balm for some particularly obnoxious form of artificiality peculiar to her special field.

Now what we attempted to work out in the Play School was an organization that was *fundamentally natural*. Thus, you see, we eliminated the necessity of putting on patches of naturalness such as the National Education Association educators were suggesting, because we began with a natural foundation.

Every child in a normal environment enters spontaneously into certain forms of activity. This activity is playful, joyous, intense. If the environment is such as it should be the child, driven by his internal mental and physical hungers, will do much toward educating himself through these activities. Now if these spontaneous natural activities into which the child enters are organized so that they can be administered for educational ends, you see you have an organization that begins at the child's end of the ladder of development,—at the natural end.

Before these activities can be organized for educational ends they must be analyzed and classified. The following classification gives the basis of our organization:—

1. Vocal or linguistic activities
2. Social activities
3. Environmental and nature activities
4. Manipulating and manual activities
5. Big-muscle activities
6. Rhythmical and musical activities
7. Economic activities

The object of organizing these natural activities is purely for administrative purposes. The child will participate in them and in a measure educate himself, but to achieve the best educational result, organization is necessary. When organized, however, the activities must be as natural as when unorganized.

With these spontaneous activities organized in a proper en-

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vironment, only one more factor is needed—*leaders*—not mere teachers, but leaders, individuals who can forget their specialized subjects of study and enter into the child's natural, spontaneous activities, his play life, his real life, leaders who can live and lead, and in living and leading, loop up all the essential culture of the race to these natural spontaneous activities of the children. Then what have we? An organization of the child's whole active life—the organization of his real life, his play life, the only real part of life to him; an organization which furnishes an opportunity for the natural development of the child's organic, nervous, intellectual and moral powers; an organization which furnishes leaders to loop up to these natural activities the formulated wisdom of the race.

In other words, we captured the wonderful spirit of leadership which is so finely demonstrated by the great play and recreation leaders in our nation, and transplanted it into the school where so often it is non-existent. Thus, you see, we had a combined play center and school center, an organization in which the play center and the school center became *one*, in *spirit*, in *aim* and in *organization*.

### (Stereopticon Illustrations)

#### No. I. *Manual Activities*

Here you see the children in their manual activities. They made the things they were most interested in. They are here entering into the activities which are the direct avenues to skill, adaptability and economic adjustment. One hears these days constant reference to the failure of our schools to develop independent thinking and acting, initiative, resourcefulness. One cannot imagine, it seems to me, conditions more saturated with opportunities for the development of these qualities.

#### No. II. *The Linguistic Activities*

Under this class were organized the mechanics of reading, of number, and of foreign language. The smaller children played little games or did little stunts and then talked and wrote about what they did. They learned to count by scoring their successes in their games. The older groups visited factories in the neighboring environment, such as a rubber factory, then by the use of maps, and selected materials, read and discussed the importance of

rubber to mankind. Twice a week our storyteller illumined these activities with a serial story. She placed her little actors in the rubber fields of South America and as she cleverly depicted their joys and sorrows she wove in with them all forms of geographical, commercial and meteorological knowledge. Thus you see, the story became a real, educational tool, not a mere source of entertainment.

The German was taught entirely by looping it up with the child's spontaneous activities. The children played games, sang songs in German, and I almost said—ran races in German, for I used to find them playing they were lions and tigers, running match races, and then hear the victory shouted by all—in German. This was pure play. They literally played themselves into a knowledge of the German language.

*No. III. The Social Activities* arise out of the social instincts. In his social activities the child develops his social habits and ideals and it is in these activities that the leader has his greatest opportunity for training in democracy. In the Play School we emphasized at all times the spirit of courtesy. Obviously with this type of organization we had constant social contacts, so the opportunities were endless for the development of courtesy.

*No. IV. The Environmental and Nature Activities* arise out of the investigating and interpreting tendencies. They include all environmental exploration and all experimentation with the physical, biological and social environment. Here you see the children studying animals at first hand. Many of these they secure on their excursions with their leaders into the wood. They experimented with heat, with sound, with water, thus satisfying their intense hunger for knowledge concerning the physical phenomena of life. You see they were satisfying the impulses which in the race have caused continents to be discovered and have produced all science and philosophy.

*No. V. The Rhythmic and Musical Activities*

The rhythmic and musical activities arise out of the joy derived from rhythm, tone and melody.

This picture shows the boys furnishing the melody while the girls delighted in the rhythm.

Children, as you probably know full well, find little pleasure



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in learning the musical language as it has been developed by adults, but they joy in music when it is fitted to their stage of development. Mrs. Dorrett, a wonderful leader, found the boys were not interested in singing, so she purchased vocophones—(children sing through vocophones) and while they apparently disliked singing, they went into raptures over *singing through these vocophones*. You see she took these boys where she found them musically, a decidedly barbaric stage to be sure, and easily led them on to better things, because she met them where they were—and led a natural impulse, instead of forcing an unnatural one upon them. And they learned music.

### No. VI. *Big Muscle Activities*

Here we see the children in their big muscle activities. In the child these activities are the source of organic vigor and general nervous power. While regarded usually as mere muscular exercise, these activities carry the discipline of racially old instincts and are therefor fundamental in their influence on character development. They need leadership just as do all other activities. All the groups had periods on the playground during the morning under skilled leaders, from the three-year-olds up.

Thus you see we organized the child's *whole actual life*—by organizing his *spontaneous activities*—then we furnished leaders to loop up the wisdom and ideals of the race to these activities. This plan of organization we believe furnishes an opportunity for (1) the development of the entire child, mental, moral and physical. (2) It eliminates the necessity of driving and forcing, thus economizing much time and preventing the development of abnormal nerves and attitudes toward knowledge. (3) It does, we believe, place education on a real physiological, psychological and sociological basis.

## RECREATION PROBLEMS IN URUGUAY\*

Samuel G. Ybargoyen, Member of National Committee of Physical Education, Montevideo, Uruguay

What I may have to say regarding the problems of recreation

\*Address given in Spanish and interpreted by Mr. Charles J. Ewald at the Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Mich. Oct. 2-6, 1916

## RECREATION PROBLEMS IN URUGUAY

in Uruguay might almost as well be said concerning the problems of all the other countries in South America, because our problems throughout South America are largely similar. But there is this difference between my country and the other countries, that mine has actually made a start in the solution of these problems of recreation.

None can appreciate better than you, who are interested in these matters, what I feel in my own heart, when I tell you this morning that the children of South America do not know how to play. May we dwell a moment upon the question as to why it is that the children of South America do not know how to play?

The first reason that I would mention is that the ancient customs of the Spanish people, or the people descended from the Spanish, have militated against the play of children. The parents of our South American children have not been interested in seeing them exercise themselves much physically; they have not been interested in seeing them run about much, or play much. Their desire has been to give them a full intellectual development. They have wanted to send them to schools and colleges, and see them well prepared in that respect, and to have them perfectly proper and gentlemanly and ladylike, but they have not appreciated the value of play.

In our primary schools, very little provision is made for recreation. Children are given a few moments from time to time, brief intervals between classes, but it is not at all sufficient to give them time for any play. Nor are they given any leadership or direction in the spending of these recesses. This is the general situation in the South American countries.

### **Soccer the Most Popular Game**

I am glad to say that in Uruguay the leaders of that nation are changing in their attitude toward this question, and are giving serious thought to this problem. The first game that has played any considerable part in the development of the play life of the youth of Uruguay and other countries of South America has been the game commonly known here as soccer. Some fifteen years ago a gentleman by the name of Mr. Poole, an Englishman, introduced football into Uruguay. For a long time this game was severely criticized by many of our most thoughtful people in Uruguay, who believed that it had no important part to play in the life of the young men and boys.

## RECREATION PROBLEMS IN URUGUAY

We have in the city of Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, no less than fifty soccer clubs at the present time, under the direction of leaders. These clubs are united in a league, and the Football Association of Uruguay is a well-organized and powerful association today. It has not only organized many football matches within the country, but also international football games, which have taken place between Uruguay and Chile, Argentina, and Brazil. It is a real satisfaction to me to be able to tell you, that at the time of the Argentine Centenary celebrations in 1910, when they organized great sports and brought together athletes, and especially football players, from Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil, in these events they gave the championship to my own city of Montevideo.

**National Committee on Physical Education** What I have said about soccer is just a hint merely of what is going on amongst the boys and young men of my country in athletic sports. The enthusiasm shown by the youth of Uruguay for these athletic sports became so great that of necessity the public authorities of that country had to intervene and began to study the matter. The president at that time visited Europe and there came into touch with some of these groups in Europe, and returned to the country with enthusiasm for athletic sports. One of the definite results of this interest, on the part of President Du Jose Batlle y Ordóñez, was the naming by the government of a committee known as the National Committee of Physical Education, which has under its supervision the development of all these physical activities throughout the country. He, as president, named in the first instance a committee of distinguished Uruguayan citizens to take in hand the working out of a definite program of physical education and recreation. The national government, through its congress, voted \$50,000 annually to be expended in the promotion of this kind of work. This first committee that was named, in spite of all of its splendid ideals and best of intentions, found itself in a perplexing situation. They knew what they wanted to accomplish, but they did not know how to accomplish it. We had on this committee distinguished lawyers, physicians, engineers and other professional men of the country, but they did not know anything about working out a real program of physical education. It is not strange, therefore, that this committee did not, during the first years, accomplish very large results in this matter. Money was expended, but nothing could really be seen in the way of definite results.

## RECREATION PROBLEMS IN URUGUAY

### **Remarkable Progress in Providing Play**

The president realized that a change would be desirable in the character of the committee, and so at the expiration of the term of service, which was four years, he renewed the committee by naming a younger group of men as members, and that younger group of men is responsible for the remarkable progress which has been made in the last few years in physical education in Uruguay.

I should like to explain to you one or two of the reasons why this second committee has been so much more successful in developing a program than was the first committee. One of the large factors in the success was the fact that the Young Men's Christian Association of Montevideo has called to that city a competent physical director, a Mr. Hopkins of Wichita, trained in this country. He came to Uruguay as physical director, and later became the director for this committee in the arrangement of that practical program.

To put briefly some of the results of the splendid work that Mr. Hopkins has been able to do, we have in the last two years established nine splendid playgrounds in Uruguay. The National Committee of Physical Education has now a definite program for establishing twenty-five playgrounds in the city of Montevideo alone, and proposes to do a similar work in the other cities and towns and rural districts of my country.

We have three large playgrounds in the city, and all of them accommodate from 15,000 to 30,000 children every month. These children have heretofore frequently played in the street amid great danger, and they now come to the playgrounds where they have every protection and play to their hearts' content, in surroundings that are good and healthful. The committee names a director, an assistant, and two women assistants, who give their time to directing the work of each playground.

In addition to the development of playgrounds, which this committee has carried forward so successfully, a swimming school has been conducted during the past year. In this one swimming school, where the teaching is done by a competent swimming instructor, over six hundred children have learned to swim in this past summer.

The committee, by request of one of its more active members, Dr. Ghigliam, has also organized the Athletic Federation of Uruguay. And it has organized some very successful athletic events and athletic leagues in Uruguay, and while we are still young in the

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RECREATION BUILDINGS

development of these activities, our young men do have athletic ability. They are strong, and we have the greatest hope in regard to the future development of such movements as this.

My chief motive in coming to this country has been to fit myself as a director of physical education. I feel deeply grateful to Mr. Hopkins, the man who has inspired me to do this work, and I look forward with great pleasure to getting the preparation, and returning to develop the physical education activities of my country. I am entered at the Young Men's Christian Association College at Springfield, as a student, where I aspire, not only to the physical preparation, but to the mental and moral preparation as well, which I believe should always belong to one who is to become a leader in such work.

I have learned much during the days that I have spent in your midst, in the sessions of this Congress, and my ambition is to return to my country to put into practice some of the good things I have learned here during the days I have spent with you.

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RECREATION BUILDINGS\*

The neighborhood recreation center is fast becoming so important a part of community life that in increasing numbers cities and small communities are considering ways and means of housing facilities which will provide for the recreational life of the entire community. In the main these problems may be said to fall under three heads:

1. How to adapt existing school buildings to neighborhood recreation center use

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\*Given at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Oct. 2-6, 1916

Committee on Recreation Buildings:

Sidney A. Teller, Resident Director, Irene Kaufmann Settlement, Pittsburgh, Pa.,  
Chairman

Frank S. Marsh, Superintendent of Playgrounds, San Diego, Cal.

John L. MacBean, Superintendent of Playgrounds and Public Recreation, St. Paul, Minn.

H. O. Berg, Supervisor Extension Department, Public Schools, Milwaukee, Wis.

Rev. Robert P. Kreidler, Saint Luke's Parish, Scranton, Pa.

Joseph A. Mott, Superintendent of Recreation, Scranton, Pa.

George F. Mooney, Superintendent Division of Public Welfare, Columbus, Ohio

J. Leonard Mason, Superintendent Playground, Philadelphia, Pa.

Clarence Arthur Perry, Associate Director, Department of Recreation, Russell Sage Foundation, New York City

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Eugene C. Gibney, Ass't Superintendent in charge of Neighborhood Centers, Vacation Schools and Playgrounds, Department of Education, N. Y. C.

A. A. Fisk, Superintendent of Parks, Racine, Wis.

H. N. Sollenberger, Superintendent of Recreation, Dayton, Ohio

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RECREATION BUILDINGS

2. How to construct new school buildings so that they shall include facilities for neighborhood recreation center work

3. How to construct municipal recreation buildings to be used by the entire community solely for recreational purposes.

In gathering material under these three general heads, the Committee on Recreation Buildings has gone into detailed discussion of various features of construction and has made suggestions which it is hoped will be helpful to cities contemplating neighborhood center work.

### **Adaptation of Existing School Buildings to Neighborhood Recreation Center Work**

It was felt by the committee that in adapting the average school building to neighborhood center work, the following changes should be made:

Windows and lighting apparatus must be protected by screens and additional lights installed where necessary both inside the building and on the outside playground. Barriers must be placed at the various exits to restrict activities, and toilets arranged for both sexes. The provision of movable chairs in a number of the smaller class rooms will make it possible for them to be used as club rooms. If these rooms are not large enough, the partition may be removed and replaced with accordion doors. In Milwaukee, instead of discarding the old-style desks in the class rooms used for neighborhood recreation center work the plan has been adopted of placing them on boards in sets of three. These boards meet in the center so that the child sitting in his seat is not made uncomfortable by having his feet raised an inch from the floor.

If the school building already contains an auditorium, with the installation of movable seats and a platform arranged if possible to permit the giving of plays, it can be used for dancing, plays, games, and socials of various kinds. If the building contains no auditorium, an addition containing an auditorium with stage, shower baths, and if possible large enough for a gymnasium and athletic floor, should be planned.

The best plan, it was felt, for screening windows in an auditorium or gymnasium, and thus protecting them during the playing of basket ball and other games, is to utilize hinge No. 12 wire with a one inch mesh. The frame of wire, held in place by turn or thumb buckles, can be easily removed when the windows are cleaned.

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In planning for ventilation, the windows should be fixed at the bottom and open outward from the top. The cold air rises and there is no draught on the heated players.

It was suggested that the best protections for electric light bulbs in a gymnasium are strong No. 12 wire baskets with hinged bottoms which may be secured at a cost of from \$3.00 to \$4.00. For bulb clusters, hemispherical cast iron heavy cages may advantageously be used. The bars of the cages should be far enough apart to permit of maximum illumination and close enough to prevent the passage of an indoor baseball. Where any repairs or changes are made, it is best, if possible, to sink the light below the surface of the ceiling or wall, and then to cover the opening with wire screening. This prevents any loss from the breaking of lights, even from vibration.

The suggestions for the best lockers for school neighborhood center use involved a 12" x 12" metal locker, double deck, either open for ventilation or mechanically ventilated. The top locker must not be too high from the floor and within reaching distance from the bench in front of the lockers which should be self-locking rather than equipped with padlocks. The number of lockers provided for boys and men should represent ten times the number of open shower heads. There should be five units of use on the following basis: One-fifth using showers, one-fifth undressing, one-fifth dressing, one-fifth on the gymnasium floor, clothes in locker, one-fifth reserved for home teams and visiting teams.

For the benefit of small communities which feel the need of maintaining the strictest economy in installing their locker systems it is suggested that a system of wire baskets 8" x 12" or 10" deep be substituted for the metal locker system, having only sufficient lockers 12" x 12" x 36" to accommodate the number of people using the gymnasium at any time. The locker room can be so constructed that the wall space will provide a series of pigeon holes in which the wire baskets may be attached. The shelving of the pigeon holes can be made in open fashion. As the baskets themselves are open, very satisfactory ventilation may be secured. The baskets cost approximately 40c, the lockers \$3. Consequently if a large number of people are to be provided for there will be a great difference in the cost of the two types of equipment; moreover the amount of floor space necessary to install the steel lockers would necessitate having a larger building and add further to the cost of constructing the building. It should be noted that where it is necessary to provide

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supervision of the baskets to prevent stealing, the cost of the wages of the attendant should be charged against locker equipment.

### Construction of New School Buildings for Neighborhood Center Use

In planning school buildings to incorporate neighborhood center work, it was felt that among the essential features for such a building are the following: auditorium, preferably on the ground floor, gymnasium, toilets, shower baths, lockers, swimming pool, stage equipped with border and foot lights, moving picture booth, rooms for manual training, home economics, branch library, and club rooms. In arranging for such buildings, the exterior should represent the natural expression of the beautiful, while the interior should combine art and utility permitting of a flexible relation between academic and social requirements.

As a first step towards making the building not only useful but attractive to the community at large, it was felt that the entrances should be made as attractive as possible by brilliant illumination. Electric signs provided with letter-changing equipment help greatly in advertising the neighborhood recreation center activities. Where the school abuts two streets an entrance should open on each and the main entrance should serve as an approach to the auditorium, or, if the auditorium serves also as a theatre, to both theatre and stage. A raised or movable box or ticket office is helpful.

In the interior construction the following considerations should be taken into account: The walls should lend themselves to art and craft exhibitions, bazaars and similar activities. Sliding partitions or accordion doors should be provided for dividing large areas into units and for transforming wings and alcoves into social rooms. Heaters should be elevated or recessed for space, economy, and safety; the heating plant should be devised on the horizontal plan so as to serve one floor or a part of a floor to the exclusion of the rest of the building. Adequate provision should be made for ventilation through windows or exhaust fans. The provision of abundant illumination for both day and evening use is an absolute necessity and, as in the case of existing school buildings which are utilized for neighborhood recreation center use, the lighting system and the windows should be protected by heavy wire screening. Adequate and well-planned toilets for both sexes are a prime need and wardrobe or checking room facilities are a modern requirement.

One of the most important features to be considered in school construction providing for neighborhood recreation center use is an



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auditorium, of which there are several types. Where economy of space must be considered, an auditorium which combines a kindergarten room and social hall is best. The kindergarten room may be made to serve as a stage, music room, game room, branch library, and committee room while the social hall combines the uses of mezzanine floor, gymnasium, dancing area and skating rink. An open fire place properly protected greatly increases the attractiveness of the social hall.

Still another type of auditorium is the theatre type providing for a stage, a motion picture curtain, an asbestos curtain, wardrobes, dressing booths, toilets, and other facilities. This type of auditorium has a mezzanine floor sloping in the rear, flat in the area adjacent to the stage, with permanent furniture on the sloping portions, movable on the flat space. A gallery adds materially to the seating capacity. Other accessories which may well have a place in a school auditorium are a motion picture machine and booth.

In order to make the class rooms adaptable for evening use, movable or strip furniture is necessary on both the first and second floors. The basement may well include such facilities as a swimming pool, bowling alleys, billiard rooms, and a fire-proof smoking room. A work-shop is a very desirable addition to social center equipment, if the manual training rooms are not adapted for such use. There should also be enough store rooms to provide adequate storing facilities for chairs and other equipment not being used on the main floor. The question of the provision of a play room in the school basements for the use of children in stormy or extremely cold weather is receiving consideration from school authorities especially from the point of view of the amount of play space per child which should be provided. The ordinary practice in school house construction has been to provide a minimum of twenty square feet per child—in a 12 room building, one-third of the basement space. The new school building construction must provide for more play space; the minimum requirement of 30 square feet of space per child should be the basis for computing amount of indoor space necessary.

In the construction of the modern school building, particularly in cities suffering from problems of congestion, even the roof is made to serve community purposes. Tiled or asphalt surfacing surrounded with a high iron fence with a heavy iron mesh enclosing the sides, and a permanent roof forming the top makes it possible to use the

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roof for a number of purposes. It may be flooded and frozen during the winter for skating. If the surfacing is of asphalt it may be used for roller skating. A band stand on casters may be provided for concert work. Adequate lighting facilities should be provided for evening use and detachable panels fitted to the sides will make it possible to enclose the roof for winter use.

No school building is felt to be well-equipped or complete unless adequate grounds are provided around the building for playground and athletic purposes. The modern slogan is "a block for a school," with ample space not only for playground and athletic facilities, but also for school gardens and for short shrubbery.

In planning for out-of-door activities the committee suggests that heavy screening be used to protect the windows of the first and second floors. Overhead flaming arcs protected by wire cages are excellent for lighting purposes. High barriers between the school yard and adjacent private residences will eliminate friction with neighbors. High fences should separate the yard from thoroughfares. Drinking facilities should be installed and provision made for access from the outdoor playground to the toilets. The building of permanent settees around the sides is also suggested.

The question of surfacing school playgrounds is a very important one. Asphalt and concrete surfaces have their advantages for school yard use. They are, however, expensive and can be considered only when the ground is very small. A suggestion for a surfacing which will be less expensive but probably even more satisfactory if good drainage can be secured and the ground graded so that there will be no water standing on it a short time after a rain provides for the use of a screened gravel about the consistency of a coarse sand. The foundation should consist of a 4" or 5" layer of cinders covered with a 3" layer of screened gravel. A treatment of calcium chloride—it has been the experience in Racine, Wis.—applied once or twice a year, makes the surface practically dustless and does not stain the clothes of the children. The Chicago Park systems have worked out a solution of the problem which has been found satisfactory for the Chicago park playgrounds. Information regarding the construction and treatment of an outdoor playground surface may be secured from the South Park or West Chicago Park Commissioners.

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### **Construction of Recreation Buildings to Be Used Solely for Recreational Purposes**

In many communities, the effective use of the school plant for neighborhood center purposes and the hearty cooperation of the Board of Education with the recreation authorities have made unnecessary the erection of buildings to be used exclusively for recreation purposes. Such a utilization of the school plant whenever possible is desirable and results in economic saving for the city. There are communities, however, in which because of the construction of the school building and problems of administration or because of certain specific local needs and difficulties, the use of the school plant is not practicable and the erection of a building for recreational purposes presents the only solution to the problem of housing community recreational facilities and activities.

In discussing the erection of such buildings the committee took up first of all the consideration of the general principles to be followed in locating and constructing such a building. Among the most important of these are the following: The accessibility of the building to population and transportation lines; the provision of ample grounds for future needs; architectural beauty; a comprehensive plan which will permit of future additions constructed in such a way as to preserve original investments.

From the service point of view, the building should embody such activities and utilities as will provide for the teaching and play of the younger children; the instruction and drill of high school children; gatherings of various kinds for the young and adult resident population; for the leisure time pursuits of adults; and for such civic uses as voting, forums, and allied activities. It should be planned on the unit basis so that each floor or structural unit may be used to the exclusion of the remainder of the building, and in the construction the units representing the greatest service to the community should be provided first.

The committee next considered the most essential features which should be incorporated in a recreation building. It was felt these should include a room for use as a gymnasium, auditorium, theatre, athletic and director's offices, rest room, toilets, and shower baths for men and women. The number of club rooms which should be provided depends upon the character and density of the neighborhood. The convenient size for a club room, however, varies from 14' x 20' to 22' x 32'.

The equipment of a gymnasium in a neighborhood recreation building depends in a large degree upon floor and gallery space. A

## *REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RECREATION BUILDINGS*

recreation center gymnasium requires greater diversity of equipment than a college gymnasium. The apparatus listed by the committee includes adjustable and suspended parallel bars, horizontal bars and ladders, vaulting horse and buck, vaulting standards, travelling rings, adjustable flying rings, spring board, jumping board, high jump standards, approach boards, jump mats, wrestling mat, punching bag standard and drum, chest weights, climbing ropes, and basket ball backs and goals. There should also be provided such mobile apparatus as basket balls, indoor baseballs, bats, hand balls, medicine balls, volley balls, maple dumb bells, Indian clubs, maple wands, vaulting poles, and striking bag.

It was the general feeling of the committee that it was undesirable to design a room in a recreation building especially for roller skating. Such a proceeding is unnecessary as all play areas that are sufficiently smooth and capacious may be used for roller skating. It is not, however, advisable to permit skating on a wooden floor used for dancing. The ordinary cement floor, although durable for most purposes, has no great value for skating because of rapid disintergration and dust. Cement is a rough surface which prevents slipping at the turns and has the added advantage of causing less noise than wood. If the cement floor is given a finished coat of some patent cement hardener or is covered with mastic asphalt it has greater value as a skating surface. Wood block laid in mastic is felt by many to be by far the most satisfactory indoor surfacing but the cost makes its use in most instances prohibitive.

The problem of the initial cost of a recreation building and of maintenance is one which confronts all communities initiating such movements. It was the decision of the committee that, generally speaking, a building incorporating features felt to be essential and desirable could not be constructed at a cost of less than \$15,000-\$18,000. This is based on the estimate that centralized school buildings cost 22c per cubic foot, and with the price quoted on composite, 16c per cubic foot, and fireproof, 18c per cubic foot.

Dressing rooms, toilets, showers may be on both sides of stage; basement only under stage end of building.

Wings may be added to ends or side to meet future needs.

The Park Department of Racine, Wisconsin, at a cost of less than \$12,000, constructed a building well adapted to small community use and yet with an equipment to serve a large number of people.

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The building, which cost \$7,324.00, has a gymnasium 40' x 70', 12 shower baths, toilets for both men and women, a reading room, kitchen, locker room, and also a special room fitted with pigeon holes for the use of wire baskets. The locker room is utilized as a dressing room and instead of a permanent stage a sectional movable platform is used for dramatics and entertainments of various kinds. In this way a valuable economy of space is gained.

The cost of heating, lighting, and janitor service for any given building depends upon its size, the amount of heat desired, hours used, number of lights, whether or not the plant is owned by the city, whether the lights are supplied by public or private service and other considerations of similar nature. For a center containing an auditorium, gymnasium, four club rooms, and shower baths, one ton of coal per day would probably be required to heat the building from 7 a. m. to 11 p. m. and supply hot water for the shower baths. Janitor service for 52 hours per week should be secured at an average cost of \$55 per month.

In planning for a recreation building too much emphasis can not be laid upon the necessity of securing expert advice in order to avoid mistakes in construction which will decrease the usefulness of the building. A careful study of the experiences of the other cities in constructing their buildings and a selection of the features found most successful in these buildings, will result in a great saving in efficiency and money for the community undertaking such a project. The final plans should be submitted to the Superintendent of Recreation to criticise from the standpoint of use after completion as well as to simplify problems of supervision. "Plan, criticise, and then build."

The increasing tendency to throw open the schoolhouse for neighborhood recreation center uses, the growing interest in school architecture design for community needs, and the erection of recreation buildings to meet community needs, point to a rapid development in the next few years which will have a most important influence on community life and the building up of a real democracy.

## *DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS OF OUTDOOR PLAYGROUND*

### DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS OF OUTDOOR PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION

The Committee on Recreation Buildings, in addition to their report on buildings, took under consideration some of the problems involved in the construction of shelter houses on playgrounds and other phases of playground equipment.

The essential features of a shelter house for playgrounds, it was felt by the committee, would include two rooms for supervisors; a room to be used for storage; shower baths and toilets for boys and girls; an open pavilion for hand classes, dancing, games, and shelter. If the shelter is located in a part of the country where the climatic conditions permit of year-round use, it is worth while to expend funds for a well-constructed and beautiful building. If, on the other hand, the shelter can be used only during the summer months, it is better to expend energy in arousing sentiment for a more expensive recreation building equipped for year-round use.

The question of whether a smooth or rough surfacing is preferable for shelter houses which are likely to be used for roller skating or for play and games, was decided in favor of a smooth finish with dust proofing and hardener. Concrete is too brittle to be used incessantly for roller skating as depressions will soon appear which will develop into deep holes, endangering the skaters. The best surface for universal use is probably a fine high-grade asphalt which is not brittle enough to develop spots. It may be utilized for roller skating by using powdered pumice which causes the skates to stick. The surface may be used for dancing by the application of powdered boracic acid which gives it a sopacious effect. For other activities no treatment of the surface is necessary.

Inexpensive shower baths for a playground may easily be devised by the following simple methods: A tin pail with holes punched through the bottom may be hung from a string piece or post; a rubber hose with one end attached to a water faucet, the other end placed in the pail and tied to the handle completes the equipment. For outdoor purposes, a tent may be used or the device may be set up in an unused toilet in an indoor play center. Still another suggestion for a temporary shower bath is that a piece of rubber hose with a flower spray attached to one end, the other connected with the supply pipe, be placed over a catch basin or a short distance from a drain pipe. Canvas which is light proof against shadows may be used as a shelter if there can be supervision

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to provide against the cutting of the canvas. Otherwise old tin will be better.

A comparison of the structure of grand stands of wood or concrete shows that a frame structure can be built for the cost of the forms alone for a concrete grand stand. The difference between common bleachers and concrete bleachers is so great that it would be necessary to have plans and specifications in order to arrive at a reasonable safe estimate of cost.

### PORTABLE BLEACHERS

The playground authorities at San Diego, California, have solved the problem of providing strong, serviceable wooden bleachers at comparatively small expense. The bleachers are strengthened by a galvanized iron pipe which is designed for foot rests as well as for lending additional strength in bracing the bleachers. The four 1 x 12 braces at the back of the bleachers are nailed in with three or four eight-penny nails so that they may be readily taken off and put in again when the bleachers are moved.

The cost of these portable bleachers is estimated at \$45 per section, each section holding 80 people. Two men with a team can take 20 bleachers down and put them up again in a half a day.

Plans and specifications for the bleachers may be secured for thirty-five cents from the office of the Playground and Recreation Association of America.

## SWIMMING POOLS\*

V. K. Brown, Superintendent of Recreation, Newark, New Jersey.

In view of the increasing demand for such facilities, the construction of outdoor swimming pools at a cost which will not make them prohibitive for small communities or for groups of individuals who must take into consideration the economic side of the problem, is a matter for careful consideration. In the judgment of engineers no absolute cost estimates for artificial outdoor pools can be attempted for general application. The climate is a variable making

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generalization untrustworthy. In northern latitudes, for instance, frosts cause heaving of the ground and develop pressure rendering heavier reinforcement necessary. Local conditions of soil—rock, clay, or quicksand—and the drainage and water supply also affect the outlay. Furthermore, local labor and material costs vary to a degree rendering general statements valueless.

Attempting, however, to state concretely what may be assumed with safety of those factors which are fairly constant, some general summary of experience and consensus of opinion is highly desirable. Communities lacking swimming provision need some index to an equipment of minimum cost, not the elaborate facilities of the more costly systems. They must not be compelled to spend what funds they have for the services of experts to gather information that will show what is within their limited reach, if that information can be assembled.

### **Suggestions for Estimates on Cost Based on Standard Measurements and Quantities**

To this end three standard sizes of rectangular pool basins are here considered arbitrarily as a preliminary table by which local resources may be gauged and their possibilities estimated. Table I is based upon the minimum practical size, 20' x 60', Table II on a medium size 30' x 90', and Table III on a large size 40' x 120'. Wall thickness and reinforcing must be determined by local soil condition and the support it affords. Concrete contractors of the community can furnish estimates of labor and materials cost, and mixtures suited to the location. A uniform thickness of one inch for the entire pool shell is considered in the following tables and reduced to terms of cubic yards of mixed concrete, to be multiplied by the number of inches of wall thickness necessitated in local construction. The result will be found roughly accurate, affording a starting point for local cost estimates.

*Table Number I.* Pool size 20' x 60', sloping longitudinally with a depth 3' to 7'

7 cu. yds. of mixed concrete required per one inch wall thickness

For each 10 feet added to length add 1.1 cu. yards material

For each 10 feet added to width add 2.3 cu. yards material

*Table Number II.* Pool size 30' x 90' sloping longitudinally with a depth 3½' to 8'

13 cu. yds. mixed concrete required per one inch wall thickness

For each 10 ft. added to length add 1.4 yards material



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For each 10 ft. added to width add 3.25 yards material  
*Table Number III.* Pool size 40' x 120'. Sloping longitudinally  
with a depth 3½' to 8'

22 cu. yds. concrete required per one inch wall thickness

For each 10 ft. added to length add 1.8 cu. yds. material

For each 10 ft. added to width add 4.2 cu. yds. material

### **General Suggestions for Construction of Outdoor Swimming Pools**

Where the concrete construction work is done by inexperienced workers one principle is to be observed—the deepest point should always be filled first to prevent robbing of the mixture by seeping of the cement to a lower level.

A long, narrow pool is safest. Unskilled swimmers cannot get far from shore, and life guards can more quickly reach those in trouble. Unless funds permit of employing a large staff, the pool should be limited to 35 feet, or less, in width.

For safety, the pool should always be built with its shallow end nearest the entrance. No danger signs will keep heedless and hurrying, foreign, or illiterate bathers from plunging into the water at the nearest point, as they come into the enclosure. Many who cannot swim will do this.

Various water growing forms of plant life will attach themselves to sides and bottom of any pool, rendering the surface slippery and unsafe. Weekly scrubbing—with an occasional day's hot sunlight on the empty pool, will keep down, but will not eliminate, these growths. The more smooth the surface, the more insecure the footing becomes—a good argument for a rough bottom. Too sharp a pitch from shallow to deep water must be avoided. The shallow end of the pool at Pulaski Park, Chicago, is connected with the deep end by a series of steps rather than a slope, a preferable arrangement, in the writer's opinion. A stranger, unable to swim, cannot slide beyond his depth, on such a bottom, nor exhaust his strength fighting his way back to a secure footing. This arrangement also permits a long basin with gradual slope, for the majority who want shallow water, and a sharp break to deep water after steps lead down to a five, or six foot depth, at the deep end. The danger zone is thereby of limited area, and close to the deep-water station of the Life Guard. The volume of water consumed is also lessened.

The Park Department of Grand Rapids recently built a pool 36' x 100' with a ten-inch wall thickness, without finishing the inner

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coat or waterproofing, at a cost of about \$3,500. In reenforcing, twisted half-inch iron rods, were placed  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet apart vertically and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ft. apart horizontally. This type of construction has withstood severe winters, without cracking, or developing leaks. Grand Rapids considers a spoon shaped bottom contour best, with a maximum depth of eight feet about fifteen feet from the wall at the deep end of the pool for diving, but a  $3\frac{1}{2}$  foot depth, affording a footing shelf, along the side and end walls, for safety. This also serves to decrease the cost of the necessary Life Guard Service; it materially lessens the volume of water necessary to fill the pool, lowering water cost, where that is an item to consider, and shortening the time lost to use while the pool is being emptied for cleaning and refilled. Deep-water corners are dead spaces, in-so-far as use is concerned, and many pools now being built have rounded corners as a measure of economy in excavation and water consumption cost. Initial construction cost for such curved surfaces, is higher, however, due to the difficulty in making moulds. The Grand Rapids pools are built of a mixture of one part cement, two parts sand, three parts gravel.

Another experiment in outdoor pools has been worked out in Westbrook, Maine where a mill stream with a moderate current of pure water has been used for swimming since 1905, when at a cost of \$3,900, a crib pool and bath house were built and anchored in place where the flow of the river through the slatted walls provides a fresh water supply every five minutes. The annual maintenance cost of this pool is about \$300 and it is estimated by the school authorities that 75% of the local children know how to swim, 90% of them having learned in this pool. The suggestion is included here as of possible value to other communities.

Before building a pool, the capacity of available trunk and branch sewers must be consulted, in the immediate neighborhood. Emptying the pool at full capacity of its drains, with its head of water, may easily flood neighboring basements with water back-up, unless the sewer capacity is ample.

Floating objects have caused much trouble by blocking drains, finding lodgment in pipes and gratings. In Philadelphia experience early brought about the adoption of a catch-basin, for the drain, sunk in the pool bottom. A grating covers the catch basin, and the drain pipe rises from the floor of the basin curving down-

### Sewers

## SWIMMING POOLS

ward again in an inverted u-shape so that the initial outgoing water movement is upward, and floating objects cannot be drawn down into the sewer. Sand and sediment lodge in the catch-basin, and are not swept into the drain pipe to collect and make a costly stoppage.

### Filling System

The capacity of available water mains, wells, or body of water, from which the pool is to be filled must be taken into account in determining the pool's size and shape, and the whole water-consuming system of operation. Scant water supply means slow refilling and consequent loss in service. It may also necessitate a costly refiltration system, and chemical sterilization such as may be secured by the use of calcium chloride. Fresh, pure water, where it can be had, is preferable to stale water, filtered or sterilized. But a pool dependent on the city water system must not be located in a district where meagre water mains will suffer such lowering of pressure while the pool is being filled, as to impair the neighborhood's service or fire protection. Possibility of this must be determined in advance and if necessary other means of supply taken, or the pool location changed.

A more even distribution of water-flow into the pool is secured by fitting the supply pipe to a distributing pipe of larger diameter set in the end wall, having several openings into the pool so the initial pressure may be lost without lessening its volume, and the water flow rather than shoot into the pool. An overflow during the night by this means more effectually forces the stale water into the drain pipes, and flushes floating impurities into the gutters, where a single strong stream merely churns fresh and stale water with the pool sediment.

### Desirable Features of Construction

*Hand Rail*—An inset, combination hand rail and drain gutter, running completely around the pool, is to be preferred to projecting hand rails. The former, being merely an opening in the flush face of the side wall, does not interfere with rescue work, nor bruise those who must be lifted out of the water. Moreover it does not decrease the pool size either for general use, or aquatic sports. The open drain gutter permits floating impurities and objects to flush out of the pool while it is overflowing, on any side to which the wind causes them to drift.

## SWIMMING POOLS

*Booths and Showers*—A shower before entering the pool is almost universally demanded, both as a sanitary measure, and safety precaution in preparing the bather for his plunge. The South Park system of Chicago years ago built all their pools in such a way that entrance is through a shower room, past an inspecting attendant who permits only those who have bathed, and who are free from surface signs of disease, to enter the water. Lately their new pools have been so designed that men and boys must bathe in the nude, trunks being given out after leaving the showers. Fear of detection doubtless keeps many diseased bathers from entering. Some indoor pools may be entered only by a passage-way under a row of showers graduated in temperature down to a cold spray at the end just before the plunge. Toilet facilities should be provided at the door to the pool, where those about to enter the water file past. It is important that such provision be conveniently accessible to those entering, and to those in the enclosure.

*Special Facilities*—An enclosed roof garden, or secluded sun parlor where women in reclining chairs may in privacy dry their hair, or rest after the unaccustomed exertion of swimming, will beyond doubt attract many patrons who would otherwise never or seldom come. Towel or other stock rooms adjacent to a service roadway, and drained receptacles at the exit, for wet suits and towels, as bathers file out, need careful planning if the labor of operation is to be minimized.

The draining of dressing booths and aisles both for water brought in by suits and bodies of bathers, and for the daily scrubbing of the quarters, is important.

*Indented Steps or Ladders*—For climbing out of the water, ladders or steps are necessary at the ends of the pool. Either should be set into an indentation, rather than project out into the pool, where swimmers may accidentally strike them. For aquatic sports the inset space may be blocked off flush with the wall face; in this way controversies as to distances covered, always possible in an irregular space, may be avoided.

*Around the Pool—What?* The concrete walk at the immediate edge of the pool, draining away from the pool so dirty surface water will not run into it, is on hot days liable to become uncomfortable. On the early assumption that a pool was an artificial lake or river brought to a residence neighborhood, an artificial beach of sand courts was included. It was found, however, that sand clinging to

## SWIMMING POOLS

the wet bathers caused trouble with drains and also introduced a certain amount of dust and dirt into the water. Grass plots—if free from clover and bees—afford pleasant lolling places, but when the grass is cut blades blow or are carried into the water and give it an uninviting appearance. Either is preferable, however, to a hot brick or concrete walk.

### Problems of Supervision

*Lighting*—The problem of lighting is a most important one to consider in a discussion of the supervision of swimming pools. Service to the men of the community, especially in industrial districts, means night operation. In fact, night use should be limited to working boys and men. The problem of adequate lighting is no easy one. Arc or other lights on poles surrounding a pool, cause numberless reflections and make the life guard's work doubly difficult. At Jackson Park Beach in Chicago, flood-lighting from shore, the reflectors projecting a powerful light down on the water from behind the life guards at the water's edge, rendered night use as safe as during the day. Such a flood of light converging from behind the corners of the deep end of a pool, where life guards would be stationed, costs no more than a number of lights around the pool, and is incomparably safer.

*Aisles*—To facilitate supervision it is best to run the aisles in the booth house lengthwise through the building so that the attendants' oversight will cover the maximum area to prevent thefts and disorders.

*Entrance to Booths*—The provision of shaded benches enclosed by a fence in a narrow lane at the entrance to the booths, greatly facilitates the maintaining of order among those waiting their turn to be admitted, preventing late arrivals from unfairly crowding into line or creating disturbances. An entrance gate to this enclosure, which may be closed when a capacity number is reached, establishing the limit while comparative quiet prevails before the line starts to file into the baths, automatically avoids disputes and rushing of the booth doors by over-eager patrons near the end of the line who become fearful that the limit has about been reached and that they may not be admitted unless they hurry. A separate gate for exit obviates confusion.

## SWIMMING POOLS

*Suggestions for Administration—Safety! Do not economize on life guard service.*

Drill life guards daily in swimming, rescue work, practice of artificial respiration, and use of pulmotor or lung motor.

Have a couch or stretcher, blankets, brandy, and first aid kit ready, and physicians listed beside the telephone.

If the water supply is limited, making long use necessary, or polluted at its source, adopt some sterilization process.

Clean the pool too often rather than not often enough.

Adopt a valuables checking system, and make employees responsible for losses which indicate negligence. Do not permit bathers to return to booths, dress, and leave until the entire group leaves the water.

An occasional water-carnival, admitting spectators, adds to a pool's usefulness—and patrons.

Graham Taylor once said Sabbath observance is a "matter of geography." A laborer working the week around ought to be permitted a quiet plunge on a hot Sunday afternoon by any community. Adapt Sunday hours and age limits to local views, but "stick" for needed service.

Arrange "Women's Days" to follow the cleaning of the pool; they should have the fresh, and can better withstand the cold water. Watch the men employees on women's day.

Have a linen supply and a laundering contract for the hottest not the average day.

Individuals grow limp and irritable in hot weather—don't permit the service to do so.

It's better to fire a politician than fail a patron.

Some college-fraternity vacationists are not as faithful as back-of-the-yards wage earners.

Remember that when you were a boy, one twenty-minute swim a day was as satisfying as a one-inning ball game.

On rainy days add some soap to the water, and help nature out.

Condition employment on willingness to do night work if needed. Patrons are not turned away by a pool closed and cleaned at night.

## INDOOR POOLS

### INDOOR POOLS

S. K. Nason, Director Municipal Gymnasium and Baths, Brookline, Massachusetts

The cost of construction of an indoor pool aside from considerations of local cost of labor and material, depends entirely upon the size and type of construction.

**Types of Construction** 1. The pool with all-brick wall having a lining of enameled brick or mosaic tile

2. The pool with all-concrete wall lined with enameled brick or mosaic tile. With this type of wall some patent waterproofing substance is used, but an efficient inspection of the mixing of the concrete is a greater help towards securing a waterproof wall. This type of pool with the overflow gutter which can also be used as a hand rail is a satisfactory pool.

3. The third type of pool which has been found very satisfactory at Brookline, Mass., and which to a great degree obviates the danger of leakage, is built in the following manner:—A six-inch concrete wall, waterproofed with four layers of tar paper with pitch between each two layers, a wall of single brick with concrete 1" thick and a lining of mosaic tile. A pool of this construction 21' x 60' with a depth varying from 4' to 8' was built in Brookline, Mass. in 1914 at a cost of \$7,150.

Concrete work, including walls around pool.....	\$3,000
Waterproofing.....	300
Lining.....	2,000
Heating the water by use of feed water heater.....	500
Plumbing.....	350
Filtration system.....	1,000

#### Considerations to Be Kept in Mind in Constructing an Indoor Pool

Inlets and outlets must be sufficiently large. Supply pipes must be large enough to permit of the satisfactory use of all showers at one

time.

All radiators must be raised or elevated.

Special attention should be paid to the location of electric switches.

Shower bath handles should not be flexible.

The filtration and heating plant should have a capacity which will permit of emptying, cleaning, and refilling the pool in one night.

## FORWARD STEPS IN RECREATION IN ILLINOIS

The use of alum in filters is desirable but precautions should be taken against over-amount as it makes the water murky and causes the eyes to smart.

If the pool is to be used by women and girls there should be a hair-drying room.

A bubbler fountain should be installed in the pool room.

The walk around the pool should be left rough enough to prevent slipping when it is wet.

## FORWARD STEPS IN RECREATION IN ILLINOIS

Sidney A. Teller, Formerly Director, Stanford Park, Chicago, Illinois

Four bills passed by the last legislature, the 49th General Assembly are of great importance and value to every city in Illinois and the United States, in the promotion of play and recreation. Copies of these bills can be obtained from the Secretary of State, Springfield, Illinois.

Senate Bill No. 401, "an act to provide for physical training in the public and all normal schools." This bill is commonly known as the "Compulsory Physical Education" law, and states it shall be the duty of all school boards or institutions where children are taught, which are supported wholly or partly by public funds, to provide for at least one hour of physical education and training, each week during the whole school year, in all the grades. This will further provide that the curriculum of all normal schools of the state shall contain a regular course of physical education and training for the students. Physical education includes and will lead to games, contests, better school ventilation, better school yards, school gardens, school playgrounds.

Senate Bill No. 221, commonly known as the "School Social Center" Bill, enlarges the powers of all school boards along some sixteen definite lines. The ones in which we are interested are as follows:

Section seven—To appropriate funds for the purchase of libraries and apparatus, after the provision has been made for the payment of all necessary school expenses.

Section ten—To have the control and supervision of all public schoolhouses in their district, and to grant the temporary use



## FORWARD STEPS IN RECREATION IN ILLINOIS

of them, when not occupied by schools, for religious meetings and Sunday schools, for evening schools and literary societies, and for such meetings as the directors may deem proper. To grant the use of assembly halls and class rooms when not otherwise needed, including light, heat and attendants, for public lectures, concerts, and other educational and social interests under such provisions and control as they may see fit to impose, to conduct or provide for the conducting of recreational social and civic activities in the school buildings under their control.

Section thirteen—To furnish each school with a flag and a staff, as provided by law.

Section sixteen—To establish kindergartens for the instruction of children between the ages of four and six years, if in their judgment the public interest requires it, and to pay the necessary expense of the same out of the school funds of the district; provided, that no one shall be employed to teach in a kindergarten who does not hold a kindergarten certificate as provided by law.

Before the passage of this law, those who were interested in the wider use of the schoolhouse for social, civic and recreation purposes, were repeatedly told by the board of education that they would be very glad to open up the schoolhouse but that they lacked authority for so doing. This bill now gives the authority and any community that wants to use the little red schoolhouse or the great big new consolidated high school can do so. We expect now to see the American flag flying on every Illinois schoolhouse the symbol of the larger liberty and larger education, possible inside of the school. We want every schoolhouse to be the community center, the civic center, the social center, the recreation center of its district. We all want to go to school again, but this time along the lines of community education.

Senate Bill No. 452. This act authorizes cities and villages having a population of less than 50,000 to maintain by taxation public parks. For this purpose the governing board of the city or village, after a favorable or majority referendum vote, can levy an annual tax up to three mills. The proposition may be put before the people in two different ways. The governing group can pass the ordinance and then submit it to the people, or if the board does not act and the people wish, upon petition of voters equal to at least one percent of the number of votes cast at the last preceding election, the election officers must submit the proposition to the people. With such a bill, any village or smaller city can have

## FORWARD STEPS IN RECREATION IN ILLINOIS

its town square, city park, large athletic fields, places of natural and historic value. Experience has shown that if a town has the opportunity and power to buy the land, the improvement and use of it follow very quickly, thus making for more beautiful towns, civic pride, better recreation and better community spirit.

House Bill No. 63. "An act to provide for the acquisition, equipment, conduct and maintenance of public playgrounds in and by cities having a population of less than 150,000." In most communities, the value of a playground has to be demonstrated by an experiment through private effort before it is taken over by the municipality. Women's clubs and civic organizations are glad to support a playground for a season or year, but do not want to carry eternally a burden which should be supported by public funds. The Playground Bill provides the way, after the experimental stage, of letting the people decide whether or not they want public playgrounds. A petition by two percent of the voters compels the submission of the proposition or propositions to the people. A majority vote carries the desire into a fact, and a "playground tax" not to exceed two mills can be levied annually for the purpose mentioned in the bill. These monies cannot be used for any other purpose, and cannot be scaled down under any existing law. In addition to making provision for expert supervision, the bill further states:

Section 4—"Such playgrounds, shall in the discretion of the playground board or boards, be filled with suitable appliances and instrumentalities, games and exercises; and shall be so conducted as to be most conducive to the moral, intellectual, and physical welfare of the children using the same; and their use shall be free under such rules and regulations as will best enable the largest number of users to receive substantial benefit therefrom."

We are happy to report that since the passage of this bill, two cities have already favorably passed on such a referendum measure and public funds are being used for this public need.

With four bills such as are described above, any and every community in Illinois can take a step forward in public recreation bring physical education and play to every child, wholesome recreation to every adult, and a system of parks, playgrounds and recreation centers to every community. Build good roads, of course, but let these roads pass playgrounds instead of reform schools, pass parks instead of tuberculosis sanatoria, pass recreation centers instead of jails, poorhouses, and insane asylums.



Angelica Street Playground, San Francisco, Cal.

Annette Kellerman's diving tank at the famous New York Hippodrome and 141 Y. M. C. A., and Y. W. C. A., 60 School and College, and 78 Public and Private Pools made safe and attractive by our Filters.

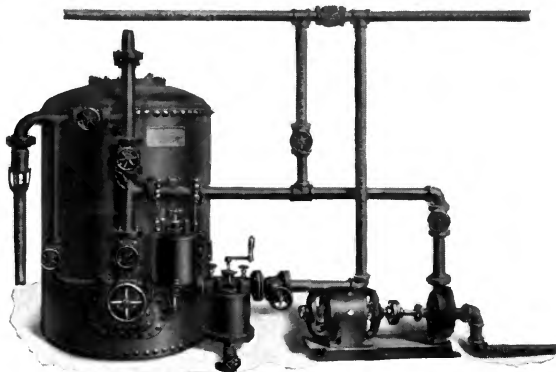
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Play School, University of California

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RECREATION BUILDING AT RACINE, WISCONSIN, ERECTED AT  
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This building houses indoor recreation for the entire neighborhood

## BOOK REVIEWS

### FOLK DANCES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

By Cecilia Van Cleve. Published by Milton Bradley Company, Springfield, Massachusetts. Price, \$2.00

Ninety-four dances of Scandinavian origin are given, with words and music. The illustrations were posed by Swedish children, under the direction of Professor O. Helgren, member of the faculty of the college at Naas, Sweden.

### THE VICTOR IN RURAL SCHOOLS

Issued by the Educational Department, Victor Talking Machine Company, Camden, New Jersey

A "Dedicatory" by P. P. Claxton and a "Foreword" by Frances Elliott Clark introduce two stories of thrilling human interest from rural school teachers in Idaho and Georgia who have found good music a new and inspiring addition to the curriculum. A suggested list of records with introductory material for each completes the pamphlet.



## **"Fun-Ful" Apparatus in Use in New Orleans Beauregard Playground**

### **A "GAME" BOY**

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## BOOK REVIEWS

### COMMUNITY CENTER ACTIVITIES

By Clarence Arthur Perry. Published by the Department of Recreation, Russell Sage Foundation, New York City. Price, thirty-five cents

A real service has been rendered the recreation movement by Mr. Perry in providing so compact and complete a handbook for easy reference. A very imposing array of possibilities confronts the reader, calculated to inspire to greater zeal and more effective use of both space and time. Activities which may be carried on in various types of school rooms, kindergartens, class rooms, assembly, corridor—suggest that no space need be wasted. The various activities are then described more in detail with a sufficiently complete reference to books most useful in each phase of the center's work. Sample programs, showing what has actually been done, raise mute voices advocating "full steam ahead."

### THE FIRST COUNTY PARK SYSTEM

By Frederick W. Kelsey. Published by J. S. Ogilvie Publishing Company, 57 Rose Street, New York

The vice-president of the original commission of the Essex County parks of New Jersey traces the inception and development of this system, 'one of the largest, and the initial county park system of this country.' Pages of ethical principles might be written from the simple story of the contrast between high-minded devotion and political self-seeking. The author gives his facts. He who runs may read.

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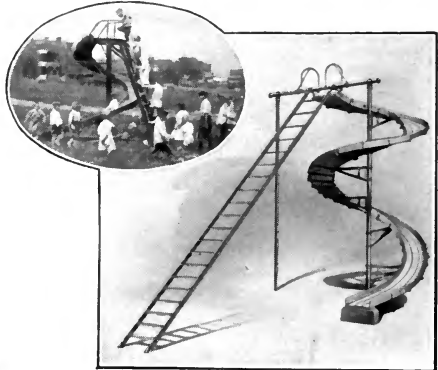
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## BOOK REVIEWS

### A CHILD'S BOOK OF HOLIDAY PLAYS

By Frances Gillespey Wickes. Published by The Macmillan Company, New York City. Price, seventy-five cents

These little plays, easily prepared, would add color and fancy to the holidays they celebrate, though the dialogue is somewhat amateurish and the moral rather pointed. One cannot be too captious, however, regarding plays for children these days. These show a fine sympathy with the imaginings of childhood and a grateful simplicity.

### **The New Haven Normal School of Gymnastics**

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cannot be surpassed. The cost is so low that the large quantities needed do not run into much money. You can provide one for every boy and girl and have large mass drills. These are very effective and do much to promote and retain the interest and enthusiasm of the Playground children, young men and women in classes, and the supporters of the Playground movement. Individual and small group work of great interest and value is also easily taught by the Director of no previous experience in this branch after reference to our books described below.

### TEAM WAND DRILL

In this book the children are paired off for height—one wand is used for the two. A remarkably effective drill whether in large groups or small—all who take part are most enthusiastic.

Book—Team Wand Drill by J. M. Brandau, each, postpaid 25 cents.

### SINGLE STICK DRILL

In these martial days the children of the playgrounds will take to the single stick drill with never failing enthusiasm and real interest in the exercises means large attendance. That's what is wanted, of course, for the playground that is not crowded with children is decidedly failing of its purpose. This drill teaches correct posture and develops the sense of balance, puts snap in the muscles and a light in the eye.

Book—Single Stick Drill by W. J. Cromie, each, postpaid 25 cents.

Single Sticks or Wands net price f. o. b. Chicopee, Mass., \$5.00 a hundred. Can be made any length up to 45 inches and any diameter up to 7/8 of an inch.



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Tower City, North Dakota

## LADS AND LASSIES KEEP HOLYDAY

(See Article, Page 74)

## SPALDING HICKORY WANDS FOR PLAYGROUNDS

### WANDS AS A PLAYGROUND EXERCISE

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**A. G. SPALDING & BROS., Inc.**

Playground Dept.

Chicopee,

Mass.

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

**Workers Needed.**—Experienced workers are needed by the Parks and Playgrounds Association of the City of New York for its summer playground activities, July first to September eighth.

Training in recreation work and at least one year's actual experience is required.

**Registration.**—April first to May fifteenth. Application blanks will be sent by request from the office of the Parks and Playgrounds Association.

**Boys' Work Conference.**—The Eleventh Annual Conference of the Boys' Club Federation will be held at Buffalo, N. Y., May 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, 1917. All interested in work with boys will be welcomed as delegates.

Among the questions for discussion as reported by the program committee are: "A Boys' Club Program for All the Year Around," "Boys' Clubs in Industrial and Business Plants," "Clubs within the Club," "The Place That the Boys' Club Should Occupy in the Community." There will be an Exhibit of Vocational Class Work, with workers or boys on hand to explain their own exhibits.

The social features include: an automobile trip to Niagara Falls, with a trolley ride to points of interest, an evening entertainment by boys, a trip through

the Larkin Plant, and a complimentary banquet at the Hotel Statler. Other special entertainment features will be provided for the ladies.

The opening session of the Conference will be at 10 a. m., Tuesday, May 22nd and there will be morning, afternoon and evening sessions. The Conference will close with the banquet at the Hotel Statler, Thursday evening. For further information, and Conference literature, address the Boys' Club Federation, One Madison Ave., New York City.

**Extract from letter from H. O. Berg.**—"This week Monday, we put over the first meeting of its kind held in the United States—a mass meeting of all men who have declared their intention of becoming citizens. It was a stormy night, but standing room was at a premium. Mr. Sturges of Chicago, who cooperated with me, felt it was a howling success, and intends to spread the good news of our success all over the country."

**One Man Knew.**—At a meeting held in Glendale, California, to consider plans for securing a neighborhood center, one man, who had grown up from boyhood in Glendale, related instances of the efforts of his "bunch" to secure places for reasonable recreation—efforts which were always futile. But

there was always recreation to be found in Los Angeles, not far away, perhaps not always "reasonable" recreation. Upon the wasted lives of young men driven into vice by lack of rightful opportunity, this man based his plea for a better chance for the boys now growing up.

George Sim, assistant superintendent of the Los Angeles Playground Commission, the speaker of the evening, presented ideas and ideals for neighborhood centers drawn from the experiences of many cities.

**Fitness not Geographical.**—School superintendents, associated charities secretaries, Young Men's Christian Association secretaries are now chosen from those who have had success in other cities. For playground work, as Joseph Lee says, fitness should not be exclusively geographical!

**Making the Park Serve the People.**—Green Hill Mansion, the people's club house in Worcester, Massachusetts, housed 281 parties attended by 9,441 persons, from its opening October 12, 1914, to February 1, 1916. Dances, "showers," birthday parties, musicales, reunions were among the entertainments given.

When the Worcester Country Club moved to new quarters, the old club house, with its kitchen, piazzas, shower baths, and the

beautiful nine-hole golf course, was leased by the city for municipal golf links and club house. A competent chef reigned in the kitchen. An expert golfer was given the sale of golf supplies and repairing of clubs, so there was always someone at hand to instruct beginners and keep up the zest of the more experienced players. Clubs were rented at fifteen cents an hour.

From the time Mayor Wright drove the first ball "until snow balls came in the fall, there was not a moment that the links were not filled to their capacity." Tournaments were played and, through the club organized from those who used the links, opportunity was given to play in tournaments throughout the country.

The nine holes were kept in splendid condition and at the end of the season, \$4.20 remained of the \$2000.00 appropriated.

The success of the leased links has encouraged the commissioners to arrange for a permanent nine-hole course in Green Hill Park, which may later be made an eighteen hole-course.

**Fifteen Months of Work Here.**—The South Bend Municipal Recreation Committee gives thus briefly the accomplishments of its first period of service: "Four playgrounds and one play field were provided and supervised; another 20-acre play

## THE BETHLEHEM BACH FESTIVALS

field secured for future development. During the summer and fall there was an attendance of about 120,000 at these play places. A civic federation consisting of 13 social centers, representing every part of the city, was organized. The committee has assisted and supervised these constituent organizations which, during this period, held 119 meetings with a total attendance of over 20,000. An amateur athletic federation, to promote amateur athletics in accordance with approved standards, was formed. The federation enrolled 38 teams with more than 500 players and conducted 2 track and field meets. Public school and inter-playground leagues were formed, comprising 1,000 players, and playing over 200 matched games. School and

home garden departments were organized. Two municipal Christmas tree festivals were carried out. Community singing was inaugurated—courses in civics for the social centers arranged, a class in parliamentary law formed for the officers of the social centers. Training work was organized for playground directors, for leaders in singing, and for boys' and girls' clubs."

### A Word of Appreciation.—

John F. Walsh, President of the Association of Park Superintendents, writes: "I wish you could send a copy of *THE PLAYGROUND* to every park superintendent in this country. I have no hesitancy in saying that it would do more to further the playground movement, so ably advocated by your Association, than any other means I know of."

## THE BETHLEHEM BACH FESTIVALS—A COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

Raymond Walters, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Benjamin Franklin, in a letter to his wife telling of a visit to the Moravian community of Bethlehem in 1756, wrote that he "heard very fine music in the church."

The ancient reputation of the Moravians in this respect was referred to in a recent editorial in *The Outlook* upon the seventy-fifth anniversary of the New York Philharmonic Society. When this oldest orchestral body in continuous service was founded, in 1842, "there was," *The Outlook* said, "a real musical center in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, which was in communication with the great Haydn."

## THE BETHLEHEM BACH FESTIVALS

The Bethlehem Bach Choir, which took part in the anniversary program of the Philharmonic Society in Carnegie Hall, New York City, in January, represented in fact a community that, in respect to musical activities and traditions, stands historically with New York and Boston.

In the early economy of brethren and sisters grouped in various trades and occupations, music was a common bond and heritage from the fatherland. An institution of the church, it had sanction likewise as a recreation. Love of music and skill in its rendition have continued to be characteristics of their descendants and, in general, of the city where Charles M. Schwab has enthroned steel as king. Bethlehem has an unusual record for having given first performances in America of great musical compositions, including Haydn's *Creation* in 1811, Haydn's *Seasons* in 1834, Bach's *St. John Passion* in 1888 and Bach's *Mass in B Minor* in 1900. It is to traditions like these that the present Bach Choir is heir.

The founder and conductor of the Festivals, Dr. J. Fred Wolle, is a native of Bethlehem and he has there achieved his greatest work.

Mr. T. Edgar Shields, organist of the Choir, has been a life-long citizen, a continuous force in local musical life.

In its beginning the Bach Choir was based upon the Moravian Church Choir and it grew as the city grew. The homes of eighty per cent of the singers—members of many religious denominations and of diverse occupations—are in the Bethlehems, with the remainder in adjacent towns and cities. It is typically a community chorus.

Citizens—most of them for many years—are the men whose financial and executive service as trustees makes the Festivals a fact: Mr. Charles M. Schwab, Chairman of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation and main guarantor; Dr. Henry S. Drinker, President of Lehigh University and President of the Choir; Mr. Albert N. Cleaver, Treasurer of the Choir since its reorganization in 1911; Mr. Warren A. Wilbur, Mr. George R. Booth, Vice-President of the Choir, Mr. H. S. Snyder, Dr. W. L. Estes, Mr. M. J. Shimer, Dr. J. H. Clewell, President of the Moravian Seminary and College for Women; Mr. A. C. Huff and Mr. Frank G. Hoch, Secretary. Here should be mentioned also the Membership Secretary of the Choir, Mrs. George W. Halliwell who continues the work begun, when the choir was started, by Mrs. W. E. Doster.

Two local institutions of learning have placed their resources behind the Bach Choir: Lehigh University, which lends its beautiful Packer Memorial Church for the Festivals and its campus as a

## THE BETHLEHEM BACH FESTIVALS

background, and the Moravian Seminary and College for Women, which places its historical chapel at the disposal of the choir for fall and winter rehearsals.

What, it is asked, are the elements that have made the success of the Bach Festivals. First of all, the work the Choir presents is supremely worth doing. "Master of masters" was Bach, and his product is astounding in its brilliance, beauty and abundance. When rendered as the Bethlehem Choir gives them, under Dr. Wolle's interpretation, his massive compositions are revealed as having a fundamental simplicity, an appeal that the unlearned in music feel as well as cultivated listeners. Upon this point Dr. Wolle is insistent. "Bach's themes are as simple as folk songs. Any boy on the street could whistle them. Now in places the music of Bach is wonderfully ornate, running off in little embellishments, with all of the parts active and independent. If you prune off these runs, these secondary notes, as you could the leaves and twigs of a tree, you would find the tree trunk and branches of a harmony,—based upon a natural foundation. This innate simplicity is the reason Bach's music takes hold of people."

That the earliest presentation in America of Bach's work should have taken place in Bethlehem is an element of vital consequence in the importance and ranking of the Bach Choir. The story of how this came to pass goes back to Bethlehem's early musical history. The services of the local Moravian Church included from the earliest days ancient German chorales and these Dr. Wolle learned and loved as a boy. When a young student in Germany he heard Bach's oratorios and he found that Bach had used these same old chorales and had built upon them in his choral compositions. It was, in the conductor's own words, "like coming home." Then and there he was inspired to study and to interpret the glorious music of this supreme master. It was a summons. To it, for more than a quarter of a century, he has been obedient. Dr. Wolle has studied, played, directed and preached Bach. As Edward Fitzgerald, "twin brother in the spirit," translated Omar Khayam, Wolle has made Bach's choral work mean something more than a name in America today.

The devotion of the Bach singers to the ideal held aloft by their leader is an element without which the annual festivals would be out of the question. It is an asset that cannot be overvalued.

A New York musician who was told some of the facts about Bethlehem's musical history when the Choir sang with the Philharmonic Society in the metropolis, exclaimed: "Now I see the

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foundation of the success of this wonderful choir. You Bethlehem folks have in music what New England has in literature. You have traditions."

A pretty picture this—with a modicum of truth. But to over-stress tradition as anything more than one minor element in the success of the Bach Choir would be to part company with fact and to indulge in cant. The difficulties of maintaining an organization of three hundred singers are about as formidable today as though the *Creation* and the *St. John Passion* and the *Mass in B Minor* had not had their first renditions in Bethlehem. These achievements and their own successes do not make it materially less arduous for the present singers to give the time and study and to undergo the drill demanded in singing the music of Bach.

It is pertinent to mention the chorale announcements of each session of the Festival by the Moravian Trombone Choir, an entirely local group of musicians. The one element of the Festivals not local is the orchestra, which has been made up, since the revival of the Festivals at Lehigh in 1912, of members of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

No list of elements of success in the Bach movement could omit the executive and financial handling of the Bach Festivals, due to citizens and institutions whose patronage is of singularly high motive.

The Editor of *THE PLAYGROUND* has asked for specific suggestions based upon Bach Festival experience that would be helpful to those who in other parts of the country "are struggling with the problems of community music." These points seem to be pertinent.

Whatever the form of community musical endeavor, there should be obtained somehow an assured financial basis. It is this assurance that enables conductor and choir in Bethlehem to do their work without worrying about the inevitable money deficit of the Festivals.

The conductor must be a musician of vision, persistence and infectious enthusiasm. He ought to be given complete power within his sphere. A composition cannot be interpreted through legislation. For results the conductor should be an autocrat.

Singers with trained voices are not necessary to make a good chorus. Dr. Wolle declares that he is delighted to have Choir members with only fair voices, or even poor voices—if they possess earnestness and spirit.

There is danger in overorganizing a chorus, Dr. Wolle believes;



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in having by-laws, dues, fines, and a multiplicity of committees. The least possible government in these respects has proved the best in Bethlehem. A Membership Secretary who will keep after singers and somehow make them attend is a pearl of great price.

The Bach Choir's success has come in concentrating upon the work of one composer. But unless there is as good a reason in other cases, limitation to one composer is not a policy to be advised, in Dr. Wolle's judgment.

There is, to sum up, no insurmountable obstacle to other community choruses equaling what the Bach Choir has accomplished. The qualities called for are not genius nor exceptional beauty of voice, but fair musical intelligence and ardor that endures. The reward is, as Bach singers will testify, that the work adds inches to their spiritual stature, and they know the joy that comes with artistic achievement.

## WHAT MUSIC DID FOR WINFIELD\*

Edgar B. Gordon

It is not an "uplift" story that we have to tell. On the contrary, the community about which this is written stands high in rank among the second-class cities in Kansas, and doubtless the development in community music and drama in Winfield has been due, in a measure at least, to the ideal local conditions. A town with two denominational colleges, a college of music, a real Chautauqua Assembly over a quarter of a century old, an excellent public school system, with a sympathetic board of education and an able superintendent, surely is a favorable environment for trying out anything having as its purpose the development of community life. Winfield also has several churches, lodges, men's and women's clubs which show a commendable civic spirit, well-conducted picture theatres, and the usual social life among young and old.

It was in this community that the writer found himself about seven years ago, after a long residence in Chicago, five years of which were spent as a resident worker at the Chicago Commons, a social settlement. Being imbued with the social worker's point of view, it is not strange that, while going back into what seemed to be

*\*Courtesy of Good Housekeeping*

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strictly professional musical work, he should have sought constantly to give his efforts a turn into a channel having some social significance.

The first opportunity presenting itself was the organization of a community orchestra, which was made possible by there being in Winfield a number of earnest young people seriously studying the various stringed instruments. From a splendid band, which had for years been the pride of the town, the necessary brass and wood wind players were recruited to make up an orchestra capable of rendering standard orchestral works. Shortly after undertaking this, the writer was also given charge of the music in the high school, and it was a natural step to combine these organizations for the production of a choral and instrumental program.

This plan was followed for three years, and then the idea was conceived of presenting a series of programs, to which a season ticket could be sold at a nominal price, the money earned to be used for something of value to the entire community. Thus the beginning of a definite development of community music in Winfield was made. It was decided to begin with the young people and children of the schools, and gradually reach out until all the available talent in the community should be utilized. It was also decided that, inasmuch as the enterprise was for the community at large, no compensation of any kind should be paid those taking part. At first, professional musicians were disposed to regard requests for assistance as an imposition, but by degrees they came to recognize the difference between the service in which the entire community is the beneficiary and the service which is rendered where only special groups are benefited. In other words, they come to see that the opportunity was being given them to enrich the community life of Winfield.

The public also caught this spirit and responded by their patronage in increasing numbers each year, until, last season, the entire house was sold out for the series of eight programs. From the proceeds of two season's concerts, a choice collection of reference books on music has been contributed to the local library. These books have aided very materially in the encouragement of the serious study of music. Funds also have been provided for the purchase of over thirty orchestral instruments, which have been donated to the public schools. During the past three years eighteen different programs have been presented to the community entirely by people of the community. In many instances the programs have been

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given a second time to meet the demands of the public, and again as matinees for the grade-school children, who were admitted without cost.

By slow degrees the real significance of the development came to be appreciated, and last season, when the idea was conceived of enlarging the plan so as to include some evenings of carefully chosen plays, the possibility of making the venture a real expression of community art was seen. Almost unconsciously the effort had changed from a sporadic one, calculated to furnish an outlet for certain school activities, into one which had become interwoven with the whole social and recreational fabric of the community to such an extent that it touched almost every phase of life.

One thing which has contributed to the interest in the plan is the fact that many of the families of the community are touched personally by having some of their members take part. Fond mamas, papas, uncles, aunts, and even neighbors are interested when little Willie is going to "shine." This is one of the great values, socially, of this type of entertainment. The spirit of neighborliness engendered by having children of a neighborhood sing, play, or act together while the older folk listen from the "front" is very desirable.

In planning the programs, great care has always been exercised in the selection and arrangement of the various numbers. Only good music and plays have been used, and the tastes of the average person rather than the exceptional one have been kept in mind. Either program-notes have been supplied, or short talks have preceded each program, in order that the numbers might be better understood. To give the programs sufficient variety, some were choral, some orchestral; some had a piano-soloist who played with orchestral accompaniment; again, a violinist or cellist contributed solo numbers. On one program, Cadman's song cycle, *The Morning of the Year*, was sung, while another program was given to illustrate the use of Indian themes and included a selection from Victor Herbert's *Natoma*, Cadman's Indian songs, and Coleridge-Taylor's *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast*. One of the programs most enjoyed, and yet one which was decidedly educational in character, illustrated the chronological development of music from the early Greeks to the present time.

Since the real hope of the future artistic development of the community lies in the children, special programs have been planned each year for their benefit. Sometimes they were orchestral and

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consisted of selections within the comprehension of the children. At other times children's plays were performed.

Last season, as a contribution to the spirit of Christmas time, a production of the beautiful English mystery-play, *Eager Heart*, by A. M. Buckton was given. The interest on the part of both the performers and the audience in the truths of the play was very gratifying. Another occasion last season which was particularly successful was an evening of three one-act plays. Here the desire was to make three different appeals to the audience. That to their sense of beauty was made by a lovely little mythological play *Demeter and Persephone*, by Thomas Woods Stevens. This play has a charming background of incidental music for string orchestra by George Colburn, the play and music making a matchless appeal. As a contrast to this and as appeal to the heroic and dramatic, the thrilling war-drama, *Allison's Lad*, by Beulah Marie Dix, was given. Then, to relieve the tension and send the audience away happy, the delightful English comedy, *Mr. Sampson*, by Sydney Lee, was performed.

Upon the Winfield Orchestral Club has fallen the chief burden of the movement, for they not only have contributed heavy programs of orchestral music, but they have been called upon to supply accompaniments for choral works, light operas, solo numbers, and incidental music for plays. A wonderful spirit and interest has been shown by these splendid young people, who have met week after week, season after season, studying with painstaking care the scores of the works presented. Without their cooperation, the work would have fallen far short of the standard attained.

To offer dramatic opportunity to a very large number of young people, the work last season was concluded by an outdoor production of the *Pageant of Patriots*, by Constance D'Arcy Mackay. About five hundred children and young people took part before an audience of over three thousand. Some weeks after this production, as a part of the child-welfare work of the Winfield Chautauqua, another pageant, *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*, was given, with an equal number of townspeople and children. In this, the real mayor and councilmen of Winfield enthusiastically took the parts of the mayor and councilmen of Hamelin.

Another development of last season was the introduction of orchestral training in the public schools as a part of the regular music course. Sixty children of the grades were selected because of musical ability and general fitness, and each was given training on one or another of the instruments of the modern orchestra. This

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work was conducted under regular school discipline, with examinations credits, and promotions. The year's work was concluded by a joint recital with a large chorus of children. In September, 1915, another group of fifty children was started, thus making classes in orchestral playing of several different grades of advancement. In this type of work lies the hope of the country in so far as the development of symphony orchestras is concerned. By offering the training as part of their school work, efficient players are produced in such numbers as to make it possible to have real orchestras outside of the great cities—a condition absolutely essential to a universal musical development. Then, too, where the training is started in the grades, the school and community have the benefit of the services of the student-players for a number of years before they leave school.

The plans for the present season include such definite extensions of the work as the use of a women's chorus from the local women's musical club, and a male chorus of college students and men of the community, while for the children of Winfield a rare treat is in store. Through the courtesy of Mr. Winthrop Ames, of the Little Theater of New York, permission has been granted for the production of the delightful children's play, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. The children's orchestra are looking forward to a spring concert in conjunction with a group of children, who will produce in costume *The Childhood of Hiawatha*, an Indian opera by Whitley.

Gradually the possibilities of community art-development have unfolded until an almost bewildering number of ramifications present themselves. Where this development ultimately will lead it is difficult to say. That there is a distinct value in it is indisputable. This is attested in the case of Winfield at least, by the interesting fact that the town recently won a prize of one thousand dollars offered by the Child-Welfare Department of the University of Kansas for the best town in the state in which to raise children. The judges who made the survey of towns stated that one of the significant facts about Winfield was the community aspect of the musical and dramatic work. The significance of our work has also appealed to the national government, and at the request of Mr. P. P. Claxton, Commissioner of Education, a bulletin on community music and drama has been prepared, outlining a plan and supplying a bibliography of material for other communities that may wish to undertake this kind of work. Eight specimen programs are included. This bulletin may be had upon application to the Bureau of Education at Washington.

## TOWER CITY FINDS ITSELF

The general plan as outlined here, with modifications to suit local conditions, is applicable to both large and small communities. Aside from the addition it makes to the wholesome recreation and artistic education of a community, its greatest value lies in the fact that it offers an ideal opportunity for the development of group consciousness and a disposition to work in conjunction with others—to do team work. In the three years in Winfield, we have seen a remarkable development of *esprit de corps*, which is attributable in a measure to the emphasis that has been placed upon the idea that it is not only a duty but a privilege to contribute of one's talents and time for the common good.

From this attitude of mind, it is but reasonable to expect a coming generation of good citizens who shall find their chief joy, not in what they can get from a community, but in what they can give back to it.

## TOWER CITY FINDS ITSELF

F. H. Talbot, Minister The Federated Church, Tower City, North Dakota

Socializing and in less than five years bringing a town of five hundred people up to a state of artistic development where it can successfully present pageants, oratorios and operettas generally considered possible only in cities of five thousand or more, is the record of the hustling town of Tower City, North Dakota. And the best part of the story is that Tower City is not a miracle town, nor are its inhabitants so different that achievements attainable here would be impossible elsewhere. Neither the town nor the people have millennial aspirations. It is, in short, a place of just common folk who through the exercise of the cooperative instinct, coupled with a large amount of energy, have been able to accomplish things which are truly worthy in a social sense.

The beginning of Tower's fight with monotony and social retrogression was when two of the churches combined to form a federated church. This did so much to combine the musical talent of the little place, that musical programs of merit could be offered in place of the weak choruses supplied by two competing organizations. With a rather good group of singers, a choral union was formed, which,

## TOWER CITY FINDS ITSELF

commencing with small cantatas and song services, gradually became more and more ambitious as their talents increased, until these singers were able to present artistically such really good works as *The Holy City* and *Ruth*. Many of the great choruses from the big oratorios have been studied and sung to audiences now educated to the point where they highly appreciate the efforts of the local singers.

But the singers were not satisfied with singing alone, so they tried musical comedies with the result that after a year or so it was discovered that dramatic talent could be developed, too. In the past six months this same group of musicians has presented two standard operettas, *The Nautical Knot* and *Pocahontas*. They are now contemplating a presentation of *Pinafore*, or the *Pirates of Penzance*.

Pageantry has not been neglected by the town. Probably the most successful attempt along this line was the presentation of an old-time English festival, including the maypole dance with the introduction of many characters from fiction and history. Over one hundred people took part in this festival and supplied everything needed for the production locally. The town band, numbering about twenty pieces, born out of the town's new cooperative spirit furnished the music for the dances and the procession.

While this development was going on, the people were also acquiring a taste for the better form of traveling amusements. Lyceum courses which before failed financially are now operated successfully and this year a circuit Chautauqua of splendid merit which failed to draw sufficient attendance to pay expenses in towns nearby many times the size of Tower City was so thoroughly appreciated here that a fine balance was left for a nucleus for another year.

The secret of all these achievements lies in the fact that the people have learned to appreciate the best. They have developed a fine discrimination and are very quick to judge and acknowledge real talent. The deadly monotony of rural life has received a solar plexus blow, while the development has been little less than miraculous. In fact, such is the recognized ability of the players and singers now, that when a play or an oratorio is announced, it is always the signal for the coming of large delegations of visitors from nearby towns.

And with the growth of the cooperative spirit, fostered by the musicians, other forms of social enterprises were attempted with satisfactory results. A live commercial club has been organized which has done much towards creating a civic righteousness which

## THE COMMUNITY FAIR

makes the town very desirable as a place of residence. Under direction of the club, the streets are kept free from the litter and rubbish which is such a continual eyesore in many of the smaller villages. Prizes were offered for the best-kept lawns and backyards, trees have been planted on both sides of every street in town, spring clean-up day has been established and this fall a remarkably successful fair, or as it is popularly called in North Dakota, corn show, was held.

Growing out of this same spirit of community loyalty came the high school championship basket ball team of last year, for so splendid was the response and support of the citizens to the work, that the local boys, cheered by the loyal rooters who always accompanied them on their journeys, easily disposed of their opponents and captured the coveted first place honors among state high schools.

Tower City's achievements have not been of the mushroom type, but have been gradually evolved out of many trying experiences. Setbacks there have been continually. Calamity howlers, knockers and a wonderful anvil chorus have all done their share to discourage. Jealous and envious ones have thrown themselves under the wheels of progress and have been badly mused up for their pains, but the great rank and file of the people have been enthusiastic, progressive, loyal and appreciative. And best of all the people are still dissatisfied with their attainments and are hopefully looking toward the future, planning still bigger things for the welfare of the town.

## THE COMMUNITY FAIR\*

J. Sterling Moran, Field Assistant in Rural Organization, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

The community fair is a miniature county fair conducted by the people of a community for the purpose of developing a greater spirit of cooperation, to arouse interest in local achievement, to stimulate pride in, and enthusiasm for the community, and to bring its resources prominently before the people. Not being under the necessity of meeting heavy expenses, and being controlled entirely by the people it naturally reflects their attitude toward the "midway," racing, and the many catch-penny devices usually found at county fairs.

\*Address given at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Mich. Oct. 2-6, 1916



## THE COMMUNITY FAIR

A community fair can be large or small, elaborate or otherwise, as the people desire. Recreational features, such as field sports, folk games and dances, pageants may be introduced, together with such educational features as lectures, addresses, demonstrations, judging contests.

**Organization** The first step toward organizing a community fair is to get together a small group of people composed of the leaders of the different organizations in the community for the purpose of determining whether or not, and in what ways, a community fair would be beneficial. If approved by this group, a community meeting is held for the public discussion of the plan. At the opening of this meeting it is the usual custom to have someone explain fully what a community fair is, the method, purposes and expected results. Several people who are known to be favorably inclined may be asked for their opinions, after which there may be a general discussion followed by a vote on the proposition, both men and women voting. If it is decided that the community shall hold a fair, the next step is to elect the officers—president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer. Committees on publicity, amusement and entertainment, arrangement and decoration, consisting of three or more members each, are also usually elected or appointed at this time.

The amusement and entertainment committee has charge of all athletics, field sports, games and folk dances, as well as such entertainment features as music and motion pictures.

The arrangements and decorations committee attends to securing a place to hold the fair, assigns space to each department, arranges tables and shelves, for the display of exhibits and looks after the decorations for the occasion, using flowers, leaves, flags, bunting and other available material.

The publicity committee enlists the help of the local newspapers and supplies them with well written articles concerning the fair, a comprehensive list of articles for the different departments is often published so that the people will have a clear understanding of the classes of articles that are to be exhibited. This committee sees, too, that announcements are made in churches, schools, and at all public gatherings. A newspaper man is especially helpful on a committee of this kind.

Hand-made posters are often used and prizes awarded to the

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persons making the most attractive designs. The advantage in this plan is twofold. It gives individuality and attractiveness to the advertising and at the same time, helps in keeping down expenses. Besides the lists published in the local papers, handbills or "flyers" giving in detail as many things as possible to be exhibited in each department may be printed and distributed to every one in the community.

Perhaps the most important committees are those having charge of the several departments of the exhibits. These committees are made up of people of both sexes and include boys and girls as well as men and women. The personnel of these committees is naturally important, especially the matter of getting members who are competent and willing to serve.

The committees are usually as follows: (a) live stock and poultry (b) farm crops (c) orchard and garden products (d) home economics, foods, dairy products (e) household arts and crafts (f) flowers and shrubbery (g) school work, compositions, manual training (h) historical relics.

One of the most important committees is that having charge of the department of historical relics. Communities seldom realize what a wealth of material is stored away in attics and barns which if brought together would form the nucleus of a community museum, which would furnish a high type of recreation for both old and young. It would be unsurpassed as an aid in teaching local history and community progress. Relics, souvenirs, and curios from as many as seventeen countries have been observed at one little community fair.

**Place** Community fairs are usually held at the school house for the reason that it comes most nearly being the one center or institution in which the whole community is interested. If it is held at a church or a lodge hall it is very likely to be thought of by many as being an enterprise of the group to which the building belongs. If the proper amount of preliminary work has been previously done, the fair, under ordinary circumstances, lasts but one day. This, however, is a problem to be decided locally.

**Prizes** Experience with many community fairs all seems to point to the giving of ribbons instead of cash prizes. If money is available these ribbons may be suitably stamped, if not, the color of the ribbon denoting first, second and third prize is sufficient. The awarding

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of cash prizes, besides making the cost prohibitive, defeats the real purpose of the fair, which is fundamentally recreation, or something done for the joy of the doing.

**Exhibits** A community fair ought to represent the normal production of the community. Articles that have received special attention and treatment for the main purpose of exhibition while other articles of the same kind are far below the average ought not to be encouraged. It is the increase in the quantity or quality of the average product that is most to be desired. Freak exhibits of all kinds, particularly of animals, are to be avoided so far as possible.

Personal solicitation has been found to be the most effective means of inducing people to make exhibits. Everyone should be made to feel that he will be in competition only with his neighbors and that it will not be possible for some outsider to capture all the prizes.

**Judges** The importance of selecting judges of experience deserves special attention. The state agricultural college and schools and other institutions are usually willing to render such assistance as their force of workers and means will permit. The educational value of the judging is enhanced when the judges are given an opportunity to explain to the whole group, why the prizes were awarded in the particular manner decided upon. Besides its educational value this helps to allay criticism.

**Expenses** The cost of a community fair is ordinarily small. The largest item of expense is the printing bill and this can be reduced to a negligible amount by the liberal use of hand-made posters. As before mentioned, the community fair is recreational,—arranged by the community for the joy of the doing, and its purpose to teach cooperation; therefore the more the recreational spirit is manifested and the more the whole community cooperates, the greater will be the success of the fair.

**Community Exhibits in Larger Fairs** A wholesome, friendly rivalry between communities may be developed by transporting to a county, or other larger fair, all prize-earning material from several community fairs.

The social and educational value of most county fairs could be greatly improved in this way.

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC LEAGUE

### PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC LEAGUE

#### BOYS' WORK

##### *History*

In many cities originally the department of physical training in the public schools bore no relation to athletics. It was concerned exclusively with gymnastics carried on in school hours. Its primary object was to correct the sedentary effects of school life, and especially, the effect of sitting too long at a school desk.

Accordingly, for the purpose of providing public school boys with interesting and helpful recreation and opportunities for controlled athletic practice and extending participation to the entire student body, various cities have found it helpful to organize a public schools athletic league. Usually the organization has included not only the superintendent of schools and the president of the board of education, but also a number of business men who, because of their interest in the health and strength of the school boy, were willing to help the movement financially.

These leagues endeavor to supplement and assist the board of education, by carrying out, through funds obtained from private contributions, the things the board desires to have done but has been unable to accomplish itself with the public money it controls. Wherever the board has been able to give assistance to the league, it has done so. In New York which had one of the earliest leagues, organized in 1903, the two have always worked in perfect harmony. At present the directors of the New York League include the president of the Board, together with the superintendent of schools and supervisor of physical education, and a large part of the administrative work is carried out by the department of physical education. Hence the activities of the league are actually controlled by the board of education.

In no city could the league have succeeded at all without the earnest, continuous, and enthusiastic support of the principals and teachers. While it is true that in its early days the leagues could not have existed without the financial help of the business men of the city, nevertheless, even more important was the cooperation and encouragement of the teachers.

That the New York City Board of Education has appreciated the work of the League in that city is apparent in a paragraph taken from "A Minute in Approval of the Public Schools Athletic League," passed by the Board, December 30, 1914.

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC LEAGUE

"In the eleven years during which the League has been organized it has effected an improvement both physical and mental in the vast army of boys and girls who attend the public schools of New York, the value of which cannot be adequately described. The children are far healthier and happier than before, and they have also acquired ideas of manly and honorable conduct to which many of them were previously strangers. The discipline of schools also has been helped."

### ORGANIZATION

#### *Eligibility*

The following points in general cover the question of the eligibility of a boy to represent his school.

- (1) No boy is eligible who has ever taken part in professional athletics.
- (2) No boy may represent his school unless he has been a member of the school for a certain length of time (Time varies from 3 weeks to 30 weeks in different cities).
- (3) No boy is admitted into any contest who has not received a passing mark for the month previous in effort, proficiency, and deportment.
- (4) No entry is accepted unless approved by the principal of the school.
- (5) In some cities no boy is eligible to enter games without the written consent of his parents.
- (6) A physician's certificate of physical fitness is necessary.
- (7) An elementary school boy may enter one event only at any set of games. Usually, however, exception is made in the case of the relay.

These leagues provide for three distinct classes of athletics that the boy may enter—i. e., the badge test, class athletics, and the championship meet. In addition, for the beginner, sometimes a "novice meet" is held.

A number of badges, medals, and trophies are awarded to successful competitors in each class, not only by the league but by individuals and organizations who are interested in the work of the league.

### THE BADGE TEST

The general tendency in competitive athletics is to induce boys to specialize in the kind of work for which they are most adapted and to train themselves still further in this line to the exclusion of all other forms of athletics. The athletic badge test is made up of three divisions: each boy has to run a certain distance in a certain time, to jump a certain distance, and to pull himself up on a bar a certain number of times. This insures in a measurable degree an all-round development. It gives to all boys an opportunity to win a badge

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC LEAGUE

upon an absolute basis and not upon ability to beat someone else. Each boy who qualifies in all three events in any one class is given a badge or button.

The standards set by different leagues vary somewhat. The standards of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, generally accepted, are as follows:

### *First Test*

60 yards dash.....8 3-5 seconds  
Pull-up (chinning on bar) 4 times  
Standing broad jump.....5 ft. 9 in.

### *Second Test*

60 yards dash (indoors) 8 seconds  
(or) 100 yards dash (outdoors) 14 seconds  
Pull-up (chinning on bar) 6 times  
Standing broad jump.....6 ft. 6 in.  
All age, weight, or height classifications are abolished in the athletic badge test.

### *Third Test (High Schools)*

220 yards run.....28 seconds  
Pull-up (chinning on bar) 9 times  
Running high jump.....4 ft. 9 in.

Newark, New Jersey, is trying out a variation of the badge test called the physical efficiency test. In this, boys participate by school years, beginning with the third school year, provided that the participants are nine years of age or older.

The test is based upon three events—fifty yards dash, chinning the bar and running high jump.

Boys are rated according to standards fixed for different school years, as shown by charts.

A contestant securing an average standing on these three events is entitled to a testimonial in physical efficiency—to which is attached a gold, red, or blue seal to denote the percent of efficiency attained.

## CLASS ATHLETICS

The purpose of this form of athletic competition is to interest a large number of boys. It consists in the competition of one class against another in the standing broad jump, pull-up, and running. Its aim is to do away with the notion that only the best athletes may represent the school. There is always any number of boys who, because they are not quite fast enough to win signal honors, become discouraged and drop out of athletic work. Class athletics do away

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC LEAGUE

with this feeling, for here every pupil is eligible to compete. Indeed, to encourage the average boy, the rule is sometimes made that at least eighty percent of the boys enrolled must take part in order to have the class record stand, and the average performance of all constitutes the record of the class.

On account of the great number participating, the contests are held at different times; i. e., the jumping takes place in the fall, chinning in March, and running in May.

One of the most valuable results coming from class athletics has come through the fact that those who compete must train. Naturally the training is very simple and consists of a few, simple exercises and clean living. Nevertheless, it constitutes a great check on bad habits. It is also a great help in discipline in the school.

The success of this system has been so marked that in many schools it has been extended to all branches of competitive athletics, the effect being that each school has become an athletic center in itself.

This work, directed as it is toward the development of the mass of boys, has somewhat reduced the number of "star athletes" and reduced the entries in different inter-school events. But, while it has not been so spectacular in its results, it is believed to be so beneficial to the schools and to the children that it more than makes up for any difference of this description that has been caused by it.

### CHAMPIONSHIP MEETS

Aside from the badge test and class athletics, the leagues make provision for inter-school competitions; i. e., championship events.

There are special lists of championship events for boys of the elementary school and for the high school boys.

The usual events for elementary schools are:

#### *I. Indoor Track and Field Events*

85 pounds class  
50 yards dash  
Running high jump  
Standing broad jump  
360 yards relay race

100 pounds class  
60 yards dash  
Running high jump  
Standing broad jump  
440 yards relay race

115 pounds class  
70 yards dash  
8-pound shot put  
Standing broad jump  
440 yards relay race

Unlimited weight class  
100 yards dash  
12-pound shot put  
Running high jump  
880 yards relay race

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC LEAGUE

### *II. Outdoor Track and Field Events*

85 pounds class  
50 yards dash  
Running high jump  
Running broad jump  
360 yards relay race

115 pounds class  
70 yards dash  
8-pound shot put  
Running broad jump  
440 yards relay race

100 pounds class  
60 yards dash  
Running high jump  
Running broad jump  
440 yards relay race

Unlimited weight class  
100 yards dash  
12-pound shot put  
Running high jump  
880 yards relay race

### *III. Basket Ball*

### *IV Indoor Swimming*

### *V Outdoor Baseball*

### *VI Soccer Football*

### *VII Hand Ball*

### *Events For High Schools*

- I. Indoor Track and Field Games
- II. Outdoor Track and Field Games
- III. Soccer
- IV. Cross Country
- V. Lacrosse
- VI. Indoor Rifle Shooting

- VII. Tennis
- VIII. Indoor Swimming
- IX. Hockey
- X. Outdoor Rifle Shooting
- XI. Basket Ball
- XII. Baseball
- XIII. Football

## NOVICE MEETS

In some cities novice meets are held. They are conducted in the same manner as championship meets.

As the object of holding novice meets is to give boys of lesser athletic ability than those who engage in championship meets a chance to have the benefits of athletic competition, every school is allowed to enter as many boys as desired in each event.

No boys who have ever won, or been placed in a race or other event in a meet under the auspices of the public schools athletic league—that is, no boy who has ever won medal or bar other than a novice button in any previous meet—is allowed to compete.

The leaders in the New York Public Athletic League have been C. Ward Crampton, as secretary and executive, S. R. Guggenheim; Luther Halsey Gulick; Gustavus T. Kirby; George W. Wingate. Through their leadership in New York City they have helped many cities throughout America. It is said that the League has effected an improvement of about 30 per cent in the average physique of New York City school boys.



## PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC LEAGUE

In New York City, in the class contests, some schools have had ninety per cent of the boys compete, while in the various series of athletics held in 1915, about fifty per cent of the grammar grades competed regularly, about seventy-five per cent once or twice a year; the high school percentage is slightly higher.

General George W. Wingate, President of the New York City Public Schools Athletic League since its founding, reported in 1916 that after fourteen years of work, over 350,000 children take part in the after-school work. A prize offered for the school having the largest percentage of pupils winning badges was won by a per cent of 80.4. Speaking of the great meet held in Madison Square Garden annually, participated in in 1915 by 1750 competitors, General Wingate says:

"Over 7,000 spectators packed the Garden, with an excited crowd of representatives from the different schools, whose enthusiastic efforts to applaud their respective representatives sounded like the roaring of the sea.

"Through a new and excellent system of checking in the dressing rooms (by which each boy's clothes were put in a separate bag) and assigning boys to position for the parade, the boys were all promptly in line ready to start at 2 o'clock, the prescribed hour for the parade. The whole series of games, involving twenty-eight events, was completed in three hours, to do which at times nine events were going on at once in the field and on the track. The officers in charge were perfectly familiar with their duties, their decisions were acquiesced in without contention, and everything moved without delay, difficulty or protest. Only those who appreciate the difficulty of handling such a large number of competitors, particularly in a confined space like the Garden, in getting the members of the different squads in their proper position to start exactly when the right time comes, running each event off without conflicting with any of the others in progress, and then getting the contestants off the floor and into their proper places without confusion, can appreciate what a marvel of executive administration was involved. \* \* \*

"The meet also offered another striking example of the extraordinary change which the League has effected among the large class of our population whose parents are foreign born, and particularly those from Russia and Poland. Ten years ago these knew nothing about athletics and considered them a waste of time. In addition, they had neither the physical strength nor the mental qualities of courage, endurance and self-reliance under the strain of competition

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC LEAGUE

which are essential to success in them. Yet the children attending Public School 62, Manhattan, on Hester and Essex Streets (which was the winner of the match and was the third last year), and of Public School 10, Manhattan, which was the winner last year and second in this year's match, have each more than 90 percent of their pupils either Russian or Polish Hebrews. Moreover, the reputation of these two schools for playing with absolute fairness and strictly according to the rules, is as high as the results attained in the games themselves."

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC LEAGUE

### GIRLS' WORK

#### *History*

Compared with the strides taken in the development of athletics for boys, little has been done for girls. Yet in a few cities, similar work has been organized and has met with delighted approval.

It was found that very little work for girls was carried on, on account (1) of the lack of after-school supervision and instruction, and (2) lack of any standard form of athletics for girls. The work of the leagues has been to meet these two needs by providing after-school supervision and instruction and establishing some standard form of athletics for girls.

The problems involved in girls' athletics are much more difficult than those in boys' athletics, because the athletics of boys and men have been established through a long history of evolution, while girls' athletics is a new subject which of necessity is largely experimental.

The fundamental policies adopted by the Girl's Branch in New York City, one of the first organized, in 1905, are:

- (1) Athletics for all girls
- (2) Athletics within the school and no inter-school competition
- (3) Athletic events in which teams (not individual girls) compete
- (4) Athletics chosen and practiced with regard to their suitability for girls and not merely in imitation of boys' athletics

The system of athletics for girls in New York City is as follows: The Physical Training of the school day includes an athletic period which is taken once or twice a week, and under the Welsh Act this work will be given three hours a week. Athletic period consists of squad work; each squad under the direction of a captain. Thus individual groups play games, dance, engage in athletic competitions

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC LEAGUE

as described below. The Girls' Athletic Clubs under the general direction of the Girls' Branch of the Public Schools Athletic League and the Director of Physical Training, are described in detail. In addition sixty athletic centers have been organized for girls under the Director of Physical Training. These are in effect self-sustaining clubs under the direction of two teachers who are paid for their services. Under these conditions it is found from 100 to 200 girls can be handled at one time.

### ATHLETIC MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the girls' leagues is open to any girl from the third year on, who cares to join one of the athletic clubs of her school.

However, in order to participate in events held under the auspices of the leagues, a girl must herself be considered eligible and she must belong to a club that is eligible.

A club to be eligible must comply with the following rules:

(1) It must register with the secretary and begin practice not later than November first.

(2) It must hold at least twenty-four meetings during the year, eight of which are out of doors.

(3) It must keep a record of the season's practice.

(4) It must practice only sanctioned events.

Each member of a club to be eligible to participate in events with her club must comply with the following rules:

(1) She must have been in school one school month.

(2) She must have taken active part in at least twenty meetings of her club.

(3) She must have her principal's recommendation in regard to her standing in effort, deportment, efficiency, and posture at the time of the meet, or at the time of the completion of her season of all-round athletics.

(4) She must have a physician's certificate of her physical fitness.

(5) She must not play basket ball or take part in athletic competitions outside of school unless under auspices of the league.

### ATHLETICS FOR THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GIRL

The following list comprises athletics sanctioned for elementary schools by the New York City Girls' Branch:

I. Walking

II. Swimming

III. Coasting

IV. Skating

1. Ice skating

2. Roller skating (out-of-doors)

V. Rope skipping

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC LEAGUE

- VI. Folk dancing (special list of dances)
- VII. Relay-races
  - 1. Shuttle
  - 2. Potato
  - 3. All-up
  - 4. Hurdle
  - 5. Pass ball
- VIII. Basket ball throw
- IX. Team games
  - 1. End ball
  - 2. Captain ball
  - 3. Basket ball
  - 4. Punch ball

### ALL-ROUND ATHLETICS

In all-round athletics, sanctioned events are classified in four groups as follows:

Group 1	Walking Rope skipping Swimming Ice skating	} Any or all	Group 3	Captain ball End ball Basket ball Punch ball	} Any or all
	Out-door roller skating Coasting		Group 4	Pass-ball relay All-up relay Shuttle relay Potato relay Hurdle relay Basket ball throw	
Group 2	Folk dances approved by the League				

It is required that a club registering for this line of work select at least three of these groups and devote during its twenty-four meetings an equal amount of time to the practice of each of the chosen groups. By this work, as its name indicates, each girl is striving toward all-round development rather than specializing in any one type of athletics.

A bronze all-round athletic pin is awarded to each member of an athletic club who completes the required record in all-round athletics during the school year, irrespective of competition.

### SCHOOL INTER-CLUB CONTESTS

In inter-club contests, all competitions are between clubs, classes, or teams in a single school. No inter-school competition is allowed. Moreover, further to prevent notoriety, all contests must be held in the school building or school grounds, unless there is no suitable place there.

Each club entering the contest must take part in at least four of the athletic events and folk dancing.

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC LEAGUE

In contests, dancing is merely one of the five competitive events and the clubs winning first, second, or third places are accorded 5, 3, and 1 points as in other athletic events. Each club in the competition is judged on two dances, one which is peculiar to itself; i. e., not danced by any other club on the same program, and a second dance called the common dance on which all of the competing clubs are judged. To decide first, second, and third place in dancing, each dance is judged on the following basis:

Memory—possible	10 points
Form—	“ 10 points
Spirit—	“ 10 points

No special costume other than a gymnasium suit is permitted. The element of unity may be supplied by uniform colored ribbon on the hair, a sash, a chest band or the like, of some inexpensive material, so as not to be a burden of expense to any girl.

At each inter-club contest, there is a chief judge officially assigned through the League, together with two assistant judges and three inspectors chosen by the school, but from outside of the teaching corps of the school holding the contest.

Each member of the team having the highest total number of points for the entire contest is awarded a pin.

### ATHLETICS FOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS

The following is the list of sanctioned athletics for high schools:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. Walking</li><li>II. Swimming</li><li>III. Skating<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ice skating</li><li>2. Roller skating (out-of-doors)</li></ul></li><li>IV. Horseback-riding</li><li>V. Bicycling</li><li>VI. Golf</li><li>VII. Tennis</li><li>VIII. Dancing<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Folk dancing</li><li>2. Gymnastic dancing</li></ul></li><li>IX. Heavy gymnastics</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>X. Track and field athletics<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Simple relay</li><li>2. Shuttle “</li><li>3. Potato “</li><li>4. Hurdle “</li><li>5. Basket ball throw</li><li>6. Baseball throw</li></ul></li><li>XI. Team Games<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Indoor baseball</li><li>2. Field hockey</li><li>3. Basket ball</li><li>4. Captain ball</li><li>5. Volley ball</li><li>6. Newcomb</li><li>7. End ball</li><li>8. Punch ball</li><li>9. Pin ball</li></ul></li></ul> |
|---|---|

The Girls' Branch of the Public Schools Athletic League in New York City believes in running as an activity for girls and strongly favors the training of endurance in running for a much longer distance than usually approved. It believes, however, that this should

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC LEAGUE

be a physical training procedure and not subject to the physical, mental, and emotional strain of competition. Similarly, it believes that all girls should be trained to proper form in jumping so as to avoid harm whenever jumping becomes necessary in any of the activities or emergencies of life. It does not favor the extreme effort necessary for high and distance jumping, especially in competition.

### ALL-ROUND ATHLETICS FOR HIGH SCHOOLS

In all-round athletics for high schools, the sanctioned events are classified as follows:

Group 1	Walking Horseback riding Swimming Golf Tennis Roller skating (outdoors) Ice skating Bicycling	} Any or all	Group 3	Folk dances and gymnastic dances (Special list)
Group 2	Indoor baseball Field hockey Basket ball Volley ball Captain ball Newcomb End ball Punch ball Pin ball		Group 4	Track and field athletics Simple relay Shuttle " Potato " Hurdle " Basket ball throw Baseball throw
		} Any or all	Group 5	Heavy gymnastics

A club registering in this line of work must choose at least three of these five groups of work and during its twenty-four meetings, spend an equal amount of time on each group.

At the close of the season each member of a club who has completed the year's work in all-round athletics is awarded an all-round athletic pin.

### INTER-CLASS (OR INTER-CLUB) CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES IN HIGH SCHOOLS

High school championships are decided within the school by a series of games whereby each team of the school plays each of the other teams entered in the school championships. The team winning the greatest number of games is the winner of the school championship. If more than four teams are entered, preliminary games are played to pick the four strongest teams. For the six games in which each of these four teams play each of the others, a referee is assigned.

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC LEAGUE

The rules regarding contests of folk or gymnastic dancing in high schools are the same as those applying to elementary schools.

All games and contests are played in the school building or grounds, except where there is no suitable space, under the direction of the physical training teacher or some other instructor appointed by the principal.

A pin is awarded to each member of the team that wins the championship meet or game.

### FOLK DANCING

Elizabeth Burchenal, for many years executive secretary of Girls' Branch of the Public Schools Athletic League of New York City, believes strongly that folk dancing should be used for recreative, social, and physical training purposes only, and while such dances may be used for exhibition purposes before assemblies of parents, they should not be used at exhibitions where pay is required or the general public may attend. Exception is made in case of field days and festivals outside the schools to which the children belong, which are not primarily for exhibition purposes and which are conducted under proper auspices.

The New York League favors for athletic purposes distinctive national dances, and folk dances of traditional origin, selected for their vigor and national characteristics. It deprecates invented dances, made by putting together scraps of original dances, largely because the tendency of such inventions is to weaken the values of a dance. It also strongly deprecates for school use the type of imitative or spectacular dance associated with stage performances. The League has thus far regarded classic, aesthetic and social dances as related to physical training rather than to athletics.

For elementary and high schools, respectively, the list of dances that follows has been approved:

### FOLK DANCES FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

#### *Bohemian*

Strasak  
Komarno

#### *Danish*

Norwegian Mountain March  
Ace of Diamonds  
Crested Hen  
Little Man in a Fix  
Four Dance  
Seven Jumps  
Shoemakers' Dance

#### *English*

Sailors' Hornpipe  
Minuet (slow time)  
May Pole Dance  
All Morris Dances—  
Laudnum Bunches  
Shepherd's Hey  
Bobbing Joe, etc.  
Country Dances—  
Ribbon Dance, etc.

#### *Italian*

Tarantella

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC LEAGUE

### *Irish*

Jig  
Reel  
Lilt

### *German*

Baby Polka

### *Hungarian*

Csardas  
Hungarian Solo  
Baborak  
Csebogar

### *Russian*

Kamarinskaia  
The Crane

### *Scotch*

Reel of Four  
Highland Fling  
Shean Trews

### *Swedish*

Frykdalspolska  
Klappdans  
Carrousel  
I See You  
Fjallnaspolska  
Reap the Flax  
Oxdansen  
Ma's Little Pigs  
Tailor's Dance  
Washing the Clothes  
Today's the First of May  
Christmas Time  
Trollen  
Chain Dance  
Gustaf's Skoal  
Our Little Girls  
Rheinlander  
Bleking  
Gotlands Quadrille  
Trekarlspolska  
Lott' Ist Tod

## FOLK DANCES FOR HIGH SCHOOL

### *English*

All Morris Dances—  
Laudnum Bunches  
Bobbing Joe  
Shepherd's Hey, etc.  
Country Dances—  
    Ribbon Dance, etc.  
Minuet (slow time)  
Maypole Dance  
Sailors' Hornpipe

### *Irish*

Jigs  
Reels  
Lilts  
Rinnce Fadde

### *Russian*

Komarinskaia

### *Swedish*

Frykdalspolska  
Fjallnaspolska  
Gotlands Quadrille  
Trekarlspolska  
Rheinlander  
Weaving Dance  
Oxdansen  
Reap the Flax

### *Hungarian*

Csardas  
Hungarian Solo

### *Scotch*

Reel  
Fling  
Shean Trews

### *Italian*

Tarantella

## PARK FÊTES

One of the most interesting features of the work of the Girls' Branch in New York City is the Park Fêtes that are held each spring in which any club that has done a specified amount of practice during the season may participate.



## PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC LEAGUE

Early in the spring certain specified folk dances and games are announced to the clubs wishing to enter the fête.

These fêtes are arranged as great play days. The children in great numbers from many schools are dotted in groups over meadows of twenty acres or more which are roped off and kept clear for children only. In this way the individual child is lost sight of in the great throng and the exhibition element is eliminated, while at the same time the sight of acres of happy girls all dancing or playing at the same time is a more stirring sight than can be easily described.

While it is true that the Girls' Branch in New York recognizes no athletic work for the individual girl alone, in some other cities, such events are sanctioned.

In Newark, N. J., there is a standard event for girls in each grade and a standard pin equal to the boys' standard pin.

### *Girls' Standard Events*

- (1) Throwing basket ball for distance—8th grade
- (2) Throwing oat bag for height—7th grade
- (3) Hand walk on a 16 ft. horizontal ladder—6th grade
- (4) Thirty-yards dash in 5 seconds—5th grade
- (5) Throwing indoor baseball, 30 ft.—4th grade

The Playground and Recreation Association of America has instituted a badge test for girls that corresponds to the badge test for boys. Many cities that have no organized athletic league are using this test in their school athletics: The tests adopted are as follows:—

#### *First Test*

All-up Indian club race.....	30 seconds
or potato race .....	42 seconds
Basket ball goal throwing .....	2 goals, 6 trials
Balancing .....	24 ft., 2 trials

#### *Second Test*

All-up Indian club race.....	28 seconds
or potato race .....	39 seconds
Basket ball goal throwing .....	3 goals, 6 trials
Balancing (bean-bag or book on head) .....	24 ft., 2 trials

#### *Third Test*

Running and catching .....	20 seconds
Throwing for distance, basket ball .....	42 feet
or Volley ball .....	44 feet
Volley ball serving .....	3 in 5 trials

## ATHLETICS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GIRLS

Ethel Rockwell, Supervisor and Director, Girls' Gymnasium, Public Schools, Kalamazoo, Michigan

There are a great many opinions regarding athletics for school girls, but I think it is generally agreed that there are certain activities which appeal strongly to them and which help to develop the qualities—mental, moral, and physical—which will fit them for daily life.

First—I wish to discuss briefly the aims of athletics for girls. Just what do we want to accomplish? Of course we want to develop strength for the duties of womanhood. We want good hearts, good lungs, good digestive apparatus, good general health. We want to take care of our girls as girls and to provide for their greater development as they grow up. In order to do this we must select activities which will secure the results desirable for growing girls and also activities which will prove interesting enough to be used in after life. Those of us who have really enjoyed the pleasures of hiking, camping, swimming, dancing, and certain games will never grow old enough to want to give them up.

We want to develop among our girls the ability to cooperate, to be loyal to leaders and to other members of the group. We want to develop leadership and the ability to follow leadership, courage, honesty, self-control, self-reliance, good judgment, will power.

We should provide opportunities for wholesome social intercourse. We desire to have our girls physically efficient, accurate, alert and able to re-act quickly. We wish them to measure up to certain standards—to be able to do certain things well.

There are limitations to girls' athletics which we have to recognize. Of course there is the physical handicap that girls cannot do certain events that can be easily done by boys. I think this worries most of us very little for we do not think that athletics for girls must or should be an imitation of boys' athletics. Boys' athletics furnish an outlet for their fighting instinct, and as girls do not love this instinct as boys do, boys' athletics do not appeal strongly to most girls.

Girls' dress is a handicap which is sometimes hard to overcome. In Kalamazoo, we have overcome this to some extent and hope to overcome it almost entirely. We have encouraged our little girls in every way to have bloomers like their dresses or black bloomers.

## ATHLETICS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GIRLS

Whenever we have a demonstration or bring the girls together in numbers for any physical work we try to have all dressed in middies and bloomers. This has done much to encourage the general practice of wearing simple and sensible clothes. This year the woman at the head of our domestic art department has arranged to have our 6-1 girls and our 8-3 girls make bloomers as a part of the required sewing. We have made an effort to select cheap and durable materials, and the domestic art supervisor says that the bloomers furnish just as good sewing problems as any other garments.

Activities for girls are hindered because of lack of equipment. I suppose there are few places in Michigan where swimming can be used as a regular event for any large number of girls. There are many other splendid activities which require special equipment or conditions—but which cannot be used in some localities.

Public sentiment sometimes hinders the use of certain activities—as dancing.

The Playground and Recreation Association of America has taken these limitations into consideration in preparing the Athletic Badge Test and has endeavored to plan events which can be used everywhere. This is a good idea and doubtless will secure the desired results. However, it seems to me worth while also to take into consideration local conditions and possibilities and to use events which are suited to the locality.

At Kalamazoo the plan has been developed gradually, and is still incomplete in many ways.

First, we developed team games—always giving each girl an opportunity to play on some team. We have had just intra-school games for girls and do not feel that we want to try inter-school games at least not for some time.

From time to time we have realized that certain games were not played so well as possible because the girls could not catch and throw balls as well as they should. Newcomb, end ball, corner ball were not so good games as they could be, because the girls many times failed to judge of the distance necessary to run up for balls. Patch ball was not played so well as possible because the girls were unable to place the balls, or unable to catch them, or unable to throw them far enough. Volley ball suffered because the girls were unable to serve the balls well. Because of these difficulties we have developed the following events which I will discuss a little later—patch ball distance throw, patch ball throwing and catching for accuracy, basket ball distance throw, volley ball serving and we adopted from

## ATHLETICS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GIRLS

the Playground Association Badge Test the splendid event—running and catching.

Our folk dances were many times poorly executed because some of the girls were unable to do correctly the steps involved. Because of this difficulty we planned the rhythmic steps which I will discuss later.

Gradually we have worked out the following plan which doubtless will be revised yearly for some time.

It is only fair to say that our physical training work is all conducted by specially trained directors—one woman for each building for the children of the first four grades and the girls of the fifth and sixth grade; one man for each two buildings for the boys of grades five, six, seven and high school and three women who take charge of the girls departmental, junior and senior high school.

The events are—first,

Walking—We feel that walking is important because it is splendid exercise which keeps the girls in the fresh air, and is an activity which will be kept up after leaving school. We try to introduce a camp-fire and lunch as part of the walk so that the girls will learn the real fun of outdoor living. We constantly hear of family picnics and walks planned by the girls the who have taken these hikes. Our rules for walking are as follows:

For grades five and six each walk shall not be less than two and not over three miles. For grades seven, eight and nine, each walk shall be not less than two and not over five miles.

The walking parties must be accompanied by the physical training teacher or by some older person approved by her.

A certificate of attendance containing a statement of the number of miles covered, signed by the person who chaperones the group, will be given each girl at the end of the walk. These certificates must be presented to the physical training teacher to secure credit toward a button.

For grades five and six each walk of two miles shall earn three points, and each walk of three miles shall earn five points. For grades seven and eight each walk of two miles shall earn two points and each additional mile shall earn one point. Not over fifteen points shall be allowed for walking.

The second event is swimming. We cannot use this to the extent that is desirable as we have just one pool at Central High School which has to be used by the boys half the time.

The rules for swimming are as follows:

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Girls from all schools are allowed to use the swimming pool at Central High School Gymnasium on Monday, Tuesday and every other Friday from 3:10 until 5:00 o'clock. A certificate of attendance signed by the clerk will be given each girl each time she attends the swimming class. Each girl who has attended the swimming classes at least five times and each girl who has learned to swim will be given a certificate signed by the swimming instructor. These certificates will contain a statement of the number of points earned, and they must be presented to the physical training teacher to secure credit toward a button. Each attendance shall earn one point, but not more than ten points shall be allowed for attendance. Ability to swim across the pool shall earn five additional points if the girl has attended five times, and ability to swim half across the pool shall earn two additional points if the girl has attended five times. Ability to swim the length of the pool in good form shall earn five additional points if the girl has attended ten times. (Our swimming pool is 47 x 20).

The third event includes the rhythmic steps found in our folk dances for the year. The steps are:

- (a) Grades five and six
  - 1. Polka
  - 2. Heel and toe polka
  - 3. Step and throw
- (b) Grades seven and eight
  - 1. Schottische step
  - 2. Courtesy
  - 3. Set and turn single
- (c) Grade 9
  - 1. Mazurka step
  - 2. Set and turn single
  - 3. Schottische

Ability to execute any two steps shall earn three points; three steps shall earn five points. One point shall be given for effort if at least two steps are attempted.

The fourth event includes two folk dances selected from the physical training outline—any one folk dance correctly executed earns five points.

The next event is patch ball throwing and catching—The rules are as follows:

The patch ball shall be thrown from home plate to first, second and third bases and the returned balls caught. The distances between bases shall be thirty feet. Ability to throw to first and third bases shall earn one point each. Ability to catch the returned balls from

## ATHLETICS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GIRLS

first and third bases shall earn one point each. Ability to throw to second base shall earn two points and ability to catch the returned ball from second shall earn two points. Ability to throw to first, second and third bases and to catch the returned balls shall earn ten points. (Two trials shall be allowed for each part of the event.)

The next event is patch ball distance-throwing. The rules are as follows:

Plan of Ground—A six-foot circle with a heavy line drawn across its center shall be drawn at one end of the throwing space. The thrower toes this and in completing the throw shall not fall nor step forward out of the circle in front of her. If this be done, her throw shall be recorded as zero, so that it will count against her group in estimating the average. The throwing space shall be divided by arcs of circle measuring from the front of the circle as follows:

For grades seven and eight—fifty feet; sixty feet; seventy feet

For grade nine—sixty feet; seventy feet; eighty feet

Points—For any throw to the first line or any points between it and the next line, a girl earns five points; to the second line or between it and the next line, seven points; to the third line or beyond it, ten points. One point allowed for effort. Two trials shall be allowed.

These last two events did much to improve our game of patch ball.

The next event is throwing the basket ball for distance. The rules are as follows:

Plan of Ground—A six-foot circle (not a semi-circle) with a heavy line across its center, shall be drawn at one end of the throwing space. The thrower toes this line and in completing her throw shall not fall or step forward out of the circle in front of her. If this be done her throw shall be recorded as zero, so that it will count against her group in estimating the average. The throwing space shall be divided by three arcs of circles measuring from the front of the throwing circle as follows: twenty-two feet; thirty-three feet; forty-five feet.

Points—For each throw to twenty-two feet or any point between it and the next line a girl scores five points; to thirty-three feet or between it and the next line, seven points; to forty-five feet or beyond, ten points. One point allowed for effort. Two trials shall be allowed each girl.

The next event is basket ball goal throwing and the rules are as

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follows—(We have slightly modified the rules adopted by the Playground Association.)

**Plan of Field**—The regular basket ball goal shall be used. From a point directly under the center of the goal draw a semi-circle with a radius of fifteen feet for a throwing line.

The girl may stand at any point outside of but touching the throwing line. The basket ball used shall be of standard size and weight. The goal may be made either by a clear throw or by bouncing against the back board.

**Points**—Two goals in six trials shall earn seven points; three goals in six trials shall earn ten points. One point allowed for effort.

The next event is serving the volley ball. The plan is as follows:

**Plan of Ground**—The court shall be twenty by forty feet. The net shall be stretched at a height of six and one-half feet above the playing space. For grade seven and eight the court shall be divided into two equal parts by a line drawn at right angles to the net. For grade nine, the court shall be divided (on each side of the net) into four equal parts. A ball falling on the line shall be counted in.

**Points**—For grades seven and eight—Seven points shall be earned if a ball is served into one section and ten points if served into two. For grade nine—Three points shall be earned if a ball is served into one section, five points if served into two sections, seven points if served into three sections and ten points if served into four sections. Two trials for each serve shall be allowed. One point allowed for effort.

The next event is rope skipping. The rhythms used have been collected by our children and teachers and we have classified them into four types.

1. Plain jump standing in—as a rhyme is repeated—such as—

1. Lady, lady at the gate

Eating cherries from a plate

How many cherries did she eat-1-2-3-4-5

2. I dreamed that my horse had wings and could fly;

I jumped on his back and rode to the sky;

The man in the moon was out that night

He laughed loud and long when I pranced into sight.

2. Skim the milk—Skimming the milk, as you probably know, means running through the rope as it is turned. We have a long list of jumps under this.

3. Stunt type—as Double Dutch—Two ropes are turned at

## ATHLETICS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GIRLS

the same time one each way, the girl jumping both of them—or some stunt performed as a rhyme is repeated—as—

Itiskit, itasket, a green and yellow basket

I lost a letter for my mother and on my way I found it, I found it, I found it. Something is dropped and picked up as the girl jumps.

### 4. Rock the cradle type:

Old man Daisy, what makes you so lazy

Up the ladder, down the ladder-A-B-C-

Salt, vinegar, mustard, pepper

During the first line the girl jumps back and forth over the rope as it is rocked; during the second line the girl jumps first toward one end—then toward the other. During the rest of the rhyme the rope is turned—faster and faster and over instead of being rocked.

The girls in grades four, five and six are interested in rope skipping but the interest seems to grow less in grades seven and eight.

The next event is balancing which we borrowed from the Playground Athletic Badge Test but we have varied it to fit the rest of our plan. The rules are as follows:

The balance beams found in each school shall be used. There is no time limit in this event but there should be an endeavor to meet the requirements promptly, without haste, and with perfect poise. In the first test the girl starts from the center of the beam, walks forward to the end, without turning, walks backward to center; turns and walks forward to other end; turns and walks forward to starting point.

In the second test the girl starts from the center of the beam with a bean-bag or book balanced on her head and walks forward to the end; turns and walks forward the entire length of the balance beam; without turning, walks backward to starting point. Two trials are allowed in each test.

Points—The first test shall earn three points, the second test shall earn five points. Ability to execute both shall earn ten points.

In connection with our gymnastic work posture tests are given once each month and the posture record counts points toward the athletic records as follows:

Each girl who is in Division one, Group one, in the last posture test of the year shall be given ten points toward the athletic button. Each girl who is in Division one, Group two, shall be given seven points.

Running and catching we have also borrowed from the Play-



## ATHLETICS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GIRLS

ground Association Badge Test, but have modified it slightly to fit the rest of our plan. The rules follow:

**Plan**—At a distance of thirty feet from the starting line and parallel to it, stretch a cord ten feet from the ground. On the signal, the girl runs from the starting line, tosses a Reach leather ball over the cord, catches it, and runs back to the starting line. Three such trips are made, finishing at the starting line. In case of failure to catch the ball, it must be secured, tossed over the cord (either direction) and caught before continuing the run. The starting line and the cord should both be well away from any wall, backstop or other object, so that neither the contestant nor the ball shall touch any obstruction during the run.

**Points**—Three trips in thirty seconds shall earn seven points. Three trips in twenty seconds shall earn ten points.

The rules for team games are as follows:

Five match games shall be played by each team during the year. Any games found on the outline may be used.

**Points**—Each member of the winning team shall be given three points for each game played. Each member of the losing team shall be given one point for effort.

The girls in grades five, six, seven, eight, and nine take part in the athletics so we have divided the events, assigning certain things to each grade.

We have planned the events with the seasons of the year in mind and with the physical training outline in mind, so that each event comes when it is best suited to the season and the outline, and as the events run through the whole year, there is always something to practice.

The girls are given some time to practice before the tests are given. Each class has a large score sheet which contains each girl's name and after it spaces for her record in each event.

Our assignment of events for this year is as follows:

1. Grades five and six:
  - 1-September and October:
    - (a) walking (b) team games (c) running and catching
  - 2-November, December, January, February, March:
    - (a) walking (b) rhythmic steps
    - (c) rhythmic plays (d) posture tests
  - 3-April and May:
    - (a) patch ball throw (accuracy) (b) rope skipping
    - (c) walking (d) team games
2. Grades seven and eight:
  - 1-September and October:
    - (a) walking (b) swimming
    - (c) volley ball serving

## ATHLETICS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GIRLS

- 2-November, December, January, February, March:
    - (a) walking (b) swimming (c) rhythmic steps
    - (d) rhythmic plays (e) basket ball—distance throw
    - (f) posture tests (g) volley ball serving—in November if necessary
  - 3-April and May:
    - (a) walking (b) swimming (c) patch ball—distance throw
  - 3. Grade nine:
    - 1-September and October:
      - (a) walking (b) swimming (c) volley ball serving
    - 2-November, December, January, February, March:
      - (a) rhythmic steps (b) rhythmic plays
      - (c) swimming (d) basket ball goal throw (e) balancing
    - 3-April and May:
      - (a) walking (b) swimming (c) patch ball—distance throw
- At the end of the year the buttons and banners are presented.

Last year we gave a simple banner to the class within each school which earned the highest class average and we gave a blue celluloid button to each girl earning the required number of points for the first button and a red button to each girl receiving the required number of points for the second button. We hope to have metal buttons typically our own this year.

Our plan is to give each girl earning seventy-five points during the year the first pin and each earning sixty points the second pin and give the class within each school earning the highest average a banner.

Last spring we had a special simple program when the buttons and banners were presented, in some cases a joint program with the boys. At these meetings we had short talks by the principals and teachers, some songs and school yells. This did much to arouse interest among the girls and recognition from the principals, teachers and other children.

Girls' athletics in Kalamazoo Schools are still in the experimental stage, but the results so far are good and we expect to continue to build on our present plan, and we hope that our next generation of women will be better fitted mentally, morally, physically for life's duties because of the opportunities we are trying to provide for our girls today.

## COMMENTS UPON THE KALAMAZOO PLAN

### COMMENTS UPON KALAMAZOO PLAN

I have received the outline of the Physical Education Department of the Kalamazoo Public Schools.

I think the general plan is excellent. I have only a few suggestions to make. I should like to see the purposes of the plan stated somewhat differently. Purpose Number One as stated is good. I should think Purpose Number Two might be stated better this way: to emphasize team work without neglecting individual work. It seems to me that the general plan really emphasizes individual work rather than team work, and we must not forget that team work as called for in class competitions where the award is made to the school attaining the highest class average is a very different thing from team work in a cooperative game like baseball, basket ball, hockey, and the like. This latter kind of team work is probably from an educational point of view more valuable than the former type of team work. There seems to be very little emphasis placed on the second type of team work for girls.

The third Purpose I should prefer to state in this way: to develop athletics suitable for girls, omitting the second clause, namely: "not an imitation of boys' athletics." As a matter of fact it seems to me that girls' athletics to a certain extent should be like boys' athletics, particularly during the years ten, eleven, and twelve.

As to trophies and pins, I have no suggestions to make. As to events, I feel like suggesting that the limit of the distance for walking might be greater in the two classes than the two miles and the three miles suggested. We are apt, I think, to underestimate the walking capacity of able-bodied children; the three-mile and the five-mile walks are not real achievements for average children of those ages.

As to the swimming, I should like to see recognition of more ambitious events than those cited. I approve of giving points for the minimum mentioned, but I think we should invite children to surpass the quite moderate events suggested.

I have no suggestions to make as to the rhythmic steps, the rhythmic plays, or the patch and basket ball throwing, catching, volley ball serving.

As to rope-skipping, I think the plan is excellent. However, I should like to see the tournament idea tried out in rope-skipping. I think there would be great possibilities in the tournament in connec-

## FURTHER WORD FROM MISS ROCKWELL

tion with rope-jumping and in connection also with several other games for girls, which are not mentioned in the outline.

I quite approve of the plan with regard to balancing, and believe that the time limit has been wisely omitted. I approve also of the plan with regard to the posture record, and think that recognition has been wisely given to this matter in the general plan.

I have never felt convinced that a combination of running and throwing or catching with a time limit should be included as one of the events for a badge test. I think that a standard for speed and a standard for accuracy ought to be kept separate except under such conditions as occur in competitive games where, of course, there is no time limit other than that necessitated by the efforts of the opposing players.

I could not get from the outline any definite idea at all of the use of the team games. To my mind these games are the most important part of the general plan.

I am sending this altogether too hastily dictated answer to your request knowing that the time is limited. If I can do anything further to serve you in this matter, I shall be glad.

Very sincerely yours,

George Ellsworth Johnson

## FURTHER WORD FROM MISS ROCKWELL

While our athletic plan calls for very little team work of the second kind—we use team games very extensively and have arranged a careful plan so that during the year the girls learn and play several types of team games which fit the seasons and our conditions (indoor and outdoor) as well as possible.

The amount of work with team games required for our athletic badge is very small and I think we could wisely add more.

Formerly we had our walking distances farther and I still think that most girls can walk farther under certain conditions. Most of our walking has to be done after three-thirty and it made the girls very late home. Some mothers objected and a few were quite disagreeable. We decided that it was better to modify our plan and keep enough walking to establish the habit even if it wasn't as much as we should like. Then, too, we usually have a lunch and campfire and that takes time. We want the girls to learn to love out of door living.

## ATHLETIC CONTESTS IN LAND OF MIDNIGHT SUN

More ambitious events in swimming would be desirable—but—we have one pool *only* and it is hard for most of our elementary girls to come often and I think the habit of coming is worth establishing and we made the requirements for the athletic button light—but we have offered in addition a certificate for swimming to all girls who can meet the requirements. Our theory is that the girls who come to our pool enough to get points toward the general athletic button will become interested enough to go on and get the swimming certificate.

The summary of games I am sending may give the impression that our game work is "too carefully planned." We play many other games and we play all of these games at other times besides the months they are suggested—but we make a business of teaching them carefully during the month they are on the outline.

Our social centers are going splendidly this year. I am getting some splendid results in folk dancing with mixed groups of boys and girls from sixteen to twenty or over.

Ethel Rockwell

## ATHLETIC CONTESTS IN THE LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN

A letter received from Walter W. Pettit, formerly field secretary of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, gives an interesting account of Scandinavian games. Mr. Pettit went to Europe to help in war relief work.

"We are some five hundred miles north of Stockholm, my Corona and I, and are rapidly nearing Russia. Dr. Devine met us at Stockholm and is accompanying us on our three-day trip around the Baltic. The country through which we are passing is rugged and covered with forests with many lakes and rivers. In the morning we shall be at the north end of the Baltic and near the Arctic Circle. Since we landed in Bergen the days have been long. The sun sets between ten and eleven and it is light enough to read large print throughout the night.

"These long days have been used to advantage in the Scandi-

## ATHLETIC CONTESTS IN LAND OF MIDNIGHT SUN

navian games which are at present being held in Stockholm. When we arrived in the city last Saturday morning everywhere were the beautiful Swedish flags, the 'yellow cross of the sun in the beautiful blue of the sky' as a patriotic young student told me. Posters announced the games and small boys were selling buttons and pins on the streets advertising the meet. Gymnasts from Denmark, Norway and from all parts of Sweden had gathered here to compete in athletic events, and the entire city was expressing its interest in the eight day festival. Taxis and trams were alike decorated with the national emblem.

"The program I am enclosing is for the opening day of the meet. We had hoped to attend the afternoon session in time to see the great opening procession but arrived late. The games are held in the stadium, a beautiful building of brick and stone located near the center of the city and seating probably some twenty thousand people. It was in this stadium that Thorpe became a household word in this country of athletes. These games are being held as a substitute for the Olympic games which were to have been in Berlin this summer.

"As we arrived the 1500 meter race was being held. A large number of uniformed cadets from the naval training school were singing and cheering the Swedish runners on. There was some beautiful running in which a Dane on the last lap with a magnificent spurt passed those in front of him and won the applause of the stands. A Swedish audience apparently seldom expresses any enthusiasm.

"The feature of the afternoon was a drill by some two hundred young men dressed in white uniforms. The movements were those of Ling, I believe that was the name of the exponent of the Swedish gymnastic system. It was interesting here in the home of the movement after so many years to find the same exercises that are used in some of our public schools today. In perfect time these men bent their heads and gracefully moved their legs and arms. I wonder if Father Jahn would not turn over in his grave could he see the formalism of modern gymnastics. We Americans found these exercises a little tedious and even when one of the athletes carrying another on his shoulder fell off a high beam on which he was balancing himself, could not join in the merriment of the crowd. Later they ran in perfect time and marched using several different steps. As one of the Swedes put it, the effort of these people is toward grace while the German is more interested in

## ATHLETIC CONTESTS IN LAND OF MIDNIGHT SUN

muscle development as a result of his Turning. A better example of the Swedish ideal could not be found than was given us in the hour's exhibition at the Stadium.

"Monday night about half-past eight I went out to the Games again and found a three-thousand meter race between Danes and Swedes being held. The Swedes easily outran the Danes. Then at half-past nine came a football game between the citizens of the old University town of Upsala and a team from Stockholm. The Rugby game was played and the spectators showed considerable enthusiasm, occasionally even breaking into a cheer, especially the younger boys present. Stockholm defeated Upsala after which a few more races were run and at eleven the games were called off for the night. From nine-thirty until eleven-thirty at night seems a long day.

"I gather from the program that other events were broad jumping, casting the javelin, discus throwing and dashes of various distances. Both times I was in the stadium there was a large crowd in attendance and numerous small boys anxious to slip in without paying or get a glimpse free from some neighboring elevation. The king was there the first afternoon, and a military band played as only a band in a music loving country like this can play.

"The Swedes who took part in the drill were as clean appearing a group of men as I have seen. They all had light hair and red cheeks, well-developed chests but under-developed limbs. They seem taller than other races. I have never seen so many tall men and women. Was at dinner the other night with a young student whose shoulder was on a level with the top of my head, and you will remember I am a little over six feet myself.

"While in Stockholm I had hoped to see something of the social developments of the school plant, but did not have time. Both at Stockholm and Christiania we passed school gardens very well cultivated with the same small plots one sees in our own gardens. Have not seen a playground nor a piece of apparatus though there are numerous parks especially in Stockholm. The municipal and state opera houses are of course as important as they are in other parts of Europe. Even in distant Bergen beyond the snow-covered mountains we found the population out in the evening walking about the band stand listening to the music or sipping coffee in one of the numerous restaurants near."

## PRACTICAL POINTS FROM RACINE

### PRACTICAL POINTS FROM RACINE

A. A. Fisk, Superintendent of Parks, Racine, Wisconsin,  
writes:

"I have found by experience that it is a very unwise policy to delegate any privilege whatsoever to private clubs. I think it is always well for the park department to lend its kind offices to further the interests of every kind of club that may be organized within the city, but I do not think it is at all just to give members of these private clubs privileges which are denied to the general public. I feel that it is much safer and much more in keeping with good, sound business judgment to fix a price for lockers and things of that sort which everyone must pay whether he does or does not belong to a club. The sole object of organizing these clubs is that they may conduct tournaments, making competitive play possible, and stimulating perhaps a greater interest in the game itself. It is much easier to foster that good-fellowship spirit within a club circle than it is with the unorganized general public. This is the advantage of organizing these clubs and the club members themselves receive the benefit and are not entitled, nor should they expect, to receive any other favors from the board of park commissioners.

"We have completed our building at Washington Park and are using it at the present time. This building contains shower baths and lockers for men and women, and of course is equipped with toilet facilities. There is a café and lounging room on the second floor, and a broad porch twenty feet wide and fifty-four feet long overlooking the golf course. We charge patrons of these locker rooms \$2.50 per year for a locker. Our lockers are fifteen inches wide, eighteen inches deep, and seventy-two inches high. We insist that these lockers be used by two individuals, each paying \$2.50 per year. We make no charge for the use of the building other than this locker fee. The showers are free and each patron who wishes to furnish his own towel is at liberty to do so. We issue towel tickets which will give you ten towels for twenty-five cents. A number is punched out of these tickets each time the towel is used. This merely covers the cost of towels and laundering.

"All concessions, and by that I mean the sale of refreshments and cigars, are sold direct by the board of park commissioners. We have an attendant who is paid a definite salary and we run this business just the same as anyone would run a mercantile business. All refreshments are sold at popular prices, and we are having no



## ONE YEAR OF RECREATION IN DETROIT

trouble at all in satisfying the public with the quality of service we are rendering.

"We do not recognize the Washington Park Golf Club in any official sense. We do, however, try to make things as agreeable for them as we possibly can. We encourage the holding of parties and social gatherings of all kinds at the club house, and we permit them to hold these parties under the auspices of the club management. The date, however, is set so that we know when these activities are going to take place. These activities are always held in the evening as the golf links is seldom visited by people except during the hours of daylight. We encourage these other activities because in this way we are making our equipment more useful and rendering more public service, and we think that is the function of our department."

## ONE YEAR OF RECREATION IN DETROIT

The report of the Recreation Commission of the City of Detroit at the end of the first year of its organization shows sixty-nine centers active through the summer months with an average weekly attendance of 91,371; sixty-four winter centers and twenty-eight skating rinks. The budget for this work did not become available until July first, so actual organized work began on that day.

The feature of the evening activity upon the summer playgrounds was the competition in playground ball between men's teams of the various centers. There were nine leagues and as many as seventy-eight teams playing in the regular weekly schedules. One of these teams was composed of players of six nationalities. Another had five ex-league players. Forty-five hundred persons were taught to swim.

Street play conducted upon a little oval of street parking transformed the space from a danger spot to an influence for good in the neighborhood. The full time of three policemen was released for other duties and the watchman "confined his efforts solely to waste paper and the mechanism of the fountain." The group maintained its organization at the close of the summer, meeting in a neighboring school or at the children's houses.

## CHILDREN'S NATURE EXPERIENCES

### CHILDREN'S NATURE EXPERIENCES TOLD IN THE CORNELL RURAL SCHOOL LEAFLET

One letter is from a boy who tells about the collection of birds' nests which they have made in his school, how they have mounted twenty-five on cardboard, and have many more to mount as soon as they can secure more cardboard. He says, "I got the barn swallow's nest out of a barn near the school by fastening a chisel to a pole and unloosened the nest from the rafter. It fell onto the haymow so it did not break at all. The red-winged blackbird's nest we found in a low bush near the water and the eggs were in it. Their color was bluish-white covered with black scrawls, and later we went there and saw the young ones in it. We have the blackbird's nest now." Boys and girls no longer collect bird's eggs because that is unnecessary cruelty but practically all birds build new nests every year so there is no harm in taking the old ones.

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A girl writes about watching some bluebirds build their nest in a birdhouse. Presently she discovered that there were five little white eggs in the nest, and finally she knew that the little birds had hatched out, for the parent birds began carrying worms to the nest. When the young birds were old enough to fly, the old ones would coax them to come out of the nest until one day the little birds flew away to care for themselves.

In making a birdhouse, one should take care not to make it too large and to have it look as much like a natural place as possible. It should be left unpainted unless the wood is bright and new and if painted, a dull gray or brown color should be used to make it look as much as possible like the tree limbs.

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An interesting day's camping trip which one teacher and her pupils took is described in one of the boys' letters. He tells how they gathered sticks to build a fire and roasted corn and potatoes for their lunch in the ashes. After lunch the boys built a dam so that there would be a place for them to go swimming in the summer and after they had finished that, the teacher read to them and they had a few classes. Before they left the place they were very careful to put out the fire for the teacher explained to them that many forest fires start through carelessness in putting out camp fires. On the way home, they found wild pears and wild thorn-apples to eat.

## PROTECTING THE WILD FLOWERS

The following brief extract from one letter contains an interesting suggestion: "Yesterday our teacher went ahead and we all marched behind her. She would go to a tree, and we had our pencils and paper with us and we would write on our paper what we thought it was. There were twenty-two trees and I knew fifteen of them right." An excellent way to learn how to identify the trees, isn't it?

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A little girl who is much interested in the birds tells how she and her classmates attract the birds around the schoolbuilding. They put crumbs of bread or cake, pieces of apple and suet, on the window-sill and watch the birds eat. The birds soon learn that no harm will come to them and they eat crumbs out of the hands of their little friends in the school.

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Not many of us have had such an experience as one of the boys relates in his letter. He went to the woods one Saturday and, after he had walked a long way, he lay down in the long grass to rest. While he was listening to the song of a robin-redbreast in a tree overhead, a grasshopper hopped toward the lad, stretched out his long legs and fastened his sharp claws in the grass, then his skin split open beginning at his head and he crawled out of the shell dressed in a new suit of bright green. Most grasshoppers shed their skin or "molt" five times, a professor of entomology tells us.

## PROTECTING THE WILD FLOWERS

Joseph Lee, Boston, Massachusetts, President Playground and Recreation Association of America

I believe a lot could be done for a neglected sort of recreation by interesting school children in the campaign for the preservation of our native plants, and if an interest in birds could be added we might do even more. The result, in fact, would be a protection to the birds, to the plants and to the suburbanite—killing three birds with one stone, as it were—besides giving boys and girls better fun on their spring exploring or marauding expeditions than they now enjoy.

## PROTECTING THE WILD FLOWERS

Of course everybody wants to go out into the country on a spring or summer afternoon and come home tired and laden with the spoils of the chase, but if he goes armed with a pair of field glasses, a notebook and a camera, it would be possible for him to get the spoils without spoiling or despoiling other things or people. A bird or plant can be photographed a great deal oftener without material damage than it can be picked, "rocked" or have its nest plundered, and with equal impunity.

Then there is the special joy, shared by St. Augustine in his memorable exploit with the neighbor's pear tree (and if there was any sweetness in them it was the sweetness of stolen fruit), in stealing fruit or other edible commodity so long as it is presented in the way that fetched our first parents direct from the tree itself. Suburbanites, indeed, might almost start and finance a movement to get the necessary teaching and suggestion into the schools in sheer self-defence.

The Audubon Society and the Society for the Protection of Native Plants should help, and would be, I think glad to help in any such campaign in any city. A member of the society writes me:

"The object of the Society for the Protection of Native Plants is to check the unnecessary waste and destruction of our native plants. Its work is done by the distribution of literature, and especially by interesting children, although it must be admitted that the older people are often quite as thoughtless in despoiling our wild flowers.

"It is not necessary to discourage altogether the gathering of wild flowers and ferns for decorative purposes. We merely ask that the flowers shall be picked with a little care and discrimination. We would remind people that if our woods, fields, and roadsides are to retain the loveliness of wild flower growth, many flowers of each species must be allowed to go to seed.

"Tillage and buildings necessarily tend to restrict the areas where wild flowers can flourish, but it is possible to help the flowers to hold their own in places where they can still grow. The love of natural beauty ought to lead us to use moderation in breaking off large branches of flowering shrubs, which represent the growth of many years, but can live in water but a few days.

"Many of the flowers most effective for decoration can be gathered, away from the roadside, without fear of doing any permanent harm. Such are the daisy, buttercup, clover, wild-rose,

## COMMERCIAL RECREATION TRANSFORMED

meadow-sweet, steeple-bush, aster, goldenrod, and other vigorous and abundantly growing plants. Any of these are beautiful in the house or on the piazza. From the picking or the purchase, however, of the rarer flowers, and especially of the purple fringed orchid, the sabbatia, the fringed gentian, or the mayflower, we entreat every one to abstain.

"To interest children in plants give them a garden to care for. This need not mean anything large or costly; a small window-box or a patch of cultivated earth a few feet square is ample. Let them raise either vegetables or flowers, just something to awaken an interest in growing things. The plants selected to grow should be easy to get and easy to grow, and should be of a kind yielding quick results and with a long season of productiveness. For a simple flower-garden pansies are among the best plants, for they give an abundance of bloom throughout the entire season. Also to be recommended are petunias, nasturtiums, morning glories, scarlet runners, marigolds, dahlias, and golden glow. If a child once gets the pleasure of success in such a bed, its interest is awakened and the result may be real love of a garden and of the living things about us. To such a person needless destruction of wild plants is abhorrent, and the protection of them a duty.

We urge:

1st. Moderation. (Do not gather too many flowers of the same kind in one locality!)

2nd. Care. (Use scissors or knife.)

3rd. Judgment. (Respect the roadside and conspicuous plants!)

4th. Occasional total abstinence. (Never pick especially rare flowers!)

The Society is glad to furnish leaflets to anyone interested. Application should be made to Society for the Protection of Native Plants, 66 Newbury Street, Boston."

## COMMERCIAL RECREATION TRANSFORMED

In Kansas City, Missouri, inspectors from the Recreation Department of the Board of Public Welfare visit each public dance hall every night that it is open. These men report to the office any irregularities and the matter is taken up with the management of the place.

## COMMERCIAL RECREATION TRANSFORMED

When the work was begun, in 1910, as many as fifty-two names of girls under age attending the dance halls were reported in a single night but at the present time about four cases in a week is a fair average. The number of cases of patrons found drinking liquor brought into the place or appearing to be under the influence of liquor have been reduced to a minimum. Constant pressure on the managers of the dance halls has borne fruit. They are co-operating in spirit as they never did before, realizing that the clean places of amusement are more profitable than those conducted under suspicion. They are becoming educated to the desire to have their business rated as a well as other forms of amusement.

The general rules of conduct to be enforced by the management of the dance halls require that the halls be brightly lighted during *all* the time they are in use, that no undue familiarity between partners be allowed, that people under the influence of liquor be refused admittance to the hall, that the dance shall close at twelve o'clock unless special permission to continue later is obtained, that girls sixteen and under shall not be admitted unless accompanied by parents or some other respectable adult, and that smoking, profanity, or boisterous conduct shall not be permitted.

The skating rinks of the city are also regulated by an ordinance similar to that controlling the dance halls and the rules of conduct are practically the same for both places. Minors are not permitted to attend the rinks after nine o'clock at night unless accompanied by parents or guardian.

The censorship of motion picture films as carried on by the Recreation Department in cooperation with the National Board of Censorship has grown from a feeble attempt without an ordinance in 1911 to fairly effective work under the ordinance that has been enforced since May 4, 1914. Through the efforts of a number of public-spirited men and women of Kansas City to get an effective law regulating the exhibition of motion pictures, one was passed by the Council creating the position of Censor of Films and Pictures and a Board of Appeals of three persons appointed by the Mayor. The censor was transferred by the civil service commission to the recreation department. Some of the managers of film exchanges cooperated with the department from the beginning. The refractory ones were finally won over by firmness and fairness. As the work progressed, it became impossible to keep a check on what was being released by visiting the first release theatres. Too much time was consumed by the deputy having to wait through an entire

## THE STORYTELLER BECKONS

program in order to see the picture in question. It was also impractical to make any cuts that were necessary in the operator's booth in the theatre. A projection room was fitted up in connection with the recreation department offices in October, 1913, and the film companies were directed to bring the films to this projection room. Two projection machines take care of this work. The film exchanges are required to furnish the department each week with a list of their releases for the week and this list is checked against a list furnished by the National Board of Censors. If any picture appears on the release sheet furnished by the film company that appears on the list furnished by the National Board of Censorship, as passed subject to certain eliminations, that picture is ordered into the projection room of the department to be reviewed and if the eliminations have not been made, they are cut here. If the film company refuses to allow the cuts to be made, the film is not allowed to be run in the city. One of the difficulties to be overcome is that the present motion picture ordinance prohibits only those pictures that can be proven immoral or obscene while other pictures containing very objectionable scenes that cannot be defined as being either immoral or obscene are allowed to run.

## THE STORYTELLER BECKONS

Extract from Letter from Evelyn Shedd, Washington, D. C.

Every evening at twilight the little folks gathered together under the pine trees for a story hour. There were about thirty children of varied ages so I tried at first having three evenings a week for the younger ones, and the alternate evenings for the older children. But since they all came each evening I changed the plan, telling a story for the little children first and then one for the older ones. I let the wishes of the children themselves govern the selection of stories for the most part and it was interesting to note how completely their requests covered the various types of stories, fairy stories, folklore, myths, fables, nature stories, animal stories, adventure tales, mystery stories, the experiences of the Knights of the Round Table and Robin Hood and his merry men and of course the fun stories.

The playground teacher and I cooperated in arranging an inter-

## TRAINED TEACHERS PROMOTE COMMUNITY SPIRIT

esting hour with the children Wednesday and Saturday evenings for the parents and grown-ups to enjoy as well. We had them dramatize some of the simplest stories, and taught them games, folk dances and rhythms, varying the program each evening. The final evening was especially effective and fanciful. The children represented fairies, flowers and elves, sleeping in the woodland. Spring awakened them to laughter, song and dance, until the chill winds of the autumn blew them away.

Every Tuesday morning I read short stories or current novels to the ladies of the community and every Thursday night I helped arrange a program of "Home Talent." Before the summer was over almost every talented member of the club had his hidden abilities, musical, literary or artistic displayed for the pleasure of the community. I filled in when necessary with stories or book reviews. The selection of stories for the older folks was the most difficult part of the work, possibly because my storytelling heretofore had been confined to children almost exclusively.

A previous experience in summer work with children may interest you, so I will give you a brief outline of it. The Children's Department of the Public Library has a branch in Georgetown which reaches the poorer class of children. For two summers I had a story hour for the children when they came to exchange books once a week. The other mornings I went to different localities, gathering the children together under a tree or on a vacant lot for three hours of games and stories. In one district there was neither tree nor grass plot, so I took the group of children, twenty or thirty in number, eight blocks to Montrose Park. Such a time as we had there, tramping the hills, playing games, wading in the creek on hot mornings and telling stories. The interest of the older brothers and sisters and even the mothers was a constant surprise to me.

The object of the work was primarily to give the children wholesome pleasure, but of course close in the background was the desire to develop in them a taste for good literature and ideals of right living.

## TRAINED TEACHERS PROMOTE COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Reports from teachers trained by the Wisconsin County Training Schools for Teachers in Rural Schools indicate the tremendous vitalizing force even one person may be in community affairs.



## TRAINED TEACHERS PROMOTE COMMUNITY SPIRIT

"One teacher called in the physician from the neighboring village and asked him to come and speak to her people on tuberculosis. He had been principal of one of the high schools of the state and readily responded. The interest which his address aroused led the people to desire regular gatherings of that kind. The teacher secured the organization of a society which has maintained monthly meetings for the past three years." \* \* \* \*

"She was no common teacher, but was a real spirit of progress in the community. She went after the board, after the boys, after their parents until she secured for her school ground the best equipment of play apparatus in the county." \* \* \* \*

"Here, somewhat in the back woods, she went to work. She organized the women and girls into a sewing circle. She secured a Babcock milk tester and got all her pupils and many of the farmers interested in the testing of milk. She interested the farmers in tested seed corn, so that every farmer in her district planted tested seeds. She secured through her sewing circle the most complete equipment of almost any school in the county." \* \* \* \*

"The children wanted me to see their basement; so the teacher took me down to see it. The furnace sat in the middle, dividing the one large room. In each corner was a playhouse, and one or two others edged in between. Each playhouse contained the rustic furniture made by the children and was supplied with rugs of their own making, pictures of their own framing, tables furnished with dishes and linen; and all was complete. The ingenuity of each family or set of children was plainly shown, and there were visible signs of a little suggestion by the teacher.

"I was told that the children ate their dinners in their play dining rooms and that they often visited each other and ate dinner with each other, observing the best etiquette of the neighborhood. They were happy and proud of their lovely basement."

## BOOK REVIEWS

### BOOK REVIEWS

#### PLAY LIFE OF THE FIRST EIGHT YEARS

By Luella A. Palmer. Published by Ginn and Company, Boston, Mass. Price, \$1.20

Sometimes even the reviewer is nonplussed. Occasionally, once at least in a life-time, even to the most captious, comes a book of which he longs to say, "I can't do it justice. Read it, memorize it and try to live it, and the world will be the better." Such a gift has Miss Palmer given students of child life. One might catalogue the fanciful plays, the charming rhymes, the bubbling games; one might tell of the womanly tenderness and sympathetic comprehension of the way of a little child—but after all, it would be better for your children if you were reading the book instead of the review.

#### TEN BOYS' FARCES

By Eustace M. Peixotto. Published by Walter H. Baker and Company, Boston, 1916. Price, twenty-five cents

These farces originated as impromptu entertainments at the Columbia Park Boys' Club, in San Francisco. So popular were they that they were played again and again, some of them fully 2000 times until they became somewhat crystallized—though they are constantly modified in use by their originators and heirs in the Columbia Park Club. Crude, "roughhouse," boisterous, they are certainly of the boy, by the boy and for the boy.

In the author's preface, an exposition of the value of such spontaneous ingenuity as is represented in these farces is presented.

#### CITY RESIDENTIAL LAND DEVELOPMENT

Publication of the City Club of Chicago. Published by the University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois. Edited by Alfred B. Yeomans, Landscape Architect

The results of the competition in plans for the development of a quarter-section in Chicago, held by the City Club in 1913, are here made available. Many of the plans submitted in the competition are shown, together with the discussion by the architect. These plans are made more valuable by the discussion from aesthetic, sociological and economic viewpoints provided by expert critics.

Carol Aronovici, who contributes the sociological critique, notes the general acceptance on the part of the competitors of the necessity for adequate recreational and play facilities. No plan, however, provides for a recreation system consistent with the needs of the population to be accommodated. Some plans provide great spaces near detached houses and almost none near apartments and the more congested areas. Some place playgrounds as objective points of main thoroughfares, which exposure to the public gaze may tend, the critic says, to foster "self-consciousness and a desire for display."

The critic questions placing groups of public buildings "out of proportion to the home atmosphere which it is especially desirable to convey in such a develop-

## BOOK REVIEWS

ment.\*\*\*\*\*In the center of a great city or the plaza of a community as a unit, it may be found convenient to concentrate many structures at a point where they would be most easily found and where they would give expression to the civic pride of the people. In a small section, however, such as was involved in the competition, concentration of the civic structures and spaces is not necessary, but detrimental to the wholesome community life of the people. The mob spirit in amusement centers is an enemy of the home and of society. The concentration of recreational facilities at a single point intensifies the use or abuse of amusement facilities and the commercial values of such concentration are so great as to stimulate an undue effort on the part of those financially interested to detract from the home life and foster the street habit."

### PLAYS FOR HOME, SCHOOL, AND SETTLEMENT

By Virginia Olcott. Designs for costumes by Harriet Mead Olcott. Published by Moffatt, Yard & Co., New York. Price, \$1.00, net

Six charming little plays in simple prose and easy rhythms make up this book. There are few speaking characters, but many supernumeraries may be employed. The plays have all been used by the author and her friends. They have dignity and a fine moral tone—not too obvious.

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## MUNICIPAL GOLF LINKS

# MEDART MEDALS

As a means of elevating the standard of physical efficiency, more and more cities throughout the country are employing Medal Tests for Playground activities.

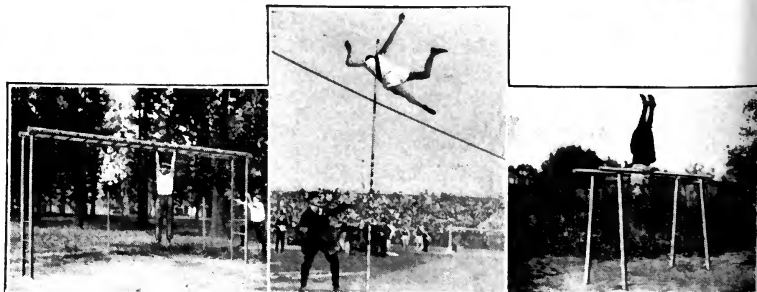
Medart Medals are furnished free with Medart Playground Equipment. These medals are of intrinsic value and will be cherished by the children receiving them.

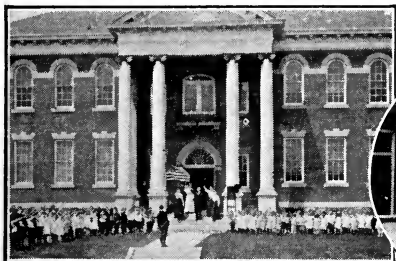
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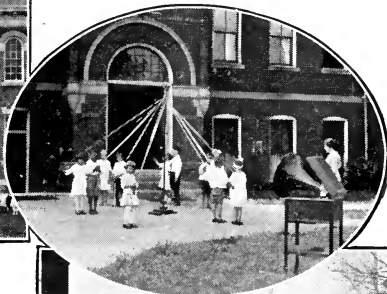
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Folk Dancing, Waco, Texas

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In all modern festivals, pageants and community gatherings we make use of the Folk Song and the Folk Dance, because they are the oldest forms of human expression, and represent successive stages in the growth of poetry, history and nationality.

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are now used universally to furnish the Music for Drills, Exercises, Field Days, Plays, Festivals and Pageants in the School and on the Playground.

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|                     |   | Hail Columbia (Jos. Hopkinson-Prof. Phile)                 | Victor Band          |

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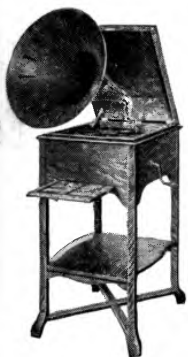
- |                        |   |   |                      |
|------------------------|---|---|----------------------|
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Any Victor dealer will gladly play any of the above selections for you, and supply you with the Victor booklets, "The Victor in Physical Education," and "New Victor Records for Educational Use." For further information, write to the

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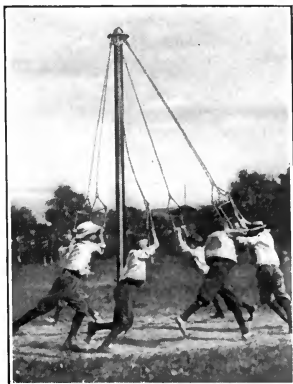
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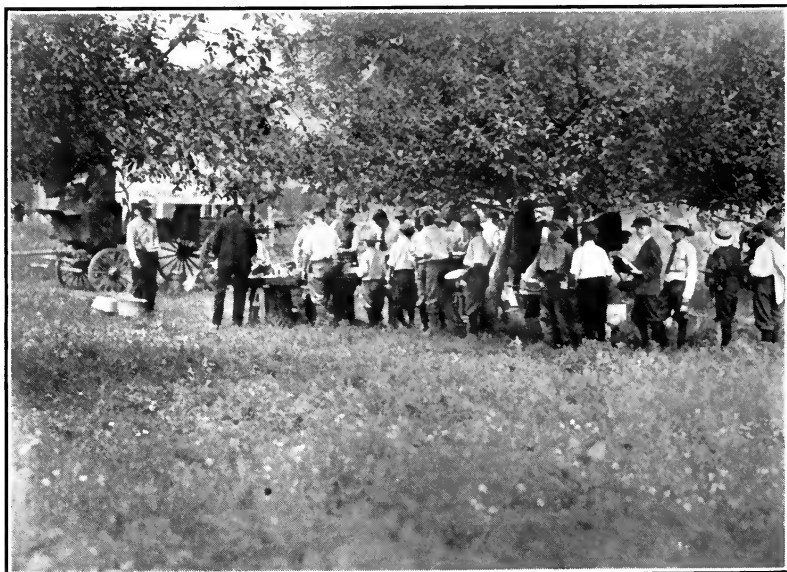
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Cass County, Indiana, Boys' Hike

THE NOON-DAY LINE-UP

## National Conference of Charities and Corrections.

—The Conference will open in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 6, 1917. Problems of community life will be the chief interest of the program. Thirty-five hundred delegates are expected. Full information may be secured from the General Secretary, William T. Cross, 315 Plymouth Court, Chicago, Illinois.

## Does America Want Military Training for Schoolboys?

The Peace Committee of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends has secured the views of eighty men, prominent in various phases of American life to answer this question. The answer is a *no*, almost unanimous—not *military* training in schools, but *physical training* to conserve strength for the nation.

## City at Large Should Pay for Playgrounds.

—A suggestion to provide playgrounds by assessing fifty percent on surrounding land and fifty percent on the borough, is assailed by E. M. Bassett. Mr. Bassett urges that increased value of land used for business should be used for playgrounds just as it is for schools and for the people who have created these values, though they may live in another borough.

**Old Newspapers for Play.**—The children of Brattleboro,

Vermont, have collected newspapers and magazines to sell—enough to provide three play leaders and some equipment. Last year only one leader was employed.

## Donates Playground to Braintree.

—N. Eugene Hollis has presented a twenty-one acre field, valued at \$4000, to Braintree, Massachusetts. The donor has already spent \$2500 in improvements of the land, which is high ground sloping off to a river at a place which can be flooded for a skating rink.

Mr. Hollis has previously presented a school lot to the town and made a liberal contribution toward the purchase of ground for another playground.

## Utica Playgrounds Lose a Friend.

—Through the death of Rev. Dana W. Bigelow, D. D., every movement for community betterment in Utica lost a friend and zealous worker. Particularly the playground and recreation movement will miss him, for, for over sixteen years he stood as the pioneer president of the playgrounds committee, serving loyally in the ranks after the committee became the Association. He had rarely missed a meeting and was conversant with every detail of the work. He himself took the responsibility for winter care of apparatus, for years. He it was who promoted interest in the

history of the region through many lectures and expeditions and at last in assisting in arranging a historical pageant.

**Campaign in Williams-town.**—As a result of a ten-day campaign under the leadership of Professor Howe, of Williams' College, Williams-town, Massachusetts, the membership in the Williamstown Playground Association was increased to 462 and more than \$800 was added to the recreation fund. An additional two hundred dollars was spent by one member in remodelling a hall for a gymnasium.

A mass meeting at Williams' Inn, at which one of the most powerful politicians came out vigorously for the movement, was followed by a minstrel show a few days later, in which the newly organized community orchestra appeared.

**Measuring up to Sister Cities.**—Newport, Rhode Island, recreation workers while surveying conditions in Newport, also obtained similar statistics from fourteen other cities of approximately the same size. While Newport compared favorably with the others, yet a great need for active outdoor recreation was indicated by the report.

**Making Rainy Days Count.**—Upon five rainy days, when Oakland, California, play-

grounds had to be closed, Walter Christie, track coach of the University of California, spoke to the men of the department upon the technique of track work.

**That Easy Job of Play Leader.**—Urging more systematic organization of playground work, the *Reading Herald* says:

"It is an axiom that the most important part of a playground system is its instructors. Apparatus counts for very little if there is not the right sort of man or woman there to make the apparatus go. A perfectly barren and empty field may be made the most successful playground in the countryside if a capable man or a tactful woman is put in charge of it.

"But the capable man and the tactful woman must be stationary if there are to be results. The playground season is brief at best. The usefulness of the instructors is cumulative. They must be much more efficient in late August than in early July, for they will have learned to know the children well by that time. They will understand their peculiarities. They will note their idiosyncrasies. The instructors will have learned something new every day. And while they may have entered the playground as a stranger on the fifth of July, they should leave it on Labor



## THE WORLD AT PLAY

Day as the ardent friend, the genuine sympathizer, the successful uplifter of a little regiment of children whom they know, not as 'that freckle-faced boy with a squint' and 'that snub-nosed girl with the blue hair ribbon,' but as Susie and Katie and Clarence and Mike."

**A Coroner Advocating Playgrounds.**—Peter M. Hoffman, Coroner of Cook County, Illinois, advocating an appropriation to keep Chicago's school playgrounds open, declares closed playgrounds would double the number of deaths by street accidents.

**Problem Grows More Acute.**—*Life* comments upon the increasing danger to children in crowded streets and sees in playgrounds the necessary means of defense:

"Certainly nobody would have the audacity to suggest adding to our already overburdened curriculum a class in training infants to dodge automobiles. Merely as an adequate means of national defense for the future, we shall soon be compelled to tear down many of our city buildings to provide space for playgrounds."

**Money Value of Parks and Boulevards.**—In the beginning I did not feel we could afford to set aside a large amount of land for parks and boulevards; now we are paying enormous prices

for the privilege of affording our customers these parks.—J. C. Nichols in *American Civic Association Series II No. 5* (November, 1912)

**Harks Back to the Revolution.**—General Gage's spirit must have hovered near the street commissioners of Boston upon a recent occasion, when, for the second time in the city's history, boys and girls appeared before municipal authorities to plead their right to coast on Roxbury streets and again the right to the pursuit of happiness was vindicated.

**Correspondence Course in Recreation.**—The University of California announces a correspondence course in the organization and management of playgrounds, given by Mr. Nash, under the general supervision of Associate Professor Kleeberger of the Department of Physical Training.

**Recreation Applied to Country Life Problems.**—Such is the title of a four weeks' summer course given by the Massachusetts Agricultural College and the Northeastern Field Committee of the Young Women's Christian Association, at Amherst, Massachusetts, July 2 to 31. The course on *Organised Play and Recreation* will be given by Agnes Burns Ferguson—now Dr. Ferguson—of Pittsburgh, whose growing in-

sight into the meaning of play for the family and the community has been the inspiration of many play leaders.

**Work - Study - Play.** — The Brooklyn *Eagle* sees the point when it declares the "work-study-play" school worthy of intelligent interest and support as the "first serious effort for a coordinated all-round development of the great mass of future citizens, such as the 'country day schools' seek to give their selected pupils."

**Inaugural Declares for Open Schoolhouses.**—Mayor Charles S. Ashley, of New Bedford, Massachusetts, taking the oath of office for the eighteenth time, advocated throwing open the schoolhouses when they were wanted.

**Coyotes for the Treasury.**—A novel way of earning money for a playground in Custer County, Nebraska, was by a coyote "round up." The pelts were sold and the money turned into the treasury.

**Rally Days for Advertising.**—A series of "rally days" were given in the various playground districts of Oakland, California, at which an attractive program was presented and neighbors who knew told those who didn't know what the playgrounds had to offer them and their children.

**A Proper Study for Par-**

**ents.**—A call sent out for a parent-teachers' association in Des Moines reads as follows:

"The next regular meeting of the Parent-Teachers' Association of the North High School will be held in the North High School auditorium next Monday evening at eight o'clock. Mr. L. H. Weir, Field Secretary of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, who is in Des Moines for an extended study of our recreational needs and opportunities, will be present and talk on *A Community's Recreation*.

"The following resolution formulated by the Executive Board will be presented at this meeting:

'Recognizing the urgent need for concerted action on the part of parents in the social life of our sons and daughters, we, the parents and patrons of the North High School, do resolve—

'That we encourage the organization of social interests within the school, pledging ourselves to lend our aid in every way to the support of such clubs:

'That we unite in opposing expensive social affairs, late hours, and interference with school work in both school and neighborhood gatherings, believing such affairs should be confined to Friday and Saturday evenings and to seasonable hours;

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

"That we refuse to allow our sons and daughters membership in any club or society in which the spirit and letter of the anti-fraternity law is violated;

'To the support of the above, in the interest of better life in the home, the school, and the community, we pledge our individual and collective action.' "

**Community Festival Course.**—Cedar Springs, Michigan, successfully conducted a lyceum combining "home talent" and motion pictures. Ten programs were given—two by the dramatic club of the school-community center, two by the orchestra, two by the choral club, one lecture and *Quo Vadis* and *Last Days of Pompeii* in moving pictures. The last program was a May festival put on by all the clubs working together. Course tickets sold at one dollar and a half.

**"Community Day."**—A musical program, an Edison concert, a parlor field meet and gymnastic drills made up the program of the "community day" held by the Roxbury, New York, Young Men's Christian Association. A Harvester drill by boys in overalls using turnips for dumbbells was popular. A "community sing" closed the day.

**Bennington's Hallowe'en.**—Miss Agnes Whipple sends the following account of Bennington's Hallowe'en:

"For several years the community celebrations in our village have been conducted under the management of The Public Welfare Association—or The Civic League, as the organization was called in its earlier years—and always these celebrations have been a success. But the palm was awarded the 1916 observance of Hallowe'en, as to size, the enthusiastic support given by the public and the amount of enjoyment apparent on all sides.

"Heretofore in our Hallowe'en parades each group has masqued and costumed according to its own ideas. But this time the parade was centered upon the idea of representing Mother Goose characters, and the result was far more interesting and attractive. There were thirty-five floats in line, all splendidly arranged and decorated, and many had particular aptness; for instance, one of our leading clothiers named Cole arranged his float to represent *Old King Cole and His Fiddlers Three*; and a plumbing firm very cleverly showed one depicting *Rub-a-dub-dub, Three Men in a Tub*.

"The parade was headed by the Chairman of the Festival Committee, dressed as Uncle Sam, and there were over six hundred in line. After the parade, the band played for a time in the principal square, one section of which was cleared and swept

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for dancing. This part of the program opened with a snake dance, under the direction of Physical Director Mann. General dancing followed. The crowd on the streets was immense and the square so packed that one could hardly struggle through. There were various estimates of the number of people thronging the streets as spectators, and while it was impossible to get a very accurate estimate, everyone agreed that pretty nearly the entire population was present, enjoying themselves hugely.

"The most gratifying feature of the entire affair to the Welfare Association was the spirit of co-operation shown by the merchants and different organizations taking part. Several merchants were so pleased with the outcome of their efforts that they announced their intention of participating even more largely another year, and others who were not represented expressed their determination to take part next time. The absence of any hint of rowdyism was particularly noticeable, good-natured fun and jollity prevailing everywhere. Many of us have visions of a time when our young people will have forgotten that Hal-lowe'en ever meant rough practices and rowdyism."

**Happy Evenings.**—Katherine F. Smith, conducting the

first summer playground at Bath, Pennsylvania, found the long summer evenings the time to make the playground count for the community:

"After supper the parents would come up and watch the children play and dance.

"The older boys and girls, who were not provided for in the equipment of the grounds, enjoyed seeing the youngsters do their folk dancing so well that they were eager to learn. So a social dancing class was formed in connection with the playground, and three evenings a week in a hall hired for the purpose I instructed these young people in modern dancing. I might add that a goodly number of 'real grown-ups' participated

"The last night was a beautiful moonlight one—almost as bright as day. We had a grand finale. Almost everyone in town was there. The children danced and the older boys and girls danced—the dancing class giving the crowd an extra treat by appearing in costume—giving a grand march and winding the May pole, to the great delight of everyone present. The hall in which the masquerade was held was so small that visitors and friends had to be excluded, only the local editor and three or four matrons being present."

**A Neighborhood Associa-**

**tion That Does Things.**—The report of the Matinecock Neighborhood Association for the year 1916 shows many recreational features. These features center about the neighborhood house which was built in 1914 through the cooperation of 110 families. The building is worth \$31,000 and contains an auditorium, social room, bowling alleys, pool table, lavatories, motion picture booth and room for the village fire department. The attendance at the house during the past year was more than 800 a week, and the income for the year was \$4,039. A dancing class, whose enrollment of a hundred made it necessary to meet in three divisions instead of one as planned, was one of the new developments during 1916. The class was conducted by volunteers and met once a week all winter and once a month during the summer. Each member of the class paid fifteen cents a lesson, the proceeds going to the house. Then there were motion pictures twice a week, lectures, and many church socials held in the auditorium. There was a choral club reorganized during the year and this has now a membership of thirty-five members. The meetings are well attended and when the club gave an open rehearsal the audience was large and enthusiastic. The house is said

to be in use for some recreational purpose every night in the week, and has brought to the community much that it could not otherwise have had.

A library containing 3500 volumes is conducted as well as class-room libraries at various schools. School gardens, a public bathing beach, skating and winter sports have also been enjoyed as a result of the efforts of the Neighborhood Association.

At a "Bob-sled Carnival" held in February, nine villages competed for the Association's trophies and for sweepstake prizes. The "Matinecock," the new bob owned by the women of the Matinecock Neighborhood Association, took third prize as it did a few days later at the Huntington Carnival.

**Making Room for Neighborliness.**—In a neighborhood center ought there to be an opportunity for "private" or "exclusive" groups from neighborhoods to meet? Whether you turn to city or country at the present time you have a large part of most neighborhoods unorganized. If all the people of a neighborhood were already members of a neighborhood group there would be much less need of the neighborhood centers. The individuals who are not sharing in a community life have however

an unconscious desire to be part of the neighborhood. A center which is largely a place for private or exclusive groups already formed, which does not help to organize the great unorganized part of the neighborhood, falls short of the true ideal of neighborliness. It is because so many families have no neighborhood relationship that there is such need of a neighborhood center.

A neighborhood center, like the church, can be organized to death. We do not want always to travel with just the same group. So far as we do this we narrow ourselves and become less useful citizens, less efficient neighbors. We want to try out new groups and new combinations and through the influence of new friends make new discoveries as to latent possibilities within ourselves.

Much of our modern leisure time life is carried on through groups but these groups are ever-changing and the mortality of private associations is great—for which we have many times reason to be grateful. If social life, neighborliness, is organized too much it is killed and only the ugly corpse remains. Neighborliness, play, is a spirit not to be too closely measured with a ruler, chained with formal plans, or with too elaborate tables of statistics. The greatest

need is for big men with big souls who will make neighborliness attractive.

**Somebody to Talk to.—**

"I want somebody to talk to and there isn't anyone I know well enough."

The neighborhood center helps many a stranger to find the comradeship he longs for.

**Music Brings Cheer.**—"Buffalo will need its community chorus in war time. Every city in America will need one. There isn't anything like song to cheer the heart in times of turmoil, or to keep the mind from dwelling on misfortune." So Harry Barnhart prefaced the singing of *America* by the Buffalo community chorus, 300 strong, in the high school building, though a blizzard raged and some of the singers had walked miles in the storm.

**State Moving Picture Films.**

—Governor T. W. Beckett, of North Carolina, in his message to the legislature and people of his state, advocates a state appropriation of \$50,000 to further the use of educational motion pictures.

**More Gardens for Boys and Girls.**—Commissioner Claxton's plan for using vacant lots and boys' and girls' time for making gardens is echoed in a circular sent to the schools of Ontario, Canada by the Minister of Education. Larger home

and school gardens, with less space for flowers and more for plants of food value are urged.

**Boys' and Girls' Expositions.**—A modern method of utilizing the play spirit in work lies in the expositions held in a number of communities for boys and girls. Here are displayed the results of a summer's gardening, handiwork, arts-crafts—all the work of the boys and girls themselves. The third annual event of this kind was held in Burlington, Vermont, in October. Exhibits of vocational and pre-vocational work were made, the most interesting exhibits taking the form of class demonstrations by pupils of schools and other institutions from all over Vermont.

**Snow-Man Competition.**—The playgrounds of Rochester, New York, held an inter-playground "snow-man competition." Only children under fourteen were allowed to compete. Points were awarded as follows: 30 for height, 30 for appearance and proper proportion, 30 for originality in design, 10 for difficulties overcome, such as accumulation of snow. Metal or wooden supports were permitted but stuffing with old clothes was not encouraged. The same judges visited all the playgrounds before dark, measuring the snow-men and giving 30 points for the tallest, no

points for height for the smallest and points in proportion to height for the others.

**Exhibit of School Equipment for Little Children.**—

At the Riverside Branch of the New York Public Library, an exhibit was held for the purpose of showing materials which are adapted to free use by children under seven years of age "at the promptings of their own creative impulses." It also showed results accomplished by young children. It included drawing materials, building blocks of all sorts, crayons and paints and many other materials with which a child develops individuality while playing. There were also pictures (if such irregular forms could be called pictures) drawn by children and exhibits of apparatus from different companies. One particularly interesting exhibit was that of some furniture made by children under seven—a doll's bureau, chairs, tables. An exhibit given by the School of Childhood of the University of Pittsburgh showed an ingenious two-story structure of wood which could be placed in a playroom. By means of this, space could be economized as children might play on both stories at the same time. A screen to place between the children in the playroom so that each child's play might be more

individual, was not universally approved. The exhibit is to go to Boston and later to Teachers' College.

**Discs for Dice.**—Superintendent of Playgrounds and Recreation, Robert A. Bernhard of Rochester, N. Y., has designed a dial to take the place of dice in the game of parchesi. The advantage of this dial is obvious. It is made by printing all the combinations of numbers it is possible to obtain with two dice, on a paper disc, which is pasted upon a block of wood in the following manner;

Shellac the block with white shellac, sandpaper the top, paste disc on sandpapered surface with library paste, shellac over the surface while the paste is still moist, varnish entire block with spar varnish, these steps are necessary to keep the varnish or shellac from soaking under the paper and staining the disc.

A substantial spinner is made from a brass strip one-fourth inch wide and one-sixteenth inch thick. By sawing V shape, the V makes the point of one spinner and the tail of another with one operation.

Fasten the spinners to the blocks by the use of washers and brass nails.

The paper discs can be purchased in Rochester N. Y., at \$1.50 per hundred or \$5.50

for 500, as they have the type already set up, they probably can make them at a better price.

**Swimming to a B. A.**—Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va., requires each student receiving a diploma to pass a series of swimming tests, the last one being the carrying of a man of one's own size twenty-five feet in deep water. The gymnasium of the University is as full of workers as any college laboratory.

**Permits for Municipal Tennis.**—Many cities do not use any permits but open the courts on the principle of "first come, first served."

East Orange, New Jersey, reserves two of its tennis courts each Saturday afternoon and on holidays for adults. No reservations of any courts can be made in advance. Singles are not allowed when others are waiting to play, and no court can be used continuously by the same party for more than forty minutes if others desire to use it. To accommodate business men who wish to play before going to the day's duties, the courts are open for tennis at six a. m. It is not unusual to have all the courts used at this early hour. Players furnish their own racquets and balls.

In order to use the Park Department courts in New York City it is necessary to secure a



permit. The permit is issued without charge and is given for one season, eight months. A permit is issued for a certain specified park, but not for a certain specified time or a certain court. The holders of the permits must wait at the park until their turn is reached. The courts can be used forty-five minutes and it is necessary for two of the players using the court to have permits. There are both small size single courts and regulation size double courts. No singles can be played on the double courts. The only restriction regarding the use of shoes is that they do not have heels. The players themselves must furnish racquets and balls and in most of the parks their own nets. In Central Park nets are furnished by the City. Generally there are no locker accommodations. Permits are revoked for any violations of the rules.

**Volley Ball Popular.**—Volley ball is one of the most popular games with the Women's Outdoor Club of the Mosswood Playground, Oakland, California.

**Amateur Athletic Federation in Newport.**—This organization began in an effort of athletic leaders in Newport, Rhode Island, to offset the tendency to passive play, in which the few took part and the

many looked on, the lack of community consciousness, since most play was provided along racial, class or religious lines, and a rather extreme development of athletic competition for money prizes. All of these undesirable conditions have been influenced by the Federation in its service of little more than a year. Fourteen amateur organizations were federated in the first year, three great meets were held and really remarkable cooperation of those interested in athletic progress was secured.

**Athletics in Detroit Public Schools.**—Boys and girls under the Detroit public school department of physical education are divided into squads for registering records in various tests. The squad leader takes his squad out of the school room and has each member try the event. Records are handed to the room captain, who mails them to the physical training department. All practicing is done out of school hours. So well-organized is the squad work that in some cases six boys leave a room, register their record and are back in their seats in two and one-half minutes. A school trophy is given to the best physically developed school in each league.

Cards for standard badge tests for each boy indicate number of

points allowed for each achievement so that any boy can compute his own record.

**Securing a Hearing for the Old Story.**—Dorothy Wilson writes in *The Storyteller's Magazine* of storytelling in Los Angeles Libraries, where that activity is carried on throughout the whole system. Many of the libraries, especially the newer ones, have rooms for storytelling; in other buildings the story hour is held informally in a corner of the children's room—a plan which has its advantages, as well as disadvantages. "The program consists of one story for the littlest children, a fairy story of general appeal, as *The Tinder Box*, *Aladdin*, or *Murdock's Rath*, and a realistic or cycle story, as *The Leak in the Dike*, or the adventures of Ulysses or Robin Hood. Care is taken always to select stories of literary and dramatic worth with moral soundness existent but not emphasized, and with wholesome humor, which may be boisterous and even crude, but never vulgar. Any new stories with these properties may be used, but most of the modern stories lack the vigor and the artistic quality of the old."

The storytellers at first protested that the children would not listen to old stories retold but they found if they led up to

the stories in the right way the children were always pleased. "If, for instance, the storyteller begins without warning the story of *Sleeping Beauty*, by the time she comes to the wicked fairy's prophecy, her audience then feels no doubt that an old story is being worked off on them and they become disgusted and with their natural frankness say: 'We don't want to hear that' or, 'That's no good; tell another.' That settles the story; \*\*\*before starting it, I said, 'I know you have all heard this story but I wonder if you ever heard it the way I am going to tell it?' This remark aroused their curiosity and they decided to give it a trial."

**More Land than Boys.**—The Morristown School is unique in that it has seventy boys and eighty acres of land about it. Athletic play forms a large part of the course, and the masters play with the boys.

**Indispensable in Township Life.**—The Rollo Consolidated School, Paw Paw Township, De Kalb County, Illinois has a school yard of twenty-six acres. This includes a park, with shrubs and flowers, a playground, athletic field, and individual gardens. The school also maintains neighborhood orchards and conducts tests for tuberculosis.

**An Extra Hour for Play.**—

Since Cleveland has adopted eastern time, more than two thousand people there have been playing baseball daily in the parks, and one thousand others have played tennis every day in the hour that they have gained by rising earlier.

**New Hawaiian Park.**—A new national park, including three great volcanoes, has been created in Hawaii, the first outside the continental boundaries of the United States.

**Athletics in Spain.**—Those who have been responsible for launching the movement for athletic games and sports for young people in Spain feel that it is succeeding beyond their expectation. The young Spaniards are very enthusiastic and eager to develop international competitions, when conditions will permit. The football competitions have been well patronized. They are conducted according to the rules of the English Football Association, the leading competition each year being for a cup given by King Alfonso. The second cross-country championship, organized by Espana Sportiva, was a huge success. Eighty-six entered; seventy-seven finished, in spite of rain. In the evening, prizes were presented amid enthusiasm and festivity.

**Camp Fire in the Orient.**—The Camp Fire Girl Manual

has recently been translated into Italian. Camp Fire circles have been established in the Orient. America has opportunity for a very distinct contribution to progress through the Boy Scouts, the Camp Fire Girls, and the playgrounds.

**Colombo, Ceylon, Plays.**—A park in the congested district has been opened as a playground with the usual equipment. The first to make use of it were "about fifteen street boys whose clothing consisted mostly of fresh air, playing 'rounder.'"

The course in physical training which the Y. M. C. A. gives at the Government Training College of Ceylon is helping to meet the need for play leaders.

**Philippine Inter-Scholastic Meet.**—More than 300 Filipino athletes from the southern half of the Islands participated in a four-day meet held at Zamboanga under the auspices of the Board of Education. Basket ball, baseball and tracks athletics were on the program.

**Developments in China.**—C. M. Goethe, who has done so much to rouse play interest in China sends the following cheering items:

To meet the need of supervisors for the eighty playgrounds to be inaugurated in the Providence of Kiang Su, China, the Young Men's Christian Association has provided a special

training school for the superintendents and supervisors.

Recognizing the need of trained supervisors, the Government College at Nanking has just instituted a two-year course for playground directors.

The Amoy Chamber of Commerce has financed a contract for an American playground superintendent for three years.

St. John's University at Shanghai has joined the playground movement in the Orient and become a center of radiation of playground work under leadership. The University has opened a playground using students trained in the social betterment courses as leaders.

**"Foreign" Women in Japan.**—Miss Susan A. Searles, of Kobe College, Kobe, Japan writes of playground progress in Kobe:

"Some of us are talking of municipal playgrounds, but a larger number of the mothers are as yet interested only in a playground for their own children. We have been able to secure the use of Kobe College play-

ground on Saturdays when not used by the students, and are trying the experiment with these 'foreign' children. A committee of three members of the club has general direction and the mothers take turns in supervising. We are hoping that the interest may grow, and that it may be an object lesson for the Japanese who are already interested in the matter, but who do not yet feel able to spend money on apparatus, and who do not appreciate the value of play leadership.

"It may be that later I can pass on the pamphlets you sent me to some of the English-speaking Japanese. The Japanese educational authorities are already doing a good deal in the way of calisthenics and other forms of physical exercises in their schools, and they make a great deal of their annual or semi-annual field day sports.

"One of the primary school principals has recently returned from a trip to America, where, I understand, he was sent to investigate playground conditions."

## THE RECREATION MOVEMENT IN WAR TIMES

BULLETINS SENT OUT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

### To Leaders in Recreation Work in America:

America demands our best now.

There is no group more loyal than the recreation workers.

The Board of Directors of the Playground and Recreation Association of America has passed the following votes:

Voted: That the Association approve the suggestion that in order to make the service of soldiers in military camps more effective, the War Department appoint a recreation commission to make adequate provision for the wise use of leisure time.

That there ought to be on such a commission men who have had experience in recreation activities and in physical training; that the Playground and Recreation Association of America tender to the Secretary of War any help within its power to give.

Voted: That the secretary confer with the Committee on National Defense regarding possible ways in which recreation workers can help in the present national crisis.

Voted: That the secretary prepare a statement regarding the more important recreation workers, showing the special experience which they have had in bringing men into good physical conditions, in training physical directors, in organizing special recreation activities.

Voted: That the Association prepare a special report for local recreation leaders showing how they can help now in the municipal recreation centers in bringing men into good physical condition for possible future military service.

Voted: That the Association help leaders in various states to secure state legislation providing for compulsory physical education in the schools under a plan giving a central state authority some control over appointments.

April 9, 1917

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### To Recreation Secretaries:

With our country at war with Germany, we want as recreation workers to do all we can to help. Many neighborhood centers will

## THE RECREATION MOVEMENT IN WAR TIMES

open classes for the training of young men who want to get in physical condition to enlist.

Through neighborhood gatherings at the recreation centers, much can be done to keep an enlightened public opinion back of the government.

Many recreation centers already promote vacant lot or home gardening. That the cost of living may be reduced, much more will undoubtedly be attempted in encouraging the planning and proper care of such gardens, not only for economic reasons as a patriotic service, but also as a form of recreation and wholesome outdoor exercise.

Through newspaper articles, the physical training experts of the recreation systems will try to help all men in the country to keep in good physical trim so that the maximum service may be given in industry as well as in the army, in case they should be called upon for service in the future.

Cities located near military camps will undoubtedly try to make their schoolhouse centers and other centers of as great service as possible to the soldiers.

Please send at once any other suggestions, also information as to plans for any form of national service which you are now putting into effect. It is hoped that we can send a number of bulletins to all the recreation systems, embodying the suggestions received from various cities.

If the United States Government organizes a national recreation board, how many men in your recreation systems, or men living in your city who were formerly in your system, who have had recreation training, would be available for service under such a national recreation board?

April 9, 1917

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### WHAT A RECREATION SYSTEM CAN DO TO HELP NOW

Dr. Thomas A. Storey of the New York Military Training Commission in a conference a few days ago, suggested that recreation secretaries enlist the service of local physicians, the best obtainable, to give medical examinations to young men over nineteen who wish at the recreation centers to train themselves for future military service. Dentists also might be enlisted as few things are more important than the proper care of the teeth. After

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taking the physical examination, men can work under the direction of the recreation leaders in trying to overcome any difficulties found.

Dr. Storey suggests also the possibility of a series of talks on personal hygiene, care of the body, problem of the prevention of disease, through what carriers disease is spread. At the gymnasium of the center a series of posture exercises and exercises affecting the abdominal muscles and the muscles of the leg would be exceedingly valuable. Koehler's *Manual of Physical Training* is the one in use at West Point and Dr. Storey states that it contains excellent suggestions for exercises of various kinds. Great emphasis should be laid on playing such games as hand ball, volley ball, and other games which make the heart beat fast and the blood circulate more freely. It is particularly desirable that men should learn to play games which can be kept up later while they are in military service.

In any effort to prepare for military service, much time should be spent in hiking, tramping, and in cross-country runs which will involve going up and down hill and through woods and entanglements. Such tramps should be taken daily if possible, increasing gradually in length and difficulty. Of course great care must be taken to keep the feet in good condition. Shoes must fit well. Socks with holes should be avoided and clean socks should be put on prior to every march. Care should be taken that any blisters be not broken; they should be protected by a piece of chamois greased with vaseline.

A special committee has been appointed to draw up suggestions which may be of value to recreation secretaries throughout the country.

April 9, 1917

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### SUGGESTIONS TO THE PLAYGROUND DIRECTORS CONCERNING THE FITTING OF YOUNG MEN FOR MILITARY SERVICE\*

#### I. Hygienic Suggestions

1. Give suggestions concerning the care of the feet. *The*

\*Dr. J. H. McCurdy has prepared for us these brief suggestions as to what we can do in fitting young men for military service.

Please send us word as soon as possible as to any such plans you are trying. The Association has asked J. H. McCurdy, William Burdick, A. E. Metzdorf, and E. A. Peterson to serve as a committee to go over the suggestions received and draw up a report which we can all have for use.

## THE RECREATION MOVEMENT IN WAR TIMES

*Soldier's Foot and the Military Shoe* by Munson, the book officially approved by the War Department, is the best work along this line.

2. Personal hygiene concerning the care of the skin, abrasions and blisters, and the care of the teeth. For the whole topic would recommend directors studying carefully Pyle's *Personal Hygiene*. This book would give in definite form suggestions regarding diet, sleep and exercise.

### II. Exercise Suggestions

1. Games. Recommend such games as volley ball, indoor baseball, soccer, and hand ball. Directors should be urged to increase these games, and encourage young men who are likely to enlist to learn the rules of the games as well, so that they may be leaders in them.

#### 2. Definite exercises

1. Arm bending, standing with the feet 15 inches from the wall and with the hands against the wall
2. Arm bending in the front leaning rest position, with the trunk straight
3. Rope climbing, with rope stretched at an angle of  $45^{\circ}$
4. Rope climbing, vertical rope 16 ft. in height
5. Knee raising (high) 40-50 times in one minute
6. Walking—five miles in one hour
7. Running—one mile in nine minutes
8. Wall scaling—over a solid wall 6 ft. high, five times in eight minutes
9. Trunk bending, in the standing position
10. Raising the legs from the lying position on the back

These exercises should be pursued with vigor. Classes of a competitive nature might well be organized, care being taken to keep the running and walking distances only at the speed at which the slowest man in the group could cover the distance.

The directors should purchase the *Manual of Physical Training* published by the United States Army in 1914. This book gives many additional exercises and suggestions.

April 12, 1917

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### To Recreation Secretaries:

Please write as soon as you can whether you consider it wise, during the present war, for recreation systems to concentrate so far as possible upon the following program:—



## THE RECREATION MOVEMENT IN WAR TIMES

1. Bringing and keeping men and women in good physical condition for one hundred per cent service to America at this time
  2. Vacant lot gardening to increase the food supply and at the same time afford wholesome recreation and build up physical vigor
  3. Patriotic meetings to keep all the people united behind the President and the Government
- April 17, 1917
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### RECREATION LEADERS AT WORK ON WAR PROBLEMS

#### LETTERS RECEIVED

F. C. BERRY, Supervisor of Recreation Board of Park Commissioners, Minneapolis, Minnesota

We are going right ahead with our plans for the operation of playgrounds and centers and the conduct especially of physical activities.

Many of your suggestions I shall be able to put into practice and will give this matter local publicity and stimulate the promotion of this type of work to my best ability.

\* \* \*

LINCOLN E. ROWLEY, Secretary Board of Recreation Commissioners, East Orange, New Jersey

I have been very much interested in your communications suggesting ways by which playground and recreation workers may be of help to the country at this trying time, and I am prompted by your interest to ask you if you do not think it would be wise for your office to ask all who are in charge of playground and recreation fields to consider the cultivation of a reasonable part of these fields in order that the supply of food may be increased, and because it seems to me that in this way, by a well thought out plan, there is the finest opportunity to teach real patriotism that has ever been our lot.

Supposing, for instance, our board approves a plan which I am formulating to cultivate four out of the nine acres at Elmwood Park, with our general caretaker as superintendent. It would be my idea to form clubs, the members of which would undertake to plant, care for and harvest—say—one hundred hills of potatoes or beans, the seed for a quarter of these to be donated and the proceeds of this quarter to be devoted in the fall to the Red Cross or some other military need which the Recreation Commission approves; the balance to go to the individual for his own family's

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need. In case of one's failing properly to cultivate his part the Commission could continue the cultivation and sell the entire product and devote the proceeds to some cause such as I have mentioned.

In addition to this I think we may have a plot about the size of the average commuter's back yard which we will plant with the different things that grow here in order that the people may see what can be done and how the different things should be cared for. I also have in mind that here we will utilize all the large space which has formerly been used for flowers, for planting tomatoes, cabbages, egg-plant, beans and turnips. I believe that the boys and girls would not only help care for these, but would see that they were not injured during the growing season.

Unless the Engineering Department of our City does so, I think the Recreation Commission will buy three or four plows, a disc-harrow and a cultivator or two, which we will loan to people who have larger tracts which they could cultivate if it were possible to get the grounds prepared in time and without excessive cost. The trouble is in most of these cities there are no tools of this kind which can be brought into use and no individual of course can afford to buy them for use on a small city lot.

\* \* \*

H. F. COOK, Supervisor Board of Recreation Commissioners, Newport, Rhode Island

Because the United States is in a state of war, the demands of the government for service from each and every American—child as well as adult—will be particularly great with a view to the successful termination of the war. The supervisor has considered for some time whether his services would be more important to the country by enlisting in regular military work or by remaining in his present position. For a while, at least, he has thought it best to continue in the recreation work, though if necessity should arise, it would be possible, it seems to him, to have the recreation work so organized that most of it could be done by women.

In no circumstances, however, should the work for children be given up. The countries at war advise strongly against such action. France, Great Britain, and Germany report increased delinquency, even serious crimes committed by children, because of the lack of discipline caused by the war. Therefore, the Children's Bureau in Washington urges greater attention to the health and morals of

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children during the war than formerly. But the recreation work in war time should be somewhat different from that of peace times. Recreation work in war time—for adults as well as children—should be planned with a view to contributing something to the country either in service or efficiency for service. For children, this need not be military training. In fact, it is the opinion of those who are qualified to speak concerning the training of children under fifteen years of age, that it would be unwise to give them any distinctly military training. Of course, marching, wand and gymnastic drills, and other formal activities are promoted in peace as well as war time to teach discipline, precision of movement, and respect for authority.

The activities suggested for the season of 1917 are as follows: gardening, basketry, sewing, swimming, kindergarten work, camping and first aid, marching and drills, and games and athletics. The promotion of vacant lot gardening, aside from aiding the country, offers one of the most wholesome forms of outdoor recreation. The children might also make bandages, mufflers and towels for the soldiers.

For the young men, the recreation program should include cross country runs each week, physical and medical examinations, athletic contests and physical training fitting young men for future military training.

\* \* \*

P. O. OSTERHUS, Supervisor the Playground Association, Williamstown, Massachusetts

As soon as the new international relation with Germany was officially stated by our Government, I at once conferred with the officials as to our opportunities for service. The men of the town were called together by the leading citizens and a committee on Food Production and Conservation was formed. The object was to raise crops and the thought of the children's doing something would be a side issue. As we have considerable land available we shall no doubt be able to do a certain amount in addition to what other agencies as the schools and The Goodwill Club, active now, have already planned.

Under the college, military training is carried on both of students and also a certain number of the town boys. The Boy Scouts under the direction of college boys have been given special training of late looking toward preparedness.

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Classes of instruction in first aid and Red Cross work are in the process of formation under various agencies, chiefly under that of the college. The Association began this work some time ago in the high school.

Various clubs as poultry clubs and corn clubs are contemplated. Work of this sort is under consideration for the country districts.

\* \* \*

WILLIAM A. STECHER, Director of Physical Education, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

To the Teachers of Physical Training in the High Schools:

There is no telling what the near future will demand of our boys in the way of military preparedness. To do our duty as teachers of physical education, I would suggest that at this time special stress be laid upon such exercises as will, in the shortest time, increase the vigor and the endurance of our older boys.

1. The marching tactics of the soldier, the squad, and the company as laid down in the course of study in physical education should alternate with the more vigorous body building exercises. At times the whole school arranged in platoons and companies should take part in marching tactics.

2. The following types of exercises, being of most value as pre-military instruction suited to growing boys, should be emphasized:

- a. Marching in fast time (in column formation)
- b. Running and marching in fast time, in alternation
- c. Endurance running, from 4 minutes, gradually increasing the time to 20 minutes
- d. Fast running; relay racing
- e. Jumping and hurdling
- f. Vaulting over beams, fences and other obstacles
- g. Climbing; wall scaling; carrying comrades; pyramid building

h. Extended tramping from 2 to 8 hours a day, where there is an opportunity

3. In all forms of athletics, please have the schedules so arranged that the weaker boys shall have the first chance to participate.

\* \* \*

ARTHUR R. MORRISON, Commissioner of Recreation, Winnipeg, Canada

I beg to congratulate you most heartily on the circular just

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received dealing with the work that can be done by recreation workers in connection with the betterment of the conditions of the men in uniform.

In Canada, in all military camps, this has been the policy and I have been privileged to assist the military authorities here in arranging entertainments and games for the benefit of the men. I am indeed proud at this stage of the fact that you are at last with us in this war for freedom.

April 23, 1917

\* \* \*

A. J. SHARADIN, Director Physical Education, Altoona, Pennsylvania

Since the break of relations with Germany, the plans for physical work in the city schools have been completely re-arranged, conforming more to the military lines. Too many young men are rejected by the recruiting officers when the physical test is made.

The vacant lot gardening project is to be launched here on an extensive scale this year, working hand in hand with the playground movement. An expert gardener has been secured from Pennsylvania State College to supervise the garden work and work with me in the playground and recreation activities of Altoona.

Several patriotic meetings have so far been held where the efforts of the citizens have been voiced freely relative to the position Altoona takes in the present crisis. Of the 70,000 population we have, approximately 5,000 are Germans.

\* \* \*

W. M. CASTLE, Castle-Pierce Printing Company, Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Physical fitness for national service, and planting the vacant lots for food and physical vigor. That's fine. That's our slogan.

Our own recreation director is carrying out a program for physical development which consists of active games, swimming, outdoor playgrounds, and a municipal camp. With regard to patriotic meetings, we are planning a Memorial Day Pageant with a chorus of 1000, cast 200, orchestra 33 pieces; also a patriotic parade in which 5000 school children will march "with an American flag on one shoulder and a hoe on the other," as our board president puts it.

\* \* \*

J. R. BATCHELOR, Director of Recreation, Duluth, Minnesota

We are taking up the matter of vacant lot gardening and pushing it very hard. We are also pushing patriotic meetings.

## THE RECREATION MOVEMENT IN WAR TIMES

I should like to suggest, in view of the fact that so many of our troops are doing guard duty in our own country, and in view of the fact that they are having so much time hanging on their hands, that the recreation association suggest to the officers the need for constructive activities for their leisure time. Games should be provided and vacant lots utilized near the headquarters for outdoor playground games, and club houses should be equipped with checkers and other games for their leisure time.

\* \* \*

LILLIAN W. BETTS, Parks and Playgrounds Association, Brooklyn, New York

We have taken up vacant lot gardening in Brooklyn, securing people to cultivate the land offered, and securing the land for the people who ask for specified plots. The practical side of the work is carried on by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, an expert supervisor being placed in charge of the work.

\* \* \*

HARRY P. CLARKE, Supervisor of Physical Education, Public Schools and Director of Community Recreation, Winnetka, Illinois

The Winnetka War Emergency Union has been organized in Winnetka, Illinois, as a result of a class in military drill and training, organized at our community gymnasium several weeks ago. We secured the services of an ex-regular army commissioned officer to take charge, enrolling my assistant and several others as instructors. We already have 150 men training. We plan one night per week for close order drill, setting up exercises and lectures on personal and camp hygiene, Saturday afternoons to be devoted to field and extended order drill. The general scheme was suggested by a prominent lawyer of Chicago, who called a meeting of the influential residents of Winnetka to organize, after he had witnessed the enthusiasm displayed by the men in the training class.

We are now canvassing the town to secure all available land for free gardens, to be apportioned to citizens on application for the production of foods for home consumption. We are beating the organization into shape as rapidly as possible. A general meeting is called for all residents to hear details and ratify departmental committees.

If a national recreation board is organized, I volunteer and offer the services of my one male assistant for any service we are

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called upon to perform. I will supply you with details of the entire scheme as soon as they are complete. The unanimous expression of our community is: "Tell us what to do—teach us how to do it—and we *will* do it."

We are also agitating the organization of a North Shore Hospital Unit, including Kenilworth, Wilmette, Winnetka and Glencoe, cooperating with the North Shore Medical Association.

\* \* \*

HELEN TUCKER LORD, Assistant, Playground and Recreation Association of America, New York City

Would patriotic meetings be a way to draw in the foreign population of the town? Could there be a series of meetings, the program of each presented by American citizens of a certain nationality designed to lead as many others as possible of that nationality to become naturalized? Could naturalization classes be carried on through the recreation system?

\* \* \*

H. L. KAYTON, Chairman Recreation Commission, Savannah, Georgia

We have this year installed two civic gardens and the Commission is encouraging vacant lot development in every way possible. The Parent-Teachers' Association of the various schools have secured and planted vacant lots, and the result will be an increased supply of fresh vegetables, which will be produced in connection with the outdoor recreation work of the Commission. This will undoubtedly add greatly to the physical condition of the children and at the same time afford them recreation and educate them in the way of planting and raising food-stuffs. The Recreation Commission is encouraging and developing this work to the extent of its financial ability.

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To Recreation Secretaries:

"Every Scout feed a soldier." "Feed or fight." "Beans and potatoes." These are the slogans now being used. America not only faces a serious food shortage now—she will probably have a shortage for several years to come despite all we can do. Recreation leaders, according to reports received, are doing all they can to help. In other years, many recreation systems have maintained gardens. This year, apparently, nearly all are gardening and upon a much larger scale.

1. Where there are backyards, backyard gardens are encour

## THE RECREATION MOVEMENT IN WAR TIMES

aged. Boys are taking their backyards and neighboring vacant lots and attempting to raise all the potatoes their families will need for the winter.

2. The city engineers and the real estate agents help in locating the owners of vacant lots.

3. Owners are glad to cooperate with recreation commissions by giving the use of their land as a national service.

4. Newspapers are giving generous publicity and thus securing many offers of vacant lots for gardening.

5. Specialists in gardening are training playground helpers and the land is developed under the watchful eyes of the playground directors. Funds expended for the salary of garden specialists are well spent.

6. Waste and confusion are avoided by team work with all working on the food and gardening problem. Letters received show that recreation leaders are careful not to do what others are already doing well. Where other organizations are not working, recreation leaders are seeking and receiving the cooperation of many different groups in their communities.

7. "Plow no playgrounds," writes one leader. Surely there will be in most cities plenty of land without. A corner of the regular playground, sometimes, but a whole playground—No.

8. Very valuable suggestions for home and vacant lot gardening may be secured from the following sources:

Bulletins on Gardening issued by the Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Bulletins issued by Mass. Agricultural College, Oregon Agricultural College, and the Agricultural College of your state

Bulletins issued by the Home Gardening Association of Cleveland

Bulletins on backyard gardens issued by the Brooklyn Botanical Garden of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences

The Garden Primer issued by the Mayor's Food Committee, 71 Broadway, N. Y.

Children's Gardens for Pleasure, Health and Education by Henry G. Parsons, published by Sturges & Walton, New York City

How to Make a Vegetable Garden and How to Make School Gardens, published by Doubleday, Page & Company



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9. Several recreation systems interested in gardening because of the present war situation have asked what cities have reported gardening as one of their playground activities. Perhaps others who have not asked this question will wish to have the information given below to help secure support for their own plans:

### List of Cities Reporting on Gardening as One of Their Playground Activities 1917 Year Book

#### *Arkansas*

Fort Smith  
Rogers and Bentonville

#### *California*

Oakland  
San Diego  
San Jose  
San Francisco

#### *Colorado*

Boulder  
Denver  
Greeley  
Lamar  
Pueblo

#### *Connecticut*

Hartford  
Meriden  
Wallingford  
Waterbury

#### *District of Columbia*

Washington

#### *Florida*

Tampa

#### *Georgia*

Macon

#### *Illinois*

Berwyn  
Chicago  
Earlville  
Evanston  
Gibson City  
Joliet  
Rochelle

#### *Indiana*

Columbus  
East Chicago  
Indianapolis  
Muncie  
Portland  
Richmond  
South Bend  
Terre Haute

#### *Iowa*

Cedar Falls  
Sioux City

#### *Kansas*

Atchinson  
Emporia  
Fredonia  
Independence  
Newton

#### *Kentucky*

Danville

#### *Louisiana*

New Orleans

#### *Maine*

Presque Isle

#### *Maryland*

Cumberland

#### *Massachusetts*

Braintree  
Concord  
Danvers  
Framingham  
Franklin  
Holyoke

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Marlboro	<i>New York</i>
Milton	Albany
Newburyport	Binghamton
Newton	Buffalo
Norwood	Fulton
Salem	Hudson Falls
Somerville	Ithaca
Stoneham	Lackawanna
Wakefield	Malone
Wayland	Mechanicsville
Williamstown	New York
<i>Michigan</i>	Plattsburg
Detroit	Rochester
Harbor Beach	Utica
Ishpeming	<i>Ohio</i>
Kalamazoo	Canton
Lansing	Cleveland
Pontiac	Columbus
<i>Minnesota</i>	Dayton
Minneapolis	Gallipolis
Rochester	Newark
Winona	<i>Oklahoma</i>
<i>Missouri</i>	Muskogee
St. Louis	<i>Pennsylvania</i>
<i>Montana</i>	Altoona
Gilford	Duquesne
Kalispell	East Pittsburg
<i>North Carolina</i>	Lansford
Charlotte	Johnstown
<i>New Hampshire</i>	Pittston
Concord	Pottstown
Franklin	Reading
Laconia	West Reading
Nashua	Wyomissing
<i>New Jersey</i>	<i>Rhode Island</i>
Jersey City	East Providence
Montclair	Pawtucket
New Brunswick	Westerly
Princeton	<i>Texas</i>
South Orange	El Paso
Summit	Waco

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### *Vermont*

Brattleboro

### *Washington*

Tacoma

### *West Virginia*

Fairmont

### *Wisconsin*

Kenosha

Sheboygan

Waupaca

### *Canada*

Ontario

Brockville

Toronto

Truro

### *Hawaii*

Honolulu

April 27, 1917

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To the Recreation Secretaries:

A National Commission on Training Camp Activities has been appointed by the Secretary of War. The Commission has not yet published any program but one of the tasks before it will necessarily be to help in developing the recreation resources in communities in the neighborhood of the training camps in such a way as to be of the greatest possible value to the officers and soldiers.

The problem of recreation is as important a military problem as any that exists and the relation of outside conditions to the camps is a vital feature of this problem and one with which it is especially appropriate that recreation workers should deal. They have special knowledge in this matter possessed by no one else and if they do not perform this vital service it will be performed by no one and our armies will in consequence suffer losses greater than those in many battles.

There is also the problem of developing recreation within the training camps. How this service will be organized has not been decided but it is likely to offer a field of opportunity for recreation workers especially qualified for it.

The men on the National Commission on Training Camp Activities are:

Raymond Fosdick, of the Rockefeller Foundation; Lee F. Hanmer, of the Russell Sage Foundation; Joseph Lee, of the Playground and Recreation Association of America; Joseph E. Raycroft, of Princeton University; John R. Mott, of the International Committee of the Y. M. C. A.; Malcolm L. McBride, of Cleveland; Thomas J. Howells, of Pittsburgh; Major Palmer E. Pierce, U. S. A.; Charles P. Neill, of Pittsburgh.

## RURAL RECREATION

### RURAL RECREATION\*

"In the development of rural recreation we are just beginning to light the lamp of history and that illumination is the biggest thing in country life." In these words the importance of rural recreation was brought home to the delegates assembled at the Congress.

The value of rural recreation as a factor in community life is due in a great degree to three main factors:

(a) The greater part of our population lives in rural communities.

(b) People living in rural districts, statistics prove, are not so fit physically as city people.

(c) There is a great need of recreation in rural districts because there is a great lack of social life.

Michigan has 374 clubs for boys and girls under the direction of Mr. E. C. Lindemann, State Club Leader. Every one of these clubs is working on some real home project. Their function is three-fold:

(a) The economic function which is absolutely essential in rural recreation.

(b) The social function which enables the children to come together to discuss their various activities and to play games.

(c) The educational function through which the club leader correlates the club activities with those of the school.

Games practicable for use in rural schools must have the following elements:

(a) They must be safe. Basket ball has not in general been found desirable in rural districts but vigorous games which do not have elements tending toward over-strain should be encouraged. Volley ball is the best game. *Horse and Rider* is also excellent for rural children.

(b) They must require a minimum of equipment. In rural districts the luxuries of the play world are out of place.

(c) They must be games which can be played together by boys and girls and which permit of playing by large numbers of children as well as by a few.

(d) Good games are indigenous and come out of the life of the children.

\*Discussion at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 2-6, 1916

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### **Difficulties Militating against a Play Program**

A number of difficulties present themselves in putting a play program into action. While it is a simple matter in the city to get together a group of people interested in the same thing, it is a difficult problem in the country. The man who works alone in the field will not have the same outlook as the man who works in a group. Country children reflect the individualistic training of their parents and, lacking initiative, do not play well together. In country schools there are often so few children that it seems impossible to play games and there is great difficulty in getting together a group of children in rural districts. It was Mr. Lindemann's experience, however, that if there are six children it is possible to play games. In the country there is a lack of leadership and of facilities for recreation. The country schools in most instances are not adapted to play purposes. The need for leisure time is not recognized by the parents of country children and the never-ending work of the farm limits leisure-time activities.

The lack of native leadership in country districts makes the question of leadership a very urgent one. A play leader in a rural district cannot be successful unless he is willing to open up his life absolutely to the community. He is always in the public eye and must live up to the definition that "Character is what one is in the dark." He must have a love for and understanding of country children and must be able to play himself. There is no room for the person who is apologetic or ashamed of his work.

### **Rural Teachers in Community Recreation**

Mr. Ernest Burnham, Director of the Department of Rural Schools, Western State Normal School, Kalamazoo, Michigan, summarized the vital need in rural recreation in the words, "The objective of creative leadership is to beget or discover the dynamic sense of leadership in individuals and in institutions and to continually vivify the same in action." In rural districts the rural school teacher must be the leader, through her consciousness of the child and her own social consciousness.

### **The Normal School as an Important Factor in the Training of the Teacher for Leadership**

In general normal schools are laying emphasis on the health ideal rather than the social and are giving far more training in physical education than in game work. There should be a change in curriculum which would make it possible for training in games to be

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included. Efforts are being made in some normal schools, however, to meet the need for training in recreation. In the summer-school course of the normal course at DeKalb, Illinois, every girl is equipped with a knowledge of at least fifteen or twenty games. There are special schools in Michigan for rural leadership. The Kalamazoo Normal School offers a summer course and there are a number of county institutes helpful to rural leaders. In Wisconsin articles on rural recreation appear each month in the bulletin of the State Department of Education. Certain books have been put on the required list for the teachers' reading circles. The county training schools are doing good work along the line of training for rural leadership.

### **Work of Parent-Teachers' Organizations in Rural Districts**

That Parent-Teachers' Associations provide a medium for starting community recreation in rural districts, was the statement of Mrs. Fred Dick, President of the Federation of Parent-Teachers' Associations in Colorado. The object of Parent-Teachers' organizations is to bring the parent and the teacher, the home and the school, into intelligent cooperation by bringing about a mutual understanding on the part of the parents and teachers of the problems of the home and the school. The great need for some socializing influence in the rural school makes of vital importance the work of Parent-Teachers' Associations in rural districts.

The country school must have a large part in rural recreation. It is of the utmost importance, therefore, that the unattractive and desolate school yard which persists in country school districts shall be beautified. The cinder-surfaced city playground is after all only a makeshift, yet it is often held up as a model after which small communities are trying to pattern when nothing could be more desirable than that the natural beauty of the country be imprisoned in the school yard. In the opinion of Miss Mari Hofer, much of the degeneracy and loose speech current among children in rural districts may be attributed to the unloveliness, baldness and crudity of the school and its surroundings.

### **Practical Demonstration of Rural Club Work**

A seed corn stringing and potato paring contest by a group of club boys and girls as well as a demonstration of games, added greatly to the interest of the discussion on rural work. In the seed corn

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stringing contest, the boys worked in pairs, each of them stringing two ears. For the potato paring contest, the girls were divided into two teams, each of which had a quantity of potatoes equal in weight although necessarily varying in number. The score was made on the time consumed and the weight of the parings. The winning team made a score of 22 ounces of parings in 5.5 minutes.

The contests were followed by a demonstration of methods of teaching minimum equipment games, found successful in rural districts. The boys and girls entered with great enthusiasm into the playing of such games as *Japanese croe relay*, *over and under relay*, and *call ball*.

Mr Lindemann, State Club Leader for Michigan, in explaining the organization of the club work which had been presented, stated that in each community there is a county agricultural agency and a county club leader. Each community has its local leader who is a year-round worker. During the school year the teacher plays a prominent part in club activities.

### Community Celebrations

Community celebrations as developed by the Cooperative Educational Association of Virginia have been very effective in getting people in

rural districts to come together for recreational purposes. So successful has been the work of the association which was organized about twelve years ago by a group of individuals who felt that the schools should become agencies for developing community life, that today there are 1,200 communities in Virginia organized for other purposes. As a result there has been brought about a strong spirit of cooperation in these communities, which has found its expression in better roads, better schools, and other educational facilities as well as in neighborhood recreation.

The plan for community celebrations as outlined by Mr. J. H. Montgomery, ex-secretary of the Cooperative Educational Association, involves the coming together of the whole community family at the schoolhouse for the celebration of special festivals.

This substitution of community for individual family or small group observance of holidays has resulted in a new, a deeper significance for the celebrations. Thanksgiving Day becomes Farm Improvement Day. The people come together not only to give thanks for what they have but to plan for the future. Washington's Birthday becomes Good Roads Day, in memory of the man who

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blazed roads through the trackless forest that those of less fortitude might follow. Christmas with a Community Christmas Tree takes on a broader meaning. May Day celebration follows the old customs which have become associated with the festival. Independence Day becomes Good Health and Clean-up Day, commemorating the giving up of the lives of our fore-fathers for the life of the country, by emphasizing the necessity of safe-guarding the lives and health of their descendants.

As the identity and unity of the Hebrews has undoubtedly been preserved partly through the strict observance of their holidays, so might America as a nation gain strength and unity through the community observance of her national days.

### **Most Effective Forms of Commu- nity Drama**

The best medium for creating community spirit through dramatics, according to Prof. C. B. Mitchell of the Michigan Agricultural College, lies in the pageant which takes the form of a huge dance participated in by the entire community. Other forms of dramatics which can be successfully used in rural centers with minimum equipment, include the following: tableaux, pantomimes, living statuary, shadowgraphs, one-act plays, and rural problem plays, of which there is a dearth.

In no way can the plea for dancing, Sunday recreation, and means for making rural life worth while be more effectively presented than through the problem play. Those of this type which have been found unusually good are *Back to the Farm*, and *Kindling the Hearth Fire* by Martin Sheunway of the Extension Division of the University of Minnesota, and *A Bee in a Drone's Hive* which may be obtained through Prof. Alfred G. Arvold of the South Dakota Agricultural College at Fargo.

The giving of pageants in rural districts presents three main difficulties which must be met and overcome.

1. Lack of time. This may be overcome by perfecting organization so that no great amount of the burden rests on the shoulders of any one person.

2. A lack of material. If material means subject, it is desirable to use some historical subject that deals with the community itself. Costumes and properties may be unearthed in attics in which is stored away much of great historical value. Costumes should be inexpensive as the expenditure of too much money will rob too many people of the joyous part of the pageant. A good



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rule for filling of parts is, "If a man looks the part, try him out."

3. Lack of interest. This is a difficulty which is often hard to overcome in rural districts but in producing something which of necessity requires so much cooperation, interest is bound to grow.

A number of boys and girls from the Lansing, Michigan, High School presented in pantomime a shortened version of a pageant read by Miss Mary Derby which pictured labor through the help of truth breaking the chains with which superstition has bound him and conquering want.

Professor Peter W. Dykema, presiding, declared **Music and Drama** that the chief value of dramatics is in the extension of personality made possible by breaking away from the conventional individual unified personality and entering into the experiences of the characters portrayed. The teacher who can act the banker is thereby broadened. In a discussion of the dangers involved in having the *villain* parts enacted, although one or two expressed the opinion that the acting of villain parts tends to develop villainous natures, the majority opinion was that this develops an intelligent abhorrence of evil. Virture is intelligible only on the background of vice.

Edgar B. Gordon of Winfield, Kansas, expressed the conviction that the drama in the small town should not be confined to the movies and the atrocious travelling troupe. He described community entertainments in which the local musical and dramatic talent were utilized.

**The Church in Rural Recreation** The past few years have seen a great change in the functions of the church. Its functions of education and philanthropy which had bound the people closely to it have been taken over by the state; the old distinction between sacred and secular which designated as sacred only such things as pertained definitely to the church and its service, and everything outside this classification as secular and hence to be avoided, has been outgrown. The time has come when the church must put its stamp of approval upon recreation and must come more closely in contact with the social life of the people. Only by furnishing facilities and opportunities for social life or at least by cooperating with the social agencies of the community, can the church hope to draw to it or hold young people.

The question which the church of today has to face is not,

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"Shall we have Sunday recreation?" for that already exists but, "What kind of Sunday recreation shall we have?" Shall the church frown upon recreation and divorce the young people or shall it approve and provide facilities for the right sort of recreation. As a possible solution of this problem, Rev. W. A. Thompson of DeWitt, Michigan, quoted the statement of Prof. Caron of Harvard University: "If recreation can be under the auspices of some institution which will preserve sanity and wholesomeness, there is no harm in Sunday recreation."

It is a very encouraging sign that the church in realizing its responsibility in the provision of proper recreation, is laying stress in its theological seminary on recreation as a part of the training of the students.

**The Relation of the Young Men's Christian Association to Rural Recreation** Because Y. M. C. A. leaders recognize that a boy's life and character can be readily molded and shaped through his play, they are laying great stress upon recreation in their county work.

Work in an individual county is started through the efforts of the state executive secretary who secures the cooperation of all the social agencies of the county and organizes the county committee whose duty it is to raise funds to employ a county secretary. The county secretary in turn trains volunteer leaders for the various communities and keeps in close personal touch with all the work that is being done. In its county and township work the Y. M. C. A. works in cooperation with all existing forces, supplementing the three fundamental agencies, the home, the school, and the church. Just as good roads are furnishing easier means of communication, so the Y. M. C. A. county work is bringing the communities into closer touch with one another. County fairs offer opportunities for the boys from different localities to become better acquainted with one another. Through county athletic contests, field meets, camps, hikes, and outings arranged by the county secretary, the social and community life is quickened. When field meets and similar activities are held, one school usually acts as host and the festivities last all day. State leadership conferences which are frequently held aid greatly in developing this vital phase of the work.

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### Experiments in Rural Recreation

In the enumeration of the "planks" of the rural recreation platform the following specific examples of experiments along special lines of

rural recreation work were given:

1. The Social Center as exemplified by the little country school in Oak Ridge, South Carolina, which has become the center of the life of the whole community. Here on the school porch, a group of men and women including the old southern Baptist deacon "play" the quadrille. To the children of this school, the hoe ranks with the ball bat as a symbol of play because of the inspiration received in the school garden work.

2. The Special Day and Community Fair.—No better example of this phase of rural recreation can be quoted than the work which is being done in Virginia through the Cooperative Education Association.

3. Community Music. Asheville, North Carolina is conducting interesting experiments along this line by sending out orchestras to surrounding communities. Not only is Asheville benefiting through the growth of community spirit, but the communities visited by the orchestras are also being awakened by a desire to emulate the community spirit shown by Asheville.

4. Boys' and Girls' Agricultural Clubs. The clubs conducted throughout Michigan which were described at the Congress, are an excellent example of this phase of rural work.

5. The Drama of Folk Play as exemplified by the pageant held in Anoka, Minnesota

6. Athletic and Playground Work in Rural Districts, which has come to have so important a place in rural community life

7. High School Cooperative Leagues. Among the experiments in rural life which are proving valuable contributions to the movement, are the high school cooperative leagues organized in Virginia communities. Except for the presence of one teacher on the executive board, these organizations are governed entirely by student committees. Meetings are held once in two weeks, when the activities consist of debates, readings, plays, and athletics. In order to encourage the use of as many games as possible, the State Department of Education of Virginia has issued a manual entitled *Play and Athletics for Virginia Public Schools*. Local, community, and state contests are held, the latter taking place at the State University. The leagues, which have the close cooperation of the Young Men's Christian Association, play a conspicuous part in

## HOW GRASS LAKE SECURED A PLAYGROUND

special day celebrations. Their work will doubtless be greatly furthered by the law recently passed in Virginia which requires that every rural school having three or more teachers shall have an auditorium.

8. Star Commonwealth for Boys. An experiment in which recreation plays an important part is the Star Commonwealth for Boys, a forty-acre farm where boys who have not been touched by the Young Men's Christian Association, the church, or any recreation system—the delinquent, friendless, and incorrigible boy is given a wholesome training. Organized recreation rather than the idea of punishment or reform is the basis of all the work of the Star Commonwealth.

9. University Extension Work in Rural Districts. The University Extension Department of the State University of Iowa is helping to solve rural community problems by working mainly through chambers of commerce in small towns. The extension departments of many state universities and agricultural colleges are doing much in the development of volunteer leaders in rural communities upon whom must depend the work of outlining and interpreting the movement. This leadership and cooperation on the part of expert workers of the departments is exceedingly vital in view of the fact that if voluntary service is to be effective the volunteer worker must know what it is all about; must understand what part of his work is playing in the movement as a whole.

The Department of Agriculture at Washington is collecting information regarding social, civic and recreation organizations in rural communities—organizations that are enriching rural life. The department will tabulate and classify this information so that each rural section can learn of the experiments and successes of other communities which are accomplishing results along this line.

## HOW GRASS LAKE, MICHIGAN, SECURED AND MAINTAINED A PLAYGROUND\*

W. A. CUTLER

Grass Lake, Michigan, is a village of 800 people with a large area of farms tributary to it. The population consists for the

\*Mr. Cutler went to Grass Lake several years ago suffering from a nervous breakdown. Farm life gave him the invigoration needed. He is now pastor of the Congregational church with another church under his care and is running a farm of 245 acres.

## HOW GRASS LAKE SECURED A PLAYGROUND

most part of people of New England, New York and German stock.

There are three churches, a Congregational, a Methodist, and a Baptist. The feeling is cordial and for twelve years or more Union services have been held every Sunday night the year-round.

The schools are fair but have meagre equipment. Teachers are not particularly well paid. There is no gymnasium and laboratory privileges are limited. The Board of Education is conservative.

During the past ten years several attempts have been made, unsuccessfully, to secure a ball park. An association was formed which secured a piece of ground for a short time but this attempt failed. High school boys tried on several occasions to rent ground but the objections of near-by residents or the greed of real estate owners prevented any result. Finally the organization of a Boy Scout Club was effective in interesting the boys. By petitioning the Town Board, the Scouts secured the use of the Town Hall for indoor sports during the winter of 1915-16. Through the efforts of the local scout officer, who was pastor of the Congregational church, an option was secured on five acres of land situated on the outskirts of the village and fronting on the lake. A liberal offer of five acres for \$300 was made by the owner. The Scout officers persuaded the School Board to call a public meeting at which it was universally voted to raise \$1,000 to secure and equip the land. A local committee was appointed with the president of the village council as chairman. The cashier of the bank was made chairman of the high school alumni committee which worked in cooperation with the local committee and the treasurer of the School Board was made treasurer of the fund. The money was secured and the grounds purchased by April 1, 1916.

The deed of the ground was made over to the School Board. In this way it became the property of the School Board and as such was exempt from taxation. Prior to receiving the deed, however, the School Board passed a resolution binding itself and its successors to hold the land, existing funds and all subsequent funds raised by fees from games and other sources in trust for park and playground purposes—said funds to be used for the equipment and maintenance of the grounds for athletic and playground purposes. The Board made further provision that a committee of five students, two from the senior and one from each of the other classes, be elected each year to cooperate with a committee of the School Board in the supervision and care of the ground.

## CONFERENCE ON RECREATION IN CITIES AND TOWNS

As soon as the grounds were secured, work was begun on putting the field in shape. The park has been enclosed and a small club house built. A baseball diamond has been laid out and equipment for the younger children set up on the part of the ground adjoining the school building. Plans for future development provide for a running track around the field, the setting up of trees around the park and on the lake front, and the equipment of the beach on the lake for aquatic sports. The movement has deepened the community spirit and has given the older members a tremendous leverage on the young life of the community. The churches are feeling the effects of the work in a large increase in membership and influence.

### CONFERENCE ON RECREATION IN CITIES AND TOWNS OF LESS THAN TEN THOUSAND POPULATION\*

Small city problems and needs were outlined by Mr. R. K. Atkinson, of Sag Harbor, as follows:

"Cities of less than 10,000 people show the greatest lack of interest in the play movement. There commercial recreation is a dominant factor. Dance-halls, railroad parks and moving-picture theatres prevail. There is no supervision of commercial recreation in a small city. By tactful work, a playground leader may direct the commercial recreation or make good suggestions. He may direct the best type of censorship, enlighten public opinion, and guide public demand.

"The ideal for a small city is two-fold: first, to provide for the leisure-time problem in the form of social centers, playgrounds, and parks; second, to introduce a real play program into the life of the community and make it a part of the educational program.

"A playground association should not be organized in a small city unless a responsible worker can stay with it. The best type of club to work with is a social service club. This club is composed of all social workers and people interested in social welfare. The club should meet once a month for discussion. It should be the clearing-house for all social service activities. The play leader should be the coordinating force in this club's activities."

\*Discussion at Recreation Congress Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 2-6, 1916

## HOME, SCHOOL AND VACANT LOT GARDENING

### HOME, SCHOOL, AND VACANT LOT GARDENING\*

Gardening as a phase of rural recreation has come to occupy an important place in the recreation program.

Mr. H. F. Machotka, county leader of boys' and girls' club work, in developing garden work through the schools, has found that there are four essentials to successful work.

1. Literature along the line of bulletins, such as are published by the Department of Agriculture and the State Agricultural Colleges

2. A demonstration garden at each school

3. A visit from the county leader or agricultural agent at least once a month, when the boys and girls meet to discuss their problems

4. A canning club, which is necessary because it rounds out the plan by developing the economic side

Experience has shown that there are three factors giving value to gardening which combine to justify gardening as an important activity.

1. Gardening is a correlative factor in the play movement. The soil idea is one of the first ideas to be coupled with play. Little children have always loved to dig in the earth. Later the soil idea becomes coupled in the child's mind with the plant and he finally grasps the idea of life.

2. Gardening is economically coordinated with play, work, and business. In the unconscious play which the child enjoys, in the muscular exercise he gains, in the fact that he is learning the value of work because he sees that he must work in order to get anything out of life, and in the training he receives in keeping records and accounts of his work.

3. Gardening is contributory to character and personality. Through it may be developed thrift, stick-to-it-iveness, foresightedness, powers of observation, a cheerful and happy spirit, cooperation, determination, and dignity of character.

#### Experiences in School Gardening

Miss Frances Van Buren, Principal of one of the Grand Rapids schools, told of her experience in starting school gardens last year. She was able to secure the use of four vacant lots. The Association of Commerce

\*Discussion at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 2-6, 1916

## WAYS AND MEANS

met the expense of preparing the soil. Although gardening was not compulsory, 266 children stayed by the work until harvest-time and two small boys made \$50 apiece from the proceeds of their plots.

The teacher of a little one-room school in California introduced gardening as a means of preserving order in seven grades while she was teaching the eighth. When the children had prepared their lessons it was understood they might work in their gardens. She found that the children were not only preparing their lessons better and more rapidly while she was being freed from many problems of discipline but that they were getting valuable training in outdoor work.

In Detroit, a supervisor of gardens is employed under the Recreation Commission for ten months. During the garden season she has two workers who are employed at the centers during the rest of the year. Last summer there were 300 gardens.

A resolution was introduced, asking for a section on children's and adults' home and school gardens at the next Recreation Congress.

## WAYS AND MEANS

John R. Richards of Chicago, in his discussion of ways and means defined "ways" to mean the objective of a play movement in a city, the method of its organization, and the facilities necessary to put the objective across. The "means" include the revenues needed to support the play movement and the method of raising these revenues.

In presenting the three aspects of the problem of ways, Mr. Richards said, "Each community must work out its own objective. For its objective the community must essentially devise plans of solving the leisure time problems of all the people within its jurisdiction. It must also furnish opportunities of developmental recreation for all people. Early play dealt with child life alone. But to make the objective concrete, a play program must take care of four groups: (a) Children under twelve, (b) Adolescent children, (c) Young men and young women, (d) Adult groups. This concrete

\*Discussion at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 2-6, 1916



## WAYS AND MEANS

objective does not mean that public recreation will be substituted for private recreational efforts but will provide opportunities for all people who desire it.

**Municipal Support of Playgrounds a Necessity** "Communities may differ in the scheme of organization for the play movement, but all agree that the movement should be publicly administered and supported. Charity has no more place in the field of recreation than in the field of education. We are never going to have a universal need more properly handled than by public agencies. The play movement cannot be trusted to private organization. No commercial organization should have anything to do with human recreation. Commercial recreation hasn't worked.

"However, there is no traditional form of government to take care of recreation as the government takes care of education, fire, and police protection. The bogie of the watchdog of the treasury is listed against a new thing. The first attempt to put recreation into the hands of the government is to have old boards administer. The play movement is not yet an independent part of the government. I am afraid of school boards. To put recreation into the control of old boards formalizes and stratifies it, which in turn kills its very function. In 1912 Chicago's school board spent \$143,000 on fences to keep people out of school grounds and \$12,000 on social centers to invite people into school grounds.

"Boards exclusive of existing boards are essential to put across the recreation program. City charters need to be amended to create a unit of government having independent control of equipment for recreation and its administration.

**Outdoor and Indoor Facilities Essential** "Facilities are needed to take care of the outdoor and indoor life of the four groups. Do not spend money at the start for apparatus. Good play surface, and competent play leaders are more important than apparatus. We have got to teach play knowledge. For fifty years we have had no play heritage—largely because of immigration.

"The outdoor equipment should include sand courts, wading pools, grass and shade for children, ball fields, tennis courts, golf courses, swimming pools, skating rinks for adolescents and young people; walks, drives, and boating for older people.

"Indoor facilities should include playrooms for children, gym-

## WAYS AND MEANS

nasiums for adolescents and young people, assembly halls and baths for adults. Toilets and drinking fountains should be provided before other equipment.

"Equipment costs money. The economic value of the playground to the community is strikingly brought out in the case of a boy bandit, trained in a Chicago pool room, whose misdeeds cost the city of Chicago \$150,000. The annual maintenance of a park playground in the neighborhood of the pool room is only \$35,000. The pool room closed up soon after the playground was opened."

### **Should the Playground Have a Regular Program?**

At the close of the discussion of ways and means the question, "Should the playground have a regular program?" was brought up. It was the general feeling that a program to fill the needs of a community must be flexible. In Milwaukee, for example, the programs are divided into set periods in which games of a high and low degree of organization are scheduled. Considerable freedom is given playground leaders to make necessary adjustments. Children in the neighborhood are trained to expect certain games at certain periods.

There are in general four reasons which explain the absence of children from a playground.

(a) Undesirable location—the ground may be near a dangerous place such as a railroad yard, or too remote from the neighborhood to attract the children

(b) Inefficient leaders—workers who loaf on the job or who have not the personality to meet and direct people

(c) Religious or neighborhood prejudice or ignorance

(d) Domination of bad gangs

### **The Americanization of the Immigrant**

Mr. Sidney Teller of Pittsburgh in answer to the question, "Should the foreigners in America be encouraged to forget their past life, their ways, their literature, their language, through the program of the playground?" expressed the sentiment of the delegates present when he said, "The programs in the foreign neighborhoods of American cities should lay emphasis upon the civilizations of the immigrants and the reduction of their foreign backgrounds as quickly as possible. I have never spent one cent in advertising a program in a foreign language."

## WAYS AND MEANS

### Gathering Playground Statistics

In an effort to standardize the methods of gathering playground statistics, the delegates attending the conference on ways and means voted to recommend to the National Congress the plan drawn up by a committee consisting of Mr. Sidney Teller, of Pittsburgh, Mr. V. K. Brown of Newark, and Mr. Charles H. Mills, of Grand Rapids. The plan as reported is as follows:

In recording playground statistics, two principles should be used:

- (a) The number of participants should be actually counted.
- (b) The number of spectators should be estimated.

The records of participants and spectators should be listed separately and the record would state whether the count is actual or estimated.

For outdoor activities on the playground it is suggested that three counts be taken during the day, once in the morning, once in the afternoon, and once in the evening. The record should show the highest number of people on the playground during these periods.

For swimming pool actual count can be made by recording number of towels or suits given out.

For indoor activities the record should differentiate between participants and spectators and state whether the count is actual or estimated.

### The Arousing of Public Sentiment to Provide Adequate Recreational Facilities

The two general methods outlined for arousing sentiment in favor of playgrounds were: (a) publicity, (b) actual demonstration.

The advantage of using these two methods is that each reaches a different group of people. In Omaha it has been found helpful in an effort to overcome political opposition and yet interest large groups of people to work through civil and fraternal organizations. The recreation work was made so elastic that every organization could participate in a recreation program.

Detroit's plan of organizing and administering its public recreation proved a satisfactory answer to the question, "What is the value of a public recreation administrative agency which is not the primary custodian of the property upon which it conducts its work?" In Detroit approximately \$200,000 is spent annually upon public recreation without the use of the public playgrounds. The Playground Commission operates forty recreation centers all

## DUES AND CHARGES FOR RECREATION PRIVILEGES

the year round and fifty-five summer playgrounds, all located on private property or public property used for other purposes. Settlements, churches, club houses, and factories give the commission the use of their plants one or more evenings a week. It would cost the city \$50,000,000 to reproduce the equipment placed at the commission's disposal by these various institutions. When a recreation center is taken over by the city it is opened to the public regardless of race, sect, color or sex. While under the operation of the commission, the center is a public matter. The leaders are provided by the commission.

By making the heads of five city departments, the Superintendent of Schools, the Chief Librarian, the Public Commissioner, the Superintendent of Public Works, and the Superintendent of Parks and Playgrounds, in addition to five private citizens, members of its Recreation Commission, Detroit has secured the coordination, cooperation, efficiency and economy necessary to make the organization and administration of its public recreation so successful. The commission receives its appropriations from the City Council.

**Control of Commercial Recreation** A difference of opinion prevailed on the question of the centralization and supervision and censorship of commercial recreation. Some of the delegates favored the placing of such power in the hands of the recreation commission. Mr. George A. Bellamy of Hiram House, Cleveland, said that in that city inspection and supervision are under the control of the mayor who appoints a policeman inspector. Mr. Ira Jayne, of Detroit, doubted the advisability of such power coming into the hands of the Recreation Commission. In Detroit, the commission has not insisted upon the power because it is a well-known police function. To place the supervision in the hands of the commission would give that body trouble which it would not otherwise meet.

## DUES AND CHARGES FOR RECREATION PRIVILEGES\*

In discussing the advisability of making charges for any of the activities of a neighborhood recreation center, those in favor

\*Discussion at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 5, 1916

## POLITICS

of such a plan felt it necessary and advisable, first, for the self-respect of those using the privilege and second, for the securing of attendance at the centers.

Those in favor of the free use of neighborhood recreation center facilities took the ground that if recreation is as important to the children's development as education, it is not consistent to ask for a publicly supported school system absolutely free to all children and at the same time to try to develop a system of dues and charges for something which is of equal if not greater importance than formal instruction. The sentiment for dues and charges seemed to some to be more or less opportunistic and to work against a thoroughly democratic system in recreation work.

## POLITICS\*

Political opposition to municipal recreation is but temporary and is due, according to W. F. Ashe, chairman of the meeting, to recreation secretaries, "who have not been careful enough to inform the men in charge of our government." Mr. Ashe reviewed a campaign of education among city officials in Pittsburgh, which resulted in a strong letter advocating municipal recreation from Mayor Armstrong, who said, "My early impression and opposition to playgrounds was due to ignorance. Now I believe that the recreation movement is the most important of social welfare work, and it is so important that it should be financed by the municipality alone."

A discussion of the political aspects of civil service showed the delegates evenly divided for and against it. Mr. Bellamy, of Cleveland, thought that the great asset of civil service is that it creates a public conscience. Not civil service but the constant shifting of men and public discussion has brought good men. Mr. Teller, of Pittsburgh, declared civil service is ninety percent integrity and ten percent law. If the law is good and the examinations are poor, civil service is bad. Civil service is good only when the commissioners are good.

\*Discussion at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 2-6, 1916

## GROUP ORGANIZATION

### GROUP ORGANIZATION\*

It was felt by those taking part in the discussion of group organization that in order to secure satisfactory volunteer leadership for groups there should be a training class for volunteers. The volunteer must above all learn to work *with* the group and not *for* it. In La Salle, Illinois, the Woman's Club has furnished excellent volunteer leadership.

Among the possible groups for winter activities were suggested Big Brothers' Club, Mothers' Club, Current Events Club, Camera and Walking Clubs, Employed Girls' Club, Travel, Dramatics, Handicraft and Civics and Domestic Science Clubs, Girl Scouts and Girl Pioneers.

The organization for a large playground as described by John R. Richards of Chicago, is as follows: The space should be divided into three parts; one for children under ten, one for older boys and one for older girls. There should be supervision from eight-thirty in the morning until nine-thirty in the evening. This will necessitate two shifts of play leaders; one from eight-thirty to five o'clock and one from two-thirty to nine-thirty o'clock. The children should be organized for self-government and for keeping the grounds clean. The play leaders must not only supervise, but must impart play knowledge. This will be accomplished by having a definite though flexible program. A suggested program includes the following:

Eight-thirty to eleven a. m., early morning period. Individual instruction in use of apparatus, children's swings, active games, practice period. Eleven to three-thirty o'clock, hot period; stories, light games, use of sand piles, playing store. Three-thirty to six, lively games. Six-thirty to nine, special activities for adults.

It was further suggested that this plan of organization with the exception of the three-part division, would apply also to a small playground.

It has been found helpful in Los Angeles, California, to have the director live on the playground.

**Duties of Director** A director should not spend his time umpiring games. He should not encourage the pennant and trophy idea which at this stage of development should be outgrown. The director would be greatly aided in his work by the introduction

\*Discussion at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 5, 1916

## PROBLEMS OF NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION

of the Progress City Self-Government organization as it is conducted on the Cleveland playground. By including all departments of government the plan serves the double purpose of solving the problem of discipline on the ground and of training the boys to take an active and useful part in the civic life of the city.

Among the special play activities suggested were pushmobile contests, doll parties, pet shows, band concerts, moving pictures, singing, pantomime, pageants, baby shows. If baby shows are conducted, a good doctor must be present.

For a suburban playground the following activities were mentioned: *hare and hound*, lawn ball, roller skating, *pom-pom-pull away*, *run-sheep-run*, *I spy*, kite-flying, marshmallow roast, and *bombardment*.

**Program of Appeal to the Seven Natural Instincts** The seven natural instincts as outlined by Dr. E. A. Peterson of Cleveland with some of the activities which belong to each group, are as follows:

Baseball	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="font-size: 3em; vertical-align: middle;">}</div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> Hunting and Fighting Cooperation </div> </div>	Gardening	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="font-size: 3em; vertical-align: middle;">}</div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> Nurturing </div> </div>
Dodge ball		and	
Athletics		Pets	
Tether ball			
Quoits		Collections	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="font-size: 3em; vertical-align: middle;">}</div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> Exploring </div> </div>
		Leaves	
Basketry	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="font-size: 3em; vertical-align: middle;">}</div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> Building </div> </div>	Stones	
Sewing		Butterflies	
		Folk dancing	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="font-size: 3em; vertical-align: middle;">}</div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> Rhythm </div> </div>
		Marching	
		Athletic dancing	

## PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION CENTER WORK\*

The first problem which arises in the establishment of neighborhood recreation center work is that of creating a demand for a center. A general and expressed demand must not be expected. The presence of an urgent need, however, and the prospect of being

\*Discussion at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 4, 1916


## *PROBLEMS OF NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION*

able to meet it, justify a beginning. There will always be objectors but a slow but continuous moving in the face of objections will gradually overcome them. It was the general feeling of the delegates present that it is almost invariably necessary for an employed leader to help the community organize its neighborhood center but the organizing should whenever possible be accomplished through the help of the natural local leaders.

It is exceedingly helpful in making the work of a neighborhood center community-wide, first to discover through a survey existing needs and efforts already being made to meet these needs. In planning activities, account should be taken of the various hyphenated groups but many activities should be promoted in which the "America first" idea would be fostered. As a means to this end national choruses have been developed in Chicago, all of which combine occasionally in an American chorus at which only American songs are sung.

It was the general feeling of those present that through the development of small group activities in which the members provided their own entertainment, neighborhood recreation center work would be greatly strengthened. Such small group activities should to a great degree take the place of the large group entertainments, dances and socials. Groups which in the beginning have been attracted to the centers by dances and entertainments, would be stimulated to become interested in discussions, group debates, educational dramatics, and other activities which will educate as well as entertain.

It was suggested that in an effort to reach the entire community, posters be used and that invitations be extended through such organizations as Turnvereins.

In a small community of Pennsylvania, the need of recreation for mothers has been met by the organization of Italian Mothers' Clubs. The leading Italian politician, the priest, and an educated railroad clerk take turns in leading the groups. In Kalamazoo, Michigan, where there is one paid worker for four centers, who is assisted by volunteer workers (teachers), mothers' clubs have proved successful especially in a district which has a large number of  Hollanders. Here the mothers enter enthusiastically into play and active games. In one community an old church has been remodeled for use as a community house at a cost of \$4.50. The Library-Home-School Association and Board of Trade use this building as their headquarters. Moving pictures are conducted



## PROBLEMS OF NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION

three nights each week and a chorus and an orchestra have also been organized. Next summer a Chautauqua course will be given by local talent.

It was felt by some of the delegates in discussing the question as to whether activities should be planned chiefly for young people or for the fathers, mothers, and adult members of a community, that if the interest and support of the young people were first secured that of their parents would naturally follow. In Youngstown, Ohio, the parents were reached through the ruling that an adult must accompany every two children at the community moving picture performances. The program was varied by the introduction of educational addresses. In some communities, as for example in Providence, Rhode Island, and Salt Lake City, Utah, it has been found necessary to limit the activities to young people because the controlling authorities would not appropriate funds for adult recreation. In San Diego, California, one of the centers includes illustrated lectures for adults and gymnastic games and folk dancing for children. After eight-thirty p. m. children are excluded from the center.

### Activities of Neighborhood Recreation Centers

In discussing what the work of a neighborhood recreation center should be, a four-fold classification of activities was suggested—physical, social, civic, and intellectual. Under physical activities should be included gymnastic games, aesthetic and folk dancing, as well as boxing, punching the bag, and other “rough house” games for the boys. Entertainments, musicals, and dramatics, fall into the class of social activities. In the civic division come community improvement leagues, women’s civic leagues, and discussion groups. It is very helpful in planning for discussion groups if different leaders are appointed each week and if the subjects for discussion are announced two weeks ahead. Under literary activities should be placed the literary society, which should not be undertaken with the idea of doing very advanced work but which should be more or less popularized.

In Milwaukee the plan is followed of attracting as many people as possible by offering the activities they want and of using the resulting personal contacts to interest them in what they need. Mr. Berg, of Milwaukee, quoted as an illustration of this the case of a young married couple coming to the center at first to dance. When questioned as to why he entered the manual training class,

## PROBLEMS OF NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION

the young man said, "My wife wanted to go into the millinery class so instead of staying home alone I go to manual training and I like it."

### **Social Dancing**

Chief among the social activities is the social dance. A discussion of this phase of neighborhood recreation center work fell into two groups: How vary the social dance? How control the social dance?

It was felt that social dancing should be interspersed with old folk games and parlor games. Even at the largest dances, games can be used advantageously particularly if before the dance a small group is trained to lead in the games. Lively gymnastic games and relay races may also be used successfully. The use of games in this way is useful in breaking up small cliques on the dance floor. The repetition of a grand march several times during the evening has been found a successful variation.

In controlling the social dance various plans have been tried. In Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Newark, New Jersey attendance at the dance is limited to those whom the director knows or who are vouched for by someone known to the director. In one of the Chicago centers where public dances had proved a failure because of the impossibility of securing uniformity of dress, style of dance, and conduct, a satisfactory substitute was found in the organization of a class in social dancing. Thousands have been graduated from this class and large dances are now conducted by the graduates to which their friends may come as well as those connected with other activities at the center. At this dance every boy is introduced to every girl and special pains are taken to break up cliques. At this center the installation of a refreshment room next to the dance hall has proved an excellent substitute for the near-by saloon. A class in colonial dancing at another Chicago center, organized to train for a single celebration, has become a permanent activity.

San Diego is meeting the necessity for competing with questionable dancing resorts by allowing all dances at the neighborhood center. A junior dancing club for children under fifteen has been organized that they may be taught formal politeness, proper ways of dancing, and in general trained against the misuse of the dance. Once a month a dancing party and banquet have been conducted for the children. At the center at Brookline, Massachusetts, attendance at the dances has been limited to the members of the gymnastic class, who in this class receive instruction in social dancing. Still another method for regulating the social

## PROBLEMS OF NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION

dance has been successfully tried out in La Salle, Illinois, where groups desiring to conduct dances are required to furnish a list of chaperons. A necessary precaution in regulating social dancing is proper censorship of the music used.

As a result of the discussion, the delegates in attendance voted in favor of continuing social dancing as a worth-while neighborhood center activity. There was a strong feeling that when all the precautions which can be taken are taken, there still lurk many dangers in the social dance, and social workers and others interested in saving the public dance should unite in a definite plan to make it a wholesome purposeful activity and a positive force for good.

**Home Economics at the Recreation Center** Home economics has found a place in the program of a number of social centers. In the St. Paul centers classes in millinery, cooking, and sewing have been successfully conducted. The kitchen garden conducted at a center in Cincinnati has met with great success. At this center a class was carried on in which young women were taught the art of decorating tables for parties and banquets and of serving at such functions. One girl who received her training at this class now earns one dollar an hour decorating for banquets.

**Quiet Game Room Activities** It was the consensus of opinion that the quiet game room is a necessity in a well-organized neighborhood center. One of the centers in Chicago has a game club of over one hundred and fifty members of over eighteen years of age. It was suggested that in the game room might be taught games which can be taken home to enliven home recreation. There should be adequate leadership for the activities of the game room. One rule which it was suggested might well be posted in a game room is the following: "Talk as loud as you please but remember the other fellow's rights!"

The preponderance of sentiment favored the permitting of card-playing in the game rooms on the ground that it furnished excellent opportunity for wholesome recreation particularly for older people and that it helped draw young men away from the playing of cards under unwholesome surroundings. Billiards and bowling wherever feasible were approved on the same grounds.

The advisability of providing a smoking room for older men was discussed. Representatives from the following cities stated

## BOOK REVIEWS

that smoking was permitted at their centers: Peoria, Illinois, Lowell, Massachusetts, Butte, Montana, and St. Albans, Vermont.

Chicago has been successful in promoting the playing together by young men and young women of gymnastic and quiet room games but not competitive team games.

There was a consensus of opinion in favor of limiting gymnastic apparatus to that required by Turners and other groups trained to use it. Haphazard use of apparatus by untrained persons was disapproved.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### THE GARY SCHOOLS

By R. S. Bourne. Published by Houghton, Mifflin Company, Boston, New York, Chicago

A sentence in the preface represents the point of view from which the Gary School is regarded. "A broad educational philosophy has combined with administrative skill to produce a type of school which represents a fundamental reorganization of the public school to meet changing social and industrial conditions." Mr. Wirt himself writes in the introduction his two principles: that children should be busy all day long at work, study and play under right conditions; that such a program can be financed if all facilities are coordinated. The whole child is to be educated. "The ideal school will make the playground the very center of its life." The ideal "outdoor equipment is on the scale of a college or a wealthy private school which can provide spacious grounds and provision for every athletic sport."

All the efforts of child-welfare agencies "do not occupy the time of all the children of a city for more than an average of ten minutes a day\*\*\*\*\*the streets and alleys and cheap theaters have the children for over five hours a day." Therefore the school day is extended to eight hours and the vacation extended. Superintendent Wirt would make playgrounds, art galleries, libraries, workshops available for all children by making them part of the school system. "Common use of public facilities" is applied throughout his work.

Evening schools have been made part of the "continuous process" of education, so much emphasized—and gymnasia, playgrounds and swimming pools are made to serve the evening school. The auditoriums are freely lent.

### THE CHILD WORLD PLAYGROUND SERIES

#### SEASONAL FESTIVALS AND PAGEANTS HARVEST FESTIVAL SPRING PANTOMIME

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#### CHRISTMASSE IN MERRIE ENGLAND

Price, twenty-five cents.

By Mari Ruef Hofer. Published by Clayton F. Summy Co., 64 E. Van Buren St., Chicago, Illinois

A complete festival program is given in each of these books, including outline of play, music, description of dances and suggestions for costuming and staging. The music and the dances could also be used individually in various programs.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### THE HIAWATHA INDUSTRIAL READER

By Mary A. Proudfoot. Published by Rand McNally & Co., New York. Price, fifty cents

The story of Hiawatha is here arranged to serve as a basis for education through play. Parts suitable for reading by children are quoted, the remainder is told in simple prose. After each division which suggests constructive activity suggestions for construction are given and at the end of the book, directions for workmanlike production. Through the atmosphere of primitive life, so close to his own, the child learns the number work he needs; "the supplementary story and occupation offer unusual opportunity for self-expression. As the narrative develops into the experience of making and doing real things, enthusiasm unchains limitations of speech, and language flows without effort into original story."



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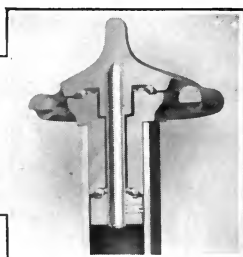
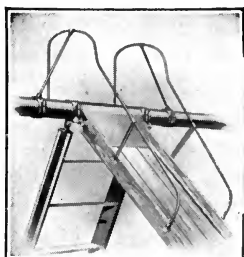
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## LISTS OF STORIES AND PROGRAMS FOR STORY HOURS

Edited by Effie L. Power. Published for the St. Louis Public Library by the H. W. Wilson Company, White Plains, N. Y. Price twenty cents

All the old stories and many new ones appear, and, in each case where there is more than one version, the best version is indicated. The list of chivalry tales will be especially valuable, for it gives tales from England, France, Spain and Germany, in different centuries, with a brief outline of the development of each story, which would help in the telling.

## CITY PLANNING

By Charles Mulford Robinson. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London. Price, \$2.50

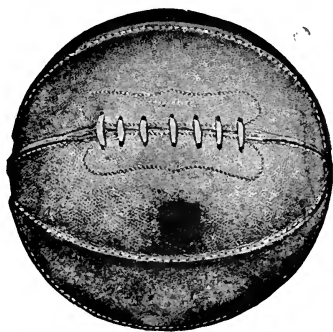
More than is dreamed of regarding streets and open spaces in the average man's philosophy is presented in this book "a re-issue, revised, with much additional material of the work originally published under the title of *The Width and Arrangement of Streets*." Mr. Robinson favors small playgrounds for little children in the center of the block and athletic fields for young men near the factory rather than the home, "if there must be a choice."

It is a splendid practical work, with much for the good citizen as well as for the official charged with city plans.

## INDOOR AND OUTDOOR ATHLETIC GAMES

By Golden D. Long. Published by Erlanger and Galinger, Inc., Manila, P. I. Price, leather \$1.00, paper \$.75

The dozens of games and stunts given in this little book were arranged for the physical director's class of the Young Men's Christian Association of the Philippine Islands and later presented also to classes in playground work in the Manila Filipino Y. M. C. A. The illustrations are all of Filipino boys at play.



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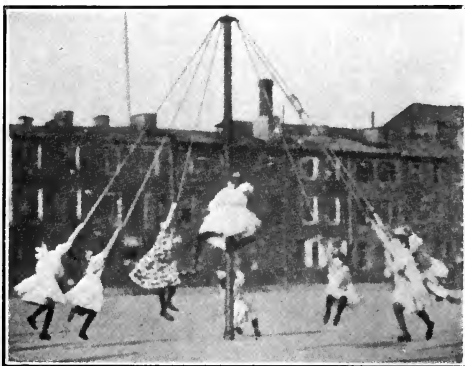
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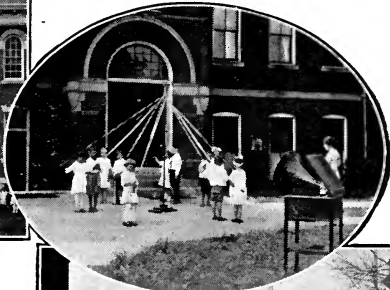
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All Lyric Poetry needs Music to bring out its beauty. No one thinks of such poems as "Drink to Me Only," "Believe Me If A'! Those Endearing Young Charms," "Flow Gently Sweet Afton" and "Home Sweet Home" without associating them with music.

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In all modern festivals, pageants and community gatherings we make use of the Folk Song and the Folk Dance, because they are the oldest forms of human expression, and represent successive stages in the growth of poetry, history and nationality.

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are now used universally to furnish the Music for Drills, Exercises, Field Days, Plays, Festivals and Pageants in the School and on the Playground.

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### Marches

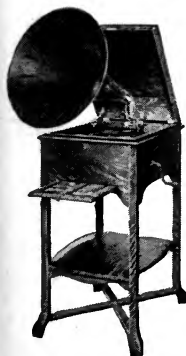
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## All in the Leadership.—

The *Journal of Education* relates a story of a kindergarten child who appeared one morning in a new policeman's suit, complete in every detail, hat, belt, billy. Immediately "playing policeman" excluded every other interest. The jail was filled, drunken people reeled about the room, the billy was busy constantly. The kindergartner let this play go without comment until the bell rang and the usual program was carried out. At "free play" time not a toy was taken from the shelves. "Let's play policeman!" "All right," said the kindergartner, "Olin, you be the traffic policeman." Order came out of chaos. The policeman engineered the automobiles, gave directions to inquirers, gallantly assisted a lady with a baby. Social play had taken the place of anti-social.

## Playground a Prime Need.

—The biennial report of the superintendent of the Colorado State Home for children urges the need of play opportunities for the dependent child:

"The moving picture with all its drama and its pictures of experiment; the natatorium or swimming pool that he can go into daily on his own premises, with opportunity for the high dive and the adventure and danger side; plenty of first class playground apparatus of the

proper kind; the summer camp where he loses himself in the experiences of the mountains for a couple of weeks in the year; the skating pond in winter; the gymnasium for evening work, where basket ball and other games may be played after supper."

**Tenants' Union for Playgrounds.**—Alexander Law, secretary of the 'Tenants' Union of New York City, in a letter to *The Globe* declares the Union has for years advocated and urged the building of apartments with a central court with sun and fresh air as a playground for the children of the block.

"We furnish the monkeys and other animals in the parks with all the advantages of twentieth century civilization. The least we might do is to show as much consideration for our own citizens and their families."

## Back Yard Playgrounds in

**New York.**—Dr. Woods Hutchinson once said, "The modern city child has lost his most precious birthright—the back yard." New York City police are back of a movement to restore this birthright. The fences of four or five back yards are torn down and the space thus secured equipped with sand box, swing, teeter and sometimes a slide. This equipment is usually donated by the owner of the land, who is willing to help

the police, when perhaps he might not help a private organization. And the police say it *does* help them by reducing the number of accidents.

A woman living on the first floor of one of the houses is hired to act as caretaker of the equipment. She is paid from \$10 to \$12 a month by some local organization, such as the church. The police department is willing to pay her, however, until the playground is in good running order. The plan of having policemen's widows live there and act as caretakers did not work for they could afford to live in better surroundings. Besides the caretaker, someone is hired to act as play leader for the children. All the doors are locked except the one through which the caretaker may enter the playground. It is a playground exclusively for the children of these houses—not a public playground. Each playground accommodates from seventy to two hundred children. There are fifteen such playgrounds in New York City. The movement seems to be a very slow one but very successful and more satisfactory than the street playground plan.

**Prize for Home Playground.**—The Women's Welfare League, of Minneapolis, has offered prizes amounting to one hundred dollars for the best

home playground fitted up by school children of that city.

**"A Park in Every Block."**—With this slogan, a "back yard committee," a subcommittee of the Woman's Municipal League of New York City, has set Rosalie Olin Warner, a specialist in the designing of small gardens, to planning and executing, free of charge, charming gardens into which city back yards may be transformed at the lowest possible cost.

**Playground for Convicts.**—With a flag raising and baseball games, the convicts of the Missouri penitentiary at Jefferson City dedicated their new playground. Saturday afternoons will be given as a holiday hereafter.

**Demonstration of Winter Work.**—About 1400 children and adults participated in Buffalo's annual demonstration of indoor activities, which indicated the type of thing provided for each age group, from circle games for little tots to orchestras and naturalization classes for adults.

**From the Playground Report of the Dallas Park Board, 1916.**—During the summer of 1916, Sunday evening concerts were held on the playgrounds. Opportunity was given to the people of the various neighborhoods to take part in the program. In this way local talent

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

was encouraged and cultivated under the direction of prominent artists.

The public parks of Dallas have thirteen baseball diamonds. Permits for the use of the diamonds are issued from the office of the superintendent of recreation. Weekly applications are made and permit cards are mailed for league and independent games. Differently colored cards are used for different days of the week. Over 1,000 permits were issued during the summer of 1916 for a period of twenty-four weeks, averaging over fifty per week.

A checking system for playground supplies is in operation, which prevents the loss of any articles. This system also covers the handling of towels for the public baths. Since its adoption there has been no loss of park property.

The Dallas Federation of Women's Clubs has equipped a room at Summit play park for domestic science work. This is for the use of playground girls who desire to take the course in domestic economy. The class is directed by a volunteer instructor.

A Christmas rabbit dinner was given at Trinity under the auspices of several interested citizens of Dallas. Nearly 300 people attended and spent an enjoyable hour in good-fellow-

ship. A course in bird-house building was organized with great success. The houses made by the boys were placed on exhibition in the down town stores and later installed in the different parks of the city.

### **In Cotton Mill Villages.—**

Work among the employees of the cotton mills of the state, carried on by the Extension Division of the Winthrop Normal and Industrial College, of Rock Hill, South Carolina, now reaches eighteen villages. In every village, there is a playground, with more or less equipment, and a play leader who knows how to develop the play spirit in children and adults as well. The recreation is not separated from general social work, and the same leader is responsible for it all. As the worker does intensive work in a small area, it is possible to enter into community life in activities from play to teaching the three R's in the night school, which runs six months a year two nights a week.

Where there is a Y. M. C. A. the work is carried on in co-operation with it, as in Spartanburg where the Saxon Mills volley ball team plays match games with the city Y. M. C. A. Three years ago there was no such thing as organized community activities in the Saxon Mill village. Now it is no un-

usual thing to see 300 of the 650 people who constitute the village out on the playground on a beautiful night. In addition to the playground there is a well-equipped building which houses the night school and has quarters for cooking classes with a dining room, well-equipped baths, a play room 60' x 75', a library and a big auditorium. Every family at Saxon raises vegetables and most of them raise flowers as well.

### **Recreation Americanizes.**

—The National Americanization Committee, of which Miss Anne Rhodes is chairman, has found it necessary to use the desire for recreation to secure the very basis of Americanization, the ability to speak the English language, as the men and women are too tired at night to follow a purely academic program. Chorus singing, dancing and dramatization have been found potent aids. Moving pictures have been used to show the need of knowing how to speak English. In a number of cities, as in Kalamazoo, a Fourth of July celebration was arranged to include a citizenship reception and "Americanization program."

### **Sing the National Anthem!**

—Let the playground ring with *The Star-Spangled Banner*, sung with spirit, not as a routine. Help everybody to learn the words—not of the first stanza only. A Red Cross worker declared that

in hundreds of meetings he had addressed, he had seen but one chairman sing all the words of all the stanzas. A German is reported to have remarked that not only do Americans not rise when their national song is sung or played, but when he rose, they shouted, "Down in front!" The forms of patriotism assist the spirit of patriotism and the spirit needs to find expression.

**Maryland Arbor and Highway Day.**—Suggestions for the celebration of this holiday are given in a pamphlet compiled for the shade tree committee of the Women's Civic League of Baltimore.

### **In Behalf of the Birds.**

—The annual legislative attack upon blackbirds, robins, meadow-larks and flickers draws forth a leaflet from the California Audubon Society, comparing the benefits and injuries traceable to these birds. The birds' credit account is sufficiently great.

**Memorial Fountain Presented.**—Brooklyn's prize playground, Betsy Head Memorial, is made yet more attractive by its new fountain presented by Mrs. Isaac L. Rice as a memorial to her husband. Gustavus T. Kirby presided at the exercises, which included the presentation address by Mrs. Rice and the acceptance by Park Commissioner Raymond V. Ingersoll.

**Films for High Schools.**—

The United States government and many leading manufacturers supply films free of charge to a circuit of high schools in Colorado. Four films are supplied each week, the only cost being one-way express. No admission may be charged. A formal report of the use of the film must be filed. The state Agricultural College is the distributing center.

**Better than the "Movies."**

—The Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland, reports great interest on the part of boys and girls in reading clubs. The club for boys meets Saturday mornings for one hour. Half of the period is devoted to history or biography; half to the reading of an entertaining book. The girls meet Saturday afternoon. The members prefer the club to going to the movies, their former regular Saturday afternoon engagement.

**The Theatre Workshop.**—

An effort to help to gather and hand down the traditions of the theatre to the end that the theatre may become in this country what it is abroad is represented by the Theatre workshop. The Workshop hopes to produce and stimulate the best in drama and acting, to give to the public a more sympathetic understanding of the art of the theatre from a professional point of view. A

repertory of fine drama and comedy is in continual rehearsal and a number of satisfying performances have been given in various settlements. Edith Wynne Matthison, Mary Shaw and other distinguished artists are active in the production department.

Modern conditions have made the old stock and repertory companies, which were once the actor's kindergarten, unprofitable. The actor, the producer, the playwright, the scenic and costume designer, the manager—all need opportunity for experiment and for direction and inspiration from experienced artists. These opportunities the Workshop hopes to supply.

**Summer Courses in Physical Training.**—

New York University offers a series of courses framed to meet the requirements of the new Welsh law. These will be given at Washington Irving High School, New York City, one of the best equipped high schools for girls in the world. All these splendid facilities will be at the disposal of the students. The courses will be under the direct supervision of C. Ward Crampton, Director of Physical Training for the University.

**National Council of Boy Scouts.**—

A total registration of 245,073 scouts and scout officials was reported to the National

Council at its seventh annual meeting. Eighty-two new men were employed to give expert direction to scout work in various cities in the United States since January 1, 1916.

**Mr. Ehler in Pittsburgh.**—George W. Ehler, one of the pioneer recreation workers, has become Chief Scout Executive for the Allegheny County Boy Scouts of America, with headquarters in Pittsburgh. Mr. Ehler's first work is the reorganization of all local work, looking especially toward making scouting a part of the daily work in the public schools.

**County Boys' Relay Race.**—Two annual relay races have been successfully conducted by the County Y. M. C. A. of Lenawee County, Michigan. The first year sixty boys entered from three communities. The second year by cooperation with many local committees, the number was increased to 118 runners and thirty-five helpers from six communities. A message was carried by the runners from a representative citizen in the community to the county judge. One-half mile was prescribed as the distance for each runner. They reached the county seat about five-thirty, had showers at the Y. M. C. A. and supper at twenty-five cents per plate, at six-thirty, when the messages were delivered and a brief program carried out.

**Garden Primer.**—Mayor Mitchels' Food Supply Committee has issued a leaflet, giving practical and timely hints for vegetable gardens. The way-faring man could scarcely err in following these instructions.

**An Act Relating to Actions against School Districts.**—Be it enacted by the legislature of the State of Washington. Section 1. No action shall be brought or maintained against any school district or its officers for any non-contractual acts or omission of such district, its agents, officers or employees, relating to any park, playground or field house, athletic apparatus or appliance, or manual training equipment, whether situated in or about any schoolhouse or elsewhere, owned, operated or maintained by such school district. Passed the Senate February 1st, 1917. Passed the House March 7th, 1917. Approved by the Governor March 12th, 1917.

**These Cities Spent Most for Recreation in 1916.**—(From Year Book Reports). Chicago, Illinois, \$967,657.21; Philadelphia, Pa., \$265,610.00; New York City, N. Y., \$202,162.51; Boston, Mass., \$172,363.54; Pittsburgh, Pa., \$158,500.00; San Francisco, Cal., \$149,704.00; Minneapolis, Minn., \$148,306.07; Detroit, Michigan, \$132,601.59; Oakland, Cal., \$104,981.81; Newark, N. J., \$90,609.29.



## PROCLAMATION

### Boys' Club Federation Incorporated

To the Boys' Clubs of America:

Whereas, Congress of the United States of America, believing that "right is more precious than peace," has declared war upon the Imperial German Government, and the people of America have entered upon a conflict worthy of their traditions, and

Whereas, the Boys' Club Federation, having for its primal object "character-building for citizenship" and the teaching of loyalty, service and thrift, is offered a splendid opportunity—already seized by the Canadian Clubs of our affiliation—to exemplify those principles in the cause of justice, humanity and democracy,

Now, therefore, the Boys' Club Federation, by its President and Executive Secretary, in accordance with the dictates of duty and patriotism, do hereby enjoin each Boys' Club in our Federation

To encourage all members of sufficient age to place themselves at the command of their country by enlistment in the Army or Navy.

To urge upon such members as cannot qualify for active Military or Naval duty, the offering of their services as guards, messengers, guides or helpers in whatever capacity they may be of the most service to their country.

To promote and extend the gardening operations already featured by many of our Clubs, and to bring about the organization of companies of boys and young men to aid the farmers in increasing the food supply of the Nation.

By these and other methods of cooperation, let our patriotism find expression; and may our devotion lead to a dedication of ourselves unreservedly to our country's service.

Dated, April 6th, 1917

(Signed) C. J. Atkinson,  
Executive Secretary

## WALKING AND PREPAREDNESS\*

JOHN H. FINLEY, President of the University of the State of New York

I have written in praise of walking as a means of finding pleasure, of keeping more intimately in touch with God's earth and universe, of promoting health and of cultivating a democratic spirit. And whenever I have had opportunity, I have urged schoolboys, especially, to walk.

But just now when we are all thinking and talking of "preparedness," I would remind the boys, especially, that practice in long-distance and hard walking has its "preparedness" values. In the first place, it helps to give the will mastery over the body, to teach the body to endure; and, in the second place, it is at the foundation of all physical training. Whatever special form of discipline or training is necessary later, the ability to walk, to endure on one's feet, is an essential part of it.

So as the days of the open road come on, as nature begins again her laboratory courses in field and stream and mountain, may every boy find, on foot, the blessings of the out-of-doors, the strength that comes of battle with the natural forces that oppose, and the joy of overcoming. And if there be those who because of some infirmity are unable to walk, may they be carried even as wounded comrades are borne by the strong. So shall we all be the better prepared to meet the opportunities and obligations which come, or may come, to us, as men with civic rights and civic duties.

## AN AMERICANIZING PROGRAM

G. F. Ashe, Supervisor, Recreation Commission, Detroit, Michigan

The Detroit Recreation Commission recently staged a dramatization of our national "melting pot."

On the stage were persons varying in ages from sixteen to fifty years. After each offering the performers would lay the instruments of their contribution at the feet of Liberty who was enthroned on the rear of the stage. Fiddles, flags and boxing gloves were placed

\*Courtesy of Physical Training

## AN AMERICANIZING PROGRAM

with equal obeisance. Liberty accepted each with an appreciative bow.

What difference did it make if the young man who was reciting the prologue forgot his lines, or that the young miss who impersonated Liberty occasionally was reduced to the human-ness of smiles! Every utterance and act of the entertainers was enthusiastically received. The performance was unique both from the standpoint of the type of performers and the repertoire.

To the strains of the Hungarian orchestra, four Hungarian women, two of whom had children in the audience, interpreted their national dance, the "Czardas." There were Mexicans, Roumanians, Italians, Hungarians, Greeks, Lithuanians and Poles.

Perhaps the most striking thing was the spirit of the performance and the friendly attitude of nationalities toward each other here while their people at home are facing each other in the horrible war. All were Americans that evening and surely will be better citizens as a result of this undertaking. Was there a dance, music or anything else peculiar to their own country, the entertainers would see that the audience should have an opportunity to know what it was!

The performance closed with a military drill by twenty-four Polish girls from one of the gymnasiums. They carried ribbons and closed the drill by forming the Stars and Stripes with those ribbons. This brought the audience to their feet at once and with the siniging of the *Star Spangled Banner* closed one of the most encouraging evenings the writer has yet seen in his recreation work.

It was an untried field for our Department. In the month of October, 1916, the Board of Education opened twenty-seven night schools offering reading, writing, arithmetic and grammar to foreigners in the various foreign districts of our great city. The Recreation Commission through the untiring and skilful efforts of its Superintendent, Ira W. Jayne, succeeded in convincing the Board of Education of the great need and wonderful opportunities for proper recreation under leadership in those centers. With the Board's consent, work was begun in each of the twenty-seven centers on the opening night.

One male and one female play director was assigned to each of the centers so far as the force would reach. These workers began their efforts by visiting the homes in the neighborhood of their centers. This visiting brought in a large number in some places, while in others only a few could be reached. However, in all they at least succeeded in getting a nucleus.

## SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA

These groups gathered up organized themselves into self-governing clubs. Athletic clubs, debating clubs, singing clubs and orchestras, dramatic clubs, cooking clubs, sewing clubs, dancing clubs, and gymnastic clubs all had their places. These activities were carried on on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Thursday evening was given over entirely to recreation work with the whole enrollment of night school pupils attending as well as the groups gathered up by the workers.

The members of these various organizations ranged in age from sixteen to eighty-four the average being, perhaps, twenty-eight to thirty. The interest manifested in these groups was surprising. It is quite an interesting sight to see Hungarian couples over forty years of age doing their national folk dances. It is interesting to see Syrian men doing their odd dances and singing their weird songs. It is equally as interesting to see the Polish girls' gymnasium class, the Italian men in their dances, the Greeks in their debating clubs, or the cooking, sewing, and dramatic clubs made up of various nationalities. To see a group of foreigners laboring over a game of checkers or trying to jump "through the stick" or crawl "under the stick" is entertaining and socially valuable to the participant.

After the work had been organized for a period of a little less than three months it was decided to call upon all members who would, to contribute something of their talent towards an entertainment on the closing night preceding the holidays. The response was most encouraging, to say the least. More numbers were offered than could be used. A selection was made and on the evening of December twenty-first some 1200 came from all over the city to Central High School and enjoyed and applauded the entertainment.

The work continues this term and will no doubt bring brighter and better things by the close of the semester.

## SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA

The following address was made before a representative committee of a chamber of commerce by a playground enthusiast from a neighboring city:

I believe that the prosperity of any modern American community depending at all on either commerce or industry is largely governed by the facilities provided for caring for the recreational

## SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA

time of the people. I quote Governor Brumbaugh's sententious utterance on this subject in the following paragraphs:

"If we are to conserve the health, the morals and the fine spirit of enthusiasm so vital to the welfare of our people, we have in this recreational movement the greatest opportunity for good now lying within the field of social service.

"The wrongs against society are committed by our people not in their hours of work but in their hours of leisure, and the responsibility lies not wholly with the people who perform these unfortunate acts, but with the people who have not been wise enough to see that the fundamental business of the community at large is to see to it that it becomes increasingly easy for the people to do right, and increasingly hard for them to do wrong."

Mr. George A. Parker's estimate of the time not spent in working, sleeping and eating in the average community is five hours per day, and all the commentators on this estimate agree that it is most conservative. On this basis, with a population figured as being, in 1915, seven per cent greater than in 1910, according to the same ratio of increase as had prevailed for ten years, X has available each day for the recreation of each of its 50,533 people five hours apiece, or a total of 252,665 hours, making the impressive and almost unbelievable amount of twenty-nine years per day of the time spent other than in eating, sleeping and working, the spending of which makes the man, woman or child a better or a worse contributor to the welfare of the city.

Despite the admitted inattention of the city to caring for this time, it has always looked out for it in some fashion. When dissipation causes crime, or disease, or accident, or death, the community takes care of the results. That is, the community pays all the bills for the misuse of a portion of this recreational time, and it would seem like nothing but the best business to attempt to so guide a portion of this recreational time as to reduce the strain on the jail, the hospital, and the cemetery, and likewise to reduce the demand for charity and help to those who have through the city's neglect been permitted to wrong themselves and the community in an unwise use of recreational time.

X's attention to recreation in a beneficent fashion is very weak. Your city lives too cheaply. This may be a desirable economy, but it is not usually considered as a matter of pride when an individual boasts that he saves money by failing to wash or to change his clothing with sufficient frequency to make him a pleas-

ant associate. X does not spend enough money to educate her children, and she does not spend enough money to take care of her citizens.

The figures show that during the current year X's expenditures per person through money derived from taxation has been \$8.89, of which \$4.45 is spent in city administration and \$3.06 is spent on education. These amounts compare unfavorably with progressive communities all over the country. Y, for instance, spends \$6.62 in taking care of its population and \$5.26 in education. Its total of \$14.04 of municipal expenditure per capita is very much more to its credit than the unwise economy of X's pinching figure of \$8.89.

X does spend a little bit of money for recreation. There seems to be a total expenditure between the city and the school board of 11.2 cents per person for public recreational uses, most of which is expended on maintaining rather ineffectual and ill-equipped parks, and none of which is municipally expended on equipped, maintained and directed playgrounds for your people. This expenditure of 11.2 cents per person does not compare favorably with Y's wholesome and satisfactory expenditure of forty-three cents per person for the same purposes.

X is spending every day for education \$423.39 and for recreation \$15.38. This would appear to be paying entirely too much money on the contents and too little attention to the container. The minds of the boys and girls are not of much use without good bodies.

All sorts of facilities have come into existence to compete for some of the recreational time of your population. You have fifty-two churches, nine theatres and moving picture places, a Y. W. C. A., a Y. M. C. A., which give you a total of 1,362 recreation hours per week to compete for good—if you count the theatre and the "movie" in that direction—against twenty-nine years per day of the people's recreational opportunities.

X reaches out in another way for recreation. You have 78 places at which liquor may be purchased, and these are open a total of 7992 hours per week, which compares rather unfavorably with the 520 hours of church opportunity. Counting all of these facilities together, however, the total makes up the relatively inconsiderable number of 9354 hours per week to compete for the recreational needs of more than 50,000 people, who spend each day 29 years in some form of recreational activity or endeavor.

## SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA

It is scarcely to be wondered at that X is slowing up in population under this neglect. The census seems to show that during the decade between 1890 and 1900 you increased 29.5 per cent, while during the last decade your advance was but 13.9 per cent.

The people spend money all the time on recreation. Mr. Parker's estimate is that of two cents per hour, which makes up a total for X of \$4,898 per day spent by your people now for recreation. It is certain that if the city in an endeavor to keep men on the job, productive, happy, healthy, contented and alive, competed for about one-fifth of this time, the result would be an enormous advantage to the present and future prosperity of X.

Your city suffers seriously from its unfortunate preference for an old and outworn charter confining your limits and restricting your proper civic activities. It would seem as if your citizens ought very promptly to see the desirability of getting in step with other cities of the third class in the state so that they may have the same right to diminish the cost of government, or rather to get better government for the same money, by bringing in the parasitic settlements around your constricted borders.

The park provision in X is not creditable to that city's foresight. You have a total of 101 acres, not all of a wholly favorable character. Counting it, however, as efficient park territory, it amounts to but one acre for every five hundred persons. Y has found it advantageous to provide one acre for every seventy-six persons. This is park provision; the other provision is not much more than cemetery provision, for it would be but little more than would be required to bury all your people comfortably if they died at one time. It is better to keep them alive in parks than to add cemeteries.

I have spoken frankly about these matters, because I recognized in the gentlemen whom I had the pleasure of addressing on Wednesday a sincere purpose to do well by X. Nothing is impossible to these gentlemen if they will use the same foresight, thoughtfulness and disposition that have made each one of them a conspicuous success in his own business. What is in mind, I take it, is applying good business to the problem of making X a better place to live in, a better place to do business in, and a better place to come to.

## WHAT ONE SMALL COMMUNITY HAS DONE TO DEVELOP A YEAR-ROUND RECREATION SYSTEM

From a small summer playground started in 1910 by the Civic League of Bennington, Vermont, a volunteer group of young women organized as a part of the Village Improvement Society, has evolved a year-round system of recreation.

### **Growth of the Work**

The process of evolution has been most interesting. Following the establishment of the summer playground and its successful demonstration, the village voted \$300 for the employment of a trained play leader for the summer of 1911. In this same year after a recreation survey made by a worker of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, a year-round worker was employed. To finance this plan an appropriation of \$500 was made by the village, this amount being doubled by private subscriptions.

The work has gone steadily forward, each year bringing an enlargement of the activities and the budget. During 1913 and 1914 organized play and athletics for girls were developed in connection with the schools, instruction being given also in folk dancing and games. Community center work was established in the Young Women's Club rooms which were open six evenings a week, the activities including glee club, cooking, sewing, millinery, raffia work, folk dancing, informal talks followed by dancing, and on Saturday nights, an open dance. Camp Fire Girl groups were organized and a skating rink was built for winter activities. In the summer, playground work was conducted, each evening being given over to the older boys and girls. A very successful baseball league was developed among the boys.

The year 1914-15 was marked by the building of a concrete pavilion and shelter house at a cost of \$1,100. It is so constructed that it can be used for the storing of apparatus and for play in inclement weather. Arrangements were made during this year for the renting of Library Hall for use as a social center. Classes of various kinds were held there, the school children being organized into groups which met after school from 4:00-5:30. Gymnasium classes for older women were formed. Instruction was given in dancing, a charge of \$1 for six lessons being made. The local physician became interested and gave a course in First Aid. During



## WHAT ONE SMALL COMMUNITY HAS DONE

the summer, in addition to the playground work, tennis tournaments and track meets were held.

In 1916 after a visit from a representative of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, the Civic League was reorganized as a Public Welfare Association in whose membership men are now included. Departments of the various activities were created of which special committees from the League were put in charge. In addition to the year-round worker (a woman) already employed, a man was engaged to direct the athletics of the boys. During the past year there has been developed in connection with the schools a system of physical training by which all school children receive instruction in this subject.

**Special Community** Throughout the entire history of the work in  
**Get-together Occa-** Bennington special community celebrations have  
**sions** been developed with notable success. Hallowe'en parties, community Christmas Tree celebrations, Christmas cotillions, community sleigh rides, pageants, 4th of July celebrations, automobile rides, and Labor Day festivals have become a very important part of the recreation program. During 1914-15 it was estimated that 13,431 people attended community events. During the past year the special celebrations have been particularly successful in helping to weld the community together. On Christmas Day bands of carollers from the churches went through the village singing carols to the "shut-ins." The Shakespeare Tercentenary was celebrated by an out-door production of "Julius Caesar." The Hallowe'en performance with its parade of goblins, sprites and spooks aroused an enthusiasm which stirred the entire community, and brought out thousands of people.

Bennington has proved that small community recreation ideals are feasible and can be realized. The experience of Bennington has shown that at a cost of not more than \$2,000 it has been possible to provide a workable program which will go far to realize the purpose of the League which the members are working so wholeheartedly to further: "To build up community spirit, to develop the initiative and resources of the people through working and playing together in the realization of abounding and joyous life as neighbors, friends, and fellow-citizens in the village confraternity."

## WHAT CONSTITUTES A YEAR-ROUND RECREATION SYSTEM

ABBIE CONDIT, Playground and Recreation Association of America, New York City

Any effort to define a year-round recreation system must take into account the needs and conditions of the individual community and cannot therefore set forth rigid requirements to which all communities must conform if they are to appear in the roster of cities which are taking steps to meet adequately their leisure time problem. Generally, and very broadly speaking, however, a year-round system of recreation may be defined as a program of activities which through the utilization of all available facilities, under the direction of a worker employed to organize and carry on recreation work during the entire year, provides opportunities for wholesome recreation for all the people of a community—both children and adults throughout the whole community and for 365 days during the year.

As a first essential for the year-round system which will meet the needs of the entire community, the city must furnish as a frame work for the building up of recreational program, a special recreation commission or department to carry on the work or must make provision for the work to be conducted by the city department best fitted to carry it on—either the school board, park board, or some existing city body. There must, too, be a regular yearly appropriation from the city which will insure the efficiency and permanency of the work and provide the necessary machinery. There are at the present time a number of small communities in which year-round work is being financed and carried on by private organizations. It is always the hope, however, of such private enterprises, that the city will eventually take over the work and in the majority of instances the municipality is providing a part of the necessary funds.

The frame and the machinery having been provided, it necessarily follows that there must be an engineer to direct the work. On this engineer, who is known as the recreation secretary, or superintendent of recreation, falls the burden of organization, leadership and administration.

This "engineer" need not lack for work. Really to affect the leisure time of all of the people of a city is a job—a life-size job—in itself. A physical training teacher running a few baseball games

## WHAT CONSTITUTES YEAR-ROUND RECREATION SYSTEM

after school or gathering groups of people in the schoolhouse one night a week, is not a basis for a year-round recreation system. A park superintendent who dips now and then into recreation affairs but is primarily concerned with walks and planting and fountains does not adequately look after the recreation of a city. The organization of leisure-time activities means that a man is responsible for more time for all the people than the superintendent of schools is responsible for the juvenile population—as much time as all the employers of the community control for the working people, for nearly as many hours as all the housewives of the community spend on their respective duties. To look after the work activities of any one of these groups would be thought a big enough job for the whole of one person's time. What shall be said of the combined job of providing for leisure time—that tremendous moulder of life and character, that vital force in democracy?

### **Work of a Year-round Recreation Secretary**

The activities of a year-round recreation program naturally start with the summer playground work for children which involves on the part of the recreation secretary, the purchase and installation of equipment, the planning and alteration of buildings for recreation purposes, the organization and management of playground work, and the selection and training of play leaders. Summer work also includes the use of outdoor swimming pools and of beaches, the organization of children's gardens, arrangements for summer camps and for tramping trips, and the promotion of all activities which may be carried on by the children out-of-doors.

The older members of the community may also have a share in the summer program through the use of tennis courts, the organization of twilight baseball teams, the evening use of playgrounds, and through the enjoyment of band concerts.

No city, however, is fulfilling its whole duty to its citizens which does not make the spring, fall, and winter work as important a part of its recreation program as the summer activities or whose superintendent of recreation does not during these seasons as well as in the summer, promote community recreation. During the spring and fall, the superintendent should arrange for the opening of children's playgrounds and the use of play fields after school hours and on Saturdays, for the promotion of Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, and similar activities, for the organization of football, baseball and volley ball leagues and for track athletics. Athletic

## *WHAT CONSTITUTES YEAR-ROUND RECREATION SYSTEM*

badge test contests for both boys and girls should be carried on throughout the city and work in connection with school athletics promoted in every way possible. In winter, when it is not feasible to hold athletic events and play activities out of doors, he should arrange indoor swimming pool activities and folk dancing. The use of gymnasias and private halls for indoor activities should be secured so that all available facilities may be in use. Playgrounds and vacant lots should be flooded for skating and arrangements made for the setting aside of streets for coasting. The stimulation of winter outdoor activities by the superintendent of recreation is a very essential phase of his work.

A vital part of the work of the superintendent of recreation during these seasons lies in the development of neighborhood recreation center work for adults at school buildings or in buildings especially erected for recreation purposes. Nothing is of greater importance in a year-round system than that provision shall be made through the evening use of the schools for both cultural features and recreational activities for young men and women employed during the day and for the older men and women of the community.

Of community-wide activities in which all ages and classes may share and which are going far to democratize and Americanize our community life today, there are many which may be developed under the leadership of the superintendent of recreation—community pageants, arrangements for the celebration of holidays, for community music and choruses. These are a few of the activities which are bringing together all the members of a community.

Such community get-together features are not developed without a great deal of cooperation on the part of agencies, and so it becomes the duty of the superintendent of recreation to secure the cooperation of such organizations as the juvenile court, settlements, libraries, churches, and various social agencies; to interpret to the public through addresses, through the press and through publicity channels of various kinds, the recreation work of the city. He should constantly work to extend his service by studying the recreation conditions in different sections of the city in an attempt to meet special conditions and by familiarizing himself thoroughly with the work of private recreation agencies in order to avoid duplications. By acting as adviser to groups of private individuals attempting to provide good recreation, he will help greatly to strengthen the work. This same principle of cooperation may

## CIVIC FORUMS

well be applied to the commercial recreation carried on by the city. If it is not feasible for the recreation department under which the superintendent of recreation works to have direct charge of the city's commercial recreation, he may accomplish much by investigating the type of amusement provided and working for its regulation and improvement.

The work of the superintendent of recreation is bounded only by community needs and by his ability to interpret to the municipality the recreation program which will meet these needs.

### ADULT RECREATION\*

Charles H. Mills, of Grand Rapids, testified that in his experience segregation according to age had been necessary, with the notable exception of a certain Valentine's Party. On this particular occasion young and old intermingled in a great good time. R. A. Bernhard, of Rochester, New York, suggested as important adult activities, civic and debating clubs, music, conundrums and charades, inter-shop athletic leagues and bowling-on-the-green. Other suggestions made were: Horse shoes, croquet, roque, kitchenball, hiking clubs.

S. Wales Dixon of Hartford reported organizing an old folks' picnic and play day. Only persons over sixty years old were admitted. This proved so successful that there has now developed an elderly folks' recreation club which conducts many entertainments and other recreational activities.

Out-of-door activities suggested for women were: seat-swings on playgrounds, swimming, gardens, folk dancing, handicraft. The initial interest of women as well as men can be secured by working through already existing organizations.

### CIVIC FORUMS\*

Public or civic forums, which may be defined as meeting places for all sorts and classes of citizens, are of two types:

\*Discussion at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 3, 1916

## CIVIC FORUMS

1. The political forum where there is specific propaganda and where the result of the discussion is crystallized into immediate action

2. The forum in which every side has a hearing and which represents all, both in personnel and in point of view. It is a clearing house for ideas, an intellectual get-together occasion. Here socialists, anarchists, and individualists may all state their point of view and hope for a sympathetic hearing.

A few of the special types of forums in existence at the present time are the following:

1. The public forum that is really of the people, by the people, for the people—such as the forum in Melrose which was supported through the efforts of a minister and a school teacher and the building for which was erected through the donations of the people of the community

2. The forum conducted by high school students such as the Hutchinson Center High School in Buffalo

3. The forum that is a simulation of government such as the Ford Hall town meeting, the Worcester Garden City, and the East Boston City Council

4. The labor forum, such as the one conducted by Carl Beck in New York

5. The Catholic Common Cause which was organized to fight socialism

6. The socialistic forum such as the School for Social Science

7. The capitalistic forum such as the one at the Old South, Boston

8. The civic club

9. The endowment forum of which Ford Hall and Cooper Union are examples

Some of the problems to be faced in conducting public forums are the following:

1. Method of support. Public forums are supported by taxation, endowment, contribution, or by admission fees. It seemed to be the general feeling of those present at the meeting that the self-supporting forum to be successful must be non-partisan.

2. The possibility of holding successful forums in school buildings where the discussion takes on a partisan aspect. The experience at Springfield, Illinois, has been that both sides of every question can be discussed at school forums when excellent leadership has kept the balance. In Virginia, the country schools are used as

## WOMEN IN THE RECREATION MOVEMENT

forums by all political parties. The use of the schoolhouse as a place for holding public meetings has revolutionized school building problems. In many places in the state in order to have the right kind of buildings the people of the community have supplemented public funds with private subscriptions, in one instance the people of the district having provided seven-eighths of the cost of a new school building. Difficulties regarding janitor service such as one delegate from Denver said were experienced in the school forums in Colorado, are met in Chicago by paying the janitors for evening work.

3. Method of conducting the forums and nature of the discussions permitted. Whether or not the subjects discussed at a forum are partisan or non-partisan, the question of leadership is a very important one. The discussions should always be dignified and free from offence. In Chicago the plan of permitting no partisan or sectarian question to be discussed has been followed and debate has been found the best form of conducting the discussions. In Youngstown, Ohio, on the other hand, at a forum known as an up-to-date club which meets at the Young Men's Christian Association, the frankest discussions were carried on and the forum has among its membership a Catholic priest and a Jewish Rabbi. Here political questions are frequently reviewed after an election both in debates and in the question and answer method. At a forum for social workers such questions as the relation of social workers to radical socialism and the subject of working men's insurance have been discussed to great advantage.

The requisites of an ideal forum are summed up in the following excerpt from an article in "Ford Hall Folks." "The ideal forum is one based upon a distinct group of representative citizens of all sorts and classes having a neutral meeting-place which will not stir any prejudice or arouse any distrust, a place where nothing offensive to race, class, or creed will be allowed, an institution which will be self-supporting—financed by voluntary contributions from members of the community served—serving its whole community, not any particular class in that community."

## WOMEN IN THE RECREATION MOVEMENT\*

The part played by women in recreation work as well as in all movements for social betterment has been shown, according to

\*Discussion at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 3, 1916

## RECREATION FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN

Mrs. R. H. Ashbaugh, President of the State Federation of Women's Clubs of Michigan, in the history of the Detroit playground work which is now controlled by a commission of ten men and women of whom five are appointed by the mayor and five members ex-officio. The success of the work in Detroit, Mrs. Ashbaugh felt, was due to the splendid group of workers. All positions are filled by civil service examination and in an effort to secure the most efficient workers possible the standards and requirements have been raised twice. To maintain a high degree of efficiency, the workers are required to attend a class once a week.

A discussion of the value of the civil service examination in recreation work led to the conclusion that civil service examinations as such do not meet all the requirements and that appointments should not be made on a mere per cent basis since character, personality, and play spirit have so important a part in play leadership. The plan followed in St. Paul and a number of other cities of allowing forty percent for the written examination, twenty percent on an oral examination for determining personality, and forty percent on experience, has proved very successful.

Another subject of discussion, introduced by the statement of one of the delegates that education should prepare a child to give something to the world, was that of the wider use of the school facilities. Greater initiative must be developed in the child and if the educational system has been allowed to become ineffective in this respect, it must be supplemented by a recreation system which will permit the comprehensive use of school facilities. In Detroit during the winter there is a program for indoor recreation in which the high schools and schools with gymnasias are used. In the night schools three nights are given up to school work and the fourth to recreation pure and simple. The activities of the centers in Detroit include dancing. The organization of dance clubs at the centers has obviated many of the difficulties of the dance problem.

## RECREATION FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN\*

That the average crippled child is not an invalid unless made so by treatment, environment, and constant suggestion of invalidism, was the statement of Miss Blanche Van Leuven-Brown of the



## ATHLETIC BADGE TESTS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

Van Leuven-Brown Hospital School for Crippled Boys and Girls in Detroit. This has been demonstrated by the experience of the school where all the training is designed to make the child feel that he is neither abnormal nor helpless. The teachers seldom tell the children to be careful or they will be hurt. In ten years there has never been an accident. The boys do not admit there is anything a normal boy can do that they cannot do except walk—and some of them can do this. Although only five boys out of the fourteen at the school can walk, nevertheless every child over twelve can swim and many of them wrestle. Miss Brown told of a fifteen-year-old boy who had been in the school less than a year. He had been born without forearms and with only one leg, yet during the summer he learned to swim, to wrestle, to climb trees, and to ride horseback. He could beat any boy in the school turning cart-wheels.

Although all states provide specially equipped schools for the education of the deaf and dumb, the blind, the incorrigible, and the feeble-minded, the crippled child, except in three states, is left helpless, neglected, and ignorant. It was Miss Brown's plea that all workers for child welfare use their influence to make the cripple an independent, self-supporting citizen by providing him a place where he may live a normal life and receive an education at the same time he is being treated for his physical condition.

## ATHLETIC BADGE TESTS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS\*

One of the methods used to arouse the interest of the children in the tests is the holding of preliminary tests. This plan has been found effective in Ann Arbor, Michigan to get large numbers to enter the tests. In Kirkwood, Missouri where the tests have been held three times, there has been an increase, not only in the number taking the tests but in the number successful in passing them. The plan of awarding the badges in public along with the letters for members of the track teams and of publishing the names of the winners in the local papers has contributed largely to this increase. The tying up of the local work with the national has created a great deal of enthusiasm and local pride. A Badge Test Club made up of the boys who have won the badges has charge of

\*Discussion at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 6, 1916

## A NEW PROFESSION

the details connected with the presentation of badges to new winners.

A problem to be faced in holding the badge tests is the possibility of having entries only from those boys and girls who are confident of winning badges. In meeting this problem the preliminary test has been of value. The plan of combining class athletics with the badge tests giving points to those who are successful only in part of the events has been helpful in attracting a large number of children.

The experience in holding tests in Kirkwood, Missouri and in Sag Harbor, Long Island, showed that a large group of untrained boys made rapid increase in ability up to the age of thirteen years, when progress is arrested. At fourteen and one-half or fifteen years there comes another period of rapid development. In girls' groups the arrest of progress comes approximately at the age of twelve.

It was the general feeling of those present that the tests could be used with great success on summer playgrounds. They should not, however, be given more than once or twice during the season as the frequent holding of tests is liable to decrease their importance in the eyes of the children. It is important to set aside a period a week for preliminary practice and try-outs.

It was suggested that the badge test standards might be used as a basis for comparing the physical condition of children in different school grades or playgrounds or even in entire communities. As the tests were used in Ipswich, Massachusetts to aid in determining the physical efficiency of the children, they might—it is possible—be used in a nation-wide survey of the physical efficiency of children in rural districts and in small and large communities. It was suggested that such a survey carried on by the Association through the schools might stimulate an interest in increased physical efficiency: first, on the part of the children themselves because of the competitive features, and second, on the part of communities which are doing little or nothing in physical education, by showing them how far below normal their children are.

## A NEW PROFESSION\*

Mr. Bellamy opened the discussion of *A New Profession* by the statement that the need is for those who understand the philoso-

\*Discussion at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 4,

1916

## BUDGETS

phy of democracy well enough to organize for its development and expression. Joseph Lee suggested that the primary need is for the conception of a social soul. The neighborhood must be created in a spiritual sense. Dr. C. W. Hetherington, of the University of Wisconsin, emphasized the need for a thorough training for leaders because their work is essentially educational. Volunteers can lead particular activities but cannot unify and give direction to the whole. The training course in Wisconsin University is very stiff, requiring five years for most students. One hundred are now enrolled in this course.

Miss Neva Boyd, of the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy, seconded the need for training in the technique of directing recreational activities. The aim in the Chicago school is to train not only for the handling of children, but also for leading in adult activities.

Doctor Peterson remarked that while formal education under school responsibility has rapidly increased in the last century, informal education through actual contact with the things of life has decreased. This situation, due largely to the move of social organization from rural to urban, must be met by the direction of leisure time into recreational activities which provide informal education through contact with *things*.

Clarence Rainwater of Chicago spoke of the need of cultural training as well as technical for the successful play leader. Three years of cultural training combined with one or two in the technical training were suggested as satisfactory.

## BUDGETS\*

It was the feeling of the delegates taking part in the discussion of budgets that there could be no basis for a satisfactory comparison since no two recreation commissions draft their budgets in the same way and since the objectives of superintendents of recreation, equipment, population, and classification of workers in various cities differ so widely.

The determining of the amount of money necessary for the annual budget depends upon the objective of the recreation com-

\*Discussion at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 5, 1916

## BUDGETS

mission, the facilities available and the people served. This fact was born out by the presentation of the budgets of Yonkers, N. Y., a city of 100,000, calling for an expenditure of \$60,000 and of Omaha, Neb. with a population of 200,000 which provided for a yearly expenditure of \$40,000. The budget for Yonkers was intended to provide for the ideal objective of the superintendent of recreation and was based upon the actual cost of maintaining the present equipment. The budget for Omaha on the other hand covered the cost of operating the present equipment to its capacity. For Pittsburgh, a city of 500,000 population, an annual budget of \$176,300 was reported. In this case a budget of \$200,000 would be sufficient to meet the annual cost of the city's recreation after adequate equipment had been provided.

Among the fundamental problems to be kept in mind are the following: Shall we set a minimum salary wage and agree to a policy of a sliding scale? Shall we set for ourselves a standard of qualifications in preparation and experience? Shall we set a standard for a minimum and maximum amount of work? The unit of work for any budget making for recreation is as for school work a per capita unit for every child in the city. The budgets which were reported at the Congress showed the per capita cost for recreation to range from 30c to 50c.

### **Methods of Dividing Budgets**

Methods of dividing budgets may be classified in three ways: first, according to salaries, apparatus, repairs, and renewals; second, according to seasons; and third, according to the requirements of each playground or social center. If the division of the budget is for the purpose of informing the taxpayer it may be well to divide it seasonally. If it is for the information of the city treasurer it may be divided according to salaries, apparatus, and other expenditures. In Detroit, it is the practice to divide the budget seasonally as the method of dividing it according to neighborhood centers would make it possible for the centers to be placed politically by aldermen. On the other hand, it has been found in East Orange, New Jersey, that the arrangement of budgets according to neighborhood centers helps to determine the efficiency of neighborhoods and the work of the directors. In any consideration of budget making it is necessary to keep in mind the value of neighborhood pressure and also the right of politicians to determine where money shall be spent.

## THE LAYING-OUT OF PLAYGROUNDS

Any decision regarding the keeping of statistics should be based on a conception of what a playground should be and what the needs are which justify the existence of a playground. Figures on attendance and enrollment are not enough. The director should know how many children are participating in games planned to develop instincts and how many are securing an all-round development. Statistics of this sort will lead men to say, "There is the thing for my money!"

It was felt that the salaries of play directors should be placed on a par with those of school teachers. It is essential to secure as superintendent of recreation a man who is qualified to determine the salaries of his workers. The matter of standardizing salaries presents difficulties because the salary scale in agricultural and colored belts, for example, would necessarily vary greatly from those of New York or New England. It might, however, be possible to standardize salaries in a certain section of the country. Another difficulty lies in the lack of standardization in the titles of recreation workers, the term supervisor in one city for example being identical with that of director in another. There must be a standardization of titles before any standardization of salaries can be worked out.

### THE LAYING-OUT OF PLAYGROUNDS\*

The fundamentals to be considered in the laying-out of playgrounds are the location, size and shape of the grounds; the installation of apparatus; and the beautification of the grounds. These fundamentals must be considered in relation to the different types of playgrounds such as school playgrounds, municipal playgrounds, athletic fields, and back yard playgrounds.

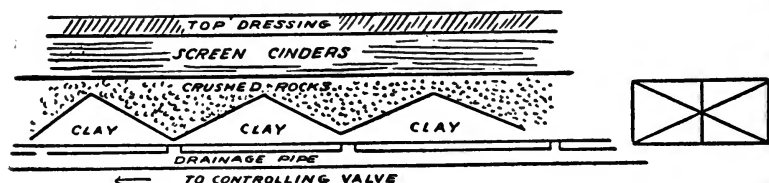
In laying out school playgrounds much depends on whether the grounds are regular or irregular in shape. Rectangular tracts of land lend themselves best to proper development. In laying out the ground it is of value to keep in mind the principles of indoor gymnasium construction and the service ideal—that a playground used at all should be used day and night and during the entire year. Wherever climatic conditions permit, special provision should be made for winter sports and recreation.

The size of the school playground is determined necessarily by

## THE LAYING-OUT OF PLAYGROUNDS

the number of children to be served by it. Ernst Hermann of Newton, Massachusetts, suggests that a playground designed for the use of about 500 children should allow for a minimum of five square yards per child. That is, it should contain at least 5200 square yards of play space.

It is absolutely imperative that the playground surface should be made level. It is impossible to maintain a successful playground on an uneven or sloping surface with the exception, of course, of the slight gradual slope necessary to proper drainage. One of the problems to be solved in providing surfacing is the necessity of securing a surface which is not dangerous and which will lay the dust. Still another problem is that of drainage. This assumes especial importance in view of the fact that much time is lost when playgrounds cannot be used after a heavy rain because of poor drainage. A field the size of a football or baseball field should have about one foot pitch to over 100 or 120 feet. What is known as a percolating system of drainage has the following advantages: by controlling the drainage of the entire ground with one controlling valve it is not only possible to drain the ground quickly by opening the valve, but in winter the field may be flooded for skating simply by closing the controlling valve and flooding the field. The laying out of a playground in basin form to provide drainage is not advisable because the ground cannot be used advantageously for other purposes during the season of heavy rains. The following diagram is suggestive of the percolating system of drainage:



In placing apparatus it should be kept in mind that the location of apparatus makes possible a number of uses of a limited space and it can be so arranged as to preserve space for free play. Movable apparatus similar to that used in indoor gymnasia is

## THE LAYING-OUT OF PLAYGROUNDS

recommended because the extensive use of small playgrounds is thus promoted. For shade, awnings are used to some extent and are satisfactory but not nearly so desirable as shade trees. The school playground which hopes to become a neighborhood center must have many chairs and benches—carefully arranged, however, so as not to interfere with the most economical planning of play space. A row of trees around the playground and two rows between the boys' section and the girls' and little children's section, with a hedge between and a few shade trees planted among the children's apparatus is an ideal plan for general shade provision. Human needs, however, should never be sacrificed to aesthetic ideals.

Fences are essential to a successful playground and are of value in providing definitely outlined means of entrance and exit and in helping to solve the problem of supervision. It is helpful to supplement open fences especially around the girls' section with shrubbery and hedges as girls will not play when subjected to the gaze of the curious. Even though fencing may add greatly to the expense of a small playground, the expense is justified because of the increased efficiency of the work done and the reduced cost of supervision.

### **Placing of Apparatus**

In placing apparatus on a municipal playground a great deal depends on the shape of the ground,

When Starr Garden playground in Philadelphia.

which measures two hundred by four hundred feet, was opened, the apparatus was so badly placed, with a shelter house in the center of the ground and the apparatus scattered around indiscriminately, that the space was so effectively cut up it provided no opportunity for free play. When the ground was re-opened the following plan was pursued: A recreation building was placed at one side of the ground with the boys' outdoor gymnasium frame at one side of the building together with slides, giant strides, and swings. A baseball diamond and soccer field were laid out in back of the building. A playground for girls and small children was placed at the opposite end of the field from the older boys' playground and an outdoor gymnasium frame, tennis courts, slides, giant strides, swings, a shelter, a wading pool, and a playground-ball field were provided for the girls. The ground was fenced in with only two entrances, one through the building, the other through the opposite side of the ground so that in both cases the playground for girls and small children was at one side of the

## APPARATUS AND SURFACING

entrance, the older boys' ground at the other, obviating the necessity of the boys going through the girls' ground, the girls through the boys'. The open fence set in cement coping which surrounds the ground is seven feet high. There is a planting bed three feet wide next the fence all around the ground. Trees are placed twenty-five feet apart with a hedge between the trees. There is also a row of trees along the side walks which provides a shade walk around the grounds and a border of shade inside.

### **Athletic Fields**

The twenty-acre field which is being planned for the employees of a large industrial plant in New Jersey is to have a recreation building in the center of the field with a gymnasium for men and one for women. An out-door swimming pool will be located between the wings of the gymnasium and an addition built for locker facilities. At one end of the ground there will be an athletic field, game space, and a quarter-mile running track. At the other end will be placed the boys' playground while the girls' and small children's playground will be located in the corner.

A suggestion for the provision of removable posts in playgrounds or athletic fields is that an iron pipe should be sunk into the ground to hold the goal post. When they are not in use they may be removed and an iron cap placed over the piping in the ground with a large mushroom cap which prevents danger from tripping.

## APPARATUS AND SURFACING\*

A discussion of some of the problems involved in the use of individual pieces of apparatus resulted in the following conclusions:

Stairways are better than inclines for slides and slides should be all in one piece.

The circle bar or ocean wave is generally considered popular for children under ten years of age but is dangerous when openly constructed, as most of them are. When enclosed they usually prove satisfactory.

Many people feel that canvas baby swings are not hygienic.

\*Discussion at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 4, 1916



## APPARATUS AND SURFACING

Worcester, Massachusetts, however, has found canvas very satisfactory. In Los Angeles, baby swings are made of belt leather and cost two dollars, the home-made swings lasting from five to ten years.

In Chicago, no distinction is made in apparatus used for boys and for girls.

Building blocks used in connection with sand piles have great value. In Los Angeles the blocks are of various sizes, costing about thirty-five dollars for a set of three hundred blocks of all sizes and shapes. There is no difficulty about their being taken from the playground, as an honor system has been worked out whereby the children feel that the blocks are their property and when one child abuses the privilege of using them it is resented by the others. Wheelbarrows and other implements are very popular but it is not practicable to provide them unless particularly strong pieces can be secured to keep down the maintenance cost.

**Surfacing** In Chicago, the top surfacing in use in the playgrounds consists of a one-inch torpedo sand surface, the torpedo sand being a round screened gravel one-quarter inch thick—sometimes called shot gravel. This is put on a four-inch deep, well-packed, clay surface and heavily rolled. While it is not as sharp as cinders it does cut balls but is generally successful except for its failure to meet the dust problem. The South Park Commission have been experimenting with a very finely-ground slag secured at small expense from a foundry. Before application, the slag must be screened and the little sharp bits of iron removed. The grinding reduces it to a white substance which is almost a powder. It is then applied to a well-rolled clay surfacing twelve inches deep. Except on ball fields the slag itself is not rolled but oiled. It provides a very successful surfacing but when the foundry learned of its value the price was raised so high as to make it prohibitive.

In Philadelphia, slag was tried but found to be not sufficiently compact, due partly to the fact that too much slag was applied. Next, a straight clay surface was tried which was excellent but which could not be used for some time after a rain. A further experiment in surfacing consisted in excavating ten inches below the surface level of the ground, filling in with seven inches of hard coal cinders, three inches of crushed stone, trap rock or lime-stone with a diameter one-eighth to three-sixteenths inches. This was

## SKATING RINKS AND WINTER SPORTS

all rolled with a five-ton roller. As yet no satisfactory surface dressing has been devised. Glutrin was found to be an effective binder but it will not hold dust in the dry season. Other oil compositions such as road oil offer the same difficulty. In order to meet the dust problem they are now planning in Philadelphia to lay water pipes around the ground, sprinkling occasionally. The drains for excess water will be placed, not in the center of the ground, but in the corners and will have grilled covers. The pitch will not be greater than six inches by eight inches. It has been found that the cost of surfacing in Philadelphia, not including surface dressing is about thirty-two cents a square yard.

Grass surfacing although highly desirable is for the most part impracticable although it has been the experience in Brookline, Massachusetts, that the ten grass surfaces in use can be kept in good condition, for the grounds are not opened until the grass is fully grown.

Asphalt surfacing although satisfactory for use under apparatus, does not prove a successful surface for free play space. It may be used on tennis courts, but not generally, because of its hardness and expense.

## SKATING RINKS AND WINTER SPORTS\*

It was the concensus of opinion of the delegates present that wherever possible a playground should be permanently graded to permit of flooding in the winter, thus avoiding the necessity of making temporary embankments. In the preparation of vacant lots for skating, considerable saving can be made if the embankments are thrown up by means of a plow and if the lot is flooded by the fire department or the water works department in the same manner as is a rink in a supervised playground.

In the preparation of the surface for skating it was recommended that the ground be first sprinkled, then gradually flooded to a depth of not more than two or three inches in order to form a solid foundation which will prevent seepage. Subsequent flooding should be made as the weather permits until the entire area is covered. For mending cracks or holes in the ice, warm water should be used as this permits of a closer knitting of the ice. If warm

\*Discussion at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 4, 1916.

## ACCIDENTS ON THE PLAYGROUND

water is not available it is well to use a packing of snow saturated with warm water.

As a means of increasing interest in ice activities, a badge test system similar to that applied to athletics might be employed. Running games such as those used on summer playgrounds may be played on skates. A collection of unused skates makes possible the lending of them to children who are unable to secure their own. The installation of skate sharpening machines such as are used on the municipal playgrounds of Chicago has been found helpful. Toboggan slides add greatly to the enjoyment of winter playgrounds. If the foundation of these slides is made principally of snow, the cost is reduced and safety is insured.

In all cases it is important to have proper supervision at every rink and wherever possible a shelter, which must be properly lighted and heated and have separate divisions for boys and girls.

## BOWLING ALLEYS\*

A discussion of the wisdom of installing bowling alleys in recreation buildings showed that the experience of different cities varied. At the Proctor Recreation Center in Peoria, Illinois, bowling alleys are very popular. A charge of five cents a game is made. In one of the recreation buildings in Philadelphia, there is a bowling alley for which no charge is made. Bowling clubs have been organized into a Bowling Congress for which membership dues of two dollars per year for men, one dollar for women are charged. The Congress was given complete charge of the alleys and paid costs from the dues received. It is the plan to recommend alleys for any new buildings erected in Philadelphia. In Los Angeles there are fine bowling alleys under the Playground Commission.

## ACCIDENTS ON THE PLAYGROUND\*

A consideration of accidents on the playground is necessarily interwoven with that of apparatus which has proved dangerous

\*Discussion at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 3, 1916

## ACCIDENTS ON THE PLAYGROUND

and of precautions taken to reduce the possibility of accidents.

In Chicago, it was found that the lawn swing caused more accidents than any other piece of apparatus. Some changes in construction have largely eliminated the dangers.

Teeter ladders assume second place in the list of accident-causing apparatus. The accidents are caused largely by one child's letting go of the ladder while the child at the other end is suspended in the air. To guard against this, coil spring bumpers have been attached to all teeter ladders. Accidents occurring on teeter ladders in Tacoma, Washington, have resulted in law suits, as a consequence of which all play apparatus has been removed from many of the school playgrounds throughout the state. It has been practically impossible to prevent accidents from occurring on the teeter ladders because in spite of the exercise of the greatest possible care on the part of one child he may be injured by a playmate. Lowering the ladders makes them somewhat safer but alters the nature of the apparatus.

Most of the accidents occurring on the slides were due to children falling off while starting to slide. To remove this danger, the sides were raised at the top part of the slide. As a further precaution to prevent children from falling out when starting to slide and to safeguard them when standing, a bar has been placed several feet above the top of the slide, running parallel to the bottom, which children may grasp when getting into position to slide and which is so low as to necessitate their sitting down in order to get on the slide. Tacoma, Washington, reported that the greatest number of accidents occurred on the slides, owing probably to the fact that the slide was the most popular of all the equipment and most used by the children. In the rush at recess time to use the slides in the few moments available, it was found impossible to prevent accidents.

The danger in the sliding pole lies in changing from the ladder to the pole. To offset this, a platform has been built. A number of accidents on outdoor gymnasium frames are caused by children falling off the apparatus while playing tag. The tag problem was invited mainly by the grouping of the apparatus on one frame and leads to other dangerous consequences.

The possibility of accidents on the giant stride lies in the danger of the child being struck in the head when he lets go. It was felt by many that the use of rope in the giant stride was preferable to link chains because wearing gradually it shows signs of wear and

## YEAR BOOK REPORTS FROM CITIES

with ordinary inspection accidents can be prevented by replacing the rope when necessary. On the other hand, link chains break instantly and give no warning; moreover, the rope is more desirable because it has more give.

The question of responsibility for accidents is one which is of vital importance. Is there any ground for holding recreation authorities responsible for accidents occurring on apparatus except in instances resulting from faulty apparatus or rough conduct which reasonable supervision would have prevented? Whether or not a city is to be held liable for accidents occurring on its playgrounds is a problem which thus far has been decided on the merits of the individual case. As a result, the experiences of different cities vary greatly. In Brookline, Massachusetts, there have been a number of accidents but in no case has the city been held responsible by the courts. In Rochester, while as yet there have been no verdicts against the city, the Corporation Counsel believes that the responsibility does rest with the city. In Chicago, the city has not been held responsible but supervision at all times when it is possible to use the apparatus is a definite requirement, as is the certainty that the apparatus is in good condition. If it should be discovered at any time that there was no supervision or that any piece of apparatus was defective, the city could be held responsible. There is consequently in Chicago a daily inspection of apparatus and in the event of an accident occurring a detailed report is made out and signed by the supervisor, accounting for his supervision at the time together with a statement of the last date previous to the accident that the apparatus was inspected.

## YEAR BOOK REPORTS FROM CITIES OF 35,000 TO 50,000 INHABITANTS

Of the 432 cities maintaining playgrounds and recreation centers under leadership, from the reports received for the 1917 Year-Book, thirty-six cities had between 35,000 and 50,000 inhabitants. Thirteen of these have an average number of four recreation centers, each maintained the year round under supervision; twenty-five of them have on the average six centers maintained under supervision during the summer only; Newton, Massachusetts, has fourteen such centers and three that are open the

## YEAR BOOK REPORTS FROM CITIES

year round; seven cities have from one to six centers, each open only during other seasons. The average total number of centers maintained under trained leadership in these cities is six, which represents a range of from one to seventeen. Newton, Massachusetts, a city of about 36,800 inhabitants, has 17 such centers; Sioux City, Iowa, of about 47,900 inhabitants, has 15 centers; Topeka, Kansas, of 43,700 inhabitants, has 14 centers and Kalamazoo, Michigan, of 39,500 inhabitants, has 16 centers.

The average daily attendance at these centers in all these 36 cities is 1043 for the months of July and August and among the winter centers the average daily attendance is 1250.

Those cities in which the playgrounds and recreation centers are:

Under city management: Montgomery, Alabama

Under Playground or Recreation Commission or Board of Commissioners: Berkeley, California; San Diego, California; New Britain, Connecticut (Public Amusement Commission); Newton, Mass.; Halifax, Canada

Under Park Commission, Park Board, Park Department or Park District: Rockford, Ill.; Fitchburg, Mass.; Haverhill, Mass.; Salem, Mass.; Bay City, Mich.; Springfield, Mo.; Racine, Wis.

Under Playground Association: Tampa, Fla. (Partly under Women's Civic Federation); Macon, Georgia; Topeka, Kansas; Springfield, Ohio; Chester, Pa.; New Castle, Pa.; St. John, N. B.

Under School Board or Board of Education: Sioux City, Iowa; Lincoln, Neb.; El Paso, Texas; Superior, Wis.; Calgary, Canada

Under Park Board, Board of Education and Hygiene Committee: Dubuque, Iowa

Under Playground Committee: Pueblo, Colorado

Under Department of Public Utilities, Grounds and Buildings: Chattanooga, Tennessee

Under Y. M. C. A.: Hamilton, Ohio

Under the Electric Railway Company: Butte, Montana

Under the Manville Manufacturing Company: Woonsocket, R. I.

Under School Board and Bethlehem Steel Company: Bethlehem, Pa.

Under City Federation of Women's Clubs: Saginaw, Michigan

Under Welfare Federation: Quincy, Illinois

Under City and Civic League: Lexington, Kentucky

## YEAR BOOK REPORTS FROM CITIES

### **Financial Support**

It is interesting to note in connection with the increasing tendency to centralize the administration of playground and recreation work in the municipality that in 16 of the 36 cities the sources of support are municipal funds. In 16 cities, both municipal and private funds supplement each other to support the work, while in only four cities is the work maintained alone by private funds.

### **Expenditures**

The average total expenditures for land, buildings, upkeep, supplies and salaries for the last fiscal year are \$5,381.76. Among those cities which appropriated the largest amount last year were: Chattanooga, Tenn., \$30,119; San Diego, Cal., \$26,300; Kalamazoo, Mich., \$21,800; Newton, Mass., \$19,411; Racine, Wis., \$11,384.

### **Park Work in Cities of 35,000 to 50,000 Inhabitants**

Racine, Wis., (38,000) has developed splendid playground work under its Park Commission. During 1916 five new playgrounds were opened, making twelve in all, which are conducted under trained leadership. A large field has been developed in the bend of Root River designed as a center for play, athletics, bathing, gardens and winter sports. They have extended the municipal golf course and erected a municipal clubhouse. One municipal recreation center has been open the year round and the Board of Education has granted to the Park Board the use of two (more if necessary) school buildings for recreation centers. The Park Department has conducted a municipal Chautauqua which has been a successful experiment financially and in every other way. The Park Department has cooperated with the Boy Scouts. The park appropriation for 1917 is \$35,000.

Rockford, Illinois (45,400) has an extensive park system under the Park District.

Malden, Mass., (44,400) has under the Park Commissioners playgrounds, public baths, organized sports.

Fitchburg, Mass., (37,800) has playgrounds under the direction of the Park Commission.

Haverhill, Mass., (44,100) has playgrounds under the Park Commissioners.

## MILITARY TRAINING IN SCHOOLS\*

Doctor Fisher, Secretary of the Physical Department, Young Men's Christian Association, described the activities of the New York Commission on Military Training, of which he is a member. The two men serving on this Commission with him are: General O'Ryan, chairman, who is also ranking officer of the New York National Guard, and Doctor John Finley, Commissioner of Education for New York State.

The three responsibilities of this Commission as described in the law providing for its creation are (1) The inauguration in the schools of a minimum of one hour and twenty minutes of physical education each week; (2) the establishment of summer military training camps for boys between the ages of sixteen and nineteen inclusive; (3) the introduction into the school curriculums of a maximum of two hours of military training each week. Doctor Fisher explained that the work of the Commission had thus far been confined to the inauguration of physical education in the schools. The standard requirements now determined are: (1) Medical inspection of all children from eight years up; (2) Two talks of from ten to twenty minutes on hygiene each week; (3) A two-minute setting up drill preceding each class; (4) One hour of supervised play each day in addition to a twenty-minute gymnastic drill.

Doctor Fisher expressed the opinion that when the so-called military training camp and the military training in the school curriculum should be established nine-tenths of the activities conducted would be physical training such as hiking, signalling, athletics and games. He felt sure that the Commission would require a minimum amount of time to be spent in military tactics. In answer to a fusillade of questions, Doctor Fisher explained that the appropriation made under this law provided for the payment of one-half the salary of each physical director employed (maximum \$600). The law applies to girls in the physical education requirements. A syllabus has been published to help in teaching hygiene: wherever practicable this will be taught by the physical director.

Normal School curricula are being rapidly adapted to meet the new need of training leaders in physical education. Other recreational agencies will be able to help the schools because credit will be given for regular supervised activities conducted outside. Young Men's Christian Associations, Settlement Houses and other or-

Discussion at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 4, 1916.



## MILITARY TRAINING IN SCHOOLS

ganizations have already shown a disposition to cooperate with the schools in this matter. The carrying out of the provisions of this law will not enforce strict military training because the legislators who passed the law as well as the Commissioners who are making it effective are anxious to lay the emphasis on physical training rather than drill with arms and target practice. The Commission has the power of exempting from military training the children of parents who object from conscientious reasons.

Speaking of other states which had taken action in the interest of physical education, Doctor Fisher judged the Wyoming plan to be inadequate because it did not provide for athletics and free play activities.

Illinois and Ohio now require physical training in all schools. Maryland this year gave \$5000 to the promotion of athletics throughout the state. Massachusetts has appointed a commission to report recommendations.

Dr. Fisher introduced Mr. Geo. W. Ehler, Consulting Expert on Physical Education and Recreation, Madison, Wisconsin. Mr. Ehler emphasized the startling fact that while our death-rate for young people has been decreasing, the rate for the middle-aged has been rapidly increasing. Rapid strides have been made in the reduction of contagious disease while maladies of the circulatory, digestive and excretive organs have been on the increase. He attributes this situation to the fact that the activities of children are for the most part not useful in strengthening these organs and their surrounding muscles. Training in vigorous competitive games is needed in childhood and games involving big effort and even danger must not be tabooed. Mr. Ehler was of the opinion that the best way to promote these activities would be by dividing the school children into groups for intra-school competitive games. This plan has been followed in Concord, New Hampshire, since 1860.

Doctor E. H. Arnold, Director of the New Haven School of Gymnastics, in discussing *A Practical Program for Physical Training in Secondary Schools* emphasized that the program must be adapted to the climatic and geographical conditions of the locality. For example, in New Haven, water sports should be emphasized. The \$200,000 spent on the Yale University swimming pool might better have been spent in making the use of the natural waters possible by providing a sewage disposal plant. The program must be adapted to the age, development and temperament of the young people handled.

## NEW YORK "MILITARY TRAINING" LAWS IN OPERATION

Doctor Arnold protested vehemently against the apeing of college activities by secondary schools, declaring this a flagrant violation of the last named principle.

Doctor Henry S. Curtis described his experience in the District of Columbia in connection with the summer camps established there. At the beginning of the camping season not one of the boys passed the three physical tests which were given; at the end of the season 500 boys passed all the tests and 2,000 passed at least one.

## NEW YORK "MILITARY TRAINING" LAWS IN OPERATION

The syllabus drawn up by the Military Training Commission of New York State and adopted by the Board of Regents provides for a broad scheme of physical training for every child in the state over eight years of age. The Commissioner of Education refers to this program as "probably the most comprehensive program of health education and physical training for school children ever authorized by the government of any state or country. \* \* \* It is to touch every child, boy and girl, over eight years of age, in public and private school and is the first determination of a state, expressed in law and enacted as a non-partisan measure, to make the sound health and physical vigor of the child, in city and country alike, of fundamental concern to the state in its education. \* \* \* The Commission is charged with another responsibility, that of prescribing a program of Military Training, but that is to lie entirely outside of the schools and need not be discussed here. What is here presented is a simple, practicable program for universal basic physical training, health education and conservation and patriotic discipline."

In addition to medical inspection, gymnastics, marching, hygiene, the syllabus requires a minimum of sixty minutes a week in supervised play (or in gymnastic drills and marching) in both elementary schools and high schools. This is to be increased by three additional hours per week by the beginning of the school term in September, 1917, four hours where space and equipment are adequate. Outside activities may be accepted for three hours of this additional requirement.

Lists of games for all grades from Miss Bancroft's book,

dances from Dr. Crampton and Miss Burchenal are given. The Report of the *Committee on Games* (1916) of the Playground and Recreation Association of America and the Association's *Athletic Badge Test for Girls* are printed in full.

Dr. Finley writes, in the preface to the syllabus, of the meaning of these additions to the school curriculum:

"I find myself wishing that there were songs or civic and patriotic rhythms, instead of numbers, to which these daily exercises could be performed—that the boys and girls could be made conscious that it is not for themselves alone that they go through these motions, but for themselves as happier, healthier, more efficient members of what the philosopher, William James, has called a "collectivity" (whether it be community, city, state or country), superior in some respects to their individual selves.

"This is to be the supreme value of this program if it is rightly used—a program which is worth while as a health program, lengthening the lives of these millions of children as men and women, the State's most precious asset—but it is to be worth more as a program of moral discipline and of social and patriotic service.

"In an article which I wrote a few months ago, telling how when the Great War came on in Europe, men with whom I traveled went to certain places to find their uniforms in which they were to serve their country in its time of peril, I suggested that every man, every woman, should have, in peace, an invisible uniform always ready in home, office, factory or public locker, to put on when he or she was called to perform a public service of any kind, great or small; and, I added that the weaving of this uniform should be begun in childhood—that is, the preparation for such service should begin in the school days. I prepared this article for grown people, but in the midst of writing this preface, a letter came telling how a group of children had translated its suggestion into their own language and in their summer camp play had shown this 'magic uniform,' as it was called, in use in the home, in business, in society. If this idea can be translated into the everyday work and play of the boys and girls of this entire state, through the help of this program, it will give a civic asset even more valuable than the physical vigor and lengthened life of its children in manhood and womanhood."

## PLAY IN MANY LANDS\*

REV. WILLIAM HARRIS, Prince Royal's College, Chiengmai, Siam

"The conditions in Siam are somewhat analogous to those obtaining until recently in the Philippines. Cockfighting, beetle-fighting, fish-fighting, pitching pennies, and innumerable other gambling games are the favorite pastimes of the people. These games fail lamentably in two most important respects,—they fail to develop strong, robust men and women, and they fail to develop morality in its broadest sense. Indeed, it would not be putting it too strongly to say that they undermine both health and morals.

"This failure is seen most conspicuously from the beginning of adolescence onward. The small boys and girls live active lives, and thoroughly enjoy their simple games. Were other physical conditions favorable, their development up to the age of adolescence would be fairly normal. But with the advent of adolescence the girls give up practically all physical recreations, and the boys occupy their leisure largely in games of a sedentary character which produce no healthy fatigue, or other beneficial result of any sort, but which do develop the gambling instinct to an alarming extent. Having lived in Siam twenty-one years, engaged most of that time in teaching boys, I have come to appreciate more and more the importance of landing my boys in bed every night *healthily tired!*

"From what I have just written you will appreciate that I am heartily in sympathy with the playground idea. I believe that western games and western gymnastics will go a long way towards the physical and moral betterment of these people. On the other hand it must be clearly remembered that this is only *one* of the means which must be used for the attainment of that object. There still remain the big problems of proper housing, sanitation and food, the elimination of malaria and hook-worm, and the disposal of the ubiquitous cigarette which is as much a part of the boy of six as of his older brothers. Hand-in-hand with the playground must go these other reforms, if the playground is to be really effective.

"The playground is practically unknown in Siam outside of the schools; and there it owes its existence to English and American influences. However the Siamese take kindly to the idea of ath.

\*From letters to Paul U. Kellogg of *The Survey* regarding C. M. Goethe's *Exporting the American Playground*

## PLAY IN MANY LANDS

letic games and contests. Therefore with the spread of the western educational ideas the playground will eventually come to fill its rightful place in the life of the people.

"One last word. Such a propaganda as is suggested by Mr. Goethe would require an amount of modesty and tact hard to find in the average progressive American. Some people, even some good Americans, have had the temerity to question the high moral value of baseball. It is a splendid game, but so many unsportsmanlike features have crept into it as it is usually played at home that thoughtful people of other lands are not quite so sure that in baseball the American people are bequeathing to the world the great panacea! And so with regard to the whole general idea. Let us Americans not take ourselves too seriously. Let us try to preserve a due sense of proportion. It will not hurt us, for instance, to remember that we are far behind England in the whole idea of athletic recreations; that, until recently, whereas the great majority of English school children and college men, too, joined in these games, with us the majority stood on the side lines; and that the ethical standards of our athletics have been notoriously low and unsatisfactory. And finally let us remember that it has been England and not America that has broken the ground for this play idea in nearly every country in the world."

Mrs. Francis Anderson for many years active in playground work in New South Wales writes that up to the present time there is no public opinion on the playground movement. The following is quoted from her letter:

"The reason for this state of things is not hard to find. Labor is in power, and is too busy with big schemes, and too much occupied by the jealousy and interference of the Trade Unions, to attend to every smaller reform. Wages are high, and there is no poverty, or should be none. The employing class—men who are none of them exceedingly wealthy, will not give money to (as they say) amuse and benefit the workers who continually by strikes inconvenience and impoverish them. I do not defend this policy but summarize it, so that you may understand our difficulties. To my mind, the playground would act as a social remedy.

"We have now three children's playgrounds in Sydney. At the opening of each one, politicians have talked about their approval and prophesied an increasing number of such places. But deeds have not followed. For the last one opened, I struggled with the Department of Lands for two years. Ministers sympa-

## PLAY IN MANY LANDS

thized individually, but the officials would not formally grant permission to use the small portion of a park, which I asked for, though the trustees of the same park were anxious for me to go on with the work. When at last the playground, beautifully equipped by private subscription, was opened by a Minister of Lands, who took great credit to himself, we thought that our troubles were ended. Then the war came, and my Association, like many others, is simply marking time."

THOMAS A. HUNTER, Victoria University College, Wellington, New Zealand

"In this country though provision was made for sites for schools, the necessity of large areas for playgrounds was not foreseen, especially in the urban areas where they are most needed. In some centers the municipal authorities have remedied this weakness by laying out large playing areas from the municipal domain. In the city and suburbs of the city of Wellington (population 75,000) there are probably about twenty areas set apart for this purpose on which hockey, football, cricket and other games are regularly played. In my opinion even this does not fully meet the needs of the schools, which should have playing areas adjoining to the school buildings. There is in the schools a system of physical instruction and, under the regulations, teachers are to give great attention to the organized games of the children."

A. J. BOWEN, University of Nanking, Nanking, China

"In lands like China, where economic conditions are distressing and young people have to begin very early to help support the family, play time is limited to the great masses, but in schools and to some extent in ordinary life very much can be done. The content of life is so meagre and ways of amusement so few that I am sure your ideas and plans for organized play would meet with a very encouraging response. Our Chinese youth take very kindly to our college sports, such as Association football, baseball, tennis, hand and basket ball, and track work. There will be no serious difficulty in getting Chinese gentry and officials to cooperate most heartily in the way of setting aside grounds in the cities and providing some support, providing some one can be had, usually at first at least an American, to help direct and organize the ground and regular play."

JULEAN ARNOLD, Commercial Attaché, U. S. Department of Commerce, Peking, China

"In China, especially, the people are sorely in need of the play-

## PLAY IN MANY LANDS

ground idea, or rather the idea of play as exemplified in sports. What is there for the idle rich in China? Nothing but gambling, opium smoking and other forms of vice. China has not learned how to play. Our experiences in the Philippines have demonstrated very forcibly the beneficent effects of the introduction of play. The cockpit has since the introduction of American methods given away to the cleaner sport of baseball, and thousands turn out now to witness baseball. There is little or no gambling connected with baseball, whereas the cockpit thrived only because of the gambling features. Probably as many as 2,000 baseball teams are in active play at one time in the Philippine Islands. Other sports and games, have found a place in the Philippines. . . . . It was in the Philippines that the Far Eastern Olympiad had its inception. It was the American schools that gave it its impetus. Now all the Orient sends teams to the Far Eastern Olympiad, the next one having been arranged to be held in Japan. Is there not a big field for the playground in connection with missionary institutions and missionary work in China?"

MISS KATHERINE L. SCHAEFFER, American Presbyterian Mission, Island of Hainan, Kachek, China

"The press of multitudinous duties together with the general inertia of the Far Eastern Tropics, shows in the very meagre results we have achieved here. But we have an ideal before us and as we have been able to purchase and improve land, we have striven to make a park of our Mission Compound to which the inhabitants of our town feel free to come and enjoy themselves.

"We have built a pergola down near a small stream, and laid out a walk to it. We have planted trees and shrubs to beautify the vicinity of this pergola, and we have no 'Keep off the Grass' signs up anywhere.

"The McCormick Boys' School and the Kachek Daughters' School have spacious grounds and on these we have provided swings, merry-go-rounds, ferris wheel, facilities for playing foot, basket and volley ball, besides the numerous games children all the world over seem to have in common. We are developing a generation of tree climbers, for both boys and girls love to climb our shade trees and a goodly number of them are able to shin up our cocoanut trees and twist off our fine big nuts.

"We are still looking longingly at two fields to add to our pari. One of these fields is needed for our athletic field. We have outgrown the old one where at our annual field meet several hundred

## PLAY IN MANY LANDS

students gather from visiting schools and where the audience runs up to three thousand. With every year our field meet grows in popularity. One year, our local official asked the missionary teacher in the McCormick School to run a race with him. They were to go around the track three times. His Excellency went around once and gave up, but the missionary finished his three rounds easily."

R. H. STANLEY, Y. M. C. A., Kaifeng, Honan, China

"In this city alone there are a dozen playgrounds that I know of. Every regiment of soldiers has one, always a large one. The government schools have good playgrounds too, but the apparatus and the equipment in all of them is noted for its clumsiness and uselessness. The idea of play has been in the minds of the Chinese since the year 1300 when there was a recognized system of athletics in China. Then princes were not princes if they could not ride and it was as necessary that they should excel in archery and other sports as it was that they should be hard-riding horsemen. The authorities also tell us that it was the Chinese and not the Japanese who introduced jiu jitsu.

".....I saw two Filipino girls' baseball teams play in China last year and to see them hit the ball and run bases was enough to convince the most skeptical."

DR. CLARA D. LOOMIS, Kyoutsu Girls' School Yokohama, Japan

"The young women of Japan certainly need more out-of-door life and will not seek it of themselves. They need the help which only those who realize the vital importance of fresh air and sunshine can bring."

Miss Juizo Wariese of Koishikawa, Tokyo writes of her interest in moulding the character of the younger generation as she regards physical training as a counterpart of mental culture. She says:

"I am sure we can learn to act and live in harmony with the community best through play that is well organized."

Miss Wariese tells us that children's playgrounds have been receiving much attention in Japan of late. Mrs. Annie Omori wife of the late Professor Hyozo Omori is foremost among the leaders of the movement. Mrs. Omori is carrying out her plans with wonderful enthusiasm. She started a playground a short time ago in which she means to experiment in working out her ideals.

There is also a playground of larger size belonging to the Japanese Physical Training Association (Nippon Taiiku Kwai) in



## PLAY IN MANY LANDS

one of the suburbs of Tokyo where various gymnastic lessons are given to different kinds of associates, and occasionally some part of it is opened to the public.

Mr. C. P. Segard has started a playground in Calcutta that is at present handling 650 to 750 children daily. He has also received the money for another playground. Both of these grounds are being equipped with apparatus.

Mme. V. LeBerre, primary superintendent of girls at St. Maixent, France, writes that before the war a playground was conducted in her school and a young English girl taught the pupils tennis, "net-ball" and other games without apparatus.

SAM R. GAMMON, Instituto Evangelico Lavras, Minas, Brazil

"We are very much interested here at Lavras in introducing into our schools—for boys and for girls—a complete course of physical education, with the help of H. J. Sims of the Young Men's Christian Association in Rio; and we are proud of the fact that we are taking the lead among the schools in Brazil in this work. I do not believe it would be difficult to secure the establishment of a municipal playground in Lavras, if we had the right man for the work. Mr. Sims may be able to train him. Our city schools are under the direction of a wide-awake, progressive man who began his work in connection with our schools and is ready for every valuable idea. Our town is a progressive little interior place with fine climate and environment."

ELWOOD S. BROWN, Y. M. C. A., Manila, P. I.

"You will be pleased to know that we have just employed Mr. Fred O. England, Director of the South Park Playfield, Seattle, Washington, as the Supervisor of Playgrounds for the City of Manila. He will arrive some time next month and will be the first highly trained man we have had available for full-time playground work. After his arrival we expect the playground situation to develop with great strides, as all the potentialities are here and nothing is needed but trained promotion."

## A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TELLS WHY

Charles B. Wagner, Secretary-Manager of the Chamber of Commerce, Grand Haven, Michigan, wrote to a correspondent who inquired as to the value of playgrounds in cities of 25,000 or less:

Cities of less than 25,000 inhabitants are more urgently in need of playgrounds with leadership than are cities of a greater number of inhabitants. The smaller city is void of the attractions and the beauty both natural and artificial that larger cities are endowed with. This invariably causes the children and grown-ups to become frequenters of meeting places of degraded character, such as saloons, pool rooms, club rooms, and often the cheap picture theatre and many other places that are far from respectable. Smaller cities invariably believe that their surrounding is one great playground—perhaps because the surroundings are not congested with buildings and the inhabitants think that a playground is nothing more than a vacant lot or a field.

Properly provided with leaders, the playground becomes as necessary as the school, the church, and in many instances, the home. It is uplifting, healthful, and educational; it is clean, wholesome, and beneficial. It causes cooperation, harmony, and brotherly love. Proper leadership by a play director will educate the children, and the grown-ups as well, how to play scientifically, building up a healthy, vigorous, intelligent person with but little effort. If properly conducted and led, a playground is a paying institution to the community which enjoys its presence immediately from the day of its opening. Regardless of the expense of its upkeep, it is a paying investment at all times.

The playground should not be considered an eight or nine months institution, but it should be carried on throughout the entire year. It should be equipped with a story corner where the children may enjoy valuable stories told them by the director or local school teacher. It should have a wading and swimming pool that can be used both winter and summer. It should also be equipped with a shallow pond that can be flooded and frozen when cold weather approaches for skating, skiing, and other winter sports.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### FIRST STEPS IN COMMUNITY CENTER DEVELOPMENT

By Clarence Arthur Perry. Published by Department of Recreation, Russell Sage Foundation, 130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City. Price, ten cents

It is not often that a brief pamphlet contains so much of interest and wisdom as does this one. Very clear, very simple, very encouraging, the directions for each step urge one to try taking that step and the next. The many communities who are beginning to look thoughtfully toward the dark schoolhouse windows and then to the boys and girls on their particular "Great White Way" will find these suggestions invaluable.



### DON'T GRIND YOUR SEED CORN!

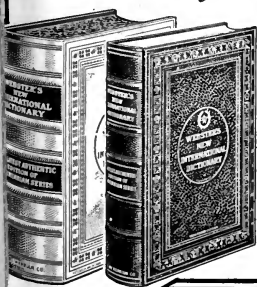
During the waning days of the Southern Confederacy, when it seemed as if the very children would be drawn into the maelstrom, President Jeff Davis admonished his people saying: "THE CHILDREN OF A NATION ARE ITS SEED CORN. DON'T GRIND YOUR SEED CORN." During the present world war there must, and will be, many sacrifices made, but our children must be fully cared for in their school and recreation life.

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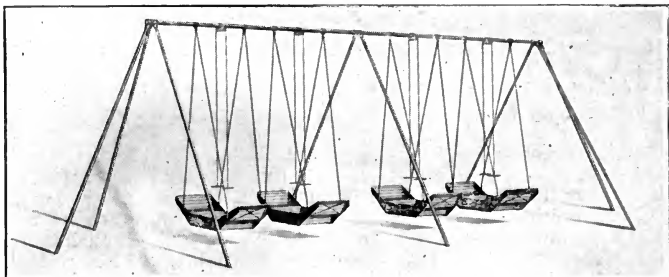
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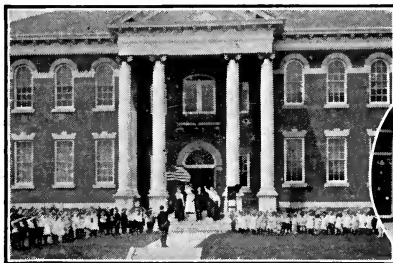
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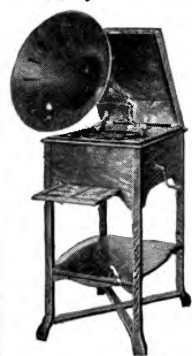
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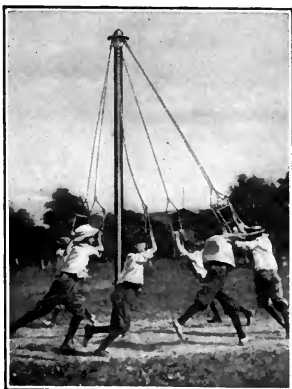
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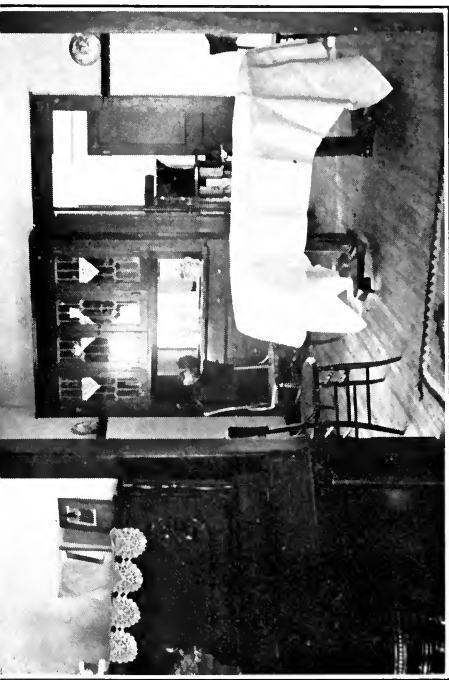
Review of Reviews

Miles for the Alberta Teacher to Walk or Drive to School in All Kinds of Weather. The Teachers' Comfortable Home Is Right beside the Schoolhouse. (See Page 243)



Review of Reviews

Superintendent Fred Grafelman of the Alberta Consolidated School, and His Five Teachers. (The successful completion of the Teachers' House project was largely due to Mr. Grafelman's enthusiasm and civic spirit)



Review of Reviews

The Alberta Teachers' Modern Dining Room (Looking from the reception room, with its piano suggesting cheerful evenings, one catches a glimpse of the kitchen, where an up-to-date gas range is prominent)



Review of Reviews

A New Kind of Bedroom for a Country Teacher (with hot water, electric light, heat and a modern bath room a few paces down the hall)





## THE WORLD AT PLAY

**Protect the Playground Fund.**—The proposal of the School Board of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to divert funds for playgrounds, "said tax not to be used or appropriated directly or indirectly for any other purpose," calls forth the following protest from the *Oklahoman*:

"There are people, we are aware, who don't think much of this playground proposition, anyhow. They think it is a waste of money, a mere fad. It may be that some of the school board members look at it in that way. If they do they are behind the times. They are not posted on the business of being a school board member. If they knew what the capably directed playground system has accomplished in many cities they would be ashamed to suggest cutting down this fund. The playground has reduced juvenile delinquency wonderfully wherever it has been installed. It is converting physical and moral feebleness into strength. It is taking children living under the adverse conditions of poverty and giving them a chance. It is a big, fine, universal church, this playground system, preaching the creed of health, directing young feet along clean and wholesome ways. Democracy, as we have

had occasion before to remark, is a restored word. It has come back into polite speech. It is expressing itself in many ways. This playground system is one of them and one of the best. It is getting the youngsters off to a good start."

**Commends Association Work.**—The Episcopal Diocesan Council sitting in Minneapolis, officially commended the work of the Playground and Recreation Association of America in communities near soldiers' camps. Copies of the resolutions passed will be read at public services in each parish of the diocese.

**Memorial Playground.**—The memorial to Hamilton Wright Mabie will take the form of a playground to be known as the Mabie Memorial Playground at Summit, New Jersey.

**New Playground for New York.**—The Board of Estimate has voted \$36,000 for a new playground on First Avenue between Sixty-seventh and Sixty-eighth streets. New York City is not going to neglect its children in war time.

**New Playground in Virden, Ill.**—As a result of the activity of the civic committee of the Virden Women's Club, a part of West Park, formerly unkempt and unused, has been equipped as a playground. It will now be known as Heaton

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

Park, after a pioneer and philanthropist of the town.

**Achievements.**—The Civic Herald for May, 1917, cites the following figures from Dayton:

During the last three years recreational activities in Dayton, Ohio, have advanced more than 90 per cent. Where three years ago there was one acre of recreational space for 15,948 persons, today the proportion is one acre to each 333. It costs the taxpayers only 40 cents to maintain supervised recreational places for each minor. In 1916 alone, child attendance increased 27.5 per cent., and adult attendance 77.2 per cent.

Then again, last year twenty-nine school gardens were worked by 1,400 children. In addition to this, there were 958 vacant-lot gardens, and 1,737 backyard gardens. The cost of this activity was \$5,500, and the return about \$25,000, in products raised. Thus industry, education, and fighting the high cost of living went hand in hand.

**Splendid Facilities**—Frank Marsh, Superintendent of "Community House," the magnificent gift of Miss Ellen B. Scripps to San Diego, declares that he believes, after visiting some thirty-five cities, that his plant is one of the best. Every one who can do so ought

to visit the La Jolla Playground of San Diego.

"Some special features of the plant are the concrete wading pool, the concrete tennis courts, colored with chrom-oxide (green) to take off the glare of the sun; the entire playground is so brilliantly lighted with 1,000 and 500 watt nitrogen lamps that all activities are carried on at night as well as in the daytime.

"The Community House is provided with a large auditorium, a stage completely equipped with scenery, colored lights and dimmers; club rooms, reading room, pool room, locker and shower rooms, separate offices for the men and the women workers, and a manual training room; a hospital ward, which is headquarters for a district nurse; and a kitchen completely equipped with stoves, cooking utensils, dishes, silverware, tablecloths, with the necessary tables for serving and cooking any kind of meal for one hundred and fifty people. We also have a complete, up-to-date lantern room, equipped with a motion picture machine, double dissolving stereopticon, and spot-light machine. We feel that we can take care of any phase of the recreational life of the community. As Henry Curtis says: 'It is the

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

last word in playgrounds.' But it is not going to be the last word.

"The value of the land of this playground is estimated at \$100,000.00, \$80,000.00 was spent in the construction and equipment and it took eleven months to build."

### **Farm Gardens Successful.**

—More than 800 garden plots are being cultivated by children under the direction of the Park Department of Brooklyn. It is believed that 600 backyard gardens have been started as a result of interest thus aroused. In addition to individual plots, each garden has a number of plots where such exotic plants as tobacco, sugar, hemp, and peanuts are cared for by cooperative effort. There is a common responsibility, too, for a border and a large central bed of flowers, as well as the paths. One hundred dollars in prizes will be distributed in the backyard garden contest, for which 750 entries have already been received.

Utica, New York, has been featuring gardens this year. A week's performance of *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea* was given at a local picture theatre as a benefit for playground and garden work.

Nearly 30,000 square feet of land has been lent to the chil-

dren of the West Side schools in Providence, Rhode Island, for gardens. The work is under the direction of the school principal and teachers.

More than 350 permits have been granted by the Board of Recreation for use of land lent to the board by the owners.

Fort Worth, Texas, has instituted a city-wide vegetable garden contest.

**A Thousand Gardens for Maui.**—With this slogan has risen a widespread interest in children's gardens in Hawaii. Plantation managers have offered tracts of land and hearty cooperation has come from all sides.

**Couldn't Leave Out the Children.**—A lot lent to a group of neighbors for a tennis court; a fear that sale of the lot would spoil the fun; the purchase of the lot and the sense of social responsibility growing with possession; two courts were provided but no spot for the children under tennis age was left.

So began a playground campaign which has resulted in a well-equipped center in good use. *Now they say they need twenty playgrounds!*

### **Mothers' Club Raises Funds.**

—El Campo, Texas, will soon have a well-equipped playground, made possible by funds raised by the Mothers'

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

Club. Even war does not dim such enthusiasm.

**Appropriation for Girls' Camp.**—Los Angeles has appropriated \$575 to carry on the auxiliary playground camp for girls and women in San Dimas canyon. The camp was formerly under private auspices, but was turned over to the playground commission for week-end use.

**Camp Site for Stockton.**—Another municipal camp is to be added to California's list. A rarely lovely spot in the Sierras at an elevation of 4200 feet has been selected and will be put into use at once. George E. Dickie, of Oakland, accompanied the party making the selection, and was so impressed by the attractiveness of the place that it is understood he will try to secure a near-by site for Oakland.

**Making the Need Vivid.**—Portland, Oregon, held a mass meeting at which moving pictures showed children at play in the well-developed playgrounds of the city and by contrast children in the rubbish heaps of Marquam Gulch where a playground is much needed. A feature of the evening was a song, *A Place to Play*, dedicated to the children of Marquam Gulch.

**Community Singing in Attleboro, Massachusetts.**—The

Attleboro community fellowship, a movement which has been unanimously endorsed by the City Council, conducts a number of activities, such as civic forums and discussions and Americanization sessions. "Community singing" is one of the most interesting activities carried on by the fellowship. Mr. Charles H. Pennoyer, director of the fellowship, in writing of the work, notes first the importance of knowing your community, its various groups and natural leaders.

"At first in organizing the Community Sing we must make use of those groups most nearly organized or most nearly ready and meanwhile be getting acquainted with the others. In learning these things of course one learns the constituency in other ways.

"Twice a year I would have all the singers in high school and older grammar grades sing in mass chorus, and once a year all these and also all the adult choruses in mass sing one or more selections, both of these groups sitting in the front rows or on the platform—on either side of the center to lead the entire audience in their simplest of song singing.

"I do not believe in trying to pick out merely single singers from the community and have them from the start do all the

singing or most of the singing for the community. Community singing must tend to be as much as possible singing by the community. So it seems best to get all the smaller groups to going and then the community chorus comes to be the combination of these groups in mass chorus instead of making a selection here and there of the undemocratically chosen few. Let the lesser groups get hold of their material and then from the more easily obtained confidence and response there, get the community chorus from the federating of all the smaller circles. In this way you get leaders to be led as well as choruses to unite, but better than that you get a certain healthy rivalry where each group will do well enough.

"Special choruses may progress in selecting somewhat more difficult songs, but I would never have anything very difficult for a good while, for the entire audience. Better in this community work to have all singing easy songs than a few singing difficult ones—there is the people's right to music actively. The service is finally the development of song in the people's hearts rather than the greatest training in mere mechanics and vocal display.

"So my advice is to let the programs be of the simplest possible kind, as suggested by the growing ability of the chorus. Go as slowly as you possibly can consistently with your freedom to get each group organized from below. We cannot impose a real community chorus or community sing movement on a community. We must develop it from below."

**Songs of Our Country.—**

The National Committee on Patriotic Literature, 461 Eighth Avenue, New York City, has brought out two attractive booklets, *Songs of Our Country* and *Your Flag and Mine*, which sell for twenty-five dollars a thousand or three dollars a hundred.

**San Diego May Festival.—**

Five hundred children participated in *Mother Nature and Her Children*, by Mari Ruef Hofer. The festival, especially the crowning of the May Queen and the traditional May Pole dances, was enthusiastically received.

**Memorial Day Pageant.—**

The city of Oshkosh presented an elaborate pageant written by Constance D'Arcy Mackay.

**Peaslee Boys Complete Seventeenth Year.—**Haverhill, Massachusetts, has a novel club, which now has a membership of about two hundred.

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

Starting with a group of young men who gave an outing each summer and a dinner each winter, the organization has grown until it is almost a community club. There are no regular officers, no public taking or giving of credit, but every laudable movement in Haverhill for nearly twenty years has been able to count upon the Peaslee boys' help. Their latest work was the contribution of \$425 to the new playground.

**A Real Live Annual of Their Own.**—The Dover Street Social Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, has it, with pictures and tributes and "grinds," very kindly "grinds." The whole makes a record of good times which the participants will cherish and which directors of neighborhood centers may con to their advantage.

**Showing How It's Done.**—A group of boys from Allentown, Pennsylvania, with their play leader, spent an afternoon in Coopersburg demonstrating playground sports and games. The demonstration was held under the auspices of the Coopersburg Playground Association upon a lot offered to the association for summer use.

**Kick Baseball.**—This new game, invented by N. C. Seuss, Supervisor of Cincinnati

Park Playgrounds has been very popular in that city. Rules and diagram may be obtained from the Playground and Recreation Association of America or from Mr. Seuss.

**Giving the City the News.**—Nearly two columns of news items from the various playgrounds appear regularly in certain Oakland, California, newspapers.

**Races at Municipal Swimming Pools.**—Championship races for both boys and girls were held in Washington, D. C., at the first annual meet in June. Cards of application for free swimming lessons to be signed by parent or guardian and definite notices of rules and opportunities have greatly increased interest in swimming.

**Swimming under the New York P. S. A. L.**—From October, 1915, to June, 1916, 193,394 boys attended the swimming pools. Of these, 18,914 learned to swim. A special session and teacher were provided for the School for the Deaf, and many of these boys learned to swim. Swimming buttons similar to the athletic badge buttons were awarded to boys who reached a certain standard, which was: Breast strokes (20 yards swim), 26 seconds; overhand stroke in good form, 20 seconds; plunge for distance, 20

feet; simple forward dive (in good form).

**Miniature Yacht Race.**—Many spectators watched the tiny boats on Trout Lake at the annual race held by the Bureau of Recreation of Rochester, New York.

**County Tournament.**—Spokane County, Washington, held its annual tennis tournament in May. A picnic lunch was served and in the evening, the annual declamation contest took place.

**Drill at Playground.**—The Reservoir Playground at Hoboken, New Jersey, is being used as a drilling ground for recruits.

**Physical Training for Preparedness.**—Two classes are held each afternoon on Brooklyn playgrounds for men under eighteen years and over that age, respectively. Marching, running, apparatus work and games make up the program.

**Juniors Study Play.**—Extract from letter from E. F. Birckhead, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, Fredericksburg, Pa.

"We have just organized in our high school a Junior Chamber of Commerce. The first question the members will study will be a recreation center and better play facilities for Fredericksburg."

**From a High School Boy's Letter.**—"I am anxious to get as much material on this subject as I possibly can so that I may become 'saturated' with it. Our high school commencement is only eight weeks off, and my work has been so heavy that I have not yet begun work on my oration, which I intend to make not merely a formality incidental to graduation, but a direct appeal to the people of the city.

"As I mentioned in my former letter to you, X——— needs a system of playgrounds sorely, and therefore any additional literature you may now have available on the needs and results of playgrounds will help greatly in my effort to awaken the citizens to the facts of the matter. After I am graduated I intend to boost a movement for parks and playgrounds, and I mean to keep hammering until others get interested and join me in the campaign. I shall be favorably situated for promoting the movement as I have been asked by both of the papers here to accept a position on their reportorial staff, and will therefore be on one or the other. I shall be able to use the editorial columns and also the news columns of the paper in the interest of the movement. However, I shall write you further about the subject

when school is over."

**A Letter from the Philippine Islands.**—The director of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Bureau of Science, Manila, writes:

"As we are also interested in the work of the Playground and Recreation Association, kindly give me an idea or send me pamphlets which may explain the kind of work you are doing, as we wish to establish a similar association in the Philippines.

"I thank you very much for this thing, I am

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) Teofilo P. Corpus,  
Surgeon, P. H. S."

**New Recreation Plans for France.**—New recreation parks and playgrounds designed for Rheims, Clermont - en - Ar - gone, and Bordeaux show that France is awake to the value of opportunity for physical development and a pleasant use of leisure hours for the sake of the nation.

**Baseball for Sweden.**—Plans are under way for a series of soccer games between a St. Louis team and representatives of the Swedish Football Association. The Swedes have requested that the team from the United States should be made up of men who could make two baseball teams. The

All - American soccer team played baseball upon its recent visit to Sweden. American baseball as played by the colonies in most of the European cities is always popular.

**Russian Children at Play.**—One hundred ten roubles (approximately \$35,000) was granted a teacher in a small village in Russia by the district zemstvos council for play activities for her pupils during the summer. Modeling and drawing classes in connection with the folk tales filled the long days when mothers were at the harvest and fathers at the front. Three thousand roubles were appropriated by the zemstvos for similar work in twenty villages the next summer and other zemstvos are considering following this example.

**From Far Japan.**—

Thitsumaikan University,

Kyoto, Japan

"May I ask you to send me some documents written about the Playground and Recreation Association of America which will enable me to understand the object, the regulation and its general activities? It is my earnest wish to make an initiative movement of the work in this part of Japan. To the Japanese public the idea of the work is new and they are not yet informed of the ideal



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of playground movement and of its educational value. So please choose the material accordingly. I shall be glad if you take special attention in choosing the material to the topic concerning swimming because we have a great advantage for that branch of recreation. If a sum of money is required as to the price of the material documents please let me know beforehand.

Thanking you in anticipation,  
I remain, yours faithfully,  
(signed) Setsuzo Mikami"

**Walter Pettit Returns.**—The 1917-18 announcement of the New York School of Philanthropy includes notice of courses in recreation given by Walter W. Pettit, who has recently returned from a year in Petrograd as special assistant at the American Embassy.

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A MINNESOTA NEIGHBORHOOD SETS AN EXAMPLE TO THE NATION

GEORGE E. VINCENT

"Come in, friends; never mind the mud; this is your house and we want you to see every room in it." It took imagination and civic spirit for Superintendent Fred Grafelman, of the Alberta, Minnesota, Consolidated Rural School, to issue that invitation. A smaller man would have hesitated. Four hundred people were standing in front of the new Teachers' House which had just been formally dedicated to the service of rural education. An almost unprecedented February thaw had produced a slimy ooze. Within were spotless floors of well-finished maple. The thought of the invasion was enough to make a good housekeeper shudder. But the Superintendent saw that something more vital than clean floors was at stake. These citizens and guests must not be made to feel that the building was a private house. They must from the outset think of it as a part of the public school itself. So in they flocked, with calamitous feet and glad hearts.

Civic pride was the dominant note of the dedication day. A joint reception committee from the Commercial Club and the Women's Club welcomed at the station the visitors who came from a distance. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction journey-

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\* Courtesy of Review of Reviews

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ed from the Capital. The State University sent a representative. Students and faculty from one of the University's substations and agricultural schools drove ten miles across country in bob-sleighs. Many friends and neighbors from outside the district joined in the festivities. Pupils and their parents raised to nearly 500 the number in attendance. Congratulations from the visitors were hearty and gratifying. Alberta was being "put on the map." The citizens of the district thrilled with a sense of collective achievement. It was a great day for Alberta, a hamlet of 30 families with a school registration of 132 pupils of whom 95 are brought daily in public conveyances from the surrounding countryside.

A noon dinner for guests and officials was served in the high and well-lighted basement which in the new Teachers' House is equipped for the domestic science work of the school. The Commercial Club paid for the excellent meal which was cooked and served by the schoolgirls. The speeches were brief and to the point. The president of the School Board said he had never made an address before. He had something to say, said it clearly and sincerely, and sat down. The contractor merely rose and bowed, and asked the building to speak for him. If he had ever heard of Sir Christopher Wren he would have said, "Circumspice." Three or four visitors offered congratulations. The best speech was made by the president of the Women's Club. She was witty and clever, and at the end struck a true note of social idealism. One asked: "Who is *she*?" "Oh, a former school-teacher." "I see." Let not the cynical deride the "mob of mobile maidens meditating matrimony." Alberta is only one of thousands of American communities which are the better because women trained as school-teachers have married and are living in them.

How so many people were packed into the two classrooms, which thrown together make the auditorium of the Alberta School building, it would be hard to say. First the grown-ups were stowed away; then the chinks were filled with children of assorted sizes. It was a happy well-contented company, cheerfully absorbent of the amiable things the visitors said about the spirit and enterprise of the Alberta district. Fred Grafelman was praised for his enthusiasm, and his faith that the plan, at first regarded with suspicion, could be carried through. The contractor was lauded as an honest man who had contented himself with day wages. The local merchant who supplied the furniture for the Teachers' House at wholesale prices without profit to himself was called a good citi-

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zen. The members of the School Board were commended for their public spirit. Again the people were congratulated upon having given support to the project. To mitigate the speech-making two of the teachers played a piano duet; the school chorus sang. At the end the whole company joined in "America." One looking on might well ask: "Is not this community feeling the beginning of real patriotism? Must not the individual learn first to merge himself in his neighborhood, before he can identify himself with his nation?"

Then came the formal exercises in front of the new house. The audience was shepherded into place; the band from the agricultural school played; the State Superintendent in a few words put the House at the service of the district and the state, declaring that Alberta had set an example to the nation. It was at this point that Fred Grafelman gave his courageous invitation, and the eager assembly flocked in to see how the teachers were living, and to create on an heroic scale a house-cleaning problem for the department of domestic science. An hour later, the six school sleighs loaded with pupils jingled off into the country; the neighbors from the countryside followed; the visitors from a distance were escorted by the reception committee to the five o'clock "local," and Alberta became to all appearances what it had been early that morning. But these appearances were misleading, for Alberta can never be quite what it was before it built and dedicated the Teachers' House.

How did Alberta happen to embark on this venture? Here is the story in brief. The General Education Board has long been interested in fostering rural education, notably in the South. It was suggested to the Board that the housing of rural teachers, especially when they are grouped in consolidated schools, is pressing for solution, and that a few successful demonstrations of the results of providing at public expense suitable living quarters for groups of teachers would be of real service. It was decided to try the experiment. Minnesota was selected because consolidation is progressing rapidly there; moreover, the winter climate renders the housing question peculiarly important. Alberta was given an opportunity to cooperate, because the Board had heard about Fred Grafelman and his idea of making his school not only an educational institution adapted to the life and needs of the community, but a social center as well, with a literary club, a chorus, a debating society, motion-pictures. The Board offered to pay one-half

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of the expense of building and equipping a teachers' house provided the district would supply the other half of the total cost.

This offer was made in the early spring of 1916. Mr. Grafelman set to work with his usual enthusiasm. A group at once gave him support. But obstacles were quickly encountered. In addition to the usual inertia of any community there was active opposition. Some people feared that there was "a string to the gift"; others were alarmed at an increase in the bonded indebtedness; still others declared that the maintenance of the house would be a burden; the persons who were boarding the teachers viewed with alarm a communistic invasion of vested rights. So the struggle continued. At last the Board voted to submit the question to the people. Then followed a campaign vigorous, and sometimes heated. Grafelman was several times in despair, but he kept on doggedly until finally the vote was taken. The bonds were authorized by a substantial majority. The house plans were rushed to completion; ground was broken early in October, 1916; the teachers moved into their new quarters during the first week of January, 1917.

The house stands on the school grounds about 100 feet from the school building. The high basement contains a large domestic science laboratory equipped with a regular range, a model practice dining-room appropriately furnished, a sewing-room, a modern laundry, the furnace-room, and a girls' toilet. The first floor is a complete, self-contained apartment for the superintendent and his family. The suite includes an entrance hall, alcove for hats and coats, living-room, dining-room, kitchen, three sleeping rooms and a complete bathroom. On the second floor, wholly independent of the rest of the house and with separate front and rear entrances, is the apartment for teachers which contains a combination living and dining-room, a kitchen, four double sleeping rooms and a bath. The third floor or attic with large dormer windows affords space for three more sleeping rooms. The house is well heated—weather 35 degrees below zero and a sixty-mile wind tested this in January—by a hot-water furnace, and lighted by electricity which is supplied by the local plant, a gasoline engine and dynamo set up in the rear of the village hardware store. The water supply comes from the driven well and pressure tank of the school building. The total cost of house and fittings was about \$7500, which came from the following sources: district \$3,000, State \$500, General Education Board \$3,500. Architect's fees, merchants' profits contributed, \$500.

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The finances of the house are naturally of interest. The total income of the School Board from the superintendent, who pays \$240 rent, and from the teachers, each of whom pays \$7 a month for nine months for her room, is \$555. Out of this the Board must pay for coal, extra janitor service, insurance, repairs, meet 5 per cent interest on \$3,000 of bonds, and if possible amortize the district's indebtedness. The Board now estimates that \$200 will be available annually for this purpose.

What about the cost to teachers? During the campaign it was predicted that they would have to pay \$30 per month, instead of the \$22 or \$25 which it was then costing them. Let us see how the plan is working out. The five teachers are living cooperatively with the teacher of domestic science in charge. A graduate of the school is employed as a maid. She performs the housework, helps with the cooking, and does the general washing. Her wages are \$4.50 per week, with room and board. In addition, for 15 cents a dozen, she washes and rough dries the personal laundry of the teachers who do the ironing for themselves. The total cost for the household for February was as follows:

Supplies (food, oil, fuel, etc.).....	\$40.55
Maid's wages.....	18.00
Electricity .....	1.00
Laundry .....	3.00
Rent .....	35.00
	<hr/>
	\$97.55

Equally divided among the five teachers, this makes the expense of each for four weeks, \$19.51. It should be explained that the stove in the domestic science department is available for baking, roasting. An oil range is used in the teachers' kitchen. The cost of oil fuel is included in the total for supplies.

The teachers, two of them university graduates, three with normal school training, are delighted with their new living conditions. They say that they are conscious of doing their daily school work much better. Their attitude toward country teaching has been radically modified. On the open prairie they enjoy all the physical comforts and conveniences of the city. They form a congenial group. "It's like living in a sorority house," said one of them. This, after all, is the real test of the plan. Will the House

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make it easier to secure and to hold the best type of teacher? Why, pray, should well-trained, self-respecting young women be asked to make sacrifices in order to teach in rural schools, when such sacrifices are wholly unnecessary?

The Teachers' House is usefully related to the school work in domestic science. The girls of the advanced class have access at times to the teachers' apartment which serves as a model of domestic arrangements. The cookery in the school classes is much of it done on a family scale with a regular stove. Only a part takes the form of miniature exercises carried out on oil stoves. While the teachers do not agree to purchase the whole output of the classes, as a matter of fact a large part of it is brought for the cooperative table upstairs. This plan reimburses the school supply fund, and gives the young cooks a sense of actuality in their work. Future plans include a school garden and summer canning classes, the product to be purchased for the teachers' table.

The fact that the whole school staff is living at the school gives the institution a more vividly local character, and dignifies it in the eyes of young and old. The "suit-case" rural teacher who arrives from a neighboring town reluctantly at the last moment Monday morning, and escapes eagerly at the earliest opportunity Friday afternoon, is ordinarily not to be blamed. At the same time her attitude does not suggest a fondness for country life. She turns her pupils' thoughts toward town as a more desirable place. A group of resident teachers, on the other hand, living contentedly in the community and sharing its interests fosters local self-respect and contributes to civic loyalty. Thus the Teachers' House not only helps the school; it affects favorably the entire district. It becomes a source of suggestion to the people of the community, especially to the women. They see the possibilities of introducing conveniences into their own houses; they learn that simple, sincere, tasteful furniture and decorations are to be preferred to machine carving, plush upholstery, and "hand paintings."

It should be understood that the public provision of housing for teachers is no new thing. Germany and France, Denmark and, to some extent, Norway and Sweden have long furnished dwellings for village and rural teachers. Nor is the plan wholly novel in the United States. Bungalows and cottages for two, three or four teachers are common in the State of Washington and in California. North Dakota has a large number. St. Louis County, Minnesota, provides separate cottages, and in some cases, combines in one

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building schoolrooms and living quarters for two or three teachers. In many states there are isolated experiments. Sometimes old school buildings are remodeled for the purpose. Again a school board will rent a dwelling and sublet it to teachers. A privately financed teachers' house in an Illinois village is said to pay 8 per cent on the investment. Most of these housing provisions, however, are made in connection with rural schools either of the one-room type or of the small, graded sort. The Alberta House is significant for its city-apartment character, its proximity to the school, its close relation to the school work, its completely official nature, its social as well as educational value.

The speakers who at the Alberta dedication insisted that the day had national importance were not merely flattering local pride. They meant that rural education is of vital concern to the country as a whole. If the countryside is to be saved from tenancy and its consequences, is to be a source whence able individuals may be drawn into the service of all, rural education must be put upon a level with urban training. The conditions of good education are: competent, loyal teachers, expert supervision, proper housing and modern equipment. Consolidation of rural schools is solving for the country the last two problems; the second is being urged with some success. Many factors will contribute to the solution of the first. Among these the teachers' house must be reckoned next to professional training and adequate salaries. The dedication at Alberta was of national significance. Within a few years the teachers' house will be included as a matter of course in the bond issues for consolidated rural school plants.

It may be well to add that the General Education Board has no thought of making offers to a large number of districts. Arrangements have been made with two other schools. Bulletins containing house plans, financial statements, reports upon various phases of the experiments, will in due time be published in large editions and given wide distribution. The Board will rest content with making available for school boards and the public trustworthy data concerning the operation of a few teachers' houses in connection with typical consolidated rural schools.

## RECREATION IN INDUSTRIES

Suggesting how appropriate recreational activities among groups of employed workers will increase efficiency and team play

CHARLES FREDERICK WELLER, Associate Secretary, Playground and Recreation Association of America, Chicago, Ill.

### **Two Fundamentals**

Two factors, of utmost importance in industry and commerce, can be strengthened by the development of appropriate recreational activities:

The first is efficiency or productive power—including physical and mental fitness and alert interest on the part of the worker.

The second is team play or cooperation—binding together a differentiated group of workers, including foremen and employers.

These two factors, efficiency and team play, are fundamentally important in our industries. Confessedly, what recreational activities may do to strengthen them is less a matter of demonstrated experience than of social prophecy. But, a great deal is already successfully under way. Encouragement and practical suggestions are available from the recreational activities already developed in numerous industries.

**Looking Forward** I know department stores in Pittsburgh which have their baseball teams, men's clubs, minstrel performances, and summer outing camps.

**Already Tried** In St. Louis, the president of a steel company took me for a day's trip to his plant where a central club house has been erected in which all the foremen have lunch together, followed by a game of pool if they wish. He said, "Their difficulties and the sources of possible contention between departments are ironed out before they know of it, just because they are brought together in a friendly way."

In Ludlow, Massachusetts, a neighborhood recreation center, built and equipped by "the Ludlow Manufacturing Associates," is conducted and supported by the workers and their families.

Young Men's Christian Associations have been promoted by a great many industrial establishments—both for their own employees and for their communities.

On July 15, 1916, the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company interrupted its war-time profits by giving a holiday festival, with full pay to 20,000 employees and their families—to celebrate the



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semi-centennial of a discovery on which the modern copper industry is based.

These are but slight suggestions of the use of recreation in industries. Already this use is large, successful, increasing—though without adequate consciousness, as yet, of the possibilities to be realized through competent, employed play leaders.

### I. PREVENTING WASTE

To lessen the present loss of productive power may well be the first motive for introducing recreational activities. Such examples as follow could be multiplied indefinitely.

From a large mining company in Arkansas, the controlling officer came to the Supervisor of Recreation in St. Louis. He said, in effect: "For the first day or two after each pay day, I haven't men enough to run my mines; the leisure-time problem is getting away with them and with me." The prescription, which he accepted as promising, was a recreation center—with club room, smoking, games, moving pictures, dancing, in charge of a competent recreation leader or social worker.

In Kenosha, the manager of a large industrial plant told me he had been reviewing his pay roll and work-time records, studying the losses due to dissipation. He was surprised to find that the time lost was larger in winter than in summer. He explained this by the fact that there are many recreational resources in summer—parks, walks, ball games, outdoor activities—but in winter the only recreation known to many men is the saloon. Hence, more drinking and more loss of time in winter.

Dissipation is a great destroyer of productive power. Dissipation, however, is a matter of leisure time, of recreation. Thus, the power of the saloon proceeds partly from its appeal to wholesome recreational instincts—through lunches, brightness, democratic social intercourse, free self-expression, music, and various forms of entertainment.

Similarly, sexual dissipation is somewhat a question of recreation gone wrong, leisure misused. While opinions differ as to the part which low wages play in promoting vice, all agree that inadequate or misguided recreation is an important cause of sexual immorality. For instance;—Eighty-six thousand young men and women are to be found, in one night, in Chicago's dance halls. Many of these resorts are characterized by lurid evils of drink and of sexual

immorality. But their popularity, surely, is in spite of these evils, not because of them. It is the distinctive craving for recreation in the form of rhythmic exercise, social intercourse, and free self-expression, which gives power—too often, destructive power—to commercial dance halls throughout the country. Thus are many young workers diverted from industry or weakened in its service.

First Conclusion:

Dissipation destroys efficiency. Dissipation is largely recreation gone wrong. Therefore, by solving the recreation problems of industrial workers, we may diminish their loss of efficiency or productive power.

## II. INCREASING POWER

More attractive and important than preventing the wastes of dissipation is the positive side—the direct augmenting of productive power.

My five-year-old boy taught me, one summer, the fundamental principle involved here. It was extremely hard for the lad—and for all the family—to accomplish his part of the camp duties, the filling of the woodbox. That was work. But he would take a big cumbersome, broken-down, wheel-barrow and run it fast up a steep hill—an achievement requiring large energy and persistence—because he conceived of the wheel-barrow as a locomotive or a street car, himself the engineer or conductor. This was play.

"Play," as Mr. Dooley says, "is work that you pay for the privilege of doing." Work is play if inspired by the worker's full interest, by his sense of free self-expression. Here we have, then, the most important dynamic: Productive power can be increased by increasing the worker's interest. Recreation means specifically the enlistment and expression of interest. Here is a clue for industrial leaders—the control of power through interest.

Second Conclusion:

Since recreation is a great means of expressing and developing interest; since a fundamental means of increasing productive efficiency is by increasing interest; appropriate recreation activities should be developed in industrial establishments as a means of enlisting or vivifying the interest of the workers.

There is a vital distinction between recreation and  
**Not Welfare Work** much of what is known as "welfare work"—  
though I have only appreciative commendation

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of the latter. The distinction is between that which mainly affects *conditions* and that which mainly affects *activities*. Welfare work has been, and is, greatly needed—to promote the improvement of industrial establishments and the providing of wash rooms, lockers, rest rooms, lunching facilities and better *conditions* generally. Recreation, in contrast, would have as its purpose—and its method—to enlarge or improve the *activities* of the workers.

✓  
**Not Patronizing** “But I would not assume to interfere with what our employees do,” objected one employer of many hundreds of workers. “I give them a meeting place, but it is for them to say how they will use it.”

This shrewd criticism defines, evidently, a difficulty to be expected and avoided. In this day of growing democratic spirit, “hand me down” charity must be replaced by self-development from within. This is not inconsistent, however, with supplying appropriate recreation facilities and, what is more important, recreation leadership.

**How a Recreation Leader Starts** Instead of patronage, charity, or help from outside, the very keynote of recreation is to learn and to follow the worker's instincts. If a competent recreation leader were put to work upon the problem in a certain industrial plant he would begin, I am sure, by learning how the workers are now spending their leisure time and how they would like to spend it.

### Third Conclusion:

Through friendly fellowship with the workers themselves, the recreation leader—who would have constantly in mind a large, varied repertoire of recreation activities—should be able to develop gradually a program which would be popular, democratic and entirely appropriate to local conditions.

**Suggestions from a Chicago Visit** After an hour or two spent in viewing, with enthusiastic approval, the marvelous working organization and the fine social spirit which pervade the vast Chicago offices and warehouses of ———, I walked through the recreation grounds which the firm has generously provided. There is a little park, beautiful with flowers and an artificial lake, where the workers like to sit or stroll together after luncheon. That

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seems to me a very pretty and appropriate recreation facility. On the large ball field, nearby, one group of perhaps eight or ten men were practicing knock-up-and-catch. Other large grounds were closed or unused. Scores of men and women were walking the streets. It was their lunch hour.

### III. SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS

Some simple, obvious suggestions occurred to me—which would be equally applicable to other industries. Besides such intrinsic interest as they may possess, they indicate that a play leader more resourceful than I, giving more adequate study to the local situation, would be much more fertile in practicable plans:

**Games with Equipment**—One of my impromptu suggestions was that indoor baseball, used as an outdoor game, or playground ball, would probably lead a number of groups, including women, to enjoy the sport, each on a comparatively small section of the unused fields. (This is the ordinary baseball game played with a softer ball, on a smaller diamond.)

Volley ball occurred to me as another simple, attractive game in which many workers might be glad to spend a few minutes at lunch time or after the closing hour. (In this game, a big, light ball—like a football—is batted, with the hands, back and forth over a rather high net; from two to thirty or more may play on each side.)

Tether ball, ring toss, and other games requiring simple, inexpensive equipment seemed appropriate. (In tether ball two people try, with tennis racquets, to wind up, each in his own direction, a cord, with tennis ball attached which hangs from the top of a pole. Ring toss is the old game of pitching horseshoes at a short stake driven into the ground.)

**Free Play without Apparatus** Especially, I longed to see what could be accomplished by a play leader who would gather a group about her (or him) for some circle games, folk dances, and other organized play activities—whose value is suggested by the fact that they have been enjoyed by various peoples for decades, or even for centuries. They are rooted deep in our natural instincts.

In this connection the use of recess periods in industries, like

## CIVIC THEATRE OF PAWTUCKET RHODE ISLAND

school recesses, may be suggested. Some industries have already found that they develop increased productive power in their workers by granting a short "breathing spell" in the middle of a long morning or afternoon of tedious labor.

The value of such a recess may be increased manyfold by substituting organized, interesting games for the purposeless idling which usually occupies the rest period. This has been abundantly proven in public schools.

### Fourth Conclusion:

I would emphasize as my "Fourth Conclusion" my feeling that this idea of circle games, folk dancing and other group plays organized by a play leader, is probably the most important—and the least familiar—practical expedient I have yet suggested for the development of industrial recreation.

**Leadership Essential**—Let it be emphasized always that the prime essential is personal leadership. Recreation activity without a play leader is as futile as a school without a teacher, a church with no clergyman, or a hospital without doctor or nurse. In every case, what will mainly determine the quantity and quality of success attained, will be the spirit, resourcefulness and leadership of the recreation director or play leader.

Next in importance; a spirit of intelligent, sympathetic interest should pervade the whole industry and be embodied in employers, foremen and other commanding powers. For encouragement, or play tradition, or favorable atmosphere, is one of the essentials for the development of genuine play.

### Fifth Conclusion:

If the industrial plant is right in the two essentials—in the employment of competent recreation leadership and in the maintenance of an encouraging atmosphere—the recreation activities can be developed naturally—perhaps by extending some existing activity—and they can be kept always democratic and popular.

[To Be Continued]

## THE CIVIC THEATRE OF PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND

### "A School in American Citizenship"

One of the most interesting movements in our country today is that represented in the Civic Theatre of Pawtucket, which originated in the fertile brain of Reverend James D.

## *CIVIC THEATRE OF PAWTUCKET RHODE ISLAND*

Dingwell, Pastor of the Central Falls Congregational Church.

The population of Pawtucket is a mixed one, almost every nationality being represented within the city's limits. Mr. Dingwell's idea grew out of a study of the existing conditions and a realization of the need of a civic center meeting ground for instruction and fellowship in things fundamentally American if there is ever to be attained a democracy that is to be unified, intelligent, influential, and permanent.

The Civic Theatre was opened in the Star Theatre in the spring of 1913, the avowed purpose of its organization being the creating and building up of a friendly, intelligent American spirit among all nationalities. It is under the control of a large committee or board, representative of all creeds and classes of citizens. It is non-political, non-commercial, and, while both religious and moral, strictly non-sectarian. The meetings are held in a theatre for the sake of rising above all sectarian and selfish interests. The work is supported principally by the free-will gifts of interested individuals.

A series of meetings is held every year. These are held on Sunday nights. No admission fee is charged. The size of the audience is limited only by the capacity of the theatre, which seats 1500 although 1800 have been crowded in. Because of the limited seating capacity, only foreign-speaking people are admitted, apart from the committee and the helpers in charge. The invitations are issued in six different foreign languages.

The chief method of instruction has been the patriotic, sociological, and industrial moving picture film, but greater than the educational aspect has been the opportunity for friendliness and brotherliness. The seriousness and sacredness of American citizenship, as well as its glory, is conspicuously evident in every gathering.

As a rule, the program begins with a short address by the presiding officer of the evening, who is usually some well-known person in either Central Falls or Pawtucket and a member of the governing board of the theatre. Following the address there is instrumental and vocal music furnished by local people. Sometimes the music is provided by a musical organization of some one of the national groups represented in the cities. Mr. Dingwell has also organized a choir of foreign boys who sing patriotic songs. After the music, various speakers representing the national groups in the audience explain the program in their

## A PROGRAM FOR DEALING WITH THE MOVIES

own language and make such announcements for succeeding performances as are deemed proper. There are usually five or six different national speakers or interpreters. This is a very interesting feature of the program.

The pictures are then shown. These are largely educational in character though occasionally a comic picture which is purely for entertainment is put on. Since the central idea of the Civic Theatre is to make of foreign people good Americans and good citizens an effort is made to introduce into the program of speeches, music, and pictures ideas and sentiments of patriotism, information upon how to become a citizen, and what constitutes a good citizen.

The cost of rent, films, program publishing, and pianist for one evening is approximately fifty dollars.

## A PROGRAM FOR DEALING WITH THE MOVIES\*

JOSEPH LEE

President Playground and Recreation Association of America, Boston, Massachusetts

I. Encourage active play and recreation and make passive occupations, including movies and "bleacheritis," unfashionable.

II. Parents restrict the amount of attendance of their own children—children under ten, not at all; ten to fourteen, not more than once a month; over fourteen, not more than once a week.

III. A separate national censorship for movies to which children under sixteen are admitted.

IV. Principles of selection:

1. The important thing is what the child sees, not the moral drawn from it. Commission of crimes and sexually exciting pictures should be excluded; also pictures of cruelty, brutality, gruesomeness, terror, insanity, vulgarity, hatred or uncharitableness toward any race, sect or condition, or successful lawlessness.

2. On the other hand, movies should not be preachy or tiresomely educational. Pictures should include adventures in automobiles, trains, on horseback and in boats; chase and pursuit, cowboys, Indians, soldiers and sailors;

\* Extracts from address

## VOCATIONAL RECREATION

a hero fighting successfully against odds, and thrilling historic scenes.

Perhaps the movies would present romantic stories like *Ivanhoe*, *Quentin Durward*, *Lorna Doone*, *Evangeline*, or lives of Washington and Lincoln, both of which were sufficiently picturesque.

V. Every parent should read a little pamphlet, "Principles Governing the Selection of Motion Pictures for Young People under Sixteen," published by the National Committee on Films for Young People, printed April 19, 1916. (70 Fifth Avenue, New York.)

## VOCATIONAL RECREATION

L. H. Weir, Field Secretary of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, speaking before the Employment Managers' Conference at Indianapolis, Indiana, advocated a "department of employment and service," which should handle all questions of personal relations arising in the organization and management of an establishment. Besides the employment and medical phases this department would handle "vocational recreation." This Mr. Weir outlined as follows:

Vocational Recreation is a descriptive term referring to and including all manner of provisions for, and all manner of ways of, using leisure in connection with industrial, commercial, and public utility establishments.

The recreation division of the Employment and Service Department would include:

1. Many types of comfort facilities, such as lockers, wash and bath rooms; rest, reading, and smoking rooms; lunch rooms and restaurants; roof gardens

2. All types of

- a. Physical recreation facilities and activities—such as pool and billiards, bowling, games, courts and athletic fields, and the playing of organized games, and conduct of athletics and swimming pools

- b. Educational facilities and activities for use of leisure, such as reading, attendance upon regularly organized classes, both inside plant at evening schools, and elsewhere; educational excursions

- c. Cultural facilities and activities, such as pianos, victrolas, organs, band instruments, orchestra instruments, and



## VOCATIONAL RECREATION

all forms of vocal and instrumental musical organizations and activities; dramatics, readings

d. Social recreation facilities and activities, including such facilities as social halls; picnic grounds, and such activities as picnics, entertainments, parties, social dances and club or group organizations of all kinds, whatever their object, such as mutual benefit associations, savings societies, safety-first organizations, library associations, women's clubs, dramatic clubs, and musical clubs

The fundamental importance of these three divisions of an Employment and Service Department to the promotion of health, intelligence, morality, team spirit, and stability of labor force, is very great and each is intimately bound up with the other.

It is now recognized as an axiomatic principle in good business organizations and as an agreement that wages must be fair, that hours of labor must be reasonable, and that material conditions of labor must conform to the highest known standards of safety, hygiene, and sanitation.

Two of these factors, viz., wages and hours of labor, are basically related to the leisure time of the employee and consequently to his hopes for opportunity for the self-development of himself and his family.

*The margin of a man's wages beyond what is*  
**Wages and Leisure** *necessary to provide shelter, clothes, food, and*  
*other fundamental material necessities of living,*  
*is the basis of his opportunity for self-development and the self-develop-*  
*ment of the individual members of his family.*

There is a very close relation between the existence of a multitude of cheap and unwholesome ways of using leisure and the wage scale.

\* \* \* \*

No doubt many employers sincerely feel, also, that shorter hours of labor and consequently increase of leisure is not in the interest of public welfare. The apparent or real intent to escape toil is considered an unwholesome social tendency. It is believed that the mass of employees would be infinitely better off working because they do not know how to use increased leisure to advantage of themselves or of society.

This contention has a basis of genuine logic. There is a natural tendency on the part of people to take the line of least resistance and that line usually leads away from toil. However, necessity

## VOCATIONAL RECREATION

and social training and social consciousness is a constant check against shiftlessness and idleness. There is a real danger in too much leisure if it is not properly used, and, it is the growing appreciation of this that is one of the powerful factors in the remarkable interest among the people of this nation in the establishment of public recreation systems. The education of the people for leisure is one of the great problems of the day. But national and local agencies, both public and private, are attacking this problem with a vigor never before known in the history of any social-education movement. Social dangers from increased leisure are not to be greatly feared.

The movement for shorter hours is related to human welfare in two chief ways—first as having to do with the welfare of the physical man and secondly with the welfare of the social man.

Socially the necessity for a balanced relationship between hours of labor and leisure is very important. Modern industry considered from the operative viewpoint holds out little opportunity to the mass of workers for self-development in any of the great fields of human interests.

The making of a living is far from being the whole of life. In fact, the making of a living is the foundation only of making a life. The entire superstructure of man's development in all these qualities of mind and heart which mark the intelligence, culture and civilization of the nation, while rooted deep in the activities of making a living, can only be possible when the hours of leisure are somewhat comparable in length to the hours of toil. In a democracy like ours this is doubly important since a democracy can only endure when there is a high average of cultural development among all the people.

Many years ago one of our greatest writers and thinkers expressed this prophecy and its need: "Distrust as we may the surprises the future may have in store. . . . there seems some ground for believing that the bulk of mankind will know days—when, thanks, it may be, to machinery, agricultural chemistry, medicine, perhaps, or I know not what dawning science, labor will become less incessant, exhausting, less material, tyrannical, pitiless.

"What use will humanity make of this leisure? On its employment may be said to depend the whole destiny of man. Is it not well that his counsellors should now begin to teach him to use such leisure as he has in a nobler and worthier fashion? It is the way in which hours of freedom are spent that determines, as much as . . . labor the moral worth of a Nation."

## THE PLAYGROUND MAKES LEADERS OF MEN\*

ELIZABETH O'NEILL

Supervisor of Playgrounds, Board of Education, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The teacher whose playground training and experience has taught him (or her) to see and know everything going on in the playground has learned a secret of success. He who has learned to lead and govern the work in his playground without destroying the child's free choice and spontaneity, and who has organized the various activities under the leadership of the children, has laid the foundation for attaining the highest results in playground methods and management, and has done much toward developing initiative that will make for efficient citizenship.

A teacher writes: "There are four little girls in my playground who can conduct any game that I have taught." Another: "One of my older girls taught all the assistants how to cane chairs. Many of these older boys and girls have attended the playground each year since its organization three years ago.

"After starting a game I usually find an older boy or girl to take charge of the game. Many games have been learned and can be played without direct supervision of the teacher under the leadership of an older child. Three deep, day and night, bear in the ring, jumping circle, tower ball, dodge ball and volley ball, and a number of the ring games and dances are conducted by the children.

"Occupation work is arranged in groups under leaders according to the degree of efficiency of the workers.

"Very often during my lunch hour when I looked into the playground to see that things were going all right, I was pleased to see a group of young children playing ring games in one part of the yard, and a group of older girls dancing in another part of the yard.

"On hot afternoons older girls were frequently observed arranging benches in a circle, and gathering together groups of little children to tell stories to them.

"I've never had better leaders. Some of these assisted in certain kinds of occupation work, others taught games or supervised the games, others were in charge of certain apparatus. In different parts of the yard signs were put up—raffia work, woodwork, mat weaving, paper work, basket making. The leaders prepared the material, arranged the benches for their own special groups

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\* Extract from report to the Director of Physical Training, William A. Stecher

## A STATESMAN OR A CLERK?

promptly at eleven in the morning and at four in the afternoon each day."

Perhaps one may get an idea that a teacher in such a playground is taking things very easy—that she is not earning her salary. Do not form such a mistaken idea. Such a teacher has learned her responsibility. She is making leaders of men. Her responsibility has increased a hundredfold. She must keep a very watchful eye upon the effect of responsibility upon her children, she must be alert to see when she must change her force of leaders. She may discover that authority placed upon young shoulders is turning their heads and making young autocrats; in other words, she must know whether she is strengthening their vanity or their character. She will change leaders frequently so that an opportunity may be given to the timid as well as to the assertive child.

Quoting from Jacob Riis: "Thank God we can see the light at last, and we are making for it with seven-league boots every time a playground is laid out for the little ones."

## A STATESMAN OR A CLERK?

GEORGE A. SIM, Los Angeles, California

The head of a recreation system ought to be able to shake off the mass of detail which comes to him so that he can work out the larger problems. The man chosen to lead in developing the city recreation policies should be free to organize city-wide baseball, municipal golf links, more tennis courts; he should have charge of the development of such recreation features as archery, casting, roque, bowling on the green and other sports for which cities at the present time are making very inadequate provision—in many cases, no provision whatsoever.

In any large city it ought to be so that the recreation secretary can leave the problems of construction, maintenance and repair, upkeep of ground, and such details to mechanics and others better fitted for that work than the secretary himself, whose training lies almost wholly in the field of recreation. Such routine work as the making out of payrolls, work schedules, and "time," the passing on requisitions, and the innumerable other details incident to the running of a playground system should be placed in the hands of competent clerks and stenographers.

## WHAT IS THE PLACE OF THE CLUB LEADER?

The secretary himself should act as a "minister of recreation" to the entire people in his city: it is he and not the commercial houses who should be the source of the city's recreation. How many cities have tackled baseball and promoted and organized leagues among the bank clerks, mercantile houses, and factories? Not many. In the majority of cases, this work is left entirely to the sporting goods houses who care only for the business that it brings to them. It is the merchant who reminds us that the Fourth of July is coming with his decorations of flags and bunting; it is the merchant who tells us Christmas is coming by having Santa Claus in the window; and it is the merchant who announces the other national and festive days. It should be the function of the recreation department of a city, not of the merchants, to provide adequate play and recreation facilities for the boys and girls and men and women in that city. Chambers of commerce should be able to look to the department of recreation for suggestions and help in parades, sane Fourth celebrations, and other city-wide celebrations. Probably the main reason for the pitiful inadequacy of the recreation systems of today lies in the fact that the recreation secretary is so overwhelmed with the details of the work that he has no time to cope with the larger problems.

## WHAT IS THE PLACE OF THE CLUB LEADER?

Dr. John D. Elliott, of Hudson Guild, giving the introductory lecture in the course on work with boys given by the association of neighborhood workers of New York City pointed out the need of long-distance planning in club work so that the aims and results of each club shall fit in with the larger plans for the neighborhood and city.

The weakness of nearly all social workers is that they have too much heart and too little head but it is much better that there should be too little head than too little heart and for his improvement a social worker should not dwell upon his weakness but put the emphasis upon a positive development of the friendship, sympathy and interest which he has in the people with whom he is working into a definite reality. Very little can be accomplished by continually dwelling upon the need for more head work and the consequent neglect of the heart interest in the work. A great deal of head and too little heart is a misfortune.

## WHAT IS THE PLACE OF THE CLUB LEADER?

The best and most effective fulcrum for successful social work of any kind is the desire which we all have to secure the best for our children and this common trait should be worked for all it is worth. One of the greatest dangers which a club leader must look out for is the corruption in himself due to the adoration and hero-worship of the boys in his club. It is necessary of course to have a great love and interest in the group but great care should be taken against "over-personalness" in any form.

### **An Analogy from Trade Unions**

A distinction must be made between the club method of working with boys and the class method. Too many club leaders unconsciously consider their boys' club as their class and their own relation to their club as being similar to that of a teacher to his class. The good trade unions offer a safe model upon which to pattern our club work. The present educational ideas and methods have developed wonderful scientists, administrators and men of great power in all walks of life but they have been very weak in that their products have been too individualistic—they want to conquer the world alone and have absolutely no sense of group loyalty or feeling of the greater power of the group as contrasted with the power of the individual. In a trade union a boy is apprenticed to a master worker but this master worker is himself an apprentice always learning. The trade union also develops in the apprentice a wonderful spirit and appreciation of the power of the group. He realizes that his interests and his welfare rest with the best interests and welfare of his trade union or guild.

The parallel between the club and the trade union is also true in another sense. It is necessary that the boy in the club should be tied up to the club by some interest closely connected with the life interest of the boy, not only the economic life interest but the social and spiritual life interests. Therefore, in planning activities for a club, no general form of activity can be arbitrarily forced upon a club nor can imitation of another club produce the desired results. The club activities must develop from the deepest interest of the boys in the club. The relation of the leader to the boy should be that of a master workman to his apprentice. The master knows something that the apprentice wants to know very much and can do something that the apprentice wants very much to be able to do and the club leader should know something that the boys want very much to know, and should be able to do something that the

## *WHAT IS THE PLACE OF THE CLUB LEADER?*

boys want very much to be able to do and both the master and the leader should always themselves be learning.

The leader of a successful club develops in each of the club members a realization of the vast power in group action just as an apprentice has a greater realization of this power than many professional and business men whose whole lives have been lives of individual effort. The group leader must, therefore, necessarily himself be a believer in group action and one who is doing his own life work as one of a group and not as an individual.

In order to infuse the spirit of service into the minds of the members of his club the leader should himself be engaged in some form of social service other than his club work in which he is so interested that all his words and actions express his devotion to and belief in that work. He may be a professional social worker or a professional or business man who has put social service ideals into his vocation.

Two of the most important results which a club can accomplish are to preserve the democracy of childhood which is so generally lost in the process of education and to make real the uncommon good in the common boy.

The discussion which followed Dr. Elliott's talk was limited to the discussion of the ideals of boys' club work. Some of the ideals which different leaders presented were to develop initiative, character and personality in the boy. This suggestion brought up the question of how to meet the problem of wrong self-direction of initiative. It was suggested that patient effort will be necessary to develop different ideals and different attitudes on the part of the members of the club and yet not to stifle the initiative shown. Considerable emphasis was placed on the danger of imitating the activities and programs of another club even though the activities had proven to be very successful in the case of that club. Each activity must be a development from the interests of the boys. In discussing Dr. Elliott's suggestion of the danger due to hero-worship on the part of the boy it was generally agreed that hero-worship is not at all dangerous to the boy but a very good thing, but that there is a great danger to the leader. In response to a question, Dr. Elliott said that he believed that it is possible to instill high ideals and aims into older boys by direct talk but that with younger boys indirect suggestions and the contagion of ideals are necessary. By knowing the boys in his club and by personal contact and acquaintance with them and their personal characteristics and problems, a club leader's ideals can be made a boy's ideals.

## IT PAYS TO PLAY (VERIFIED)

TERENCE VINCENT, Play Leader, John Pitman School, Kirkwood, Missouri

"My boy likes to go to school now," said one mother to me some time ago. "He is also progressing more rapidly in his music than at any time before, and I'm sure this supervised play has been the direct cause of it."

"Do you know, since we have had play as part of the work in the Pitman School that there have been no gangs of boys on the streets at night? When I pass along the streets of Kirkwood now, the groups of boys are playing games of interest to them; they used to break windows, jeer at passersby and destroy property in various petty ways," said a member of the bank.

According to the teachers in the Pitman School, who taught before supervised play was part of the daily program, problems of discipline have almost entirely vanished, and "snitching" and "tattling" are reduced to comparatively nothing. Petty thieving such as taking caps, coats and overshoes has stopped. Bullying is no more. Fellowship and cooperation dominate the play activities of both boys and girls, except for the very few "antis" who seem to be present in every community.

Nelson Kerr, superintendent of schools, is responsible for the play activities in Kirkwood. In January, 1915, he came to the University of Missouri for a man to take charge of play in the John Pitman School. Though I had no thought then of entering recreation as a profession, I accepted the offer. Everything claimed for the fruits of play in my article *It Pays to Play* (THE PLAYGROUND, January, 1915) has been verified abundantly.

## PLAY ACTIVITIES

With the democratization of recreational life and the broadening of its scope to reach the entire community has come the introduction of special play activities which will meet the needs of all. There has been an increasing effort, too, so to develop such instinctive activities as kite flying and marble playing—always a part of the play life of the child—as to make them of still greater interest to the community at large. A study of playground activi-



## PLAY ACTIVITIES

ties in twenty-five cities shows the following included in a general play program:

Playground ball	25 cities	Gardening	10 cities
Folk dancing	23 cities	Library	10 cities
Storytelling	22 cities	Motion pictures	10 cities
Circle and singing games	22 cities	Volley ball	10 cities
Industrial work	20 cities	Wading	9 cities
Basket ball	20 cities	Camp Fire Girls	8 cities
Swimming	18 cities	Camps	7 cities
Pageants	14 cities	Boy Scouts	7 cities
Social dancing	13 cities	Tennis	7 cities
Skating	11 cities	Kite contests	4 cities
Marble tournaments		2 cities	

Circle and singing games that seemed to play themselves everywhere were:

*Looby Loo, Roman Soldier, Farmer in the Dell, Mulberry Bush, A Hunting We Will Go, Charley over the Water, Poisoned Rag, Bull in the Ring, Drop the Handkerchief, Fox and Chickens, Follow the Leader, Cat and Rat, Throw the Peg, Pewee, My Father Keeps a Grocery Store, Trades and Tug of War.*

**Social Dancing** All the 13 cities conducting social dancing under their recreation departments are making every possible effort to maintain a high standard. Everywhere the open position in dancing is insisted upon and the use of tobacco prohibited. In three of the cities the usual amount of supervision is supplemented by police protection. Cleveland, Ohio, conducts a municipal dance hall where each couple is charged three cents a dance. Another city conducts its dances in park pavilions at a charge of twenty-five cents for eight dances. In Cincinnati, Ohio, the playground field houses are used three evenings a week for penny dances. The profits from the dances are shared by the Mothers' Clubs and the Park Department. The Mothers' Clubs use their share to provide playground picnics, baseball suits for the boys, and to aid in the work of the playgrounds.

## PLAY ACTIVITIES

The Park Department provides with its profits a general playground picnic at the close of the summer season.

**Gardens** Ten of the twenty-five cities visited have made gardening a part of their programs. In Cleveland the work has been developed along very interesting lines. It is so arranged that all the vegetables planted are those which will mature during the playground season. In 1916 the first twenty-five children who applied were given lots 10' x 10'. Those whose applications were tardy received boxes 6" x 10", the number not to exceed five. The youngest children received flower pots. Plants and seeds were supplied free of charge to the children by the Board of Education. The work was supervised by a director in gardening and the playground workers.

In another city the gardening was done in back yards and vacant lots. Each plot was 4 1-2' x 15' with a 1 1-2' path between the plots. At the beginning of each season the plots were laid out by a garden expert and each applicant given a suggestive list of plants with the amount of ground necessary for each. Seeds could be purchased for a minimum price from the Board of Education. Last year over 9,000 children applied for gardens. The children are graded according to

Improvement made on condition of lot	10 per cent
Plan and general management	10 per cent
Care in soil preparation	10 per cent
Vigor and general condition of plants	10 per cent
Freedom from weeds, general care	30 per cent
Kinds, quantity and quality of crops	30 per cent

There are four general city supervisors with assistants from the corps of grade teachers who give part time to the work. In the fall there is a general produce exhibit and awarding of prizes.

In Dayton, Ohio, during 1916, with an appropriation of \$4,088, there were conducted about 2,000 gardens in eight districts of the city. Eight supervisors were employed each receiving \$1.50 for every 25 calls made. All the gardens which are located in back yards and vacant lots have a flower border. Seeds were purchased for a minimum price from the Vacant Lot Garden Association.

## PLAY ACTIVITIES

In addition to the garden work carried on by the city, the National Cash Register Company provides eighty 10' x 53 1-2' gardens for boys and one-half acre for girls. Each boy takes a gardening course of two years and is then graduated into the Box Furniture Club.

In Columbus, Ohio, the cooperation of the Real Estate Association has been obtained in securing the use of vacant lots for gardens. In 1916 there were 1,200 gardens, most of them cultivated by men. Seeds were furnished at a minimum price by the Department of Recreation and the gardens were inspected regularly by the superintendent.

**Skating!** Skating, with the evening use of rinks, is provided in eleven of the 25 cities visited. With one exception the only preparation made is the construction around the ground of a 14" to 18" embankment of ordinary soil. The grounds are flooded as soon as the weather is cold enough and in these cities sprayed every night. In five cities the rinks are re-flooded whenever the skating surface becomes too rough. In one city where special preparation is made the ground is surrounded by an eight inch trough filled with a mixture of clay and sand upon which is built a 14" embankment of clay. The entire rink is covered with a top dressing of clay. This preparation, it is claimed, eliminates the possibility of leakage. It has been suggested by a number of officials who have had experience in the matter that the best way to provide against leakage is to delay the first flooding until the frost is at least 15" deep.

**Kite Contests** Kite contests have been conducted in four cities. In every case the kites have been made by the contestants. Decisions were based on height of flying, workmanship and novelty of design.

In one city the following classification was used:

Boys under 12 years of age

Boys 12 and 13 years of age

Boys 14 and 15 years of age

Boxkite Contest, age unlimited

Aeroplane Contest age unlimited

Special class

Medals were given the prize winners, and a banner given the school winning the most points.

## PLAY ACTIVITIES

### Marble Tournaments

Marble tournaments have been conducted in two cities. The rules used in one city are as follows:

1. There shall be a lag of twenty feet.
2. The ring shall have a diameter of two feet.
3. There shall be five marbles in the ring; the player getting three more by shooting them out of the ring or by hitting his opponent's shooter, wins the game.
4. All shots are to be made knuckle to the ground and from the spot where the shooter stops.
5. First to lag in the first game shall be determined by toss of coin, the player losing the toss in the first game shall lag first in the second game, and if a third game is necessary, the order of lagging shall again be determined by toss of coin. After both players have lagged, the first to lag shall have the first shot. If a player knocks a marble from the ring on his lag, he is entitled to continue shooting.
6. There shall be no "killing": that is, when a player hits the "shooter" of his opponent he is entitled to one marble from the ring, but must either knock a marble from the ring or wait another turn before hitting opponent's shooter again.
7. A player is eliminated when he has lost two games.

Prizes offered were 1st place—silver cup; 2nd, 3rd, and 4th places—medal. A bag of marbles was given the champion of each school.

### Camps

The Columbus Department of Recreation maintains a camp on a three-acre piece of property lent for the purpose. Tents with floors accommodate 77 children at one time. A charge of \$3.50 a week is made.

Dayton has a park under the supervision of the Division of Recreation which has two rustic shelters provided for picnickers. Firewood, cooking utensils and tables may be secured upon application.

### Children's Play Houses

Columbus has a children's play house operated during the school year. Actors are chosen from among the school children and the subjects selected are Mother Goose plays, *Cinderella*, *Red Riding Hood*, and plays based on similar tales. Each play is produced twice and tickets are given school children free.

## PLAYING BY MAIL

ANNE R. SMITH

Play Leader, Forest Hills, New York

The Forest Hills playground was put under supervision on July 1st, 1916, but after having been opened ten days the epidemic of infantile paralysis necessitated its closing down.

It now seemed necessary that something should be done to hold together as much as possible the spirit of cooperative play which had already been established, and so games of contest by mail were started. These games consisted of riddles, spelling contests and guessing games; original stories, poems, drawings, riddles and execution of different stunts. About one-third of the children answered directly. These games were successful in holding the cooperative spirit intact, and through them the play leader and children came to have a better understanding. Still other good effects resulted from the games by mail. The child was approached from a personal standpoint, and what child does not feel elated and also of some importance on having the postman bring him a letter of his very own. This not only brought him pleasure, but also made him feel his individuality was recognized, and at the same time united him in bonds of fellowship with the playmate with whom he was temporarily separated as a precaution against the spread of infantile paralysis.

Notice of this game of "Playing by Mail" was published in the *Bulletin*, a fortnightly paper sent to all residents of Forest Hills Gardens. A date was set for all answers to be in and the winners were published in the following issue of the *Bulletin*. A number of the parents telephoned in to tell of their children's interest and also their delight in seeing their names as winners, published in the local paper. One child was reported as having spent three hours on a drawing of his house; another child whom it had been impossible to reach through playground activities, had been interested enough to write an excellent original story.

Reports of stunts tried were numerous, and three children who played together immediately began to compete with one another, and also to originate stunts.

Examples of games sent follow:

DEAR PLAYMATE:

While you are in your yard and I'm in mine will you play a game by mail with me?

## PLAYING BY MAIL

Please write and tell me what you are doing.

I wonder if you can guess any of these riddles. If you can, send your answers by mail to me, and if you watch the bulletin you will see who the winners are.

I will send you more games to guess next week.

From the Tallest Playmate

- No. 1. Red and seldom grows alone,  
Each one has a tiny stone.
- No. 2. Sings a song that's soft and low,  
But we never see it go.
- No. 3. Something gold that turns to white,  
And then is blown far out of sight.
- No. 4. The smallest, lightest, roundest things;  
Each holds a song and pair of wings.
- No. 5. Higher than a house,  
Higher than a tree;  
Oh! whatever can it be?
- No. 6. I am yellow and round, with eyes and nose,  
I've a mouth, but I do not eat;  
I'm large or small, with a light inside,  
And I never have any feet.

What people in the stories you hear in school, do these objects suggest:

- A hatchet
- A rail fence
- A glass slipper
- A wolf
- A silver lamp
- A pomegranate seed

DEAR PLAYMATE:

Did you know there are some little cotton-tail rabbits living in a field in Forest Hills—well, there are, and one day I saw them with my very own eyes.

## PLAYING BY MAIL

I think it would be fun to see who could make up the best story about them. I'll begin it and then you can finish it.

"Once upon a time, there was a little brown mother cotton-tail rabbit and a little brown father cotton-tail rabbit, who had a family of three little brown cotton-tail rabbits. These rabbits lived out in a field near a—"

Here is a poem about seeds. Can you make up one about something happening in Nature nowadays.

### *Nature in Autumn*

"Some seeds drop, some seeds stick.

Some seeds fly away;

And each one says

I'll sow myself,

And be a plant some day.

When milkweed sails

On the Autumn gales

The wind sets an acorn free,

It empties its cup,

That there may spring up,

A great new acorn tree."

From

ANNE R. SMITH

DEAR PLAYMATE:

Let's play a game of pretending to take a walk in Forest Hills.

I will tell you the names of different things I see, spelling them crooked. Can you tell me how to put the letters so the words are spelled correctly?

When you answer this will you please tell me how old you are?

Eosuh—house (example)

Ohers

Seret

Rsdib

Savele

Sarst

Onom

Ysk

Dosow

Sesde

Esrwlof

*Animals:*

Sibtabr

Ruiqlrses

Grosf

Ctsa

Osdg

## THE KINDLY OBSERVER OBSERVES

The Kindly Observer was passing through a number of New England towns and villages about the time for the opening of summer playgrounds. "A real treat," thought the Kindly Observer, as he fancied the eagerness of the children, the ready welcome of the play leaders, all looking forward to a long, happy summer. The first playground he visited, however, left his face a little grave. The children were there and ready. But supplies were arriving and the play leader, with a line between her eyebrows and a pencil in her ruffled hair strove to make her count and the official yellow slip tally. So the children loafed about the grounds, swarmed over the apparatus—and went home early.

"Too bad," and the Kindly Observer shook his head, "Better luck next time!" But, alas! next time greasy plumbers were setting up apparatus and the welcome of these "miraculous ones" was a rough, "Out of the way, kids," or a long line of tobacco juice coming their way, or even a curse. "Who did sin!" mused the Kindly Observer, "Why couldn't they get ready a few days beforehand!"

But at last as he continued his journey, the Kindly Observer began to find things in full swing, but he observed that some playgrounds trusted to luck to interest their children, while those that were sure of their children always seemed to be those that had a fairly definite plan for each day's work. Every place the boys played baseball. The girls play Newcomb here, volley ball there, basket ball or tether ball another place.

How the Kindly Observer's homely face beamed when he came upon the playground (which he afterward loved to call "Day of Joy Playground"), where a trim girl who *knew* games and folk dances and knew children, too, led all who came through the merriest revels. Small need for apparatus there! Often it stood idle for hours while every child circled or chased or squealed and joyous play created health and nobility. How the Kindly Observer longed to transplant this leader for a time to some of the barren grounds where there were no gay folk dances, no games for all, but a few carried on desultory baseball games, umpired by a local athlete whose appointment paid a political debt.

One fortunate night he came to a playground filled with young men playing volley ball, after their day's work was over, in happy contrast to the many high iron fences with padlocks which had greeted him as he strolled in the cool of the day.



## PLAYGROUND ADMINISTRATION

"White to harvest," "White to harvest," sang the wheels of the car, speeding from rail to rail, carrying the Kindly Observer back to the cares of his busy day. "Oh, Day of Joy Playground, when every child has such a playground and such a play leader, what an America we shall have then!"

### REGARDING PLAYGROUND ADMINISTRATION

**Board of Park Commissioners,  
City Hall, Racine,  
Wisconsin**      To the Editor:

I am writing you at this time because I think it an opportune time to speak to you concerning a general recreation problem. There always has been and there will continue to be local problems. Every one of these problems, of course, will have its own local coloring and the solution of these local problems cannot be solved without a detailed study of these same local conditions. The problems which I have in mind are not detailed local problems but rather the broad, general, problems of the nation's recreation.

In this particular, I wish to call your attention to the great lack of standardization of recreation in general, and I have particular reference to those bodies or organizations under whose jurisdiction are placed all of these activities. Is it not true that every educational problem of any American city without any exception, is placed under the jurisdiction of the local board of education? If you were going to any city to look up educational data, no other commission would occur to your mind, which indicates, of course, that educational problems have been standardized and have been placed under the jurisdiction of a standard board. With our public recreation, we find that it is nothing short of chaos. In some cities the board of education is made majorly responsible for recreational activities; in other cities, there is a recreation commission; and in other cities, perhaps, it is the board of park commissioners; and in still another city, it is a combination of all these bodies who are over-lapping one another, and it has seemed to me for some few years that if all public recreation was headed up under the board of park commissioners that we could render much more efficient service because this one board would sense in a major way, the responsibility. They would not look to some other standing commission or department of city government to do certain things which for some reason or other they do not feel like undertaking. It comes within their line of duty to acquire property for parks,

## PLAYGROUND ADMINISTRATION

and in the newer definition of their duties, to acquire property for playgrounds. I believe that they are the most logical commission because of their construction and character to handle all recreational problems. With this incentive and with this principle as a guide, there is no question but the vision and view point of park commissions would grow more favorable from year to year in their attitude towards all forms of community recreation. We could eliminate a great many of these organizations which have been called into existence and which to me have only been the usual procedure which marks the initiation of any new thought or undertaking. If we can bring into existence a standard, governing board, then I think we have reduced the general proposition to its lowest terms and can proceed with much less friction.

The major function of the board of education, and their major duty as they see it, is solving the educational problems which confront them. If then we placed public recreation also under their jurisdiction, one of these issues would suffer, and it is a foregone conclusion that it would not and should not, be the educational problems. The chances are that public recreation would become a side line and suffer accordingly. If we form a new commission, such as a recreation commission, then we are calling into existence a new body which is to the people and the taxpayers, an innovation which will not be accepted with any degree of approval. But we do have an organization, the board of park commissioners, which is an accepted American body for doing work very similar to that in which we are deeply interested at the present time; namely, public recreation in all its phases. Would it not, therefore, seem that the line of least resistance would be to get our boards of park commissioners to see that along with creating scenic beauty, with the preservation of old land marks and places of historical interest, they also adopt a policy which would enable them to utilize all of their property in keeping with the quality and character of the property, and for the common good? To use this same property for recreation purposes would solve some of the most difficult problems. Only in keeping such responsibility will park commissions become active in an endeavor to bring into existence within their own city those institutions which will provide adequately and sanely for the recreational desires of the entire city.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) A. A. Fisk  
Superintendent

## LAYING OUT PLAYGROUNDS

A. E. METZDORF, Division Public Recreation, Springfield, Massachusetts

In answer to the following problem:

A man in the East has become interested in a small private ground, 120' by 190', located where many people pass the ground each day, with a very large number of children living within a quarter of a mile radius.

A definite plan for the equipment of this playground is desired and also an estimate as to the cost of maintaining this playground for one year and keeping it in ideal shape. There is a good grass turf on the ground at the present time. The thought is that the playground is to be made as beautiful as possible, that no expense is to be spared in providing for details of comfort, such as a canvas covering to shelter the sand bin; any hedge or fence provided should be such as to make the playground as attractive as possible. At the present time, the ground is simply a level vacant lot with no shade trees.

The plan should be such that it can be placed in the hands of the contractors or workmen chosen to carry out the plans and should have an estimate for each item called for as well as an estimate for the expense of running the playground for the first year.

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*Drainage*—In order to insure the very best results the ground should be so drained from the wading pool and sand bins as easily to carry off the water to sewer connection. Experience shows the best way to make the play space is to have it slightly convex with a fall of four inches in a hundred feet from center.

*Surfacing*—Assuming that the ground is covered with turf, which makes the very best playground surface, it will not be necessary to plan for any special surfacing. However, in case that the turf should be removed or worn off, leaving a dusty surface, we recommend the following. It has been tried in a number of cities with success.

Excavate carefully with reference to character of sub-soil, in an effort to secure good drainage. If sub-soil is clay, fill in with 12" of cinders. If sub-soil is sandy, fill in with 4" of cinders. Roll and pack cinders down firmly. Upon this surface place a

## LAYING OUT PLAYGROUNDS

layer of stone 2" deep, stone measuring from 1-2" to 1 1-4" in diameter. The stone, like the cinders, must be firmly rolled and packed. Upon this stone surface place to the depth of 1" the following mixture:

Cork pieces 1' 8" to 1' 4" in diameter	16 $\frac{2}{3}$ % by weight
Sand	33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % by weight
Stone pieces 1' 6" to 1' 8" in diameter	16 $\frac{2}{3}$ % by weight
Asphalt	33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % by weight

(1.87 lbs. of asphalt used for each sq. ft.)

These ingredients should be thoroughly mixed in a mechanical asphalt mixer, such as is used by road builders. Spread this mixture and rake evenly, rolling by hand roller weighing between fifteen hundred and two thousand pounds. After the mixture is well rolled spread over the surface a very light covering of sharp sand or crushed granite. This covering soon tramples into the mixture and leaves a fine, smooth surface. The cost of the playground surface just described may be stated as sixty cents to one dollar per square yard, exclusive of grading and foundation of cinders and stone. The merits of the above surface are these:

It will endure for years without care.

It is perfectly dust and mud proof.

It can be washed with a hose.

It will skin the knees or cut the hands less than any other playground surface.

It may be marked readily and permanently for games and will not wear out playground balls so rapidly as other playground surfaces.

The second recommendation for playground surfacing is as follows: The playground surface should be soft and porous, yet firm enough to run and romp about on without digging holes or creating dust. Many so-called road building compositions are of oil ingredients and if used on any kind of surface make the immediate use of the playground impossible until the surface has absorbed it. If used on a clay or other loam surface a crust is created. In Philadelphia they have used the following: a product called Glutrin. It is a refined by-product of the wood-pulp industry. It is soluble in certain chemicals and the pulp makers use it so that they may rid the chemicals of cellulose. In addition to action as an adhesive when it dries, it acts as an extremely powerful bond so that when moistened with water and then dried it continues to be adhesive and then recements almost indefinitely.

## LAYING OUT PLAYGROUNDS

The cost of this material is as follows: In quantities of less than a carload the material is sold at 15c per gallon of 10 1-2 lbs. In carload lots the price is 14c per gallon. One gallon will cover two square yards. The above has been thoroughly tried out in Philadelphia and some other cities and can be recommended as a good playground surface.

*Fencing*—We recommend an ornamental wire fence with an attractive entrance. Artistic beauty can be added by planting a privet hedge just inside the fence. In the rear of the playground we would recommend a solid construction so as to offer backs for the benches along the wading pool and a screen for the dressing rooms for boys and girls on either side. This can be made of wood construction.

*Shade*—As we understand, there are no trees or shrubbery of any kind on this plot of ground and we recommend that a pergola over the benches, baby swings and sand bins be erected to offer a support for some fast growing vine which can be planted early in the spring. To insure the proper protection from sun and weather during the time that these vines may be growing, an awning may be placed over the top of the pergola covering the sand bins, baby swings, and benches.

*Planting*—In order to make the spot as attractive as possible for small children shrubbery should be planted in the corners.

*Drinking Fountains*—Recommend sanitary bubbling drinking fountain low enough to be easily reached by the smallest child.

*Wading Pool*—Experience shows that concrete in New England is affected by the frost to such an extent that in a number of cities it has been necessary to take out practically the whole of the base of the pool and install new concrete within a year or two. The preference for tarvia is shown because this construction allows for a give and take of heat and cold and up to date has proven to be quite satisfactory. This particular pool is 18" deep at the center, going to zero at the ends. The construction of the wading pool is as important a problem as the surfacing of the playground. The usual method is to make them of concrete about 7" thick. Experience has taught us that when a wading pool is placed so as to receive the drainage of water in the vicinity or any place where moisture can collect near or under the cement during the winter, the spring thaws cause the frost to break the concrete, which usually means patchwork jobs. Excavate in the soil not less than 2 feet and fill with cinders. These should be rol-

## LAYING OUT PLAYGROUNDS

led and packed tight. Over this a light coat of coarse trap rock about 1-4" in diameter. This coat should not be too thick, just enough to fill up the spaces between the cinders. Next sprinkle over a good supply of tarvia very hot so as to go through the rock and bind into the cinders. Then place a fine coat of fine rock 1-6" in diameter, which should be rolled or stamped firmly so as to become thoroughly embedded in the tarvia and fill up the spaces between the coarse rock. Just enough fine rock to be easily rolled and pressed into open spaces will make a successful and desirable surface. Next a coat of tarvia very hot, to seal over the surface. Over this enough coarse sand to keep the tar from running because of the concave nature of the pool. Finally roll with a heavy roller and let dry. The merits of the above are these:

It will last for a long time.

The frost will not attack it and break it up, as the tar will give and take.

It can be easily cleaned.

It presents as smooth a surface as concrete.

It keeps the water sweet and clean.

We recommend that a curbing 6" high be placed all around the pool, next to a 2' concrete sidewalk. On the sand box side of the pool another 6" curbing making a 2' concrete walk between the curbing of the pool and the curbing of the sand bins; this in order to give the children room to run around the pool and also to keep the sand from being thrown into the water. The sand bins should be separated by 6" concrete curbing. Special care should be taken in building sand boxes. They should have a concrete base and be lined with cement. Sea sand or marble dust or molder's sand is the best to use in the sand boxes.

There should be a 2' concrete walk between the sand box and the mothers' benches along the fence. In this arrangement we feel that mothers or nurses can easily take care of the children while either in the sand boxes or the wading pools. The pergola over-hanging the whole gives them plenty of shade during the hot weather.

Toilet facilities are intended for both boys and girls on either side of the pergola.

*Tables*—Portable tables and small benches should be provided so that they can be moved about the playground for quiet games or for hand work or occupation work of all kinds.

Below is a list of the playground apparatus suggested on the

## LAYING OUT PLAYGROUNDS

plan with the prices and specifications necessary for installation. We suggest that the pipe for this arrangement could be purchased in the city where this playground exists. The specifications below cover the cost of special fittings and equipment in general

2-# J 12	Swing outfits	@ \$150	\$300.00
2-# J K	Swing Outfits	@ \$ 50	\$100.00
2-# J K	Special frames each with 6 # HK		
	Swings	@ \$ 55	\$110.00
2-# C W	Slides	@ \$ 50	\$100.00
2-# K W	Slides	@ \$ 35	\$ 70.00
1-# L	See Saw Outfit	@ \$ 50	\$ 50.00
1-# R S	Rock-a-bye Swing	@ \$100	\$100.00

The above apparatus includes all fittings but not the galvanized iron pipe which can be purchased in the city where the apparatus is to be erected

344' of 3" pipe	@ 40c	\$137.00
408' of 2" pipe	@ 20c	\$ 81.00
Wading Pool—Excavation—Labor—Materials		\$200.00
Labor and materials for dressing rooms and shelter		\$275.00
Ornamental wire fence @ 50c per running foot		\$256.00
Shrubbery		\$150.00
Drinking font.		\$ 35.00

Supervision:—For one play year

During April, May and part of June while the schools are in session it would require two hours per day of supervision from 3:30 to 5:30, also during September, October and November. During part of June, all of July and August it would require six hours per day of supervision from 9 to 12 and 2 to 6. Figuring the supervision at the following rates: (144 working hours per month) (6 hr. day)

One woman at \$40 per month

One woman at \$50 per month, during July, August

One man at \$50 per month, part of June

One woman at \$40 per month, during April, May

One woman at \$50 per month, part of June and also  
September, October, November

One woman at \$40 per month \$198.00

One woman at \$50 per month 248.00

One man at \$50 per month 125.00

One caretaker at \$36 per month 288.00

## FENCING OF PLAYGROUNDS

### Supplies:

2 volley balls	@ \$3.00	\$ 6.00
2 light weight basket balls	@ \$3.00	\$ 6.00
1 light weight soccer ball	@ 2.50	\$ 2.50
6 5-inch gas balls	@ 1.00	\$ 6.00
1 doz. bean bags 5 inches square		\$ 3.00
2 sets rope quoits	@ 1.00	\$ 2.00
1 tennis marker	@ 1.50	\$ 1.50
1 bbl. lime		\$ 3.00
2 # 14 indoor baseballs	@ .70	\$ 1.40
Garden hose-rake-wheelbarrow-spade-etc		\$25.00
4 low tables—portable	@ 3.00	\$12.00
Handwork materials such as reed, raffia, yarn, cane, sewing cards, games		\$150.00

Total \$3041.40

### Incidentals,

Grading, sewer, labor and material for installation  
of apparatus 458.60

\$3500.00

## FENCING OF PLAYGROUNDS

The desirability of fencing playgrounds particularly in congested districts is pretty generally accepted by playground authorities from the point of view of the protection of the children and the apparatus, for purposes of supervision and discipline and for giving the playground individuality and making of it a unit.

The fencing of playgrounds in twenty-one cities visited by a worker of the Playground and Recreation Association of America showed wide variation in style and material used, ranging from the rough unpainted solid board fence or the six-foot wooden picket fence to the wire or iron picket fences which are felt to be probably the most desirable types of fencing.

### Types of Fencing

On one hundred and seventy-seven playgrounds which were fenced the following types of fencing were in use:



## FENCING OF PLAYGROUND

Iron coping (4' high).....	73
Wooden, solid (5'-7' high).....	40
Woven wire.....	39
Brick (5'-7' high).....	8
Poultry wire (5'-7' high).....	8
Wooden picket (4'-5' high).....	4
Woven wire, cement posts (6'-8' high).....	3
Hedge .....	2

**Height of Fences** It was found that the average height of the fences whether of board, iron, mesh or chicken wire was approximately five and one-half feet.

In some instances it has been felt wise to have the fence somewhat higher and one city is planning to adopt a ten-foot, sixteen and eighteen gage poultry wire fencing with a two-inch mesh.

Fences are made unclimbable by adding to the height of the fences and putting on arms projecting up and out from the top of the fence. Along these arms are usually stretched three barbed wires. To add these arms and the barbed wire costs only a few cents per lineal foot if they are constructed when the rest of the fence is being built.

**Cost** The cost of fences varies greatly, depending upon the material used. Washington, D. C., has a Pittsburgh wire fence five feet high with a one inch by three inch mesh. The cost of 110 posts and 60 rods of fencing was \$245.85—\$180.95 of this amount representing the cost of the posts, \$64.90 the expenditure for the fencing.

A five-foot iron coping fence in Jersey City was erected at a cost of \$1.90 per foot. In a number of cities some saving has been effected by having the wire or iron picket fence across the city side of the playground, the remaining sides being inclosed with wooden picket or solid board fencing.

**Anchoring of Posts** The anchoring of the posts is a crucial point in fence construction since the rigidity of the posts is more vital than the kind of fabric used. Probably the most secure method of anchoring posts is to set them in an anchoring of cement three feet deep and from twelve inches to eighteen inches in diameter rounded at the top so that the water will not work around the sides of the posts.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### RECREATION AND THE CHURCH

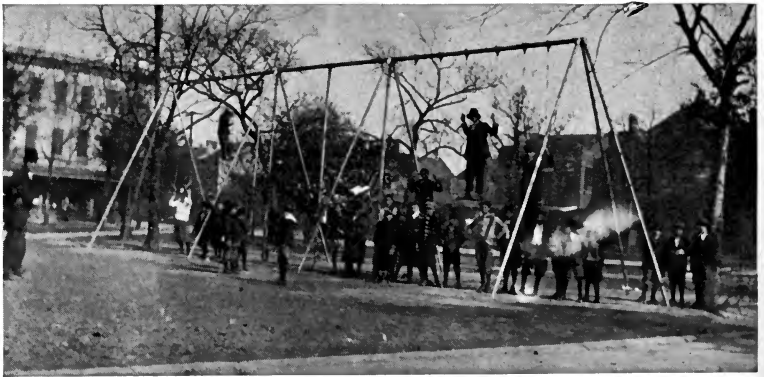
By Herbert Wright Gates. Published by University of Chicago Press.  
Price, \$1.00

The author writes of play and recreation as having actual and direct religious and educational value—a point of view greatly to be desired, though not always found in those carrying on recreation in churches. "The boys' club has been maintained simply as a bait to lure the unwary youngster within reach of the 'distinctive religious' activities of the church or Sunday school, so that there the 'real spiritual work' may be done. Game-rooms, gymnasiums, reading-rooms, and various other social and recreational facilities have been provided in the same spirit. Such have usually failed. Successfully to conduct such features requires an amount of careful planning, wise leadership, and consecrated service difficult to secure for an enterprise estimated to be of secondary importance."

"The church that says to its young people: 'Play, by all means; despise not any form of wholesome amusement, rightly used; but be master of your play, not its slave; preserve your own self-respect and that of your Maker and God; scorn to degrade yourself by any form of unworthy amusement,' will find its message respected and its precepts followed more generally than we sometimes surmise."

"It is safe to adopt the principle that the church should not invest its time, effort, and money in any individual piece of work that can be done as well, or possibly better by other agencies or by all working together."

Fundamentals of play theory and procedure are given and some fifteen reports from various churches now doing progressive recreation work.



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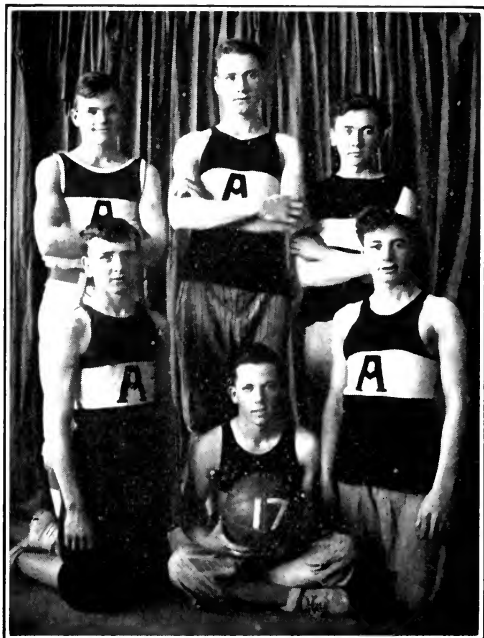
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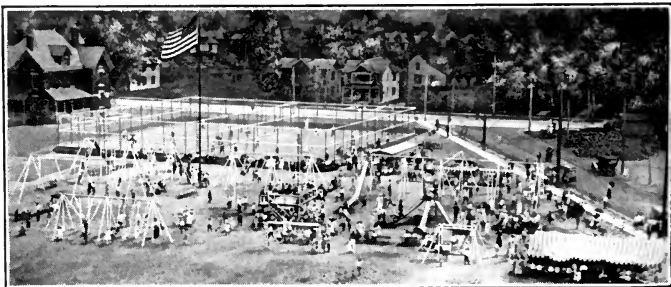


Review of Reviews  
The Alberta Schoolboys' Basket Ball Team



Review of Reviews  
The Alberta Girls Also Play Basket Ball (uncut)  
of the principal at the right end

## *Medart Playground Apparatus*



### PLANNING A PLAYGROUND

The problems with which you are confronted in planning your new playgrounds have probably been worked out over and over again by us.

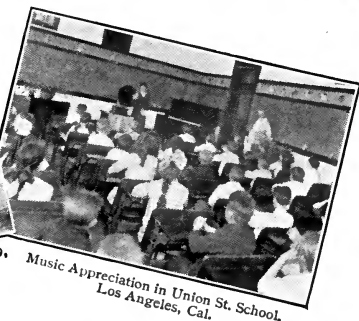
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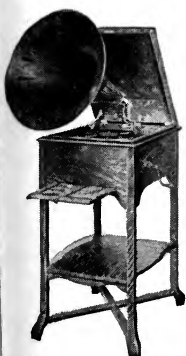
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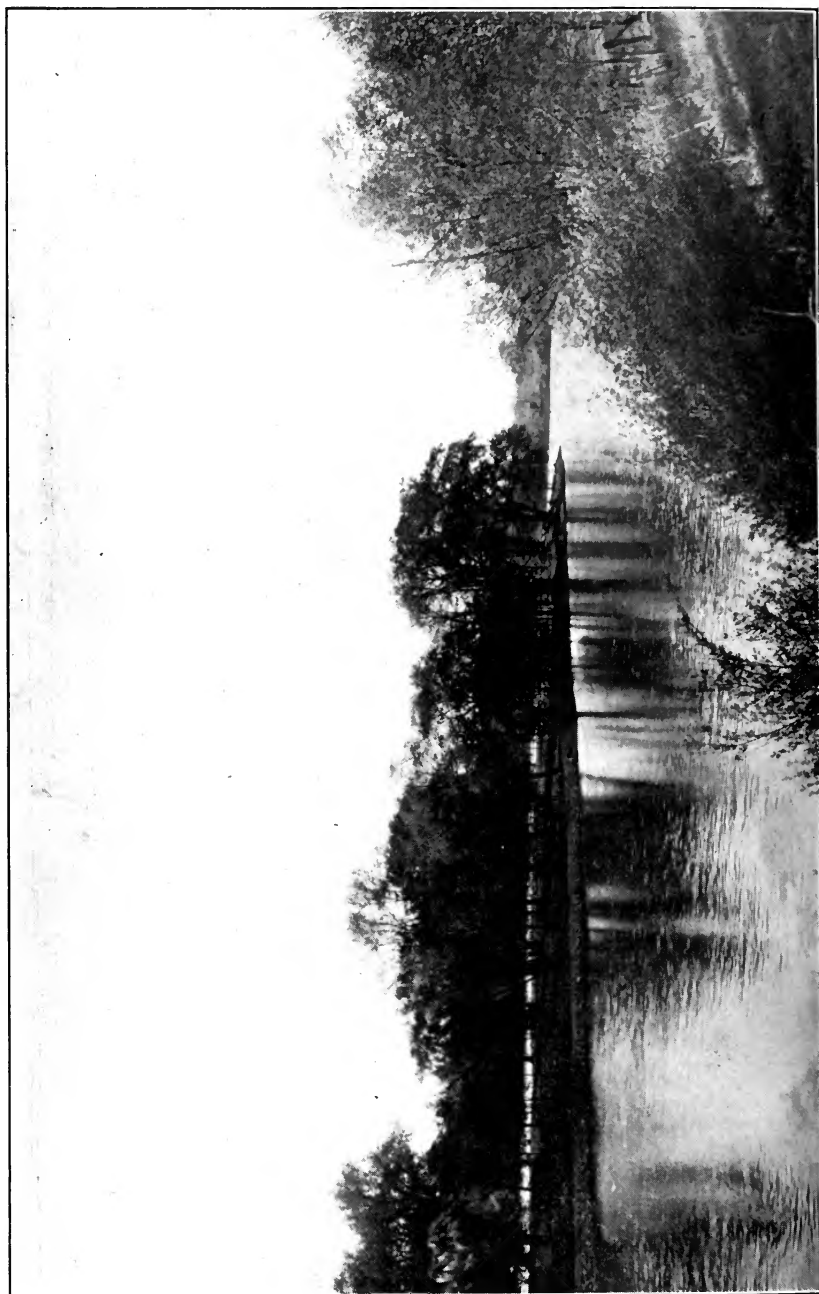
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### Educational Department

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# Victor





Country Life in America

Twilight on a quiet end of the island, while the sun was sinking low and the shadows stretching long. This is a good picture of the east branch of the river. This island is in the heart of a town of 3,500 people

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

### America—The Melting Pot.—

At this time when America is appealing to the loyalty of her foreign-born citizens, the sight of hundreds of members of the naturalization classes of the night schools of Newark, New Jersey, marching on July Fourth with flags and banners proclaiming their new citizenship and their loyalty to the flag of their adoption, was a peculiarly thrilling and stirring one.

Around the park they marched—Slavs, Italians, Russians, representatives of many nations—proudly bearing the flag which they were presenting to the city. As it slowly rose to the top of the flagpole hats were quickly doffed and with upturned faces in deep silence, these new citizens of ours watched their flag floating over head, a symbol of protection.

In the background Boy Scouts, veterans of the Spanish-American War and Scotch officers, in full-dress uniform, stood at attention until the last strains of the *Star Spangled Banner* had faded away.

### Wall Street's Back Yard.—

The Bowling Green Neighborhood Association which two years ago established in the Wall Street neighborhood an experi-

ment station for the development of a model program for community organization is laying much emphasis on the need for wholesome recreation.

It took the Association a very short time to see that the first need of the children of the neighborhood was for a playground. Last summer eleven lots loaned by the B. T. Bab-bitt Estate were transferred into a big playground and under the leaders furnished by the Parks and Playgrounds Association Wall Street's backyard opened its first playground. The installation of five large arc lights made possible the evening use of the grounds. Moving picture entertainments, community dances, neighborhood parties and a Hallowe'en entertainment were features of the evening work. During the fall and winter soccer, baseball, tobogganing and snow fun of all kinds made Wall Street's backyard a happy place.

Christmas on the playground came next. The lighted tree, Yuletide music, a filled stocking for every child and the spirit of neighborliness and good will which was abroad created a good time such as the neighborhood had never before known.

The community center, open

four nights a week, with its girls' and boys' clubs, game room, story hours and Saturday night dances, is playing an important part in the making of Americans in this district of 8,000 people recruited from all over the world.

**First the Children.**—Charles D. Johnston, Secretary of Recreation Commission, Memphis, Tennessee, writes: "The City Club, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, and the Red Cross are doing a wonderful work in Memphis. Over one-half of the school children have gardens; the Red Cross have headquarters where hundreds of people are working; the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts are all helping.

"We have participated in a small way in the promotion of gardens, patriotic gatherings, drillings, and cooperation with the Red Cross, but the income of the Recreation Commission here is very limited indeed. We do not have sufficient funds to care properly even for the younger children. No one can tell what this war will bring or how long it will last, but no matter what happens the children of the country must be cared for. They must be made physically strong, happy, and useful. With this

idea in mind, we are devoting nearly all of our limited effort to the younger children, aiding as we can these other organizations who are doing work in which we would like to help more if we had the means."

**Chambers of Commerce Urged to Promote Play.**—George A. Bellamy, of Cleveland, speaking before the chamber of commerce summer schools at Chautauqua, New York, appealed to the representatives to make the playground work a part of their activities in their respective communities. Mr. Bellamy gave a history of the development of the movement in the United States, in which many chambers of commerce have shared.

"The future welfare of the nation's business, more particularly since so many of our young men will be taken away for the war, depends on the physical and moral efficiency of the growing children in our cities," said Mr. Bellamy. "On account of the homes from which they come, the Americanization of these children as well as their recreation is solely dependent upon the city playground."

**A Boy in Rumania.**—The



## THE WORLD AT PLAY

adult Rumanian of today looks back to a childhood such as the pioneers of our own country knew but fewer and fewer children of today experience. James S. Van Tessaar, in *When I Was a Boy in Rumania*, remembers that boys made their own playthings but roamed the country for the "raw material," finding, incidentally berries, flowers, roots and herbs and learning to know them well. Collections of colored stones, or of butterflies—or of anything that might touch the heart of a boy—were earnestly made—even as they are today in the heart of the busiest city. Rumanian boys made balls of wads of paper, tightly wound with rags; ball bats, too, were home-made. Skates were unknown, but by pounding nails with broad, flat heads into the soles of their shoes, the boys enjoyed the sport just the same. Kites were popular; gardening on their own plots, or even helping in the logging, placing the wedges in the trees so that the cross-cut saw could be worked without getting stuck fast, putting the logs together in great pontoons—thus in work and play, sometimes the boy knew not which, the busy days of boyhood passed.

**From Honolulu, Hawaii.**—"The playground movement is in its infancy here, but it has a good start, an able enthusiastic Association back of it and every evidence that it will grow rapidly. In September a memorial playground is to be opened splendidly equipped and efficiently supervised, and this summer there are to be two vacation schools in conjunction with playgrounds. Every effort is being made to secure appropriations from the city to extend the work further."

**Congressmen and Our Children.\***—"If we are sending out men to instruct the people how to raise hogs and how to take care of pigs, are we going any further when we send them out to instruct people how to take care of children and to take care of those questions that arise out of maternity? The babies and the children of this country are somewhat more valuable as an asset than are its pigs and hogs."—Senator William S. Kenyon, of Iowa

"It is only recently that children have come to be regarded as a national asset, instead of a burden. A healthy, strong, promising child is an

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\*From Public Health

asset; a puny, weak, sickly child is a burden to the community, if not to its parents; and anything we can do here to direct the best thought of the nation toward the children's movement will be attention well bestowed."—Senator Henry F. Hollis, of New Hampshire

"Militarists tell us that the first line of defense of a country is in the navy and that the second line is in its coast-line fortifications and that its third line of defense is in the army. I deny that. The first line of defense of this or any other country is the children of the country, and if by any appropriation or any amount of money there can be built up in this country a strong, active, fighting race of men and women who are able to take care of themselves, that money, in my judgment, will be well and economically expended." — Congressman Wm. E. Cox, of Indiana

**Sport Fatalities Only 943 in Ten Years for All America.**—Nine hundred and forty-three lives sacrificed on the field of athletic sports in a ten year period ending with the year 1916 is the report of Dr. Robert E. Coughlin of Brooklyn.

Baseball heads the list with 284 fatalities; football is second with 215; auto racing third with 128; boxing fourth with 105; 77 cyclists and 54 jockies lost their lives; 15 wrestlers perished on the mat; 14 persons lost their lives playing golf; 9 were killed at bowling and one died while playing lawn tennis.

In 1915 thirty-two athletes were killed. Seventeen of these were high school students, all immature boys eighteen or under. Three were physically fit college men while others were occasional players.

In 1916 there were 15 deaths directly due to football. In most cases the victims were members of high school, semi-professional and "prairie" elevens. Only one was a college player.

Dr. Coughlin feels that all these games and activities and many others should be encouraged. Every means must be taken to make our young men physically fit not only that they may meet such athletic tests but that they may also be ready to stand the strain of national service in this time of need.

Playgrounds, and still more playgrounds, where the young boy will have under direction

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

the training and preparation which will make him physically fit, will go far to solve this problem.

**Here Comes the Circus!—**No picayune show this, but a real circus with a ring master in a gorgeous red coat, a parade, and three circus rings that made you wish that you had three pairs of eyes! There were acrobats doing amazing stunts, pyramid builders at whose daring deeds you held your breath, and tumblers and jugglers and gymnasts galore. There were gorgeous galaxies of girls in Terpsichorean gambles, and the clever clowns without whom a circus is not a circus. But best of all was the menagerie! Maude, the educated mule, who balked when you least expected her to and the two big elephants nonchalantly swinging their trunks to the great admiration of the audience, with the tiny elephant trailing on behind, and monkeys, and dancing bears, trained seals, and the giraffe who walked so boldly up a perilous teeter! Was there ever anything so exciting as the chariot races and the battle between the submarine and the areoplane?

"I didn't know Barnum and Bailey had been in Newark

lately," do I hear you say? Nor have they! This was the circus given on July Fourth at Newark, New Jersey, by the children of the public playgrounds who under the direction of Mr. V. K. Brown, Superintendent of Recreation, temporarily transformed themselves into educated mules and elephants and did stunts of all kinds to the delight of thousands of spectators. Truly "the greatest show on earth"!

**Emergency Playgrounds in Boston.**—The following letter was sent to Mr. Lee a short time ago by a leading settlement worker in Boston, telling what one of their recreation workers is planning to do this summer:—

"Because there is great likelihood that the Common will be a fairly undesirable place this summer, if the country is at war, one of our workers is busy investigating all available space in our neighborhood. Her idea is to get several people who have backyard space in different parts of our district to let us put in a swing and a slide and a sandbox and then permit the small children to make use of them. She plans also to organize games in the school

yards in the afternoons. She herself would be at large in the district—a kind of recreation policeman. She has a number of high school assistants to help her at the play centers if she succeeds in establishing them. Even if the Common is usable, we hope that it will be possible to carry out the back yard plan. Besides using the yards as playgrounds for the smaller children, we hope to secure other yards for gardening.”

**Patriotic.**—In Fresno, California, an educational campaign is being carried on in order to keep before the people the necessity of providing those things which are for the best welfare of the children and to avoid the mistakes made by European countries who, in the rush of war, slighted the children's institutions.

Fresno, although but a city of 48,000 people, has seven year-round playgrounds, one summer playground, and a practice playground operated during the school year on one of the school grounds. Two of the year-round playgrounds have been opened within the last month; one, a donation to the city from the Einstein Investment Company in memor-

iam of Louis Einstein, was fully equipped with asphalt tennis courts, club house, wading pool, and all necessary apparatus.

On June 9th, which was the children's day for Liberty Bond sales, playground children carried through the streets neatly lettered placards 22 x 28 inches, on which was written, “Have you bought a Liberty Bond for your Children—Help your Country and Children.” Previously articles had been printed in the papers explaining to parents the advantages of buying a Liberty Bond for their children, thereby helping the country and forming a nucleus for a fund to secure higher education for their children.

**West Chicago Play Centers.**—The West Chicago Park Commissioners have issued a booklet describing present practices and developments of the past three and one-half years. It is hoped thus to make the information more accessible and distribute it more widely than can be done by means of an annual report. Details of administration and activities are given, a special account, illustrated, of the anniversary celebration, *the Pageant of the Year*. More than

a million and a quarter persons were admitted to the ten swimming pools during the season of 1916.

**Potato Clubs.**—The Woodcraft League of America conducts a number of farm gardens, specializing in potato clubs. To the first hundred members were given seed potatoes for twenty-four hills. Members over eighteen pay a membership fee of twenty-five cents, which goes toward the purchase of prizes for children raising the most potatoes.

**Policemen as Play Leaders.**—One city has tried to reduce expenses—and please the politicians—by appointing policemen as play leaders. Success has not been noteworthy. Because the police ideal, traditions, and whole point of view is practically opposite, if not antagonistic, to the ideals and point of view of play supervisors, it is not possible to transform policemen into successful play leaders simply by divesting them of their uniform and giving them a few weeks' training in playground supervision. If the fundamental idea of play leadership were to keep order, quell disturbances, and suppress or punish misconduct,

the policeman would make a first-class play leader.

But this is not the ideal which the true play director has in mind. His purpose is so to conduct the recreation **and play activities** on the playgrounds and in the parks as to eliminate entirely the need of police patrol. By filling the time of all who frequent the playgrounds and parks with healthy, happy, enjoyable forms of recreation, the play leader leaves the boys and girls no time for mischief and idleness and resulting wrong-doing. Through his initiative, games are started, sports are supervised, activities of all sorts are carried on. The entire playground is dominated by his personality. The successful play leader must be born with the required temperament, adaptability, and personality; he must be properly trained; he must grow broader in vision, deeper in sympathy; he must be thoroughly *alive*. The type of men generally employed as police are not likely to be the sort who will appreciate and respond to play training and to the real play ideals. The proper popularizing of the playgrounds and parks is possible only through expert play leadership—through such ser-

## THE CHILDREN'S ISLE

vice as the average policeman is in no way fitted to give.

**Federal Civil Service for Recreation.**—An examination for "specialist in community organization (male), \$3,000" was held in July. A vacancy in the Bureau of Education, Department of the Interior, will be filled from this exam-

ination. The duties are to gather and organize information relating to community organization and to promote such organization especially in rural sections with the schoolhouse as a center. Education, experience and publications or a thesis upon community centers were considered in the examination.

### THE CHILDREN'S ISLE\*

HOW GENEVA, ILLINOIS, A TOWN OF THREE THOUSAND SOULS,  
SOLVED THE PLAYGROUND PROBLEM

W. F. FRENCH

In a beautiful Illinois river, within an hour's ride of Chicago, stands The Children's Isle. This island kingdom, which is perhaps the only one of its kind in existence, has been dedicated to the boys and girls of Geneva.

The people of this little town—for it only has about three thousand inhabitants—believe that their children should have a playground all their own, a little kingdom to themselves, where they may carry on their games and sports without outside interference. And they believe, too, that this playground will do much to develop their sons and daughters into good men and women.

It was with this end in view that the champion of the children's cause became one of the three members of the Park Commission of Geneva Township. After being legalized by the County Court this commission found itself facing a peculiar situation. It had no park, no money, and no land. In fact it did not have any assets whatever. It existed, and that was all. For a long time it not only lacked the active financial help of the community but also its moral support. The wealthy land-owners along the river, whose estates were the pride of the countryside, were frankly disgusted with the idea. A playground was the thing for a city—not for a beautiful country.

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\*Courtesy of Country Life in America

## THE CHILDREN'S ISLE

A place to play—didn't the children have the whole valley? Didn't the surrounding country fascinate the thousands of picnic parties that came out from the city every Sunday and holiday on the electric road? Subscribe to such a thing, or vote in favor of it? Certainly not! Why deface the natural beauty of the valley with cindered playgrounds, the product of factory and tenement districts?

Those arguments sounded logical, and at first thought it did seem very foolish to put a playground into the beautiful scenery of the Fox River Valley. Magnificent grounds and gardens meet the eye at every turn—acres of flowers and rows upon rows of green-houses. Certainly a playground would be sadly out of place there—but so were the children. There were too many tempting flowers that must not be picked, too many inviting boats that must not be clambered into, too many half hidden rose-covered arbors not to be explored, and altogether too many "keep off the grass" signs.

But the owners could not do otherwise. A handful of children could demolish the results of the summer's work of the landscape artists and gardeners in no time. These were private grounds and the owners were considerate to permit the public to enter at all. But such a privilege was not kindness to children—it was merely a tantalizing temptation. There were swimming pools in which they could not swim, ponds in which they could not wade, fish which they could not catch, and fruit that they must not pick. Certainly no one could ask or expect that the children be allowed to run wild over the costly grounds—yet, where were the children to play?

The wooded island out in the middle of the river—right in the very heart of town—was clearly the answer. As it stood it was inaccessible—the children could not reach it except in boats, and then they found it full of swamps and undergrowth. But the commissioners felt that if it could be cleaned up and a bridge put over, it would solve their problem, so they went to work with that idea in mind.

But as the city council was struggling with obstinate problems that it considered a great deal more vital than the establishing of a park or playground, the commissioners were compelled to shelve their plan. For two years the champion of the children's rights movement used his office as alderman to further other features of improvement for the town and withheld his pet until conditions were ripe for its presentation.

But in the meantime he and his brother park commissioners

## THE CHILDREN'S ISLE

were not idle. They went before the Commercial Club and claimed the right to its support. They called its attention to the fact that the river cut the town in two; that the residents of the east side and the residents of the west side did not mingle freely; that the children went to different schools and were not brought into common contact—in fact that the town represented a collection of individuals rather than a cooperative community.

They argued that if a universal playground could be placed where it would be equally accessible to both factions, it would serve as a melting pot for the youngsters and promise a unified town for the future generation—if it did not accomplish that in a very short time by bringing the elders together through the interest in their children. If Catcher Oscar Swanson is receiving the offerings of Pitcher Mike Kelly several times a week, it is difficult for the seniors Swanson and Kelly not to acquire at least a casual acquaintance.

This sounded reasonable; but how was the Commercial Club to know that the children would go to the island to play? That was just the question which the commission was waiting for. If the Commercial Club would subscribe enough to throw a temporary foot-bridge across from the mainland to the island and pay the expenses incurred, the commission would give a picnic and play-day to the children—just to see how they would take it.

The picnic proved a great success. It seemed that every child in the township had responded. There was no doubt that the children were anxious to have a place to play within reasonable distance of their homes.

The commissioners had shrewdly figured that if they could show the poor people of the community where their children would have a chance to enjoy, on the island, advantages which they themselves had never known, this would win their support. If it was to be merely a beauty spot, a place for automobile parties to picnic, they would vote against it, but if it was really for their children, that was a different matter. A petition in favor of the commission's idea was circulated on the day of the picnic and was signed by practically every poor voter in the community who had children, and a goodly percentage of them were on the island that day.

This brought the plan squarely before the city council and demanded their attention. But could the island be bought, provided



## THE CHILDREN'S ISLE

the necessary money was secured? Frankly the council did not think it practical.

But again the commission was prepared. They had an option on the island and it could be bought for \$2,500. The commissioners had not nourished their idea for three years to let up now that they had caught the public's attention. They persistently besieged the council and citizens of their town, and though at first they received scant encouragement from the property owners of the valley, they were finally told to go ahead and get estimates as to the amount necessary to prepare it for park and playground purposes.

The commission's findings were that with the practice of rigid economy, \$15,000 would suffice to purchase the island, clear and level it, and equip it with the necessary apparatus. Accordingly it was slated for the next election, when the necessary sum was voted for the purpose of acquiring the island and developing it into a park and playground. After purchasing the island, they had less than \$13,000 with which to finish the work on the grounds, build the bridge and stairs, buy apparatus, dredge the river, and erect the field house.

About this time a new commissioner was elected, whose experience gained in the building of two beautiful homes had given him practical knowledge of landscape gardening. In fact he had furnished the constructive power to build up one of America's most beautiful communities and had been instrumental in staging the Greek Players there.

The new commissioner called into consultation a famous landscape artist who had done considerable work for him and who was at that time in charge of an enormous park system of a large city. But the expert proved of no assistance, and after he had made a few visits to the little town, for which he charged what was no doubt a nominal fee for him, the commission was forced to give up the idea of his cooperation.

"The trouble with my friend," said the new commissioner, "was that he was used to having his park commission say to him: 'Here's a couple of hundred thousand dollars. Go out and trim the hedges and cut the grass.' He could not realize that we were actually limited to \$15,000. He was firm in his conviction that if we spent all we had on a wading pool, or something of that kind, the township would promptly vote us more. But we knew better!"

Deciding that they must depend upon themselves alone and

## THE CHILDREN'S ISLE

lay out their park and playground without outside assistance, the commissioners ordered an engineering company to make a survey and topographic map of the island, and to furnish estimates for a bridge and stairway. The stairway was to be of concrete to match the large arch bridge, which is the main thoroughfare of the little town and connects the east and west sides. This stairway was to extend from the large arch bridge to the swampy land below, through which a road was to be built and a walk laid to the small bridge that was to span the river between the island and the swamp land. Estimates on several styles of bridges and stairways were received by the commission.

But then winter took a hand, and they were compelled to restrict their operations to the cutting away and burning of underbrush. By spring the island was pretty well cleared and a path had been cut through and a road built across the tree-covered swamp land.

There were spots to be leveled and low places to be filled on the island also, and so another month passed before the commissioners were again able to turn their attention to the swampy arm of the mainland which was to constitute the approach to their domain, and which had always been considered a malaria and mosquito breeder, a menace to the community. No one claimed this spot—in fact no one would admit being in anyway interested in it.

The commission was surely a representative one if such a thing ever existed. One of its members was a merchant, another postmaster, and the third a successful lawyer. Business, politics, and law—certainly a formidable combination. What one could not think of another invariably grasped. It was the lawyer who recognized the necessity for building stone retaining walls around the island, as it really is a silt deposit held together by the roots of the old trees, which were threatened by the constant washing of the river; and for extending a wall out into the river from the swamp land to protect the bridge from the ice.

Then, as this arm was extended out into the river for the bridge's protection, the thought came to the lawyer, the new member of the commission: "Why can't we fill in this mosquito hole and turn it into a pleasing approach to our island? Nobody claims it; why shouldn't we take it for the public?" He could not answer that question—neither could the commission. So they determined to reclaim the swamp.

## THE CHILDREN'S ISLE

But they were doing a great many more things than they had originally planned, and their funds were so low that they could not afford to spend the sum which a contractor would consider mighty slim for the reclaiming of that land. Yet they wanted the land.

While these commissioners were busy men and able to give only their evenings and Sundays to the upbuilding of the island, they found time to solve the problems that confronted them, and this one met its solution in turn. Not far from the island the electric road to Chicago had made a cut and left a large pile of dirt behind. It did not take the commission long to find some one who could get that dirt from the electric road free of charge. Nor did it take them a great while to locate a contractor public-spirited enough to offer to haul the dirt for twenty-five cents a cubic yard—hardly enough to pay for the horses.

For six weeks a number of teams were constantly engaged in hauling this dirt—and then the commission had a good, firm five acres to show for the swampy arm of the mainland.

That was only one of the many plunges that the commission took into the realm of economy. It is, in fact, claimed that every one who did work for them lost money on his contract.

A capable young graduate from a horticultural school, a student of landscape gardening and tree dentistry, was hired to superintend the work, under the direction of the commission. Two weeks of his time proved sufficient to put the trees on the island in excellent shape and to convert the dead timber into artistic benches and flower stands.

But though the commission demanded the bottom prices on everything, they also demanded that whatever went into the island, whether workmanship or materials, should be the very best obtainable. The field house erected on the west shore of the island is an illustration of this fact. It is built to last—built of the best materials to be had. Its design is simple, but artistic; its structure small, but roomy and solid. This building complete, with plumbing and extras, cost \$5,320. It is 68 feet long and 44 feet wide, with a 15-foot terrace, and is built of rough pressed brick in four colors to the window sills; above that it is of hollow tile coated with plaster. It has an open loggia 36 x 44 feet, so arranged that it can be closed in the winter by hanging removable wooden doors. One wing of this building contains a locker room and toilet for men (this with an eye to the future swimming pool to be provided on the island), and the

## COMMUNITY SINGING CONFERENCE

other wing is given over for a rest room and toilet for the women. The open loggia and wide porches, with their waist-high walls, offer ample shelter in bad weather and an excellent place for dancing.

The architect who designed this building was impressed with the necessity for economy and usefulness, but was at the same time given to understand that the building must contain neither cheap materials nor poor workmanship. In the summer the removable doors of the loggia are stored in the attic of the field house and in the winter the playground apparatus reposes there.

It was the politician that scored heavily in the purchasing of the playground apparatus. He stumped the playgrounds of the neighboring cities for suggestions—and he got them. When he had determined just what was wanted he went after the very bottom prices—and he got them, too.

The final result of this campaign was that the Children's Isle now contains as full an equipment of apparatus as is to be found in almost any city playground and the cost of this equipment was but \$600.

A double tennis-court was built and equipped for \$75.

The present broad, shrub-covered approach to the island bears little resemblance to the old swamp that trailed from under the bridge, and the beautiful island itself holds promise of glorious days for the children, the young folks, and the old people.

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Wreckreation.—So it ought to be spelled to fit the brand that a lot of young people are engaging in.—*"Friendly Chat" Davenport, Iowa, April, 1917*

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## COMMUNITY SINGING CONFERENCE

Early in the summer an interesting conference was held in New York City, drawing together from the nation leaders in what almost amounts to a new play activity and this conference was able to demonstrate the faith that was in it, for it not only theorized and exchanged experiences but, on occasions, sang. The most notable of these occasions was the singing of Haydn's *Creation* at the Hippodrome with a chorus of 1500, members of the community choruses of New York and nearby New Jersey towns,

## COMMUNITY SINGING CONFERENCE

followed by patriotic and folk songs, in which the whole audience of 5,000 joined.

Park Commissioner Cabot Ward, of New York, spoke of the mobilization of the spirit through music and of the tremendous force for Americanization in community singing. Arthur Farwell sketched the development of the "music school settlement" movement. Now in America a collective voice is rapidly finding itself and in this voice the nation has begun to speak. Crude and awkward today it finds refinement tomorrow and creates the beginning of a nation which shall know the beautiful in music and voice the national soul in music of its own. Professor Peter W. Dykema spoke on *The Relation of Schools and Colleges to Community Music*.

Kate Douglas Wiggins told of helping to develop community music in Maine, developing the "spirit of togetherness" so much needed. In Saco County, the farmers drive many miles to the "sing," the oldest member being seventy years old. Mrs. Edward MacDowell outlined the pageantry of Peterborough, saying that community singing and pageantry should go hand-in-hand. Percy Mackaye said it was the dream of his life to combine community music and community drama, two great vital forces which are really one. He then read a poem he had written for the occasion, entitled *The Choral Spirit*.

John Collier discussed *Music in Relation to Americanization*.

Mrs. David Allen Campbell, chairman of the Committee on Community Music of the National Council of Women of the United States, representing twenty-seven national organizations of women, said that many women through the influence of musical clubs have begun to think of music and the drama as a means of supplying recreation for all. Education in music and in recreation should be provided through the public schools, since it is the concern of the state that the citizen should be educated for leisure as well as for work.

Mrs. Campbell later gave on behalf of her committee 10,000 song books for the use of soldiers in training camps; a member of the committee increased the number to 50,000. This gift created great enthusiasm at the conference.

Arthur Nevin, Professor of Music in the University of Kansas, reported twenty-five community choruses organized in Kansas; fifteen other cities have asked for help in organizing. Usually a

## COMMUNITY SINGING CONFERENCE

community singing committee is formed with a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and a board of about ten, scattered throughout the city, so they can keep a personal touch to prevent people from dropping out for small cause. Twenty-five cents per member usually covers all expenses, that for music being the largest item, though this has been decreased by circulating music libraries provided by the Kansas University Chorus. Professor Nevin then gets after the music teachers, tells them it is the cheapest sort of advertising—and it is, for many people are stimulated to take lessons and get down to earnest study. Members come from miles about; one farmer with a good tenor voice couldn't make the meetings in bad weather so the farmers got together and had good roads built!

Parsons and Colony will have community buildings for meeting place and concerts as a result of interest in community singing. Parsons has voted \$150,000 in bonds for the building and \$2,000 for a director. Colony has voted \$8,000 for its building.

Miss Frances Brundage, representing the Civic Music Association of Chicago, outlined their plan of using the neighborhood centers and schools for music. The musical directors receive five dollars an evening but as they are all persons who easily command five dollars for a half hour, it is plain they are not working for money alone. Edward Collins has had splendid results with children's choruses, with which he eliminates the brasses and forms the children in a hollow square with the musicians in the center. Thus the children's voices are not drowned out.

Lee F. Hanmer, of the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities, spoke at length of the Commission's work in music for soldiers. This work will be discussed at length in a later issue of *THE PLAYGROUND*.

Claude Bragdon, of Rochester, described the five "song and light" festivals that have been given, three in Rochester, two in New York, in which all city lights were screened, lights placed in the trees, the audience in darkness.

## THE RELATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES TO COMMUNITY MUSIC\*

PETER W. DYKEMA, University of Wisconsin, Madison

No subject in the curriculum has been more sensitive to the modern socializing influence in education than music. In fact, it is this very influence that is aiding music to come into its own. Although essentially social by nature, music in the schools had grown half-hearted in its insistence upon this important phase of its influence because it had so long been evaluated by standards set up for the individualistic studies of the school. It frequently seemed to the musician that he would never be able to get his subject to count adequately in the schools until he could give examinations in it which should parallel those given by the teacher of history and science. The struggles of pedagogues to make music examinable forms one of the sorriest chapters in education—a chapter, alas, that is by no means as yet completed. But with the coming of the idea that education must concern itself not only with the making of keen intellectual individuals but of socially minded and willed citizens, music felt a reviving influence. This was the spirit which it had been nursing for many years and therefore it welcomed enthusiastically this social emphasis of the newer education. No longer was it necessary to consider only definitely measurable technical details; the uniting, radiating, strength-giving, social influence of singing good songs in chorus, heretofore regarded largely as an unimportant by-product or at least as the sugar-coating for the essential pill of technical grind, was now gradually elevated to a position of importance. Today it gives promise of soon being considered the one great aim of school music. School music may soon mean, primarily, frequent good singing of good songs.

**What the Music Supervisors Have Discussed** As soon as this social idea took possession of musical educators, they began to see that it was going to lead to many unexpected results. The gradual adjustment to the new idea is well shown in the reports of their various conventions. As I write, I have before me volumes of the Proceedings of the Music Supervisors' National Conference for the last seven years, and those of the Music Teachers' National Association for the last eleven years. In the earliest volume of the

\* Extracts from paper read before the National Conference on Community Music, Hotel Astor, New York City, Thursday, May 31, 1917

## RELATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

former which I have been able to obtain, I find the supervisors are concerning themselves with something quite outside their own traditional field, and are discussing music in Sunday Schools. There is a report also on music in high schools in which much attention is given to the question of credit for private music study carried on outside of school. In the 1913 volume, there are addresses on *Music and the Social Problem*; *The Sociological Value of Music*; *The Relation of Music to Festivals and Pageants*. Here also appears that most significant beginning, the first list of eighteen songs to be learned throughout the schools so as to get all America to know at least a few songs. In the 1914 volume, the committee which had this list in charge reports now that it has published the pamphlet of Eighteen Songs for Community Singing and has thus well under way the movement for singing, not only by children but by adults. In the 1915 volume, the report shows, in addition to an address by Commissioner of Education P. P. Claxton on *The Place of Music in Education* and another by W. P. Kent on *Music for Every Man*, that there was an entire session devoted to the subject of *Community Music in Its Relation to the Supervisors of Music*. In the 1916 volume, there are reports of a large number of musical activities carried on by the school supervisors outside of the schools, including community orchestras and bands, violin classes. An entire session is given over to a discussion of the topic *How a Supervisor May Aid in Making His Community Musical*. In the 1917 volume, two sessions are devoted to, first, *How to Extend Music into Institutions Which at Present Have Little or None*, and second, *How to Cause the Present General Interest in Community Music to Develop into Permanent Art Manifestations*.

### Significant Developments

Musical educators have recognized that the future of the nation rests with the children. They therefore in turning their thoughts to the greater socialization of music—which is what we understand the essential note of community music to be—have felt that permanent foundations can be made only by wise work with children, that in other words, the most important material to be shaped is the child—and of necessity, the trainers of the child. This is no insignificant problem. Lowell Mason, the father both of American church and school music, would hardly believe that since he labored to introduce music



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into the schools of Boston something over a half century ago, there has arisen in the public schools an army of special teachers of music in the school that is fast approaching a 10,000 enrollment mark, and that they are working with 20,000,000 or more school children. In fact, about half of all the children of school age in the country are already receiving systematic instruction in music at public expense. In many of the best school systems this means that at the end of the elementary school period, practically all of the children are able to sing adequately their part in three and four-part music, and that in the high school they enter easily and capably into the giving of standard oratorios and operas such as the *Creation*, *Messiah*, *Elijah*, *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast*, *Aida*, *Faust*, and music of similar difficulty. Whatever the defects of this system—and of these I shall have a word to say later—a large number of the school children of the country are at least being taught to render vocal music with considerable ease and accuracy.

### Training Good Listeners

Much is being done also to make the children good listeners to music. The phonograph is becoming almost as frequent in the schools as the world globe. Many schools have already introduced fairly well worked out courses in music appreciation, and in a much larger number of schools frequent opportunity is given the children to hear good records even if they are presented in a somewhat hit or miss way. In some school systems as, for instance, in Minneapolis and St. Louis, series of orchestral concerts by the symphony orchestra have been arranged in the various high schools, particularly for the children. On special occasions these orchestras unite with the children in the giving of elaborate concerts. In fact, it is a usual procedure with such orchestras as the New York Symphony, the Russian Symphony, the Minneapolis, the Chicago, and others which make spring tours, to devote all or a portion of at least one of their concerts to the accompanying of a great chorus of children in the rendering of some cantata. Frequently, this is a simple, tuneful work which such as Fletcher's *The Walrus and the Carpenter*, West's *Mayday Revels*, Beloit's *Into the World*, Busch's *May*, or similar works. But not infrequently it is something as difficult as Piérné's *Children's Crusade* which children from the Minneapolis elementary schools prepared and rendered with their local symphony orchestra within six weeks, or *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast*

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which a chorus from the Topeka high school prepared in five weeks. All of these agencies are placing children in touch with good music and are thus assisting them to form the right kind of tastes.

The high schools, moreover, are continuing the work of the elementary schools with choruses and glee clubs, bands and orchestras, and to an increasing extent, courses in theory, harmony, appreciation, and even special lessons in voice or an instrument, as a part of their regular high school studies. In the larger number of cases, however, these special students are being taken care of by the system of granting credit in the high school for work done outside the school with private teachers.

### **Making Instrumental Work More General**

A significant recent movement, however, for greater instrumental study by the children in the schools has been that of class instruction in violin and other instruments. From New York and Boston to Oakland and Los Angeles, there are hundreds of towns in which after-schools classes on the various instruments are held, and the children receive for a fee of ten to twenty-five cents, instruction which heretofore has been out of their reach. By this means, thousands if not tens of thousands of children in this country are learning to play instruments, who, but for this movement, would probably never have had any instruction other than the vocal work of the regular school course. In not a few cities such as Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Cincinnati, Ohio, this instruction is given absolutely free to the children. In these cities, instructors are paid by the city board of education to give free lessons in violin, cello, wind and brass instruments. The casual visitor has a feeling that at least half the children in some of these towns are being prepared for orchestra and small ensemble playing. This type of school work is much more common in the West than the music school settlement idea which has obtained such a stronghold in the larger cities of the East. I am very glad to pay my tribute to the music school settlement idea, both for the remarkable work it has done in its own field and because I believe it has been largely influential in the development of this instrumental work in the public schools.

### **The Unity of All These Endeavors**

These various developments together with others which I shall not take time to discuss—such as the significant movement for the introduction of

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music instruction into the rural schools and the many vigorous efforts to give music a more important place in institutions of higher learning—will show that the elementary and advanced schools and colleges are doing much to make music a larger factor in the life of the individual community and the nation at large through preparing the children and youth, the future citizens, to love music ardently yet wisely, and to have considerable power in producing it.

### **Going beyond the School**

But this is not the sum total of their endeavors; they recognize that there is a large element in our population, the adults, who will never be children again and who cannot be reached through the usual school and college channels. Starting with the parent and teacher's associations which are now a common extension of school activities and which represent the first formal step in the recognition of the larger social field of the teacher, efforts have proceeded until now the supervisors of music in the public schools are recognizing and acknowledging by their actions that their field is not the schoolroom only but the community at large; that in many instances they must willingly or unwillingly assume almost the role of city musician. So we find the teacher of the children filling many other positions after leaving the schoolroom—singing in and directing a church choir, playing in or leading the city band or orchestra, organizing and inspiring the local choral society, assisting in carrying on a course of musical entertainments for the general public, urging funds for band concerts by the local organizations, trying to raise the standard of music in moving pictures houses, interesting the parents in having music in their homes and in the last few years, starting "community sings". As a consequence, men like Will Earhart of Pittsburgh, Pa., Charles H. Miller of Lincoln, Neb., Hamlin E. Cogswell of Washington, D. C., and Glenn H. Woods of Oakland, California, become practically municipal officers charged with one aspect of the life of the entire community. But they do not stand alone. Hardly a progressive supervisor of music can be found who is not engaged in some and frequently all of the above activities. The school music teachers of the land have in the last three or four years made literally millions of adults join in singing.

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### Activities in Higher In- stitutions

The universities, the colleges, the normal schools, have had their special work to do. The music courses in many of them have felt the spirit of social service and have adapted themselves to it in a greater or less degree. Special courses in community music have been established in several leading institutions. These courses have become so popular that the summer schools conducted by the music publishing houses include this year as part of the material which they offer, something which aims to cover the same ground. But there is considerable haziness as to what should be done. One of the firms describes its course in community music in terms typical of the variety of ideas as to what this term includes. It may interest you to know that community music includes the following subheads: the kindergarten—rhythmic play and games; the school—musicales, operettas, cantatas; the playground—folk games; the individual—applied music; the settlement—pageants, festivals; the home, the child, the youth, the family, the church. Some of you may be interested to know where this modest course in connection with four others of at least as large dimensions, may all be covered inside of four weeks!

### The Aim of University Courses in Community Music

The point of view of the university courses with which I am familiar has been primarily the clarifying of the problem, the discovering some unifying idea in the multitude of endeavors variously and vigorously acclaimed as community music and secondly, this unifying idea having been found, the formulating of principles and even precepts of practice. Regarding the first point the course has endeavored to show that the essential new element in the community music movement is not the developing of new material, although some new material will undoubtedly be involved, but the seeking of a new end—namely the democratizing of music. The focus of endeavor now is the social aspect of music; larger numbers of individuals and larger segments of each individual's being are to be involved. More people and more of the people is the slogan. Music is to dwell more intimately with more folks. It is to be less a thing apart from life—less a pleasant but comparatively unimportant amusement; more a vital inspirational brotherhood, fellowship, or in a word, socializing, force. Community music is insisting that the same ideal that is breaking down the barriers between king and sub-

jects and creating new republics shall banish the false aristocracy which has so long reigned in its field. It recognizes that in the people as a whole there is a power of imagination, of idealism, of spirituality, which has not been utilized, in fact hardly discovered in America, and asserts that through music better than through any other means, this may be brought into vigorous nation-reviving force. It maintains that we have not yet done justice to music for the people—which they shall hear—; music of the people—which groups of the more talented ones shall produce—; nor music by the people—the great all-inclusive mass which can and should find itself through utterance in music. The developing of every form of music which will aid in stirring the idealism of the nation as a whole rather than a few selected individuals—this, as the teachers of community music have sensed it—is the meaning of the present movement. The point of view regarding subject matter having been determined, the question of what to do with the students in the courses arises. The answer has been that the new element to be given the students in addition to the investigation and classification of material is, first, the developing in the student of the social point of view, the caring for people; second, a study of the means for making this point of view effective.

**The Central Problem—Developing Leaders**

The developing of leaders is undoubtedly the most difficult problem in the spreading of the right type of community music activities. It is a complicated problem if one endeavors to include in the process all the various elements which should go to the making of a proper leader of community music. It is far less complicated if one recognizes that the community music leader is simply a musician with enthusiasm, social aptitude, and executive powers. A comparatively short training will produce a good community music leader if he has sufficient musicianship and social qualifications before he starts. The courses in community music have heretofore been built on this latter idea. Mr. Ray G. Edwards of Ruskin, Florida, advocates the holding of state normal courses of one month in length to instruct prospective leaders in the duties and opportunities of the city musician or music director. The normal schools and the departments of public school music in the universities are gradually including special attention to larger community endeavors in the regular training courses for music teachers. In

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several universities, there have been offered to the general student, courses in community music;—Wisconsin, Columbia, Montana—to name three with which I have had personal relations.

**Direct Work with the People also Carried on by Higher Institutions** In addition to helping develop leaders, the universities, colleges, and normal schools have done much direct work in assisting the people to help themselves. In several states—Wisconsin, Indiana, North Dakota, Colorado, Minnesota, Kansas, the universities conduct bureaus of lectures and entertainments which provide at a minimum cost musical entertainments of a worthy character. In other words, they endeavor to perform the functions of a high class Chautauqua bureau with the commercial aspects eliminated. By this means many communities hear instrumental and vocal quartets, trios, and soloists which, without the low rates, due to an economically planned tour and small management fees, would be quite impossible for them. Package libraries combined with slides and films from the department of visual instruction, provide lectures on music, with illustrations for the eye, and, through loaned records, for the ear. In this connection one of the talking machine houses has provided records especially made so that they will serve as accompaniments for community singing. As a result in hundreds of rural communities, people are singing community songs without piano, without leader, without any help other than that given by the records. In three or four of the middle western states, some one connected with the state educational system gives all or a large part of his time to the one purpose of stimulating community music endeavors—Mr. Arthur Nevin in Kansas, Mr. W. W. Norton in North Dakota, Mr. Edgar B. Gordon in Wisconsin, being three that are particularly worthy of mention. No small part of the work of all such leaders has been made successful through the intelligent response and hearty assistance given by the various women's clubs. The State Federations of Women's Clubs now very generally have active committees on community music.

**The Heart of It** These are some of the activities which may show that the schools and colleges are now and for several years have been intensely interested and active in forwarding musical activities among the people. Most of what has been done has been wisely carried out and

## RECREATION CONFERENCE IN DULUTH

may well be continued in the future. If there is one criticism on the whole system, it is that during the earlier years in nearly all instruction and at present in too much of it, there has been lacking that one thing which the more recent advocates of community music have insisted upon, namely, a spontaneous joy and enthusiasm for singing and the insistence upon music as a means both of expressing the deepest sentiments of mankind and a potent means for the binding of people into a more sympathetic whole. Music has been too much a formal, isolated amusement, not enough a vital, social force. It is surprising to note how much music there has been and how little music life; how much outward semblance, how little inward existence. No more heartening and yet in a way pathetic experience has been mine than to witness the simple joy which has gradually crept into the lives of musicians who have been led by singing together to realize that music had some use for them besides furnishing a livelihood. They had taught music so long and talked about it so much that it had become a thing apart from themselves. Like the blasé European guides before nature's wonders, they had pointed out the wonders so often to others, that they had lost all appreciation for them. And it needed only the words and especially the attitude of a sincere, sensitive leader who relieved them of their professional shackles for a time and helped them to be just themselves, to bring them in touch with that which never fails, the heart throb of a simple tried song of the people.

The schools and colleges need everything that the present Conference can give to them. I am sure that they are anxious to have the new life which is surging through this group, the divine spirit of the brotherhood of song, and the beauty and inspiration of all great music.

## RECREATION CONFERENCE IN DULUTH

At a conference held in May under the auspices of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, a committee of representative citizens from various cities in Minnesota was appointed to confer with committees in other communities of the state to work for the passage of a law for physical training and play for all Minnesota school pupils.

## RECREATION CONFERENCE IN DULUTH

Representatives from the "range" towns spoke of the difficulty of finding space for playgrounds where the standard lot is but twenty-five feet, often with two or three houses built upon it. Often both back and front open spaces are given up to gardens, while the children play in the street. The usual school playground is about 200 feet square, regardless of the number of children the building accommodates. In Hibbing, the original townsite of eighty acres is surrounded on three sides by open pit mines, so there is no chance to enlarge without going out of town.

Great enthusiasm has been shown for gardening this year. Some of the mining companies, as well as the school boards, have made land available and hundreds of plots are under cultivation.

In all of the towns represented, Eveleth, Hibbing, Cloquet and Duluth, there is a general recognition of the importance of leadership. All have made, or are about to make, arrangements for a year-round recreation secretary. Recesses with play leaders on hand have been developed in Eveleth and Duluth. A "monitor system" has been very successful in Duluth. Mr. Batchelor, the recreation secretary, met the monitors of each district and taught them about 150 games and how to teach these games to others. In Superior, Wisconsin, unusual results have been secured in gardening by having the play leader in the schools responsible for home gardens, so the school organization carries over into the summer. The county fair also acts as an incentive, as prizes are given for the school products.

Part of the recreation leadership in Duluth is provided by the Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations. Plans are being made for sending a play leader at the noon hour to vacant lots near industrial centers. Lawns and gardens have been offered the Y. W. C. A. for Sunday afternoons.

Bishop McGolrick spoke of the relation of play to the spiritual life. Mr. Ayers, of Ely, spoke of the enthusiasm with which his community is making ready for the coming of the worker of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, who is to help make play more vital to the people and Mr. Vaughan, of Chisholm, expressed his appreciation of the work done in Chisholm and of the spirit underlying all the work of the Association



## NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER WORK OF THE TRI-CITIES LA SALLE, PERU, OGLESBY, ILLINOIS

Comprehensive recreation, welfare and other community work has been done by the Illinois cities—Peru, La Salle and Oglesby—through the La Salle-Peru Township High School. The high school in itself was rather notable, though a number of other similar institutions are in operation in the State of Illinois in which, through a flexible interpretation of the term *educational*, the activities have gradually been extended to include recreational, civic and community interests of all sorts, supported by taxation.

**The Proposition** In October, 1912, a proposition was submitted to the Township Board of Education by the Honorable F. W. Matthiessen of La Salle, offering as a gift certain real estate and \$75,000 for a recreation building to be run in connection with the Township High School and to serve as a community center. The Township Board was to maintain the work. The donor also stipulated that the township was to vote a bond issue of \$25,000 which amount was to be used for improvements much needed in the high school, and by a public election to declare its willingness to support the center.

The Board immediately took action and the election resulted in the almost unanimous acceptance of the proposition. The plans provided for a recreation building; for many improvements in the main building, including a large auditorium, a new biology laboratory, new offices for the principal; for a new heating system in a separate building directly back of the manual training building; for the rewiring of the entire plant.

**The Recreation Building** The principal feature of the recreation building is the gymnasium, which is 53 x 106 feet, and contains a playing space for basket ball 70 x 35 feet. About twelve feet above the floor is the balcony, which is used both for spectators and for a running track. No part of the basket-ball floor is underneath the gallery. The gymnasium equipment is quite complete, having cost some \$3,000.

On the first floor is a room 26x50 feet, which at some later date will be used as a library, but which at the present time is utilized for many purposes, such as wrestling, a boys' game-room, rest-

## NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER WORK OF THE TRI-CITIES

room and serving room at dances. The history room is also on this floor. On the second floor are the music and art rooms. These three rooms are also used for most of the dramatic, musical and social organizations, meeting in the building after school hours.

Downstairs is the swimming pool, which is 60x25 feet. Along the east side are eight dressing booths and eight showers. South of the pool are seventy steel lockers arranged to form a hollow square, the enclosed space being used as a dressing room. Nearby is the locker-cage, which contains about six hundred fibre locker-boxes arranged in rows and numbered, providing a locker-box for every person using the gymnasium. In this box is kept the owner's athletic clothing. With the box a key to a locker is given, and after the person has finished, he returns the box and key to the cage where they are kept safely under lock. This system saves considerable locker room.

The room originally intended for the bowling alley is 16x86 feet, and at the present time is used as a drying room for the women's bathing suits. The alleys will be installed in the near future. The electric exhaust fan which ventilates the entire building is located at the end of the bowling alley room. Another room on the ground floor, 26x20, is used as a dressing room for the 'varsity athletic teams of the high school. This room contains lockers arranged along the walls.

Work was started on the building in June, 1913, and the changes in the main building were completed in time for the opening of school in September of the same year, with the exception of the auditorium, which was not finished till several months later. The recreation building was practically completed in February, but delay in the installation of the gymnasium apparatus postponed the opening until March 23, 1914.

### **The Athletic Field**

The new athletic field includes two tennis courts, a five-lap cinder track, baseball diamond, football gridiron, jumping and vaulting pits, and an open air bathing pool, 100 x 50 feet. Sufficient space is also available for a playground. This entire field is also the gift of Mr. Matthiessen and is used not only for high school athletics and social center events but for field and track sports for the entire township as well.

## NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER WORK OF THE TRI-CITIES

### **The Work Started**

The first work attempted was that of organizing gymnasium classes among the high school students. At the same time the high school track

squad began preliminary indoor practice and with the approach of warm weather the swimming pool was opened to the students. Practically the entire school took advantage of these facilities from the start. The first attempt at work outside the school was made in April when a Saturday morning gymnasium class was organized for the boys of the neighborhood, whose demands for admittance had become very insistent.

During the summer of 1914 gymnasium and swimming privileges were offered to both children and adults and the following fall gymnasium work for grade and parochial school children in the afternoon and Saturday and evening classes in swimming and physical training were added.

All of the children's activities are included in the grade and parochial school athletic league, whose membership consists of nine public grade schools and seven parish schools. Besides the classes a number of league and championship meets are conducted, with trophies for the winning team; proficiency tests with gold, silver, and bronze medals as a reward, are given monthly for boys and girls. A monogram of white felt containing the letters S. C. is awarded to boys who swim 120 yards and a similar monogram to girls who swim 60 yards. One direct result of these proficiency tests has been the appearance of home-made apparatus for jumping and chinning in many back yards, where the children of the neighborhood can get in trim for the next medal contests.

The Indoor Baseball League, organized that autumn, consisting of eight teams representing widely diversified interests as the Western Clock Company; the Rexall Drug Store, the Knights of Columbus, the Just We Social Club, the Y. M. C. A. Club, High School alumni, Odd Fellows, and Oglesby Tigers' Baseball Club, played two nights a week, arousing keen interest in clean, wholesome sport. Teams of all kinds and varieties were organized and the evenings allotted for special games were reserved a month in advance. The numerous spectators included many women and entire families. Space has to be reserved in the vestibule for baby carriages.

Basket ball, wrestling, and tennis—previously an unknown

## *NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER WORK OF THE TRI-CITIES*

game to the township, except to a few high school boys—became popular township sports.

About 6000 Poles are included in the township population, a people who warmly cherish and preserve all the folk traditions brought over by them from the old country, a group that can make important contributions to American life, but one that needs some very concrete interpretations of what American life really means if the vitally important process of assimilation is to go forward.

Although the parish houses of the local churches meet the ordinary needs for meeting places, the Polish "Falcons" or Turners, a military and gymnastic organization, gladly accepted the proffered gymnasium one night a week. Under the direction of a trained Polish leader, the Falcons not only get their own recreation but provide that of a more passive type for hundreds of their friends and relatives who crowd the gallery to watch the proceedings. About seventy boys have been formed into an organization preparatory to the Falcons. They are drilled by members of the order and use the center as headquarters.

The first celebration of the most important of all Polish holidays—Constitution Day—was held in the auditorium on Sunday afternoon, May 1, 1915. This affair was observed with all pomp and ceremony. The entire congregation marched from St. Valentine's church to the high school led by their own band and accompanied by the Falcons and Hussars in full regalia. Some seven hundred people crowded the auditorium to listen to a very excellent program in both languages, rendered by the children as well as by the priests of the adjacent parishes and prominent Poles from Chicago. The past glory of the unfortunate kingdom was related both in verse and song by the adult choirs and the children and in ringing speech by the male speakers, while the future hopes of a united Poland brought forth enthusiastic applause from the audience. What better demonstration of patriotism could be given the native American than an occasion of this kind! What potential qualities of good citizenship are not lying dormant in these people awaiting the call to American citizenship!

Insurrection Day is also celebrated at the center. On each occasion the auditorium was crowded to the doors with an appreciative audience who listened to a program given in both languages. While Polish history and aspiration are commemorated, not a few

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of the speakers touch also upon the civic obligation of the Pole to his new country.

A series of parents' nights, at which the children of a particular school invited friends to see them march, drill and play games, followed by an informal reception in the music room, drew many to the center who would not have come otherwise and proved an introduction to the enjoyment of the center's activities. The following year musical and dramatic features were added to the children's entertainments.

### **The Summer's Activities**

During the summer of 1915 the following schedule was instituted: swimming classes for all, early morning gymnasium classes (both indoors and on the athletic field), folk dancing, kite making and flying, storytelling, dolls' club, proficiency tests, game-room activities, evening gymnasium work for the Polish Falcons and for the women, outings and picnics, baseball, track, and tennis. With the completion of the outdoor tank the swimming classes are rearranged so as to relieve the congestion caused by the unusually large numbers in some of the classes.

While the activities of the first year were largely athletic, yet a good start was made in other forms of recreation. The center is somewhat disadvantageously located for drawing the older folk in the evening as a steep hill must be climbed or ravines crossed to get to it. Yet a glee club composed of young men has met there since the beginning and has brought many out to its own public occasions and has assisted at the regular center gatherings. Dances have not been conducted by the center itself but the gymnasium has been available for clubs giving dances. The High School Alumni Association has used the center for its dances and meetings, two important State conferences were housed there, and the number of good clubs is increasing.

Not the least valuable of the center's contributions to community recreation has been that of providing a desirable auditorium for professional entertainments, concerts and musicals. Sometimes the center brings these attractions, sometimes a church or lodge brings them as a benefit for itself, paying a nominal rent for the auditorium. The Ben Greet Players in *Twelfth Night*, the Fuller Sisters in English Folk Songs and Dances, Seumas MacManus in a *Merry Ramble through Ireland* were among these occasions.

## THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

A farmer's short course and a short course of twelve weeks for farm boys bring the rural people to the center. Assistance has been given the Oglesby public schools in their efforts to organize after-school and evening work in their annex and the Township Center hopes in many ways to extend its activities so as to arouse efforts for more adequate recreation throughout the Tri-Cities, for none knows better than the leaders that with a population of 28,000 in La Salle and Peru, fully four times the amount of recreational activities now provided are needed to give adequate recreation throughout the township.

The social center work began under the direction of Raymond A. Hoyer and six assistants.

In addition to the great athletic field of the center, this fortunate township has Hegeler Park, about thirteen acres in the heart of La Salle, donated by the heirs of the Hegeler estate to the Township High School to be used for general park, recreational and educational purposes. The plot was beautifully laid out and plans have been made for adding such buildings as will insure its maximum use for the full purpose of the donor. Washington Park, Peru, has been set aside and playground apparatus installed.

## THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

RUTH SHERBURNE, ASSISTANT, Playground and Recreation Association of America, New York City

It would seem that any thoughtful person who has observed the activities of children during an ordinary recess, or at noon in a school where many must stay for lunch, must see that the recreation period without leadership is anything but desirable or wholesome.

The average recess or noon hour means recreation for comparatively few. The children are turned outdoors to wander at will. A few of the largest ones take possession of the grounds in rough and tumble unorganized play or in a baseball game that is punctuated with loud talk and that very likely breaks up in a quarrel. The majority of the children stroll up and down, if not away, or collect in little groups, and more mischief is planned and put into operation during that brief time than the teacher can cope with in a week.

If the school were responsible only for the amount of arithmetic and reading the child learns, this state of affairs would not

## THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

be so vitally wrong. But society is beginning to realize that the school owes the child a broader and deeper training than mere scholastic education, and that, unless the school teaches the boy and the girl how to live and how to grow into strong manhood and womanhood, it is not fulfilling its mission.

It is true that most teachers very conscientiously give talks on ethics and try in their classrooms to drive home precepts of honesty, loyalty, and clean living and thinking. Yet of what avail are words if five minutes later on the school grounds conditions are such that a game may be won by cheating or broken up by a disgruntled player, and not only unkind gossip, but all too frequently nasty stories, are passed from lip to lip. There is a discrepancy somewhere. Evidently *knowing* what is right is not clearly associated in the child's mind with *doing* what is right.

Surely any thinking person, and certainly the conscientious teacher, recognizes the necessity of counteracting the evil influence in school leisure and sees that the logical method to pursue is to substitute for unwholesome mental and physical inactivity, vigorous, organized play.

**The Grounds** In planning a playground it is necessary to put the ground in condition. Most country schools have plenty of open space for games of all sorts but often the surface is so uneven that it is impossible to run on it. However, unless there is need of grading, you will find that the children themselves will solve the difficulty. They will be only too happy to put the ground in better shape for their games. The grass will have to be kept short and out on the western plains the cacti and sandburrs weeded out. Not only are they uncomfortable to fall on but they ruin balls in no time.

Have the boys lay off a baseball diamond where there is no danger from stray balls, either to windows or to children playing other games.

One smooth space fifty feet long and twenty-five feet wide should be reserved for volley ball. This is one of the very best games for both boys and girls. It is advisable to have the court run north and south so that players do not face the sun. Two posts at least seven feet six inches high above the ground should be set, one on each side of the court, half way from the ends. Between these the net is stretched or, lacking a net, a rope may be stretched between the posts at the proper height. This court may be used for

## THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

tennis, captain ball or basket ball. Of course in the latter game it is necessary to have a goal post and basket at each end of the court.

By all means reserve one space ten feet by fifteen feet for a jumping pit. The earth should be spaded up and raked until smooth. It should be kept in this condition for it is not wise to have the boys jumping on the hard ground. Jumping is easier if a plank is embedded at the edge of the pit for a "take-off."

### Equipment

The best playground is the one where the children get most of their play through active participation in games and outdoor sports. Some of the pieces of apparatus on school playgrounds which furnish a great deal of happiness are a swing or two, teeters, jumping standards, a sand box for the little children, and possibly a slide. These things can be made at home very easily. You can get plans for their construction together with their approximate cost by writing to the Perry Mason Company, Boston, Massachusetts, publishers of the *Youth's Companion*, for *Neighborhood Play*, a manual of rural recreation. A splendid manual, *Play and Athletics for Virginia Public Schools*, especially designed to meet the needs of rural teachers, may be secured from the Department of Public Instruction, Richmond, Virginia, price fifteen cents. A list of the manufacturers of playground apparatus may be secured from the Playground and Recreation Association of America, 1 Madison Avenue, New York City.

*Warning:* If you put up apparatus, place it over in one corner where it will not interfere with the open space needed for games and where there is no danger of a child's being hit by a swing when he is playing another game.

Do not fail to provide as a part of the equipment a few good balls. There is no economy in buying very cheap balls because they will not stand the wear and tear. On the other hand the most expensive ones are not necessary. Balls may be secured through your local hardware merchant or possibly your druggist. You will find the following balls very valuable additions to your game supplies: volley ball, basket ball, soccer ball (which may be used in place of a basket ball), indoor baseball, playground ball, tennis and tether balls. Other supplies should include bats and racquets.

### Play Leadership

While it is advisable to purchase some balls and to lay out some courts for special games, do not be led into believing that balls and courts con-



## THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

stitute a playground. The first essential of a playground is play leadership. This cannot be emphasized too strongly.

Do not be led into thinking that play leadership is mere police duty. It is not discipline in the sense that the word is all too often used in the schoolroom, but it is rather organization and leadership.

Children unused to organized play very rarely possess initiative and executive ability sufficient to start games and keep them going. It is the play leader's duty then to organize the game, to keep up the children's interest in it and develop team play.

You may be asking, "How am I going to keep things running smoothly when I have three or four sets of children, each needing a different game?" This is a situation that tests and tries your executive ability. Undoubtedly, however, you will find before long that some children possess qualities of leadership. Let these children help you. For instance, start a game for your little people and leave it in charge of an older girl. Either have the boys choose for themselves or you appoint for them an umpire and when you are sure he knows the rules of the game, impress upon the group that they must abide by his decision.

But when you have assigned these leaders do not fancy that you can go into the schoolhouse and correct papers. You must be right on the ground all the time. Play with the children. You will come into closer contact with your boys and girls and if you prove you are fair and square in your decisions and insist upon fair play from them, you will gain their respect and admiration. You will bring home in a half hour's play ethical lessons all the talks in school for a year will fail to impress.

There have been a number of suggestive books on games published; some of them are: *Games for the Playground, Home, School and Gymnasium* by Jessie Bancroft, containing descriptions of many kinds of games from singing games for little children to outdoor games for older boys and girls; *Education by Plays and Games and What to Do at Recess* by George E. Johnson; Emmet Angell's *Play*; *Games and Dances* by W. A. Stecher; Mari R. Hofer's *Popular Folk Games and Dances*; Harry Sperling's *Playground Book*. Many others might be mentioned. A complete bibliography of books on games is to be found in the report of the Committee on Games issued by the Playground and Recreation Association of America.

### Game Books

## THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

The American Sports Publishing Co., 21 Warren Street, New York City, publishes little ten cent booklets containing the rules for baseball, indoor baseball, playground ball, and other ball games.

### **Athletics for Boys**

It is difficult for a woman to superintend athletics for boys because boys have an idea as a rule that they are going to be led into something "babyish" that will make "sissies" of them. It is essential, then, to give them athletic work that belongs to boys only. Two forms of athletics that greatly appeal to boys are class athletics and the badge tests.

Class athletics were originated in order to do away with the feeling that only the best athletes in a school might enter in competitions. In class athletics a record is made by the whole class or school rather than by the individual.

At least eighty percent of the boys enrolled in a class must participate in order to have the record stand. It becomes, then, a contest between classes rather than between individuals. Each member of a winning class may be presented with a badge of some sort—possibly a blue ribbon. It will be interesting if you can get all the schools in the district to take up class athletics and then see which school has the highest average. You may be able to interest some patron in presenting a banner or pennant that will be a perpetual trophy: i. e., one that a school may keep just so long as it holds first place.

The events in class athletics are as follows:—

Standing Broad Jump

Pull-up or Chinning

Running (usually 60 yd. dash)

Standing Broad Jump—The best record made in three trial jumps is taken for each boy. The school or class record is determined by adding the individual records and dividing by the total number of boys competing.

Pull-up—Each boy must pull himself up until his chin is above the bar, then lower himself extending his arms full length. The number of times he pulls himself up is his record. Class records are found as in the broad jump.

Running—In order to lessen the possibility of error in timing the competitors, the following method may be adopted: The boys are lined up behind the starting mark. The timer, who acts also as

## THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

starter, stands at the finish line and gives the signal for each boy to start. As the last boy crosses the finish line the time is taken. The record is found by dividing the time consumed by the number of boys competing. If an ordinary watch is used, the first boy should be started when the second hand is over the 60 mark.

**Badge Tests** To establish a standard of physical efficiency, the Playground and Recreation Association of America has established a series of Badge Tests.

To complete a test a boy must run a certain distance in a given time, pull up a certain number of times, and jump a certain distance. If he can do all three things, he is entitled to the Association's bronze badge. For this badge each boy pays 20 cents. Upon request the Association will send rules for conducting these tests and also the certification blanks which will enable the boys to secure the badge. The tests are not easy. It requires a good deal of practice and skill to win a badge and the possessor of such a badge has a right to be proud of his athletic powers.

**Play for Girls** While athletics for boys have been developing for centuries, until recently very little attention has been paid to girls' play. In fact, the idea has been that while little girls might indulge in active play, by the time they were ten or twelve it was no longer "ladylike" to run and skip. The result has been that girls have grown up prematurely and at a time when they should still be little school girls they have been posing as full-fledged "young ladies."

Because of these unfortunate traditions, it is hard to get girls started to play. You will find that they have no conception of team work games. You will have to begin with simple games like three deep and touch ball, and gradually work into volley ball and indoor baseball and other games that require skill and team play, to overcome these difficulties.

You will undoubtedly discover that girls will be very anxious to play basket ball but some authorities do not approve of this game for girls. It is exceedingly strenuous and unless played under the supervision of a physical director who is competent to judge when girls are overdoing, more harm than good may come from the game.

Captain ball is an excellent team game that may be substituted

## THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

for basket ball. While it is exciting, it does not offer quite the same opportunity for overstrain.

The Playground and Recreation Association of America has a series of tests for girls corresponding to those for boys. Each girl must do an all-up Indian club relay or a potato race in a given time, balance in a certain way on a beam twelve feet long, and throw a basket ball into the basket a certain number of times out of six trials. Any girl who can qualify in all three events of any one test may secure a beautiful bronze badge from the Association upon the payment of twenty cents.

Full details as to the events and the manner of holding them may be obtained from the Association. The tests have been held in many places over the country and girls are always greatly interested in them.

You will find that there is no form of play that girls of all ages love more than they do folk dancing. If you have had any training yourself by all means teach your girls and younger children some of these delightful song-plays. The report of the Committee on Games already mentioned contains a bibliography of folk dancing. A number of books are published which will enable even the most inexperienced teacher to include some folk dances in the play program.

The Department of Physical Education of the Public Schools of Kalamazoo, Michigan, has issued an outline of girls' activities which is very suggestive. *THE PLAYGROUND* for May, 1917, contained an account of this work.

**Winter Sports** Cold and snow do not put an end to outdoor play, for some of the most delightful activities of the whole year may be carried on during the winter. However, precaution must be taken that the children are well protected from the cold.

If there is a pond or brook close at hand all the children, big and little, will enjoy skating. The older boys will want hockey and incidentally they will work like beavers to clear the ice after a snow-fall. *Fox and geese* is a time-honored game that is played in the snow.

Coasting is great sport if there is an adjacent hill that may be used without danger. Even a snow battle, if under proper leadership, may be permitted. In one great school the annual snow battle

## THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

is the event of the winter. Snowballing on the street is prohibited by city ordinance, but the sensible principal of the school gives the boys an opportunity to build two forts and have a sham battle on the school grounds. The forts are placed where there is no danger of hitting the building or passers-by, and the principal herself is always on the ground to umpire the game. Only soft snow is permitted to be thrown.

Building snow-men is a sport that children have enjoyed since the beginning of time and one that furnishes opportunity for artistic skill and ingenuity. A contest for the best piece of snow statuary will keep everyone busy as long as the snow lasts.

Nothing is more popular with children of all ages than a picnic, especially when part of the meal is cooked over a camp fire. Such an Indian picnic

### Picnics

may occasionally, as a rare treat, take the place of the usual noon lunch. Of course, the picnic must be so near the school that there is no danger of being late, and moreover it is a wise plan to have the place selected and the wood gathered and laid ready to light the day before.

It is best to have the children bring just their ordinary lunches. Mothers may object to a demand for a festive lunch. But the children may bring their meat and eggs raw. Of course, the real way is to toast the meat on a forked green stick but it requires some practice and no little skill to keep the meat from being burned to a crisp and sprinkled with ashes; so, after all, the more practical, if less romantic, method is the use of the frying pan.

*Warning:* One can never relax vigilance and precaution against accidents. Do not attempt a fire if there are many little children in the group, or permit a fire to be built except with your permission and sanction as to location. Boys and girls should be taught the grave danger in forest and prairie fires and that no fire should ever be left until *every* spark is extinguished. Likewise, insist that the camp be left in perfect order. Each child should be taught to be responsible for collecting and burning all his own scraps.

On stormy days when it is impossible to play out of doors, there are a number of quiet games that may be played in the schoolroom.

A field day in the spring when the badge tests are given will arouse much interest. Invite the parents to come and make it a gala occasion. It

### Field Day and Play Festivals

## SCHOOL BUILDINGS AS NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS

is a good idea to ask a few of the school patrons to act as judges. *Suggestions for the Organization of a Field Day and Play Picnic for Country Children*, issued by the Playground and Recreation Association of America, would be found helpful in planning for a field day. One day may be set aside for deciding the championship in class athletics. Perhaps that contest can be held on the same day that the badge tests are given, provided there are not many entries. An exhibit of folk dancing and games by the younger children will help to show people of the community what playground activities really are.

## USE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AS NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION CENTERS

In thirteen of the twenty-six cities visited by a worker of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, the school buildings were used as neighborhood recreation centers.

In six cities the activities were conducted by the administrative body in charge of the playground work. In the remaining seven, the activities were carried on by the board of education either through the night school or the extension department.

### **Jersey City, New Jersey**

Through the school extension department there are offered to the public semi-occasional lectures and concerts. Private groups upon application to this committee may use the buildings for non-partisan debates, for entertainments, dances and dramatics upon the payment of a nominal fee which covers heat, light and janitor service. All private gatherings must be properly chaperoned.

### **Waterbury, Connecticut**

Upon application to the superintendent of schools neighborhood groups are given permission to use school buildings. The janitor's fee of \$1.25 a night is the only charge. The group activities are confined to athletics, quiet games and dancing.

### **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

Through the extension department of the Board of Education groups of twenty-five or more may secure the use of school buildings. Ac-

## *SCHOOL BUILDINGS AS NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS*

tivities are confined to sewing, cooking, debating, dancing and athletics. The extension department furnishes the leadership.

### **Washington, District of Columbia**

Upon application to the Board of Education, free use of school buildings may be obtained by neighborhood organizations. Activities are confined to sewing, cooking and gymnastics. Volunteers are in charge of the groups.

### **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, North Side**

School rooms are used after school hours for sewing and cooking classes in the afternoon and for sewing and dramatics in the evening. The city playground association supervises the groups. No charge is made.

### **Richmond, Virginia**

Through the night school department of the Board of Education games and athletics are offered members of the night school classes twice a week at the close of evening sessions. School auditoriums may be rented for a nominal fee—\$10 for high, \$5 for grade schools—to pay for heat, light, and janitor services.

### **Cleveland, Ohio**

Cleveland has a very comprehensive system of evening recreation center work conducted by the division of school extension created to administer the night use of school buildings other than for night school. A supervisor is in charge of each center assisted by athletic directors for men and women and by assistants in charge of special activities.

Membership dues of twenty-five cents a month entitle young people of fourteen years or over to the use of the gymnasias, swimming pools, or to membership in the clubs. In addition to this membership fee a special fee of one dollar is charged for match games in the gymnasium. A fee of one dollar per night must be paid by any group of persons wishing to use the building for other than regular club activities. The auditoriums located in the centers are available for use by the neighbors for neighborhood meetings free of charge. The Board of Education pays the expenses of heat, light, janitor service and the salaries of the directors. Among the activities carried on at the centers are:

Gymnastics                      Manual Training                      Sewing

## *SCHOOL BUILDINGS AS NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS*

Athletics	Debating	Gardening
Singing	Dramatics	Library
Orchestra	Civic Club	Community Meeting
Band	Swimming	Study Clubs
Domestic Science	Dancing	Social Clubs
Painting	Drawing	

### **Cincinnati, Ohio**

Under the Department of Social Centers, evening centers are conducted in fourteen schools.

The activities include athletics, gymnastics and dancing. A charge is made of ten cents to defray the cost of leadership, heat, light and janitor service.

### **Princeton, New Jersey**

Through the town club centers are used for dressmaking, cooking, millinery, singing, dancing, boys' clubs, and gymnastics. The club pays

\$500 annually for heat, light, and janitor service. Club assignments are made according to the size of the club and the salary of the leader.

### **Plainfield, New Jersey**

The Public Recreation Commission in charge of social center work contributes \$1,200 a year for the rental of school rooms and auditoriums

in four school buildings used as social centers. Much of the work is conducted under volunteer leadership, although such special activities as dancing are carried on by paid leaders whose salaries are met by dues of from ten to twenty-five cents monthly paid by the members of the various groups. These fees are turned into the treasury of the committee.

### **Brookline, Massachusetts**

Evening recreation centers in two schools through the Playground Commission offer opportunities for singing, games, and athletics.

No charge is made. The Commission pays \$2.50 a night for janitor service at each school.

### **Springfield, Massachusetts**

Under the direction of the superintendent of recreation six evening recreation centers are conducted by the Board of Education. Activ-

ities are confined to gymnastic work and dancing. No charge is made.



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### **Wheeling, West Virginia**

Evening activities are conducted in two schools under the direction of the Board of Education. No charge is made. The activities include

quiet games, cooking, dramatics, and basket ball.

### **Youngstown, Ohio**

Under the auspices of the Playground Association, evening recreation centers are conducted in fourteen centers. The program includes

motion pictures, talks on civic subjects, music, folk dancing, gymnastics and Boy Scouts and Camp Fire Girls. No charge is made.

## RECREATION IN INDUSTRY

**CHARLES FREDERICK WELLER**, Associate Secretary, Playground and Recreation Association of America, Chicago, Ill.

(Continued from August)

### IV. RECREATION ADAPTED FROM COMMERCIAL FIELDS

Recreational needs of workers may be learned partly from the ways in which their leisure hours are now spent. From saloons, dance halls, pool rooms, social organizations, and moving picture shows we may learn effective ways of enlisting and guiding the recreation interests of industrial employees.

#### **Moving Pictures**

We have hardly begun to appreciate the amazing modern phenomenon of the moving picture vogue. When, in a Kansas town of 13,000 inhabitants, the average weekly attendance at moving picture theatres is 13,000; when one-third the population of Cleveland attends the "movies" on Sundays and holidays; when, in Kansas City, Missouri, with a population of 250,000, the average weekly attendance on the "movies" is 449,000—we should understand that these pictures have become the principal present-day school of manners and morals.

Moving pictures are good—but not so good as they might be. My chief objection to them is that they are too passive—like most of our modern means of entertainment. They are shot through with the great, modern evil, "Spectatoritis." We need opportunities for

## RECREATION IN INDUSTRY

active recreation—in which our muscles and minds will exert themselves vigorously. But, both as they are and as they might be, moving pictures suggest methods of powerful influence, through recreation, upon the workers in various industries.

### Sixth Conclusion:

One can foresee the time when moving pictures will be extensively used in industries—both to instruct employees in the specific work required of them and to develop intelligent interest by interpreting to the various toilers the origins, relationships, and social values of their sub-divided, formalized tasks, to introduce to each other departments which are widely separated, often jealous, yet all essential to the spirit of effective team play.

**Dancing** Another adaptation from the popular powers of commercial recreation, should be the providing, in industrial establishments, of floors, hours and leadership for dancing. This applies especially where large numbers of young women are employed. They will dance; let them dance under good auspices. Their insatiable craving for this recreation suggests that it is exactly what they need to restore the vital powers depleted by toil. (As Jane Addams has pointed out in her great book *The Spirit of Youth and the City Streets*.)

Gymnastic dancing, folk dances and the interpretative or dramatic dance may be developed, as well as the ordinary "social dances." For the proper occasional association of the two sexes, appropriate provision should be made.

**Saloon Adaptations and Others** From the saloon, we might adopt the lunches, such drinks as are not alcoholic, the self-playing musical instruments, game tables, smoking, and the spirit of free sociability.

**A Club House** If a "social center" or "recreation hall" is provided—a building especially equipped for the service—pool tables, bowling alleys, shower baths and a swimming pool may be considered as appropriate adaptations from commercial recreation and from the successful experiences of social settlements, of Young Mens' Christian Associations and Young Womens' Christian Associations and of such modern public schools as those of Gary, Indiana.

From athletic, social and literary clubs, from labor unions and

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other organizations, let us learn the attractive values of democratic self-government and the free association of congenial spirits.

### V. PAGEANTS, DRAMATICS AND FESTIVALS

Entire communities have "found themselves" through the recreational activity known as pageants. In these a large number of people—500 people in Ripon, Wisconsin, a town of 4,000 inhabitants—are organized to enact a series of scenes reviewing local history or representing dramatically some of the activities and ideals of the community.

What rich material for such a pageant could be found in the various departments of an industrial plant, in the graphic history of their development, and in the demonstration of their relationships to each other and to society! Through such dramatic play many workers who feel unessential and indifferent would gain their first enthusiastic appreciation of their own industrial functions.

A leader of genuine artistic power could make of some of our great industries such a pageant as would thrill and educate—not alone the employed workers—but the whole surrounding community. Its influence might reach almost as far as the Company's products. And these legitimate "advertising" possibilities are not limited to those industries already recognized as picturesque—such as mining, steel, transportation, manufacture—but include many industrial activities which have been deemed less romantic, less popular. I still feel the impression made upon me by a team of forty magnificent black horses drawing one of Heinz's dramatic "floats" in the Sesquicentennial celebration in Pittsburgh, years ago.

In dramatics, or "play acting," also, lie great possibilities for industrial workers. Here, as in the closely related pageants, there would be no question as to the value of the paid leader. Imagine what he could do with the various nationalities by encouraging them to dramatize their own native customs, traditions, and special capabilities as affecting their contributions to the industry. The fellow workers of these "foreigners" would thus develop new appreciation and respect for the rich human culture represented by a group who may formerly have been despised.

#### **Festivals or Field Days**

Gymnasium classes, folk dancing, games, athletic contests, dramatic training, and all the other recreational activities of an industrial establish-

## RECREATION IN INDUSTRY

ment might work toward an annual field day or festival. Customers and neighbors of the firm should be invited. Families and friends of the workers would naturally be present.

### Seventh Conclusion:

An annual play festival or field day should be "Our Firm's" great gala occasion—to which all its workers look forward and backward with enthusiasm. It may include dramatics, a pageant, athletic contests, games, the awarding of prizes, and the public recognition of workers who have manifested special merit in behalf of the common industrial weal. Through such democratic recreation the whole community may be helped to a joyful appreciation of its relations to the industry.

## VI. THE WHOLE FAMILY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED

From the pioneer efforts of Mr. Patterson (of the National Cash Register) and others, industries should learn to consider their employees—not only at work—but in their homes. There is no better way to build up a worker than by strengthening his family life.

Half-grown sons and daughters of employees may properly be led—by sharing in some of the recreation activities—to help their fathers idealize their labors and to look toward "the works" for their own future occupation. There might well be some activities for the children, too, if only as a means of influencing their parents.

### Eighth Conclusion:

*Families should be the units* in some of the recreation activities. This is one of the great lessons which should be applied in many fields of philanthropy. For, modern philanthropy, education, and other forms of social service have gone too far toward specialization in providing only separate activities for men, women, boys and girls. In modern industry especially, where frequently these four groups are actually employed, it is especially appropriate to consider the family as a unit—not in all, but in some of the recreational activities.

## VII. OBJECTIONS AND PRINCIPLES INVOLVED

Employers, managers and foremen may find acceptable opportunities for natural fellowship with their people in some of the various forms of recreation, in occasional games, and especially in pageants and festivals. In addition to such concrete association,

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the providing and encouragement of such recreation activities as have been suggested would promote a spirit of appreciation and good will.

Someone may say, however; "Such recreation activities would develop among the workers such coordination and conscious power as would make their unions stronger." I should answer: "Yes; in the sense that every increase in the worker's intelligence and efficiency gives him larger potential powers for either cooperation with, or opposition to, his employer."

But, from the standpoint of even the narrowest self-interest, employers are learning that it is only through the development of power, of interest, and of team play among the workers that the profitable possibilities of an industry can be fully realized.

### Ninth Conclusion:

When you foster increased strength, its possessor becomes stronger—either for or against you. In the democratic, cooperative spirit of recreation there is one powerful influence to keep him, rightly, "for you."

### The Big Problem and Possibility

Although all the recreation activities suggested here need not be undertaken in any one industrial plant, and although the recreation developments should be only in wise proportion to the local situation, some readers will naturally be amazed by the extent of the field outlined in preceding paragraphs. If a feeling that I have over-emphasized recreation should threaten a reaction against the whole proposition, let the critic consider that the problems and possibilities here involved are the tremendous problems and possibilities of *Leisure Time*. And, leisure time is, some say, one-third of modern man's existence—eight hours out of each twenty-four.

A fairer statement is the usual estimate that each man, woman, and child in the ordinary community, has an average of thirty-five (35) hours of leisure time each week. That is, in a city of 20,000 inhabitants, there are about 700,000 hours of leisure every week—to be used or misused.

### Leisure—a Liability or an Asset?

Thoughtful people are beginning to realize that the leisure time problem is the next great, growing problem to be solved. Leisure time has been increasing rapidly. It is sure to increase much further. But, a worker's efficiency during his hours of labor is vitally affected by his use of

## VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

leisure. His leisure-time occupations send him back to work weakened or strengthened, ennobled or debased, with dynamic interest quickened or relaxed, with efficiency increased or lessened. Leisure time offers one of the best of all means by which workers may be reached and influenced. The modern failure to promote wholesome use of leisure is reflected in the report that eighty percent of all offenses against society occur in the leisure-time hours between six and eleven, p. m.

George Eliot said: "Important as it is to organize and direct the industry of the world, it is more important to organize and direct the leisure of the world."

Maeterlinck wrote: "What use will humanity make of this (increasing) leisure? On its employment may be said to depend the whole destiny of man. It is the way in which hours of freedom (leisure) are spent that determines, as much as war or labor, the moral worth of a nation."

### **Leisure—Freedom— Recreation**

Organized recreation is the solution of the leisure-time problem. "Leisure" means free time—when our activities are determined, not by economic compulsion, but by native impulse. "Recreation" means free play—what we do from desire, not from necessity.

### **Tenth Conclusion:**

To promote constructive, wholesome use of the opportunities and powers represented by leisure, or by recreation, is the great, neglected field where industrial education and social advance are to win their next achievements. Leisure is now *the greatest un-worked mine of social and industrial power.*

(To Be Continued)

## VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

A study of the problems of leadership in twenty-six cities visited by a worker of the Playground and Recreation Association of America showed that in very few instances has any effort been made to develop volunteer leadership in recreation work.

### **Experiments in Volunteer Leadership**

In Princeton, New Jersey, the town club enlisted the services of a number of young men to carry on evening clubs. The experiment did not prove very successful.

## VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

In Columbus, Ohio, a training class for play leaders is followed by a probation period of volunteer service previous to the making of permanent appointments. In Allegheny, Pennsylvania, each play center is supervised by a volunteer committee although the practical conduct of play is entrusted to trained and paid leaders. Although the committee has nothing to do with the practical side of the work, the interest of each committee member is a great incentive to the play leader.

In Plainfield, New Jersey, for each social center activity there is an advisory committee, the chairman of which acts as leader for his particular group.

While volunteer leadership relieves the recreation secretary to a certain extent, it has been found that in the majority of cases it has not proved practicable. A combination of volunteer and paid leadership is satisfactory in the majority of cases only so long as the first enthusiasm on the part of the volunteer lasts. When this disappears—as it so often does—and other interests divert the attention of the volunteer, the paid worker is burdened with double duties.

Another difficulty which immediately presents itself is the fact that volunteer leaders lack special training for their work. The superintendent of recreation, if time is available, can give a course of training to volunteers but very often his duties will not permit of this. No matter how willing the volunteer may be or how real his interest, his lack of technical training and knowledge can not fail to be a drawback to his usefulness and to the success of the work.

On the part of most volunteers there is an absence of any marked feeling of responsibility towards the work. Outside engagements are bound to interfere; the necessary daily preparation for playground or evening recreation center activities becomes irksome and his work as a result is inefficient.

While there are doubtless young people of ability endowed with qualities of leadership whose services are so efficient as to approximate in many cases to trained leadership, there is a general feeling that volunteer leadership does not make for permanency in a recreation system and ought never to be substituted for paid leadership. Possibly one of the most helpful ways in which volunteers can serve is by working through committees which advise with the paid workers and give publicity to the work of the centers.

## BUILDING UP A TOWN'S RECREATION

The following report was made by A. E. Metzdorf, of Springfield, Massachusetts, after a special visit made to a near-by city at the request of the Playground and Recreation Association of America.

### *Organization:*

It would be well to appoint a committee on community recreation, consisting of twenty-five men and six women, which could be subdivided so as to be responsible for (1) playground activities (boys and girls) (2) water sports and (3) finance.

The executive committee should consist of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, chairman of committees and two women.

### *Bath Houses:*

According to sketches provided the men's houses should be fourteen by twenty-five feet containing seven rooms (with locks) three feet by four feet, fifty-four lockers, one toilet, one storage room, mirrors and foot tubs. The boys' fenced enclosure fourteen feet by fifteen feet should contain benches, hooks for clothing. Have a drinking fountain close by.

The women's house should be fourteen feet by thirty-two feet to contain fifteen rooms three feet by four feet (with locks), large room at one end for girls, seven feet by fourteen feet, benches, hooks, small curtained partitions making about five stalls in this room, three feet by three feet, one toilet, one storage room, drinking fountain near by, mirrors, foot tubs.

### *Equipment for Beach and Water:*

One boat, two small round life buoys, each to have thirty feet of one-half-inch rope attached; one raft sixteen feet by twenty feet built over ten barrels, to have on it—one life buoy, one spring board, two ladders from water, one piece canvas length of float and along spring board, two feet wide; one length of three-quarter-inch rope on posts out into the water dividing water for men and boys from girls and women; also may be necessary to place ropes at either end of beaches thus formed to indicate bathing area. Dividing rope should lead to raft. There should be one clotheswringer, two pails, two brooms, one rake; one set of first aid supplies: bandages, sulpho-naphthol, adhesive tape; one wash pan for washing out cuts from glass,



## BUILDING UP A TOWN'S RECREATION

one package absorbent cotton, and one small megaphone for guard.

### *Supervision:*

One man on duty from nine to twelve and one to dark (may have to have a helper from six to dark), one woman, nine to twelve and one to dark (may need extra help).

### *General Suggestions for conduct of bathing beach:*

Advertise, through signs posted on grounds:—hours at which the beach may be used; gentlemenly behavior; no swearing; legislation as to bathing suits, have definite hours for teaching swimming; Sunday use of beach—yes or no? (We *do* in Springfield, same as any other day.) The life guard is never to wander out of sight of the water. Start with a good standard and stick to it. Boys of high school may do the grading work on the beach, through cooperation of school board. Have holiday. March to beach from school. Girls rake up pine grove preparatory to fixing up playground. Life guard to organize a boys' life saving corps in connection with boy scout movement. Have pictures taken of large crowds and children using beach and houses. Keep an accurate record of attendance of:—men—women—boys and girls; record of accidents, record of assistance in water which might have proven fatal, number of people learning to swim

### *Pine Grove Playground:*

Preparatory work needed: clean out grandstand. Clean out rooms underneath. Clean out under bleachers. Clean out grove. Repair fences and entrances. Install toilets and drinking fountains.

### *Supervision:*

One woman—hours nine to twelve—two to five or later, if necessary. One man—hours nine to twelve—two to five or later.

### *Activities:*

The activities for boys should include: baseball (regular diamond and small diamond), quoits, basket ball, volley ball, games of all kinds, kite making and flying, cross country tramps and picnics, trips to swimming hole with competitive swimming sports.

The girls should have games, folk dancing, basket ball, volley ball, swings, teeter boards, sand box.

The following thoughts occur to me as vital:—

## A PROBLEM WELL STATED

Make good this year so as to have a real reason for turning this work over to the town.

Definite standards for conduct on playground, such as no smoking—swearing—idleness or any other such features.

## A PROBLEM WELL STATED

Although those wishing to forward the play movement, whether seeking trained workers or themselves seeking training have long recognized the increasing difficulty of securing either, the problem has not before been so clearly analyzed as by Clark W. Hetherington in his biennial report on the professional course in physical education and recreation. Seen from the angle of university experience, the statement represents what is found magnified in the country as a whole.

In the University of Wisconsin, four departments have co-operated for the training of physical directors and recreation directors—the Department of Physical Education, the College of Letters and Sciences, the Medical School and the Course for the Training of Teachers. For a student to get the scientific, theoretical and practical training necessary for the fulfillment of his professional functions and yet gain the breadth of cultural training necessary for a profession so conspicuous in its leadership of youth on the social and moral sides of education was difficult even in the five years of the course.

To work out a four years' course, now greatly demanded, that will produce independently efficient physical educators was a much more difficult task, but it has been accomplished though there are still problems to be solved.

Professor Hetherington advises the introduction of broader recreation work which will fit the student for the many recreation positions in which the teaching of physical activities has no place. Every recreation worker out in the field who has lifted up his eyes to the harvest has realized the abounding opportunities for service through recreation which the ordinary routine of games and dances cannot touch. The movement teems with vital problems—many of which may best be solved by research work and more advanced training of workers before they enter the field.

To meet the crying need in the state for training of workers already in the field as well as those preparing, Professor Hether-

## THE PLAY LEADER'S ALPHABET

ington advises an effort to induce students majoring in other departments especially in education to take a minor in the physical education and recreation department so as to help in the small high school. Many requests especially for men are received for a combination of English, mathematics or other academic subjects and athletics. Summer sessions, bulletins, lecture courses and correspondence courses in the Extension Department are recommended for the service of the state.

## THE PLAY LEADER'S ALPHABET

E. B. DeGroot's advice to workers takes the form of "Playground Axioms—to Be Read and Re-read Thoughtfully:"

There is nothing more ridiculous than the contradiction seen in the playground director who does not play.

No one likes a dull, tardy or early quitting playfellow.

A "play boss" is a contemptible person.

A good playground director *leads*; a poor one merely tags after the children.

A playground director unable to stand prolonged physical and mental application is no more efficient than a fireman on crutches.

To dress properly and comfortably for playground leadership and *work* is a fine art; an "overdressed" director is as much out of place as one who is slovenly dressed.

It is the nature of children to respect deeds, not words; they never fail, however, to note the quality of your language and the manner of your delivery.

The only way to teach good manners on the playground is to be able to command and express them habitually.

Successful playground directors, no less than other successful professional workers, attribute much of their success to a working knowledge of the literature of their profession.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### MEMOIRS OF DAVID BLAUSTEIN, EDUCATOR AND COMMUNAL WORKER

Arranged by Miriam Blaustein. Printed for the author by McBride, Nast and Company, New York, 1913. Price, Cloth \$2.25; Leather \$5.00

It is well that the devotion of David Blaustein to social progress, especially to that phase of social progress represented in the movement to Americanize the immigrant, should be preserved in a form in which it may be a call and an inspiration to those working in this field who have never known the inspiration of the man's personality. The years of never-ending toil and sacrifice, the clear vision with which he outlined men's needs shine from the pages.

### CHRISTIANIZING THE COMMUNITY LIFE

By Harry F. Ward and Richard Henry Edwards. Published by Association Press, 124 East Twenty-eighth Street, New York City. Price, sixty cents

The needs of the community and of the world are painted in words that burn and thrill. Industrial and social democracy, with the abolition of child labor, preventable disease and opportunity for education and recreation for all, should and must come to the community from the application of the principles of Jesus. "There can be no city of righteousness which does not provide play for its children." \* \* \* "It is in the contact of play and in the satisfaction of the recreational need that the contagion of evil most persistently touches child life."

The volume is the eighth in a series planned to cover four years of voluntary study, especially for students, the general outline of which was prepared by the Committee on Voluntary Study of the Council of North American Student Movements.

### AN OUTLINE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR PRIMARY AND GRAMMAR SCHOOLS, JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS

By Ernst Hermann. Published by the University Press, Cambridge, Mass. Price, \$1.00

The educational value of play receives sympathetic treatment in this volume, for the author believes "play as a method of recreation and of physical training is unsurpassed because it uses established co-ordination and fundamental muscles, especially if a variety of games is practiced. \* \* \* it is the teacher's principal means of reaching the whole child." Drill, marching and formal gymnastics occupy a part of the book. Games and folk dances for each grade are given, including a number of unfamiliar ones.

### "WHEN MOTHER LETS US" SERIES

Published by Moffat, Yard and Company, New York. Price, seventy-five cents per volume

Seventeen volumes, each by an expert in his own field, have thus far appeared. "When Mother Lets Us"—Play, Sew, Cook, Cut Out Pictures, Act, Make Toys, Garden—these may suggest the wealth of ideas for answering the question, "What could we do now?"

Directions for modelling a "Circus," Easter eggs, tiles, flower pots; for making a match-box, a swing board, a study table; drawing "snow-scapes," valentines; riddles and puzzles and charades—what little boy or girl would not like to try such fascinating plays!



Country Life in America

The island and field house looking over the west branch of the river. The children in this picture are late for supper as the sun was almost down as the shadow on the left side of the field house shows. Note the shadow effect on the island, making it appear almost impenetrable.



Country Life in America

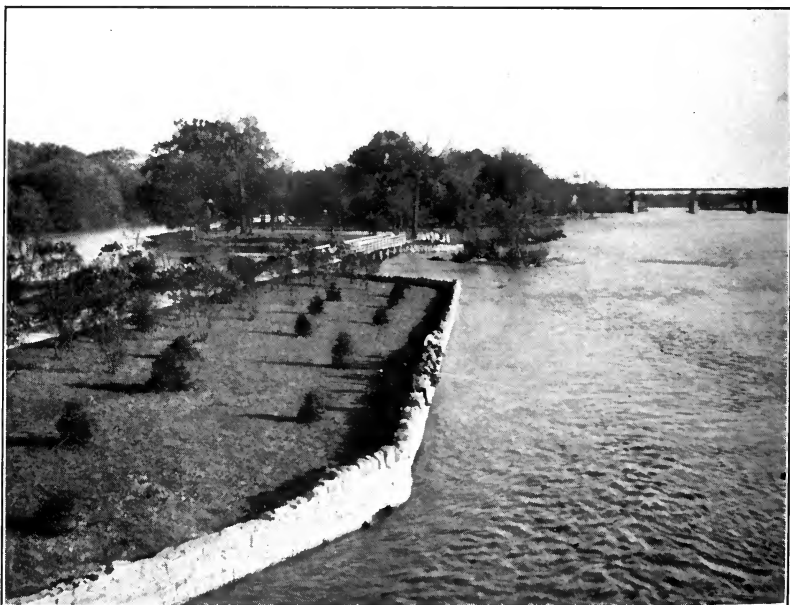
Picture was not taken on a Saturday, but after school Monday. The place swarms with children all the time. Bass fishing is good in the east branch of the river, just visible in this picture.

More sedate and less strenuous swings for the elder "children" are on other parts of island.



Country Life in America

Even the flood could not keep the children off their island. This scene is perhaps seventy yards from the river bank. The following Saturday and Sunday the island was swarming with children but the sky was overcast and pictures could not be taken.



Country Life in America

Reclaimed swamp land in foreground— island in background. Fishing is always good here. Approach is covered with flowering shrubs and bushes now. Path is bordered with flowering white and purple lilacs. Two tennis courts and some playground apparatus barely visible on island. This picture taken from large arch bridge directly in center of the town. Old cut shows this as a low, malarial swamp and an island of undergrowth.



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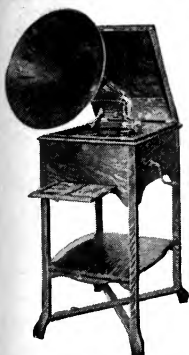


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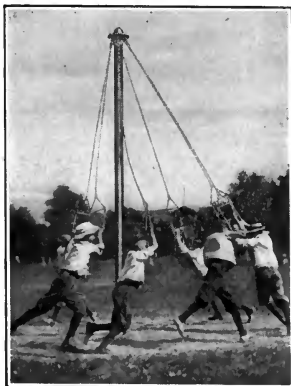
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## COMMUNITY WAR RECREATION SERVICE

### ITS MEANING—PLAN OF WORK—ACCOMPLISHMENTS

After diplomatic relations with Germany had been broken off and it became evident that the United States must send men as well as supplies and money to her Allies, the War Department took immediate steps to safeguard the moral and recreational life of the men who would be called to serve their country, by the appointment of a Commission on Training Camp Activities

The Commission is made up of Raymond B. Fosdick, Chairman, Lee F. Hanmer, Thomas J. Howells, Joseph Lee, Malcolm L. McBride, John R. Mott, Charles P. Neill, Major P. E. Pierce, Joseph E. Raycroft and Marc Klaw.

The Navy Department Commission on Training Camp Activities consists of:

Raymond B. Fosdick, Chairman; Lieut. Richard E. Byrd, U. S. N., Secretary; Clifford W. Barnes, Walter Camp, Selah Chamberlain, John J. Eagan, Joseph Lee, E. T. Meredith, Barton Myers, Charles P. Neill, Mrs. Helen Ring Robinson, Mrs. Finley J. Shepard, Mrs. Daisy McLaurin Stevens, John S. Tichenor.

The work of the Commission is divided into three parts. To the Y. M. C. A. has been assigned certain duties within each camp, especially the establishment of their recreation buildings which have been so successfully carried on by them in camps on the Mexican border and in the military and prison camps of Europe. There will be one such building for each brigade, with books and magazines, provision for writing letters, lectures, church services, singing, games, moving pictures and other educational and recreational activities. There will be five men in charge of each building.

The second branch of the work will be to aid in the exclusion of vice and vicious resorts from the neighborhood of each camp.

The third branch of the work is of a more positive sort. It is the belief of the Commission that a purely negative policy as regards conditions outside of the camps would fall very far short of meeting the needs of the situation. The underlying cause of the great and obvious evils which have attended the establishment of training camps in this country and in Europe—the real disease of which these evils have merely been the symp-

## COMMUNITY WAR RECREATION SERVICE

toms—has been the result of the cutting off of the men in the camps from normal social intercourse and recreation and especially of the breaking off of those relations to home and friends, to church, to employment, to social and business associates and to the other sex, of which a normal and healthy life so largely consists. The resulting evils include not merely vice and dissipation and their consequences, but homesickness, depression, and a general loss of moral and physical tone, which are almost equally serious.

Moreover the Commission does not consider it enough that a great educational enterprise in this country—such as the establishment of these training camps for young men represents—should barely avoid the wholesale propagation of physical disease and moral deterioration. America demands something more than that. We must make these men stronger in every sense—more fit, morally, mentally, and physically than they have ever been in their lives—or it will have to be said of us that, like every other nation that has encountered the problem of the training camp, we also have failed in its solution.

These camps are national universities—training schools to which the flower of American youth is being sent—and it is by their results not only in technical military efficiency but in those qualities on which military and all other efficiency in the long run depends that they must finally be judged.

As to the means by which this positive good is to be accomplished, they are many and various. Perhaps the most important single method is in keeping alive the link between each soldier and his home. Frederick Law Olmsted gave as the conclusion of his long and active service on the Sanitary Commission during the Civil War that the two great influences in keeping the men well were singing and letters from home. Better even than letters from home will be, where it is possible, the actual presence near the camps of members of the soldier's family; and one thing which it is hoped every community near a training camp will do is to make every possible provision, through a careful census of its lodging accommodations and perhaps through the provision of special quarters, for the accommodation of soldiers' families who desire to settle for longer or shorter periods in the neighborhood.

Equally important is the relation between the men in the camps and the local community itself. Here every sort of

## COMMUNITY WAR RECREATION SERVICE

natural relation should be established. Churches should **make** the soldiers of their respective denominations feel not only that they are welcome, but that they are members of whom active participation is desired. The men might be asked to serve as ushers, to address the Sunday School classes, the Boy Scouts (the latter would highly appreciate having a real soldier to talk to them), sometimes even to preach.

The same principle applies to every lodge, college society or business association. Clubs, settlements, recreation centers, organizations of every sort should be open to soldiers not merely as outsiders but as participants.

Social occasions where the soldiers will meet girls and women under natural and wholesome conditions will be especially important. Officers and men should be asked to receptions, dances, outings and parties of all sorts, for instance by the various churches to which they belong, by other organizations and by private citizens. And here again they should be invited not merely to receive but to give. If a regiment has a good band or glee club, it should be asked to give a concert. If it has put on a good show in the camp, it should be asked to repeat it in the town. Or it may be invited to give a set of games or to take part in an athletic series. Always it is participation, expression, the active rather than the passive form of recreation and of membership that counts.

Closer social relations between soldiers and families or individuals in the community can not of course be forced. They must come as a by-product of the various social occasions that will be established.

The public resources of the community should be placed at the disposal of officers and men. Playgrounds, gymnasiums, swimming pools should be open to them. Libraries, museums and other public buildings might well extend their Saturday afternoon hours and be open Sunday—the soldiers' one day off. Recreation centers should be utilized for their entertainment and for entertainments given by them. To all public places the uniform should be a ticket of admission. Possibly the schools can lend teachers for courses in history or foreign languages, and (especially important in keeping up the men's relation to their own business life at home) for trade instruction which the Y. M. C. A. will undoubtedly furnish within the camps. The city may perhaps itself take part by furnishing official recep-

## COMMUNITY WAR RECREATION SERVICE

tions for the soldiers, showing that the community has faith in them, and by organizing community singing on an inspiring scale (a matter to which the Commission is devoting especial attention).

The young girls of the community will naturally and rightly take a great interest in the soldiers, want to meet them and give them a good time; and it should be the endeavor of every church and every social organization, through the young women who are the natural leaders of these girls, to help them to do this effectively and in the best and most desirable way. A good plan which it is hoped will be adopted in many communities will be to foster among girls various activities for keeping themselves fit and strong and for helping directly in the war, such as more expert housekeeping, gardening, hospital and Red Cross work, hygiene and athletics. The schools might keep open in summer for teaching some of these things. The Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls can be of great assistance for those under sixteen years of age, and similar groups of girls above that age should also be formed along somewhat the same lines. The Commission hopes to be able to send to communities in the neighborhood of camps trained women workers who can advise on this and other kinds of work for girls having a direct bearing on the war.

The adoption and carrying out of the program above outlined in each community in the neighborhood of the training camps—or of the better program which will in time be evolved—is the responsibility not of the Commission on Training Camp Activities but of the community itself. It is not the function of the representatives of the Commission to carry through a cut and dried plan but simply to help each community to develop its own resources in its own way and under its own representative committee, with such sub-committees as it may find desirable to form.

The responsibility placed upon such committees and upon all the citizens is very great, but it is one which we believe will be met as it has never been met before in the history of military camps. And the opportunity is commensurate to the responsibility. The first victories of our war can be won right here at home by the citizens, and largely by the women, of those communities to which has been entrusted the high responsibility of testing the country's hospitality to its defenders.

To provide the necessary machinery through which this

## COMMUNITY WAR RECREATION SERVICE

community organization for the soldiers might be effected the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities on May the fifth asked the Playground and Recreation Association of America to send a worker to each of the communities adjacent to the training camps to organize and stimulate the recreational and social life of the communities in such a way as to make it of the greatest possible value to the men in khaki, who will naturally turn to the cities in their free time for recreation and who will hope to find in these cities some substitution for the home relationships which have suddenly been broken off by the call to service. The Playground and Recreation Association of America has to the present time sent more than seventy war recreation secretaries out and the following communities are busy organizing their resources for the benefit of their thousands of guests: \*

<i>Alabama</i>	<i>Georgia</i>	<i>Louisiana</i>
Anniston	Atlanta	Alexandria
Montgomery	Augusta	New Orleans
	Macon	
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>Illinois</i>	<i>Massachusetts</i>
Douglas	Chicago	Ayer
	Rantoul	Boston
<i>Arkansas</i>	Rockford	
Argenta		<i>Michigan</i>
Little Rock		Battle Creek
	<i>Indiana</i>	Kalamazoo
<i>California</i>	Indianapolis	
Linda Vista		<i>Minnesota</i>
Oakland	<i>Iowa</i>	Minneapolis
Palo Alto	Des Moines	St. Paul
San Diego		
San Francisco	<i>Kansas</i>	<i>Mississippi</i>
	Army City	Hattiesburg
<i>District of Columbia</i>	Junction City	
Washington	Manhattan	<i>New Jersey</i>
		Tenafly
<i>Florida</i>	<i>Kentucky</i>	Wrightstown
Key West	Louisville	
Pensacola		<i>New Mexico</i>
		Deming

\* Additional cities are listed on page 389.

## COMMUNITY WAR RECREATION SERVICE

<i>New York</i>	Hanover	Houston
Lewiston	Philadelphia	Marfa
Mineola	York	San Antonio
New York City		Waco
Niagara Falls	<i>Rhode Island</i>	
Plattsburg	Newport	<i>Utah</i>
Sacket Harbor		Salt Lake City
Syracuse	<i>South Carolina</i>	
Watertown	Beaufort	<i>Vermont</i>
Yaphank	Charleston	Burlington
Youngstown	Columbia	Essex Junction
	Greenville	Winooski
<i>North Carolina</i>	Spartanburg	
Charlotte		<i>Virginia</i>
	<i>Tennessee</i>	Norfolk
<i>Ohio</i>	Chattanooga	Petersburg
Chillicothe		
Dayton	<i>Texas</i>	<i>Washington</i>
	Brownsville	Seattle
<i>Oklahoma</i>	Del Rio	Tacoma
Lawton	Eagle Pass	
	El Paso	<i>Wisconsin</i>
<i>Pennsylvania</i>	Ft. Worth	Sparta
Gettysburg		

### A WEEK IN A TRAINING CAMP CITY—CHATTANOOGA

What the committees are doing and with what response their efforts are meeting in the communities is shown by a few typical weekly reports from the war recreation workers.

The weekly report of R. K. Atkinson, organizer of the work of the Soldiers' Life Activities Committee in Chattanooga, tells of the many activities and of the whole-hearted hospitality of that city.

"The week of June 10th has marked some very effective organization of institutions within the city which have undertaken activities in connection with the coming of the soldiers.

"The Rotary Club at its weekly meeting voted to establish and maintain an information bureau at Eleventh and Market Streets, the first important stop of the street car from the Post.

"The Chamber of Commerce has done some wonderfully effective work in assisting the military authorities in caring for the recruits who are arriving in such numbers that they could not



## COMMUNITY WAR RECREATION SERVICE

be cared for with the facilities available at Chickamauga. Something more than six hundred men were cared for in various hotels and rooming houses about the city and the Y. M. C. A. took about one hundred fifty of them, providing cots in the gymnasium for sleeping quarters and meals at their café. This stringency is now relieved by the arrival of new equipment at the Post. The Chamber of Commerce has the facilities at hand so that upon very short notice they can accommodate as many as six thousand men should another such crisis arise.

"The Woman's Club has undertaken to foster the movement for community music and has arranged for several of the churches to have organ recitals and other musical programs for Sunday afternoons. They are also suggesting that some of the motion picture houses which have pipe organs give contributions to this kind of work. Two of the churches have taken official action on their responsibilities to this work and have opened up a rest and reading room in each instance located close to the heart of the city.

"The Young Woman's Christian Association has expressed its willingness to work in every possible way on the girl problem but is waiting for the coming of a special worker for this department before taking any final action or making permanent plans.

"The Young Men's Hebrew Association has followed the lead of the Y. M. C. A. in offering their facilities to any man in uniform, and their well-equipped building will undoubtedly be used intensively.

"The Knights of Columbus have also a well-equipped building centrally located and plan to take similar action at the next meeting of their board of directors.

"The Women's League for Service continues doing good work. On Monday and Thursday of this week they sent automobiles to the Post Hospital, five on Monday and seven on Thursday and have taken all of the convalescent men, between twenty and thirty, who are able to go for rides for pleasure trips of an hour and a half in length. Their work has been greatly appreciated both by the men and by the officials in charge at the hospital. One man had been in the hospital for eight weeks suffering from a serious fracture. He was helped into the car and given his first opportunity in that length of time to see something outside the environs of the institution in which he had been confined. Another man who had been in the hospital for about two weeks suffering from a sun stroke

## COMMUNITY WAR RECREATION SERVICE

or shock of some kind had shown absolutely no interest in anything and the officials were very much worried over his morbid condition. After the ride under the kindly care of his hostess for the afternoon, he came back showing a great deal of animation and interest. Another lad told one of the ladies that he had not written to his mother for a long time, that when he first entered the Army he used to write but he had about stopped writing and did not feel like writing especially when he was not well, but that he had had such a good time on this trip he was going to spend the evening writing to his mother. The plan of the organization of these rides includes the specification that no car shall go unless accompanied by a lady who shall serve as hostess for the trip, and it is planned to make it a definite and permanent institution, two afternoons a week, for the present.

"On Friday evening a committee of the Women's League took two car loads of entertainers out to the Post for a twilight performance for the boys of the Eleventh Infantry. Between five and six hundred of them enjoyed some good music, folk dances by some little girls and then spent a half hour in singing. The ladies have promised to repeat this at least once a week and are expecting to make similar plans for other regiments of the regulars.

"One of the best features of the work here is the way in which the community is realizing that its greatest responsibility is to the regulars who do not have the resources of their own which the men in the Officers' Reserve Corps have in such large measure.

"Two of our regularly organized committees have been at work and made definite plans during the present week. The Committee on Commercial Amusements has met and made recommendation to the city administration in regard to alterations on the dancing pavilion at Warner Park and in regard to the supervision of the dances which the city is responsible for out there. This committee is also dealing with the question of motion pictures and has found most cordial and helpful cooperation on the part of the motion picture men. The question of motion pictures on Sunday has been discussed and the legal aspects of the question are being considered, no definite action having been decided upon as yet.

"The Rest Room and Finance Committee have met and have decided upon a centrally located building 20 x 100, four floors. They are planning to raise \$2,000 for renovation and equipment, and \$500 per month for the management of the bureau and rest room. Here the entire work of our organization and its kindred

## A WEEK IN A TRAINING CAMP CITY

interests will be housed. Reading room, lounging room, emergency sleeping quarters, lunch room, writing facilities and adequate toilet facilities will be provided. It is probable that the lunch room of this institution will be turned over to the Red Cross.

"Another item of interest has to do with the plans we have under way to have parties of the soldiers visit points of historical interest under proper guides. The library has undertaken to provide accurate and concise statements for these guides. As is usual we find here that a great deal of inaccurate information is being given to visitors. On Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge groups of residents have agreed to furnish through their men's church organization guides for parties of soldiers and the library will furnish mimeographed memoranda regarding the historical points. The library is at work getting a great quantity of books and periodicals to be placed out at the Post as fast as the permanent cantonments are completed. They are making a strong call for current periodicals, realizing that many of the old magazines will not be of interest to the boys.

"Our information cards from the Officers' Reserve Corps have brought us in two-thirds of the total registration. The securing of the remainder of this registration has been delegated to a captain and two aides. They are going to handle the matter systematically and within the next few days will have all of the cards and will print a list of the men, their companies, home addresses and business. The original cards will then be turned over to us for the completion of our files of colleges, fraternal orders and church affiliations, and to the Y. M. C. A. at the Post for the compilation for musical, dramatic and athletic ability.

"Nothing could be finer than the spirit of helpfulness and co-operation which everyone in Chattanooga is manifesting. There are about 12,000 men at Chickamauga now and hundreds arriving every day, but Chattanooga's organizations and enthusiasm promises to keep up with the problems as they arise."

## A WEEK IN INDIANAPOLIS

James Edward Rogers, in his report for the week ending June 10th, tells how splendidly Indianapolis has undertaken this task of acting as host to thousands of men in khaki.

"Besides the attached list of Things Done and Doing which

## A WEEK IN A TRAINING CAMP CITY

tell of the sixty efforts started and accomplished the following are some of the high spots in our busy week's history.

"Reception by the whole Committee of Fifty at the Claypool Hotel to General Glenn, who was yesterday promoted to this position. General Glenn pledged cooperation—talked intimately of his and our problems and how we could work together and what he considered good and wholesome entertainment. It was a splendid, practical conference.

"Conference with managing editors of the three newspapers on a scheme for Saturday afternoon auto rides over the country for the five thousand five hundred men at the Camp. These have been started and will extend over the month. Over one hundred machines have been mobilized for next Saturday and over five hundred boys want to go on the ride.

"The Saturday Luncheon Club, Chamber of Commerce—the leading Forum of Indianapolis, will meet every Saturday and each man will invite to lunch one of the men at the Camp.

"The organization of the social and recreational life of the people of Millerville and Lawrenceville, two small towns next to the Camp.

"Started at the Y. M. C. A. a series of Saturday afternoon and evening entertainments for the men; we are furnishing talent through our entertainment department.

"Started the Patriotic League among three hundred business women who will work to create a wholesome community attitude and atmosphere on the part of the women and the girls.

"Conference on the Big Fourth of July Athletic Carnival to be held at the State Fair Grounds—benefit of Red Cross and the Soldiers' Fund."

### THINGS DONE AND DOING

"The establishment of a confidential file as to the vice, liquor and other conditions resulting from the Camp. We already have some interesting secret reports. In this way our constructive work is being checked. The social workers who are in a position to locate these facts are doing this work.

"Practically all clubs are open to the men at this Camp; cards are easy to obtain. Mr. Herod yesterday gave a hundred cards to these men.

## A WEEK IN A TRAINING CAMP CITY

"Saturday night dances are being held at the Country Club, the Woodstock Club; practically all the clubs have such dances. Also at the two best hotels clean dances are held—Claypool and Severin.

"The Lutheran Churches have organized and are getting in touch with their boys through the registration system established.

"Under Rabbi Feuerlicht—the mobilization of Jewish people to get in touch and care and provide for those of the Jewish faith has been accomplished.

"The Knights of Columbus and the Daughters of Isabella are getting in touch with the boys of the Catholic faith—the first reception, dinner and dance June 16th. After that a series of entertainments is being planned.

"Through the registration cards the Rotarians have gotten in touch with thirty Rotarians at the Camp and will plant to entertain them.

"Through the registration cards, of which we have two sets, the fraternal orders have all started to get the complete list of their members at the camp for their purposes.

"The state and public libraries have extended their privileges to the men of the camp and also provided a branch library and librarian at the camp.

"The college fraternities are planning to get in touch with their members. The Delta Tau Delta on Saturday, June 16th, Board of Trade, meet their one hundred members.

"Aid Society for benefit of the regulars have arranged with the Metropolitan Conservatory of music for their pleasure.

"Indianapolis Baseball Park has extended an invitation to the men to the Saturday afternoon games.

"Mr. McCormick of the Circle Theatre is planning Saturday night motion pictures, singing and vaudeville entertainment for the men.

"Through our Entertainment Committee plans are afoot for a big vaudeville show for soldiers only at the Murat Theatre some night the latter part of this month; seating capacity, two thousand.

"Through our Home Department, Professor Michelon, ex-French soldier of war experience will give a series of lectures for the men Saturday evenings at the churches. This is highly educational—illustrated by motion picture and stereopticon views.

"Plan is on foot to mobilize the downtown churches—their social rooms for Saturday socials and receptions for the men.

## A VISIT TO FORT NIAGARA

"At the behest of the National Board of Review—we have taken up the matter of having a high grade of pictures for the men. Special steps are being taken to get the men in touch with these pictures.

"Through our Recreation Committee, an effort is being made to have the best theatres reduce their prices for the men in uniform; to get the latter to patronize the best rather than the cheap burlesque.

"The Little Theatre people have offered their plays for presentation at the Saturday night church receptions and entertainments.

"Homes have been offered for receiving boys for Saturday and Sunday dinner.

"Through the Marion Sunday School Association plans are afoot for keeping the boys and girls of Indianapolis busy this summer."

## A VISIT TO FORT NIAGARA

Fort Niagara's plans for its guests are told by Joseph Lee, president of the Playground and Recreation Association of America and member of the Commission on Training Camp Activities, who visited Ft. Niagara when the work had been in operation only ten days. Mr. Lee's report shows how effectively and quickly the cities have responded to the challenge, "What will you do for the soldier in his free time?" Mr. Lee writes:

"I visited Niagara Falls and the camp at Fort Niagara on May 22nd, and met our representative there, Ira W. Jayne, head of the recreation system in Detroit, whom we have requisitioned.

"I spent the day with him, going over what had been done and seeing what I could of the situation.

"Before we started out, two of the Y. M. C. A. men at the camp came in and we had an interesting talk about possibilities of work. I also met a young architect who is a member of Mr. Jayne's committee and is making a detailed contour map with the points of real interest marked on it for the use of the men in planning excursions.

"The general layout of the situation is as follows: The camp is on the point where the Niagara River comes into Lake Ontario. Adjoining it is the village of Youngstown with 500 inhabitants; along the trolley road toward Niagara Falls is Lewiston of 700 inhabitants, and then comes Niagara Falls, about a fifty-minute ride on the trolley, with 30,000 inhabitants. The important points are

## A VISIT TO FORT NIAGARA

Youngstown at one end, Niagara Falls at the other. People when they once get into the trolley seldom stop at Lewiston.

"The following are some of the things which I found had been done or were in process. (It must be remembered that Mr. Jayne had been at Niagara Falls only ten days and that the camp had been open only eight days.)

"The general committee to have charge of all the work, appointed by the Mayor, seems as good as could have been chosen. It represents the government, business, the churches, Masons, colleges, Red Cross, Y. W. C. A., and all the other organizations that will be important in the work for the soldiers, and the general social life of the town.

"Mr. Jayne is in close touch with the Y. M. C. A., with the chaplain, (who though he does not exist officially is very much in actuality as an individual), and with groups and individuals within the camp itself. The Mayor under Mr. Jayne's inspiration has given to the papers a good statement, showing, as it should do, how the Committee and not our representative is doing things.

"The following are some of the specific lines in which work is being done:

I. "For families of soldiers who may desire to make a visit: (1) the Y. W. C. A. had already a very complete, classified list of lodging places, because helping visitors at Niagara Falls has been a constant part of their work. (2) They have agreed to extend their list to cover Lewiston and Youngstown. (3) As to special provision, Mr. Jayne has persuaded the family resort at the beach adjoining the camp to open May 30th instead of June 23rd, and to let its 20 odd small cottages at a reasonable rate. (4) He had also when I left probably persuaded the hotel in Youngstown with its 40 rooms to open very soon instead of waiting until July. Members of his committee who were trustees of the bank that holds the mortgage on the hotel, plus a fear of what the Secretary of War might do, had a fructifying effect. (5) We looked at possible sites for portable houses in Youngstown, and something may later be done in that direction.

II. "In the matter of recreation and general resources, the following things have been done or planned. (1) The Tennis Club has invited the men to come and play, and a match is brewing between the local and the camp champion. (2) The Country Club, which opens May 30th, will charge soldiers a dollar for the use of its golf course Saturday afternoons and Sunday, believing that

## A VISIT TO FORT NIAGARA

the charge will make the invitation more acceptable. (3) The preachers of three local churches have agreed to invite the men of their respective denominations to come, and have planned sociables for them. Mr. Jayne and the Y. M. C. A. man took kindly to a suggestion of mine that men should be asked to preach, to address Sunday Schools, and especially to talk to Boy Scouts, to whom they would be especially welcome. (4) The University of Michigan men in the town had already planned a smoker for the following Saturday evening, and were waiting only for the Y. M. C. A. census of the men to ask their alumni within the camp. Pennsylvania State had done the same. Prominent graduates of Cornell, Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh, who are members of the general committee, had agreed to do likewise. (5) The head man of the Masons, a member of the committee, and the head of the Rotary Club have undertaken to entertain those belonging to the respective organizations, and the Elks representative on the committee says his organization will follow suit. (6) The local Y. M. C. A. has agreed to open its baths to the soldiers. (7) The Auto Club has planned a run for them. (8) Two local college men are listing local teams to play soldiers' teams. (9) The mayor, who is chairman of the library, will establish a branch thereof in the Y. M. C. A. building in camp.

III. "In the way of dances, the young college group has planned Saturday night dances either at the beach resort next the camp, where there is a dance pavilion that will accommodate 200 couples, or at the hotel equally near. I suspect that both will be put in requisition.

"The mayor has appointed a committee of 36 ladies who have agreed to act as patronesses.

IV. "In the matter of commercial recreation, the beach resort above mentioned will invite its concessionaires, with their coasts, merry-go-rounds, of which it has a short list, to come when it opens May 30th, and will accept any whom Mr. Jayne may find to put up places for pool, billiards, shooting gallery, or the like.

"The movies of the town seem hardly to require censoring. The complaint about that at Youngstown is that it is too highbrow.

V. "As to refreshment booths, the difficulty—as I suppose at most camps—will be not so much to get them as to guide the enthusiasm of those whose efforts tend in this direction. The Red Cross has a booth at the gate; some young Yale men have another opposite. But the important one will be a tea room which Mrs. Barton,



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN VARIOUS CITIES

head of the Y. W. C. A. and of the mayor's committee of ladies, will open either in the hotel or in a small house hired for the purpose. She will put it in charge of a young woman who has made a commercial success of similar work elsewhere, and will hire a cook. But of course the main thing is that she will get some of the best women from the three neighboring towns to make this an opportunity for coming into natural social relations with the soldiers. Mrs. Barton will also put up a rest and toilet room for women visitors to the camp.

VI. "In organizing the leisure time of young girls of the neighborhood, the Y. W. C. A. has already done a great deal in the way of getting factory girls and others into small clubs with its carefully tested program of useful work or training, of hygiene and exercise, and of a good time generally; and it plans to get these clubs by factory units, to give parties not to the young officers in the training camps but to the militia companies that are also on duty, one at the camp and one at Niagara Falls.

"Mrs. Barton, who as head of the Y. W. C. A. is the leader in this work also, is planning a training class for leaders of groups of girls; and it may be that we shall be able to supply the different cities in the neighborhood of camps with trained women to carry on such classes and to advise on all the work for girls.

VII. "A problem which Mr. Jayne feels to be the most serious of all has as yet not been touched or even planned for, and that is the presence within the camp of a large number of negro employees with nothing whatever to do except crap shooting.

"On the whole it seemed to me that for the ninth day of the camp good results and good beginnings had been shown."

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN VARIOUS CITIES

To tell what the war recreation work is meaning to the communities themselves in bringing all their forces together in a co-operative undertaking and in communizing their interests, or what effect it is having on the lives of the men for whose welfare and happiness the cities are directing their efforts, is not possible. Statistics can not measure the degree to which a community has been aided in "finding its soul" or the individual his province by the community's efforts. Time alone can measure the effectiveness of the war recreation service which is now only in its infancy as a preventive and constructive feature in the history of the American

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN VARIOUS CITIES

army in the great war. It will be of interest, however, to see what steps individual cities have taken to put their resources at the disposal of the thousands of men to whom they are acting as hosts.

**Anniston, Ala.** The war recreation worker assigned to Anniston **Camp McClellan** found on visiting the city in July that the Chamber of Commerce had already taken up the matter of preparing for the 20,000 or more men who will be camped near the city. One of the first needs which presented itself in Anniston was for increasing the recreational facilities of the community including a comfort station and a club building down town for the men. The construction of the comfort station is already under way and efforts are being made to secure a suitable building which might be leased for a Khaki Club. A committee of girls canvassed the city and compiled a board and room register for the convenience of the friends and relatives of soldiers who will be stationed near there.

**Atlanta, Ga.** Rallying splendidly from the fire which caused such **Camp Gordon** devastation, Atlanta has gone ahead with her plan **Camp McPherson** for the entertainment of the men at Fort McPherson and for the thousands who will be housed at the new cantonment at Silver Lake, thirteen miles from the heart of the city. Some of the accomplishments of the Committee of Fifty on Training Camp Activities are the following: the use of the city parks and swimming pools have been secured; part of the Wesley Memorial Building containing a gymnasium, shower baths, and a reading room has been turned over for the use of the soldiers; special musicals and organ recitals are being given on Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons; clubs are holding open house for the soldiers; through the Rotary Club a down-town club for men in uniform is being equipped with smoking, reading, writing, and rest rooms; working with the committee the Atlanta division of the National League for Women's Service is providing housing accommodation for the women visitors of the soldiers.

**Ayer, Mass.** The large camp near Ayer, Mass., a community of **Camp Devens** only 3,000 population, will tax the resources of a number of small communities such as Clinton, Pepperel, Ayer, Lancaster, Shirley, Groton, Harvard, Leominster, Townsend and Westford. Clinton and Pepperel are the only licensed communities within fifteen miles of the camp. It was felt that all the communities which are already organized for war work

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN VARIOUS CITIES

should be united under one organization. This organization has been effected and has agreed to furnish the expenses of maintenance of the recreation office up to \$1,000. Plans are on foot with the Board of Health for making a survey of the various communities.

**Brownsville, Tex.** There are in Brownsville 13,000 Mexicans and 2,950 Americans. The recreational facilities of the city consist of three first-class moving picture theatres, a bowling alley, a billiard hall and a roller skating rink. The fraternal orders almost immediately began to extend hospitality to the men and a baseball league playing Sunday afternoons was organized.

**Burlington, Vt.** Among the definite accomplishments of the Burlington committee under its ten departments are the following: a dance in the Episcopal Parish House; an excursion on Lake Champlain; a Fourth of July field celebration; a Red Cross dance; three lawn fêtes; establishment of three recreation rooms in churches; arrangement for the teaching of French to the soldiers and for sending magazines and books to the camps; special services for soldiers in three churches and home entertainment through the churches. Automobile rides have also been arranged for convalescent soldiers. A large tent will be used as a "hostess house" for women guests. For this undertaking the Y. W. C. A. has provided a tent, the Knights of Columbus, chairs, and the Committee on Girls' activities will furnish hostesses. The facilities of the Yacht Club have been placed at the disposal of the soldiers.

**Chattanooga, Tenn.** Many of the plans and accomplishments in Chattanooga for the men at Fort Oglethorpe have already been outlined. A rest room and dry saloon for which the city has appropriated \$2,000 have been opened. Inter-regimental baseball games are being held every Saturday afternoon and dances every Saturday evening. Several clubs have established special membership for the soldiers. Organ recitals and musicals are being given at a number of the churches every Sunday. Bi-weekly automobile trips for convalescent soldiers are an interesting part of the activities. Guides are conducting week-end trips to Lookout Mountain and the library is cooperating in this by furnishing information to the guides. It has also sent hundreds of novels and several thousand periodicals to the post for the use of the men. On July the first Sunday movies were shown in the town for the first time.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN VARIOUS CITIES

### Chicago, Ill.

#### Fort Sheridan

Splendid progress has been made on the complicated problem at Chicago which involves seven district camps and more than a score of cities. The first and principal task has been the organization of the Chicago war recreation service as a centralized, cooperating group, responsible for caring for all the problems of the communities affected. At the suggestion of the war recreation secretary 10,000 copies of a splendid three-color map of the city of Chicago were printed and distributed in the various camps by the State Council of Defense. On the reverse side of the map is printed a list of the most desirable attractions in and about the city. A great deal of home and church hospitality has been shown the soldiers and sailors in the various North Shore communities but not however at the expense of larger community activities. The Iowa picnic which was given by the Hawkeye Club (an Iowa organization) was a striking example of the larger community activities. Special train service and refreshments were provided.

Various organizations in and near Chicago have offered hospitality to the soldiers and sailors especially for the week-ends. The Chicago Commons has offered its recreational facilities for the use of the soldiers on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer. The Northwestern University Settlement wrote that it would "consider it a privilege to entertain ten sailors at Sunday dinner each week," and the Chicago Hebrew Institute wrote that as many sailors as desire may come all day Sunday and stay for dinner. There are billiard tables, swimming pool and outdoor gymnasium equipment. The Chicago committee is now considering the establishment of a club center in a convenient downtown location for the soldiers and sailors. Clubs for soldiers and sailors have been opened in three of the North Shore communities. These clubs provide facilities for reading, writing, games, music.

Through the cooperation of the Chicago Park Commissioners a pageant entitled *The Coming of Peace* was presented and dances were given by three girls' clubs for the soldiers at Cicero. The commissioners have also provided an expert play leader under whose direction a group of thirty "jackies" and as many Y. W. C. A. girls enjoy each week a Saturday evening of games and social activities. Drill grounds and field house accommodations have been provided by the Park Commissioners and they have graded a space within the camp for dancing and other recreation. On July 24th an inspiring community sing was held at the Great Lakes Station.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN VARIOUS CITIES

Through the cooperation of several of the leading musical organizations of Chicago arrangements have been made to present a good musical program within the Great Lakes Station on each Thursday evening in August.

**Des Moines, Ia.** The Des Moines Soldiers' Service and Recreation Bureau has made a survey of amusement facilities, secured a registration of homes for the entertainment of negro visitors, arranged for weekly dance for negro soldiers and secured the use of the Drake University Stadium for Sunday baseball and football. The Rotary Club has requested permission to maintain a Soldiers' Club, all the facilities of which will be free to the soldiers. Ten thousand dollars will be raised for this work. Twelve thousand people attended a community sing held at Drake University Stadium. A prominent part in the program was played by the men of the negro officers' reserve training camp. Twelve hundred negro soldiers took part in one number.

**Douglas, Ariz.** As Douglas is only fifteen years old it is lacking in many of the recreational features common to older cities. The spirit of the citizens is splendid, however, and every effort will be made to meet the needs. Arrangements have been completed whereby convalescent soldiers are taken on weekly rides. A downtown club building for enlisted men has been selected which will be the clearing house for parties, dancing and similar activities. The uniform of the United States army and navy will be the only membership card necessary. There will be a reading and writing room, pool tables, and music.

**El Paso, Tex.** The Army and Community Recreation Committee of the Chamber of Commerce working through nine sub-committees is constructing a swimming pool for the use of the soldiers, for which \$3,500 has been donated, and arranging for a Soldiers' Club. A library has been sent to the camp and classes established for giving instruction in French at which at least 400 men and 45 officers are in attendance.

**Gettysburg, Pa.** Gettysburg's population of 4,000 will be tripled by the presence of the soldiers. The recreational facilities of the town are inadequate to the needs, there being only two pool rooms, two moving picture theatres, and thirteen tennis courts but the community is eager to provide in every way possible for the comfort and entertainment of its guests. The Committee on Soldiers' Spare Time Activities has secured the

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN VARIOUS CITIES

cooperation of the Red Cross in opening up two centrally located recreation rooms equipped with pool tables, reading and writing materials, comfortable chairs, and music facilities. All the equipment of the college has been placed at the disposal of the men. This includes an athletic field, tennis courts, baseball diamond, running track, gymnasium, chapel equipped for movies, and a hall for dances and entertainments. The dormitories are being used to lodge the officers and their families. A swimming pool in a nearby stream has been provided by means of a specially built dam and a committee of York business men is eager to raise \$500 to cover the cost of rebuilding the dam and providing a second pool. The Gettysburg Choral Union through the influence of the committee has reorganized after years of inactivity and a large number of soldiers have become members. Band concerts are being given in the town square and a band stand has been provided by the committee. Arrangements have been made for a circulating library and for the use of the playground for the soldiers. Four churches have given their club rooms for the use of the soldiers.

Not only the citizens are showing themselves eager to provide wholesome recreation for the soldiers but the military authorities as well are taking action to make the work effective by appointing a representative from each regiment as a member of a Camp Committee through which the Gettysburg committee and the war recreation secretary may work in the interest of town activities.

**Indianapolis,** Some of the accomplishments of the War Recrea-  
**Ind.** tional Social Service Bureau for the men at Fort  
**Fort Benjamin** Benjamin Harrison have already been shown. Sat-  
**Harrison** urday afternoon automobile rides, dances, and the  
entertainment of soldiers in the homes are being continued. Arrangements have been made for the teaching of French to the officers in the camp through the French departments of the schools and the university. Classes in the history and geography of Europe are also being offered. The Rotary Club is planning to open a large store, furnishing it with easy chairs, free telephones and other facilities for club rooms for the soldiers. A number of receptions were given during July. Free performances by the Kiltie's Band were also a feature of the July program. Fifteen hundred children attended the performance of the opera *Pinafore* given by the Y. W. C. A. through the influence of the Committee and \$1,200 was realized for the work of the Travelers' Aid Society. An Informa-

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN VARIOUS CITIES

tion Bureau with a woman attendant in charge has been placed in the Traction Terminal Building for the benefit of women visitors to the soldiers. At the suggestion of the war recreation worker the Chamber of Commerce has printed a booklet containing information regarding hospitals, car lines, and places of interest.

**Junction City and  
Manhattan,  
Kans.** Junction City problems are made unusually difficult by the fact that with its very limited facilities, the seating capacity of its halls, libraries, parks, and

**Fort Riley** other places for recreation being only slightly over 3,000, it must furnish recreation for a group of men which may reach 40,000 in number. Finding that one of the greatest needs is for a building to serve as a Khaki Club and as a place where the soldiers may entertain their guests, the Committee on Recreation Activities set in motion the machinery through which \$8,800 was raised for a building opened on July the thirteenth. Other activities of the committee have resulted in the extension of the privileges of membership by a number of clubs and fraternal orders; the publishing of the Junction City and Fort Riley Guide containing local information and the arrangement of a great patriotic celebration on June the thirtieth for the soldiers and the community at large. The recreational facilities of the Board of Education including playgrounds, baseball diamond, athletic field, swimming pool, and gymnasium have been placed at the disposal of the soldiers. The entertainment of the men in the homes is a feature of Fort Riley's hospitality to its guests which is most acceptable to the men in khaki.

Manhattan through its Training Camp Activities Council has secured funds for the erection of a community house for the soldiers which will resemble somewhat the club at Junction City. Athletic meets are being held every Saturday and all the facilities of the Agricultural College have been given to the soldiers. The college has also given a series of entertainments in the form of musicals and dances.

**Little Rock, Ark.** Little Rock with its neighboring town of Argenta across the Arkansas River, under the Federation of Training Camp Activities, is offering its hospitality to the men at Ft. Logan H. Roots. The ac-

**Fort Logan H. Roots** tivities carried on by the federation are many and varied. The bulletin of week-end activities for June the fourth, sent to each company at the camp, shows a Junior League tea dance and lawn fête,

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN VARIOUS CITIES

amateur baseball games, an officers' social dance, special church services, and band concerts in the city parks. Home hospitality, dances and musicals at the municipal auditorium, the use of which has been granted by the city, and automobile rides are all contributing greatly to the enjoyment of the soldiers. A swimming zone has been established in the Arkansas River at the foot of the fort and dressing rooms have been provided. Many soldier athletes competed in the Fourth of July track meet.

**Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn.** Although no special organization has been effected at Minneapolis and St. Paul to meet the needs of the men at Ft. Snelling, the war recreation secretary

**Fort Snelling** has been working directly with the various organizations in the city whose resources might be used for the benefit of the soldiers. Through his efforts, six swimming pools in Minneapolis and four in St. Paul have been placed at the disposal of the men. Six extra policemen and two police women have been placed in Minneapolis' largest park where many soldiers seek recreation and as a result moral conditions are reported better than in normal times. A number of clubs have voted the privilege of membership to the student officers and have turned over their magazines and newspapers to the camp. Through the secretary's efforts the fraternal orders are keeping open house and part of the soldiers are being taken by automobile to a number of the churches and after the service the men are entertained at Sunday dinner by the church members. Instruction in French is being given by two of the St. Paul institutes. A swimming beach at Lake Nokomis has been opened. Amateur boxing matches by rival companies and regiments are being organized. The swimming facilities which are being opened up for the use of the soldiers are being widely used. On July the twenty-eighth, the Minneapolis park board entertained the men of Ft. Snelling at the Calhoun Baths. Automobile rides and a luncheon at Lake Harriet were features of the entertainment. The St. Paul Federation of Women's Clubs will give small parties for the men. The Y. W. C. A. has established a rooming and boarding house directory for visiting families and friends.

**Newport, R. I.** The development of the work in Newport has centered largely in the acquisition of a club house of 50 rooms at Coddington Point. The use of this property which includes 125 acres of land and a large grove of



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trees was granted for recreation purposes by the realty company which owns it. Through the efforts of the war recreation secretary the expenses of running the club, \$350 a month, have been underwritten by a local organization. The government permitted the building of a bridge across the creek which separates the training station from the point. The navy men themselves built a road which makes the club easily accessible from town and have laid out baseball diamonds, tennis and volley ball courts. The building was opened early in July. The club house accommodates 1,000 men while the grounds and piazza surrounding it will accommodate 3,000 to 4,000 men in addition. A large athletic meet was held on the grounds on the opening day and nearly 400 men took part in the events. A stage has been built at the club and weekly theatrical performances are given.

A weekly dance is held for the Naval Reserves at the Civic League House. The churches have urged the taking of sailors home to dinner and a number of churches have also given Sunday evening concerts of real merit.

**Niagara Falls,** The provision of hospitality for the men at Fort  
**N. Y.** Niagara has united the efforts and resources of  
**Fort Niagara** three communities: Youngstown, which adjoins  
the fort; Lewiston, five miles away from the camp;  
and Niagara Falls, twelve miles up the Niagara River. The effort  
has been made to make use of all available commercial features  
and not only did the Commission on Training Camp Activities use  
its influence to have a large recreation resort near the camp opened  
three weeks before its usual opening date, but it was also instru-  
mental in opening a large summer resort hotel which is being run  
for the benefit of the soldiers and their guests and serving as a  
social center for the soldiers and the townspeople.

A series of Saturday night dances chaperoned by the women of the community is being given for the student officers at Niagara Falls. As a result of the cooperative movement the various clubs are extending hospitality to the student officers, the Salvation Army has given a band concert, the Y. W. C. A. roller skating parties and sings, and a tea room has been opened by the Y. W. C. A. in Youngstown which is becoming more and more a social center for the Fort. A dance has been held for the militia. On July the twenty-second military service in the Congregational Church followed by dinner in the church basement was held.

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**Norfolk, Va.** The churches of Norfolk have been very active in meeting the needs of the men. Representatives from 35 of the churches have organized a committee on church cooperation. The problems of all the churches are considered by the committee and their combined experiences can be drawn upon to meet these problems. The Norfolk Credit Men pledged themselves to write to their many customers asking them to send the names of any relatives or friends who are or will be in the vicinity of Norfolk with the promise that they will do all in their power to make such men feel at home. A choir is being trained among the enlisted men of one of the warships, which will assist at local church services. One citizen has 200 enlisted men at his summer home every Saturday afternoon and plans to have 500 there Labor Day. One of the churches has opened a club room for soldiers at which the ladies of the church serve refreshments. Auto rides and flowers are provided for the convalescents at the Naval Hospital. Dances are being given for the men on Saturday evenings.

**Petersburg, Va.** The provision of recreation for the soldiers in training near Petersburg will touch four communities: **Camp Lee**, Richmond, Hopewell, Prince George County, and Petersburg. All the organizations in these communities have shown themselves anxious to cooperate. A Travelers' Aid Society has been organized. St. Andrew's Brotherhood of St. Paul's Church, Petersburg, will keep open house for the men in uniform and for the 4,000 men working on the construction of the cantonment. Books, magazines, and stationery will be provided in a large room in the parish house where the men may smoke and play cards. The Presbyterian Church will take similar action.

Through the efforts of the committee in charge of **Philadelphia, Pa.** the work for the sailors at the naval reserve base, the Travelers' Aid will organize an aid and hospital service for the women members of soldiers' and sailors' families. The School Mobilization Committee will send a teacher of surveying to the school supported for the emergency unit. The University Extension Society will also furnish teachers. Two pools have been opened by the municipal Board of Recreation for the use of sailors. Dances have been arranged.

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One of the most important features of the work

**Plattsburg, N. Y.** carried on by the Plattsburg Federation of Training

Camp Activities has been an attempt to meet the need for more eating places and for places where the men may entertain their women guests. The Y. W. C. A. was asked to meet this need by erecting a "hostess house" for the entertainment of the women friends of the student officers. A series of Saturday night suppers given by the churches, 800 men attending these functions on July the twenty-eighth, has been found helpful.

The preliminary visit to Rockford disclosed the fact

**Rockford, Ill.**

**Camp Grant** that there were 182 men's and 125 women's organizations ready to help in the problem of providing recreation for the men in camp. The Chamber of Commerce is aiding by raising \$100,000 for the work. Of this amount \$47,000 was subscribed on one night. Part of this money will be used in erecting buildings and in providing floor space for various kinds of entertainments. The schools have agreed to utilize their equipment for the benefit of the soldiers, the lunch room providing meals at cost on Saturdays and Sundays.

**Sackett Harbor, N. Y.** Entertainment for the student officers at Madison Barracks is being provided jointly by Sacket Harbor which adjoins the barracks and Watertown which is twelve miles from the camp. At Sacket Harbor the Soldiers' War Recreation Committee has compiled a register of all the available rooming and boarding houses for the benefit of friends and relatives visiting the soldiers. Assistance has also been given in arranging for men at the camp to take active part in the church services. The hall of the Firemen's Club has been converted into a recreation room for the soldiers and fitted up with pool tables, books, games, magazines, newspapers, and writing tables. The magazines and newspapers are being supplied by the State Department of Education. The room has been turned over to the enlisted men at the Post as their club room and through a committee of three privates and one lieutenant they have complete responsibility for and care of the room, which they are using to its capacity. Weekly dances are held and a tennis court has been completed for the use of the soldiers. Week-end boat trips to the Thousand Islands are proving very popular.

In Watertown the Church Committee of the general committee in charge sees to it that every man attending church service is in-

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vited into a home for dinner. It is felt that this individual hospitality supplemented by automobile and boat trips, fraternity parties, and small dances is meeting the needs in Watertown.

**Salt Lake City,** In Salt Lake City, the mayor and military authori-  
**Utah** ties as well as the citizens were found to be eager  
**Fort Douglas** to carry through the war recreation program. Each Saturday afternoon that the Salt Lake baseball team has been at home 500 free admissions to the games have been secured through the courtesy of the management. Sunday automobile excursions have been given and through arrangements with the Commercial and Rotary Clubs 8,000 free excursion tickets have been secured to the Lagoon, a summer resort about 36 miles from the city. One thousand of these tickets are used every week-end. The railroad companies have provided free transportation for the men. The State National Guard supplied three large tents for dressing quarters for the soldiers so that they have been able to secure reduced rates in the swimming pool at the Lagoon. Reduced rates have been secured from many of the concessionaires.

A swimming pool has been provided for the soldiers and co-operation of the street car and advertising companies has made it possible to give publicity to the campaign to make every soldier a swimmer. An Army Club has been provided in a centrally located building. Entertainment has been provided for the men in the post hospitals and courses have been started in teaching the men boxing, wrestling, and Jiu Jitsu.

**San Antonio,** The citizens of San Antonio are confronted with  
**Tex.** the tremendous problem of supplying recreation and a wholesome social life for the men at four camps: Leon Springs, Camp Kelly, Ft. Sam Houston, and Camp Wilson. Fortunately, in addition to existing recreational facilities the city and surrounding country are rich in places of historical and romantic interest. As a result of the activities of the War Recreation Board moving pictures, band concerts and public dances are being held in the Plaza in front of the famous Alamo, lights, benches, and band being furnished by the Park Department. Each week posters are sent to the barracks announcing all the activities held under the auspices of the War Recreation Board. No recreation outside of the military camps will be sanctioned unless endorsed by the Board.

A room with six thousand feet of floor space on the top floor of one of the largest office buildings in the city has been donated

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for use as a Khaki Club and will be furnished by the Rotarians. The Odd Fellows are planning to open up club rooms for the use of their members and will issue free memberships to the soldiers. In cooperation with the committee the Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. are holding supervised dances and social gatherings. The Soldiers' Club was opened on July the fourteenth. The union church services held in Breckenridge Park, known as Pleasant Sunday Evenings are proving extremely popular. A Jewish Rabbi and one of the leading priests will each conduct one of the services.

**San Diego, Cal.** The San Diego Committee on Recreation for the Army and Navy is confronted with the need for providing recreation for infantry and marines stationed in the Exposition grounds, for the soldiers to be in camp at the cantonment at Linda Vista and for the signal and aviation corps at North Island. The committee, which has been in operation since June the twelfth, has secured the expansion of the work of the Playground Commission at La Jolla where there are unusual recreation facilities. Truck loads of soldiers are taken daily to the playground. The churches are very active in working for the soldiers. The committee is arranging for a large room in the center of the business district which will be used as a rest and recreation room for enlisted men. Dances are a regular feature of the program and home hospitality is being offered to the soldiers through the churches. On July the Fourth a monster military parade was arranged for all branches of the service, followed by a regatta, a military ball, and recreation in the homes.

**San Francisco and Oakland, Cal.** With the help of the war recreation worker, the San Francisco Committee on Recreation for Soldiers and Sailors, consisting of 128 men and women has been organized. The committee although in existence only a short time has been very active and as a result week-end parties are being given for members of the Officers' Reserve Corps. A number of theatres are giving free admission to the men in uniform. Several of the hotels have set aside rooms and baths for the free use of the soldiers. The Travelers' Aid Society will direct families and relatives of soldiers to attractive hotels and boarding houses and will assist in the establishment of rest rooms for the women visitors at the Presidio. Well supervised receptions and dances in the civic auditorium are a feature of the program. On July the Fourth a special program including parties, band con-

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certs, and a military ball with individual entertainment in the homes by families from churches, was given for the soldiers.

**Sparta, Wis.** Although Sparta numbers only 4,000 people and has limited recreational facilities, the community has enthusiastically gone about its task of providing for the recreational needs of the Eighth United States Artillery at the Military Reservation, and the officers' training camp. The Sparta Social and Recreational Committee has secured the use of the school buildings, athletic field and equipment, and the services of the school athletic coach. Two Khaki Clubs have been fitted up for the soldiers. Guest privileges and entertainments have been extended by the Country Club. Home entertainment is an important feature of the program. The newly-opened Knights of Columbus reading room is proving very popular. Arrangements have been made for the extension lecturer of the State School of Home Economics to give demonstration lectures every Friday, to the girls of the Co-Patriotic League. A band stand has been built at which concerts will be given weekly by the camp band. Ten thousand people attended the Fourth of July Soldiers' Festival on the fair grounds.

The citizens of Syracuse have given an unusual response to the plans for meeting the recreational needs of the 25,000 soldiers who are their guests and under the hospitality committee appointed by the mayor the activities of many organizations and churches have been stimulated and coordinated. A number of clubs have entertained the soldiers and officers. The hospitality in private homes has been very generous and cordial. Five churches have established Army Clubs. The Solvay Process Company has donated a building 50 x 118 feet for an army club and will engage a local social worker to take charge of it. The club has been equipped at a cost of \$7,800, and will care for 500 men with comfort. The University Club has opened a downtown army club with a capacity of 500 men. Through various local organizations, music, speakers, and talent for entertainments in camp are provided regularly. Large numbers of men are cared for daily by numerous dances and entertainments given by the various organizations. One feature of the work in Syracuse is the care which is taken of the men stationed nearby on guard duty. The community singing has met with wonderful response from the soldiers who attend in large numbers.

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In addition to caring for the men stationed at the **Washington, D.C.** nine large encampments in the vicinity of Washington, the District War Service Commission has to **Fort Myer** deal with the problem arising from the tremendous increase in civilian employees of the Government called in to do war emergency work. These are both men and women, many of whom have brought with them their families. Many of the churches have given weekly Saturday night entertainments and Sunday dinners for the soldiers. The churches are being used extensively for non-religious entertainments at which the young women of the church are always on hand affording opportunities for wholesome friendships for the men. Union church services are also being given as part of the program of church work. Through the efforts of the war recreation worker commissioners of the district reversed their decision to close the playgrounds, on which there are swimming and tennis facilities and other equipment usable by the soldiers, and the reservation of eight courts in Potomac Park was secured for student officers on Saturday afternoons and Sundays. The commercial recreation interests are cooperating in furnishing talent and pictures for the entertainment of soldiers within the camps. One theatre has been turned over to the War Service Commission for such use as it wishes to make of it. The public library has undertaken to supply all camps, soldiers' clubs, and rest rooms, and detached guard stations, with suitable books and magazines. The Y. W. C. A. established a club room and rest place for young women employed as government clerks. They have also provided chaperons for many places where men may meet their wives, relatives, and women friends. Week-end parties for the soldiers are held. The W. C. T. U. established a club house for enlisted men which accommodates several hundred. Many other organizations are promoting suitably supervised dances and entertainments and are also equipping rooms for the use of the men. A census has been made of all amateur and professional talent available and special entertainments are furnished at least once a week to the men at camp. A number of patriotic pageants and plays have been given in an outdoor theatre established for this purpose. Individual hospitality has been very extensive, as many as twenty men being entertained in one prominent home each week during the period that it was open. This example has been followed widely throughout the city. Arrangements have been made for the erection of

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five open-air dance pavilions on district playgrounds, for lighting the playground swimming pools, and municipal beaches at night and for the use of tennis courts and for a band concert on grounds adjoining the drill grounds of the colored D. C. N. G. It is planned to make swimming near the camp in the Potomac River safe so that the soldiers may enjoy this form of recreation. There will be life-guards, floats, and spring boards, and sections will be lighted at night.

### SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE WORK

There are special activities which have been found particularly helpful to the work as a whole and especially acceptable to the soldiers themselves.

#### **Registration Cards**

It has been found that the registration card secured in the camps by the war recreation workers with the cooperation of the Y. M. C. A. and the military authorities are invaluable in providing the point of contact between the men in the camp and the community. Through these cards it is possible for the churches and fraternal orders in the cities to get in touch with their members in camp and extend their hospitality to them. It is also possible through the census for the local committees to know what forms of recreation are most popular with the soldiers and to make their plans with these preferences in mind.

#### **Automobile Rides**

Chattanooga, Indianapolis and the other communities in which weekly automobile trips for the soldiers are a part of the program are enthusiastic over the results secured in terms of enjoyment for the men. Particularly acceptable are the rides which have been arranged for convalescent soldiers from the post hospitals.

#### **Home Entertainment**

What it means to the soldiers who have suddenly been cut off from their homes and the normal relationships of life to be invited into private homes for dinner and to feel that for a little time at least they are members of a family group, can not be appreciated by anyone who has never been placed in the position of living the isolated life of the soldier. There is probably no one feature of the work of the committees and the war recreation workers which touches so fundamentally the



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need of the men as this antidote against "social lonesomeness." More and more the churches are making home entertainment a part of their hospitality to the men. Increasingly the citizens are stopping soldiers on the streets and inviting them to come informally into their homes.

### **Sings for the Soldiers**

It has been suggested that the war will be won by singing and more than one commander has expressed himself as desirous of having his company known as a singing company. Music as a universally levelling, democratizing force with its appeal to the best in every individual, has at last come into its own. Realizing its value, a number of communities are arranging for sings for the soldiers and townspeople. The following letter from Spencer Gordon, war recreation worker in Syracuse, shows how successfully the sings are being carried on in that city:

"Between five and six thousand eager men participated with the Community Chorus in the most inspiring evening I have ever enjoyed. When everybody sang the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* and the leader got the soldiers emphasizing *Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His Truth Is Marching On!* you should have seen the faces glowing under the lights. The Camp became inspired. The men cheered and cheered. Then the Southern boys called for *Carry Me Back to Old Virginny* and *My Old Kentucky Home*. Then we sang *Perfect Day* and *My Hero*. Then they called for *Old Black Joe*. In the chorus of *Old Black Joe*—"I'm coming, I'm coming, For my head is bending low! I hear those gentle voices calling, Old Black Joe!" the leader made the men hold on to "Joe"—and the Chorus echoed "Old Black Joe." The harmony was wonderful! Automobiles way out on the road tooted their horns and it was ten minutes before the enthusiasm subsided. We sang from 8:00 o'clock until 10:00 and ended with the *Star Spangled Banner*. I have never heard this song sung before. The Commanding Officer came forward after the singing and said it was the greatest thing he had ever listened to. He emphasized to the members of the Chorus their opportunity for service to the men and how at no distant day when the watch fires are burning in France and the men surrounded by strange tongues, these home songs will be the officers' stand-by; how they will help to put life and energy in the tired hearts and muscles.

"A campaign is being waged to enlarge the Chorus and to in-

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clude many more singing societies. The leader was cheered to the echo. The men unanimously voted that they wanted the Chorus every Thursday. This morning several commissioned officers 'phoned to the hotel telling me how much they appreciated this activity."

Another testimony to the value of song as a potent force comes from R. B. Patin, war recreation worker in Des Moines, where there are a number of regiments of negro soldiers. Mr. Patin writes:

"I hasten to tell you of the most inspiring sight I have ever witnessed and the greatest occasion of its kind ever staged in America.

"This afternoon fully twelve thousand people assembled at the stadium of Drake University for a Community Sing, headed by three military bands and lead by Dean Holmes Cowper of Drake University. After singing *America* and the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* a military quartette from the negro officers' reserve training camp sang *I Want to Be Ready*, and *Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray*. Immediately afterward twelve hundred negro soldiers marched into the stadium under command of Col. Ballou, U. S. A. The applause was deafening and after a demonstration of marching and manual of arms three hundred men stepped to the center of the field. Soon the melody of *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* was holding the vast audience entranced. The deep rich and high pitched voices carried to all parts of the stadium. *Shouting All Over God's Heaven* was even more wonderful in effect, while *Tipperary* quite carried the audience away.

"The ceremony of raising and lowering the flag was wonderful as the twelve thousand people arose and sang *The Star Spangled Banner*. The program lasted for an hour and a half and from the appreciation expressed Des Moines will be glad for the repetition of such events. Col. Roosevelt, who had been invited to be present, found it impossible to come.

"The negroes regard the event of this training camp as the greatest in the life of the race since the emancipation proclamation, and as such the people of Des Moines were glad to give it recognition. This occasion has had the desired effect of an increased regard for the ability of the negro soldier and an appreciation of his service to the country."

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### **Khaki Clubs**

One of the activities of the cities near the training camps which is felt to be most essential to the comfort and enjoyment of the men is the provision of khaki clubs, known as recreation or rest rooms, soldiers' clubs, army or navy clubs—where the soldiers will feel at home and where they will find some of the more home-like features which can not be provided at camp. There are now few communities near the camps where some provision has not been made through the local committee or some cooperating agency for rooms or a building equipped as khaki clubs. These clubs vary greatly in the different communities and their equipment must depend upon local conditions and needs. Their range extends from one room over a fire house at Sacket Harbor, N. Y., equipped with tables, books, chairs and games to the fifty-room club at Coddington Point, Newport, which is used by thousands of reservists and men in training.

It has been suggested that some of the facilities which should be included in all these clubs are the following:

There should be facilities for pool, billiards and quiet games such as chess and card games of various kinds. There should be a reading room with writing desks, stationery, and plenty of magazines and newspapers. Books, too, carefully selected with a view to their interest to the soldiers, might well be included with the other reading matter. There should be in all the rooms plenty of comfortable lounging chairs. Other furnishings should include couches, a piano and victrola with a library of records, a lunch counter at which the men may secure light lunches, soft drinks, coffee, sandwiches, ice cream, cakes, chocolates, candies, tobacco, and similar supplies. Ice water and sanitary drinking cups should be provided at convenient places. Telephone booths and an information bureau would be helpful additions to the equipment of soldier clubs.

One of the most essential provisions for an ideal khaki club is bathing facilities—tubs as well as shower baths, towels, soap, and other necessary supplies. The toilet facilities should be ample even though it may be necessary to devote a great deal of space to them.

It is essential that there shall be rooms in which the soldiers may entertain their women guests and also a room which shall be for the exclusive use of these guests fitted up with the conveniences for resting and also with toilet facilities. It would be well for the

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wing of the building containing these rooms for the entertainment and use of women guests to have a separate entrance. These rooms should be carefully chaperoned and here the women's organizations which are eager to help can render valuable assistance.

### AN EXPERIMENT IN COOPERATION

Never before has America had such an opportunity to demonstrate to the world what can be accomplished by cooperation. Never before in their history have American cities had so splendid a chance to discover how all their resources and organizations through coordination, through the sacrifice of individual ambitions for the common good, can be made a force potent for democracy. There is no organization which can not have a share in this work, no group of people which can not join in this cooperative movement in which party lines, sectarian divisions and arbitrary differences in creed or political beliefs are swept away in the common service.

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## THE GIRL PROBLEM IN THE COMMUNITIES ADJACENT TO MILITARY TRAINING CAMPS

Of all the problems faced by the local committees none presents more difficulties than that of the young girls, many of whom lose their heads over the soldiers and consciously or unconsciously, through their methods of dressing and their lack of dignity, place temptation in the way of the soldiers.

The April 1915 issue of *The Shield*, the official organ of the British branch of the International Federation for the Abolition of State Regulation of Vice, makes the statement that the most dangerous spreaders of disease are not the notorious prostitutes but are young girls who have just gone wrong. Attempts made at Cardiff to deal with the vice problem through regulation and registration were abandoned because it was found that the greatest danger lay with the young girls between 17 and 20 who were not registered prostitutes.

The problems involved in planning a program for the girls of a large city will, first of all, involve the coordination of all the agencies already at work, as no one existing organization, however

## *GIRL PROBLEM ADJACENT TO MILITARY CAMPS*

effective its work in normal conditions, could in itself meet the needs arising in an emergency of this kind.

**A Program of Work for Girls** There is a strong feeling that there should be in each city adjacent to a training camp a strong woman with considerable experience in social work who will bear the same relation toward the work for girls that the war recreation worker sent to each city has toward the entire work and who will work closely in cooperation with him. It should be the task of such a woman worker to coordinate all such existing agencies interested in girls' work, such as the local Y. W. C. A., Camp Fire Girls, Girl Scouts, and social center clubs, working girls' clubs, relief agencies and probation work; to develop any new work felt necessary, and to train volunteers, many of whom are needed. There might be a special committee on girls' work representing all the agencies carrying on such activities, together with individuals who have a real contribution to make. Very often it may be wise to have men as well as women on this committee. The object of the committee should be to reach all the girls in the community and to enlist them in some sort of work or activity which would help to counteract the abnormal excitement which the presence of the soldiers creates. Possibly one of the first duties of the committee would be the enlistment of a strong group of volunteers. Many of these may be found registered under the National League for Women's Service and other war organizations. Certain of these volunteers under the direction of trained workers might district the city, going to the factories, department stores, and all places where girls are employed or can be reached to enlist them in activities.

In the cities where there are Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, and organized playground work and clubs of various kinds, the captains, guardians, play leaders and club directors should redouble their efforts to provide programs of activities for the girls under 16. The Girl Scout organization has a special war program already tried out in Savannah, Ga., which includes gardening and classes in the following activities:

First Aid	Signalling	Errands
Home Nursing	Marksmanship	Household Work
Invalid Cooking (dietetics)	Canning Fruits	Filing Cards
Surgical Dressings	Market Gardening	Sewing by Hand

## *GIRL PROBLEM ADJACENT TO MILITARY CAMPS*

Simplified Cooking	Packing Fruits and Vegetables	Sewing by Machine Knitting by Hand and Machinery
Unskilled Labor	Care of Children	

Might not arrangements be made whereby girls who do not regularly belong to the Girl Scouts might attend these classes? Ought not the Girl Scouts and Camp Fire groups to make a special effort to enlarge their groups as rapidly as possible? Play leaders should make every effort to have playground activities of especial interest to the older girls and playgrounds and social centers should be open every night in the week not only for the younger girl but for the working girl, for the problem will, in the main, be that of the working girl, the girl between 16 and 25 years of age. For this reason, as has been suggested, there should be as complete a census as possible of the working girls of the community. Many of them may wish to enroll in existing organizations such as the Y. W. C. A., which is making a special effort at this time to meet the needs of the girl. Working girls' clubs, social center clubs, all of these organizations should extend their activities to the limit, enlarging their membership as far as possible. Girls should be urged to take the courses which the Y. W. C. A. is offering in canteen cooking lessons, first aid, nursing and business courses and to take part in the out-of-door recreation and games. Some of the organizations may wish to enlarge their summer camps for girls or establish such camps where they may spend their vacations.

It is quite probable that existing agencies will not be able to care for all the girls who should be reached and that there should be a special organization for girls between 16 and 25 years of age who will be banded together as a Patriotic League or under whatever name might be chosen. Possibly the best and most workable form of organization would be in small groups under club leaders, all the groups coming together at stated periods for mass meetings where the girls will be made to feel that they are banded together for definite service. The activities in the individual clubs would vary but as far as possible the work should be tied up with the Red Cross. The girls will doubtless want to make comfort kits, garments and knit or crochet various articles. They may want to have classes in first aid. Many hospitals as well as Y. W. C. A.'s and other organizations are now offering these courses. Some of the girls may wish to have classes in history and current events

## *GIRL PROBLEM ADJACENT TO MILITARY CAMPS*

to increase their knowledge of the war and its place in the world's history. So far as possible through classes the girls should be trained for specific duties which they may later have to undertake. Some of the girls who have leisure time may want to help in the work of the day nurseries and crèches and with the younger children on playgrounds. It may be necessary to establish employment bureaus for girls who are thrown out of work or to fill the positions left vacant by men.

While it is exceedingly vital to provide recreation and activities of various kinds for the girls which they may carry on in groups and to lay emphasis on group work, a very important problem which must be faced is the meeting of the girls and the soldiers in a normal, wholesome atmosphere, since many of them will insist upon meeting in some way or other. This may be done under wise supervision at the social centers if these are already in existence or in centers brought into existence by the emergency, at dances chaperoned by the committee on girls' work and at suppers and entertainments arranged for by the committee. Some of the Y. W. C. A. workers have already done valuable work along these lines and their experience will be most helpful. The important thing in all of these social gatherings is the provision of wise leadership.

It is suggested that the leaders in girls' work in the various communities should frankly but tactfully tell the girls that the attitude of the soldiers towards them will depend upon the way they conduct themselves and that they must guard against cheapening themselves by dressing in poor taste and immodestly. Possibly in conducting a campaign for better dressing we should go farther back to the society leader whose fashion the society girl is imitating. If the society leaders can be made to feel the importance of this it will become the style to dress simply and modestly and the factory girl will fall in line.

### **Police Women and Volunteer Patrols**

Another feature of work for girls which may play its part in the efforts which are being made to safeguard young girls in the cities adjacent to training camps and in other places where the problem may be acute because of the presence of a large number of soldiers, is the organization of a system of police women and volunteer police patrols.

### **Experience in England**

When it was found in England that girls and young women were flocking in great numbers to the places where soldiers were stationed, were running

## *GIRL PROBLEM ADJACENT TO MILITARY CAMPS*

around the dark streets of London and other cities, and as a result immorality and evils of all sorts were spreading, the Women's Patriotic Service was organized through the National Union of Women's Organizations of Great Britain and Ireland. The problem of immorality became so great that finally the societies interested in the work for women and girls chose representatives to organize a protective and preventive work. The committee in charge was called the Women's Patrol Committee. Twenty-six paid organizers were chosen and a much larger number of volunteers from thirty to forty years of age selected. There are now about two thousand women in England who are working to safeguard girls near the camps and in the cities. There are a hundred communities in England and certain cities in Scotland, Ireland, Guernsey, and South Africa which are patrolled by paid workers and volunteer patrols. In many of the provinces police women are paid by the Police Department and have been appointed by the Departments. Liverpool has a great body of police women paid by the city. A training course of eight weeks is required under the Police Department which includes drilling and police duties and a study of special acts relating to the rights of women and children and to civil and criminal law.

The police women and volunteer patrols dress in ordinary clothes each with a band about her arm with the letters N. U. W. W. They carry cards from the Chief of Police and can call upon the police to assist them.

These workers not only patrol the streets and the amusement parks but they also work in munition factories and may be called into service at any place where large numbers of women work. Special officers have been appointed by the ministry to act in that way. The big railway stations are carefully patrolled. Often thousands of troops are passing through the termini and it is here that women are much needed to keep order. The volunteers also patrol any frequented roads and streets and look after the women and children in certain districts noted for lawlessness.

In all the work in England great emphasis has been laid upon preventive and constructive phases and every effort has been made to establish friendly relations with the girls and women of the towns. Recreational features have been developed to a marked degree by the volunteer patrols to look after the young people in the various recreation clubs. The workers have been the means



## *GIRL PROBLEM ADJACENT TO MILITARY CAMPS*

of starting many of these clubs for the recreation of the sailors, soldiers and girls and of making it possible for them to meet under decent conditions and chaperonage. The Crystal Palace in London has a club where 150 men and girls may dance and there are many private clubs in the neighborhood to which all girls over sixteen and their soldier friends may come. Refreshments are sold at reasonable prices. The clubs, some of which are for sailors, others for soldiers, charge small dues from three to six pence. Many of them make their expenses from the profits on refreshments. There is music for dancing which is sometimes supplied by the regimental bands. The popular feature in one of the clubs is a choral society started by a Welshman. In some of the larger clubs the attendance is 700 or 800 in a single evening.

A special effort has been made to reach the girls who had not previously been included in any club, the rougher element whose need for recreation is great. The clubs have been very successful in helping to keep these girls off the streets.

It is felt that the work of the police women and volunteer patrols has been very effective in England in influencing the girls for good and safeguarding them; that it is of great assistance to the regular police department and that it is welcomed by the soldiers themselves.

It is keenly felt by many social workers that judging from the experience of England and from the conditions which have already arisen in our own country the development of the system of police women and volunteer patrols may be a necessary and important phase of the work for girls in cities throughout the country and in communities adjacent to training and mobilization camps and military stations of all kinds. The following suggestions have been made regarding the possible development of the work.

1. That a system of police women and volunteer patrols be organized in the cities of the United States under committees on work for girls representing all organizations interested in work for girls. In New York and other cities having Defense Leagues it may be felt wise to tie the work up to these groups.

2. That in selecting volunteer patrols a very careful and wise choice be made from the women in such organizations as the Y. W. C. A., Camp Fire Girls guardians, representatives of Jewish and Catholic organizations, League for Women's Service, and

## *GIRL PROBLEM ADJACENT TO MILITARY CAMPS*

church organizations who seem personally best fitted to undertake this work.

3. That paid police women be employed in cities. Many feel that these workers should preferably be local women, social workers of considerable experience, forceful, tactful, and of splendid physical strength who may previously have established relationships with the young women and girls of the community.

4. That the workers be given police authority or through the sheriff be given power of deputy sheriff. In all probability to avoid delay it may be necessary for groups of private individuals to bear the salary expense. Later the city may be willing to assume the responsibility.

5. That one of the police training schools of the country, preferably New York where there is an excellent equipment, offer courses in training of police women. The two months course given in England for paid workers has been suggested, with possibly a shorter course for volunteer patrols. In this way paid workers and volunteers could secure training in police methods and duties and in laws controlling the rights of women and children. If it is not feasible for volunteer workers to secure training at a police training school, such training should be supplied so far as possible by the paid police women.

6. That the duties of the police women and the volunteer patrols shall include the patrolling of streets, dance halls, amusement parks, railroad stations and termini in frequented parts of the cities, districts in which munition factories are situated or places where women come together in large numbers in industries, recruiting stations and sections of the country where guard duty is being performed. A careful program should be arranged by the committee on girls' work and the police women form volunteer patrols whereby each volunteer is assigned to so many hours of duty so many times a week. Such a program should be carefully worked out and carefully followed.

7. That great emphasis be laid on the preventive and constructive phase of the work and not only shall the girls be warned by the police women and patrols and persuasion be brought to bear when they are found acting foolishly and unwisely but friendly relations should be established and channels opened for proper recreation.

8. That it should be constantly borne in mind that the work of the police women and volunteer patrols is only one phase of the

## *GIRL PROBLEM ADJACENT TO MILITARY CAMPS*

work for girls and should not be over-emphasized to the exclusion of other features of primary importance.

There are at the present time fifty-one cities in the United States employing police women whose salaries are paid from municipal funds. The salaries paid these workers vary from \$75.00 to \$80.00, and \$85.00 to \$100.00, and in some rare instances to \$110.00 a month. It is felt, however, that it would work a hardship for these cities if the police women were transferred to other communities and in the present emergency it would probably be wiser to make use of women residing in the cities who are familiar with conditions and who can work quietly and with little publicity.

The cities in which police women are being paid from municipal funds are the following:

Alabama	Kokomo	New Jersey
Birmingham	South Bend	Paterson
		Trenton
California	Kansas	
Long Beach	Wichita	New York
Los Angeles		Ithaca
Rodondo	Maryland	Jamestown
Sacramento	Baltimore	Rochester
San Diego		Syracuse
San Francisco	Massachusetts	
Santa Anna	Brookline	North Dakota
Santa Barbara		Fargo
Santa Monica	Michigan	Grand Forks
	Ann Arbor	Minot
	Jackson	
Colorado		Ohio
Colorado Springs	Minnesota	Dayton
Denver	Minneapolis	Youngstown
Trinidad	St. Paul	
	Virginia	Pennsylvania
Idaho		Pittsburgh
Boise		
	Missouri	
Illinois	Joplin	Texas
Chicago	St. Louis	San Antonio
Galesburg		
	Montana	Wisconsin
Indiana	Helena	Superior
East Chicago	Lewiston	
Elkhart		Washington
Fort Wayne	Nebraska	Bellingham
Lafayette	Omaha	Seattle

In the carrying out of a program of girls' work the National Board of the Y. W. C. A., with its special war recreation workers, is playing an important part. At the request of Joseph Lee the Y. W. C. A. is sending its trained workers to the cities needing its help to act as advisor to the committees on work for girls, to

## BACK NUMBERS WANTED

train volunteers, and to cooperate in every way possible in working out the problems affecting the young girls of the city. The Y. W. C. A. is also strengthening and enlarging its local associations to meet war emergency needs and in a number of instances, as for example Plattsburg, N. Y., is erecting "hostess houses" where the soldiers may entertain their women friends.

## ADDITIONAL CITIES AT WORK

The following communities in addition to those listed on page 353 have organized to develop social and recreational facilities for the soldiers or sailors encamped near:

California	Glen Coe	New York
Vallejo	Great Lakes	Patchogue (L. I.)
	Lake Forest	Riverhead (L. I.)
Connecticut	Waukegan	
New London		Texas
	Mississippi	Laredo
Maryland	Gulfport	
Annapolis Junction	Jackson	Virginia
Baltimore		Newport News
Emmitsburg	New Jersey	Portsmouth
	Englewood	Richmond
Illinois	Haworth	
Evanston	Trenton	

## BACK NUMBERS OF THE PLAYGROUND WANTED

WANTED—Volume 1 and 2 of The Playground complete, also one copy each of the April, June and September, 1909, issues of Volume 3. Mrs. Samuel A. Ammon, Sharpsburg P. O., Pa., is very anxious to complete her 1909 volume of THE PLAYGROUND for binding in order that she may present it to the library of the Civic Club of Alleghany County, Pa. If anyone would prefer to dispose of their file of Volume 3 complete rather than these three separate issues she will be glad to buy the whole volume. Mrs. Ammon will also gladly pay for volumes 1 and 2 if anyone of our readers can furnish her with them.



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#### New Folk Dances

- |        |                    |                      |
|--------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 18356  | { Old Zip Coon     | Victor Band          |
| 10 in. | { Lady of the Lake |                      |
| 75c    | { (Burchenal)      |                      |
|        | { Victor Band      |                      |
| 18367  | { The Circle       | (Burchenal)          |
| 10 in. | { Victor Band      |                      |
| 75c    | { Hull's Victory   | (Burchenal)          |
|        | { Victor Band      |                      |
| 18368  | { Farandole        | (Burchenal)          |
| 10 in. | { Victor Band      |                      |
| 75c    | { Lott's Tod       | (Burchenal-Crampton) |
|        | { Victor Band      |                      |

#### New School Marches

- |        |                          |               |
|--------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 35657  | { Patriotic Medley March | Victor Band   |
| 12 in. | { No. 2                  |               |
| \$1.25 | { Standard Bearer March  | Conway's Band |

#### Recitations

- |        |                                    |                         |
|--------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 18381  | { Little Orphant Annie             | (Riley)                 |
| 10 in. | { Seein' Things at Night           | Sally Hamlin            |
| 75c    | { (Field)                          | Sally Hamlin            |
| 35652  | { Polyanna Arrives                 | (Porter)                |
| 12 in. | { Polyanna and the Boy             | Sally Hamlin            |
| \$1.25 | { (Porter)                         | Sally Hamlin            |
| 35653  | { Columbus (Joaquin Miller)        | William Sterling Battis |
| 12 in. | { Landing of the Pilgrims (Hemans) | William Sterling Battis |
| \$1.25 | { God Give Us Men (Holland)        | William Sterling Battis |

#### Orchestra Classics

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| 35656  | { Air from Suite in D-Major (J. S. Bach)                  |
| 12 in. | { Gavottes from Suite in D-Major (Bach)                   |
| \$1.25 | { Victor Concert Orchestra (Joseph Pasternack, Conductor) |

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*Fall Term Opens September 18*

## War Recreation Service

*A Country-wide Experiment  
in Cooperation*

In the October issue of the Playground are de-  
scribed the aims, purposes and some of the ac-  
complishments of the work undertaken by the  
Playground and Recreation Association of  
America at the request of the War Department  
Commission on Training Camp Activities, in  
helping cities near the camps organize their re-  
sources for the benefit of the soldiers in their  
free time.

**Price, 25 Cents**

## A Letter from President Wilson

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

16 August, 1917

*My Dear Mr. Lee:*

Mr. Fosdick has told me of the excellent work of the Playground and Recreation Association of America in conjunction with the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities, and I am writing to express my keen appreciation of the value of this unique and excellent service. The spirit with which our soldiers leave America, and their efficiency on the battle fronts of Europe, will be vitally affected by the character of the environment surrounding our military training camps. I understand that your Association finds it necessary to raise funds to carry on your work, and I earnestly hope that you will be successful in this endeavor. Perhaps the local Chambers of Commerce in the cities and towns throughout the country could be appealed to with entire propriety to assist you in this matter. In any event, let me assure you of my warm support.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) WOODROW WILSON

Mr. Joseph Lee  
101 Tremont Street  
Boston, Massachusetts

# A Brief Statement of What the War-Camp Community-Recreation Service Is Trying to Do

ABBIE CONDIT, Assistant, Playground and Recreation Association of America

**T**O make the cities near the training camps the best possible places for the soldiers in their free time; to organize the social and recreational life of the communities so that it shall contribute to the mental, moral and physical efficiency of the men in the training camps, is the task placed upon the Playground and Recreation Association of America by the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities.

No matter how attractive the facilities at camp, or how comprehensive the program of activities planned for their entertainment, it is natural that after the routine and monotony of camp life, after its "dress, and drill and mess," the soldiers in their free hours should rush to the nearest cities where the lights are bright, the streets full of new faces, and everything is different from camp. To see to it that the recreation provided in these cities shall be clean and wholesome, that there shall be channels opened through which the soldiers may find substitutes for the normal relationships of life from which they have been suddenly cut off, to make it possible for them to meet the townspeople, and to provide an antidote for homesickness, depression, and the social loneliness which is so real a menace to the moral strength of the men—all these are phases of the problems which must be met by the community organizers who are being sent by the Association to stir the cities near the camps to a realization of their responsibility toward the men who are their guests.

In this work of fostering and conserving the men's natural relations to the world outside, it is the task of the community organizer, through the organization of a central committee, with a number of sub-committees, to coordinate the activities of each organization and group of people touching and controlling in any way the resources of the community. Churches and fraternal orders are being stimulated to entertain their members in the camps. Socials and entertainments are being arranged where the soldiers may meet the young women of the community. Entertainment of the soldiers in the homes of the citizens is one of the most popular features of the hospitality program in the various cities. Public resources of the cities such as swimming pools, shower baths and baseball fields have been placed at the disposal of the men. Provision is being made for the comfort of the soldiers and their guests through the installation of comfort stations and drinking fountains, and through the listing of available sleeping accommodations. Rest rooms and "khaki clubs" are being established; directories of points of interest, hotels, and lodging houses are being published. Automobile rides for the soldiers, community sings and band concerts are being given. In every way possible the cities' resources are being made available for the soldiers in their free time, in an effort to add to their comfort and happiness, and to send them out with the feeling that American cities and the American people are standing back of them.

Nearly eighty communities are being helped in their efforts to play hostess to the thousands of men in khaki in camp near them. Over eighty workers sent out by the Playground and Recreation Association of America are now at work in the cities, blazing a new trail in the conduct of the world war.





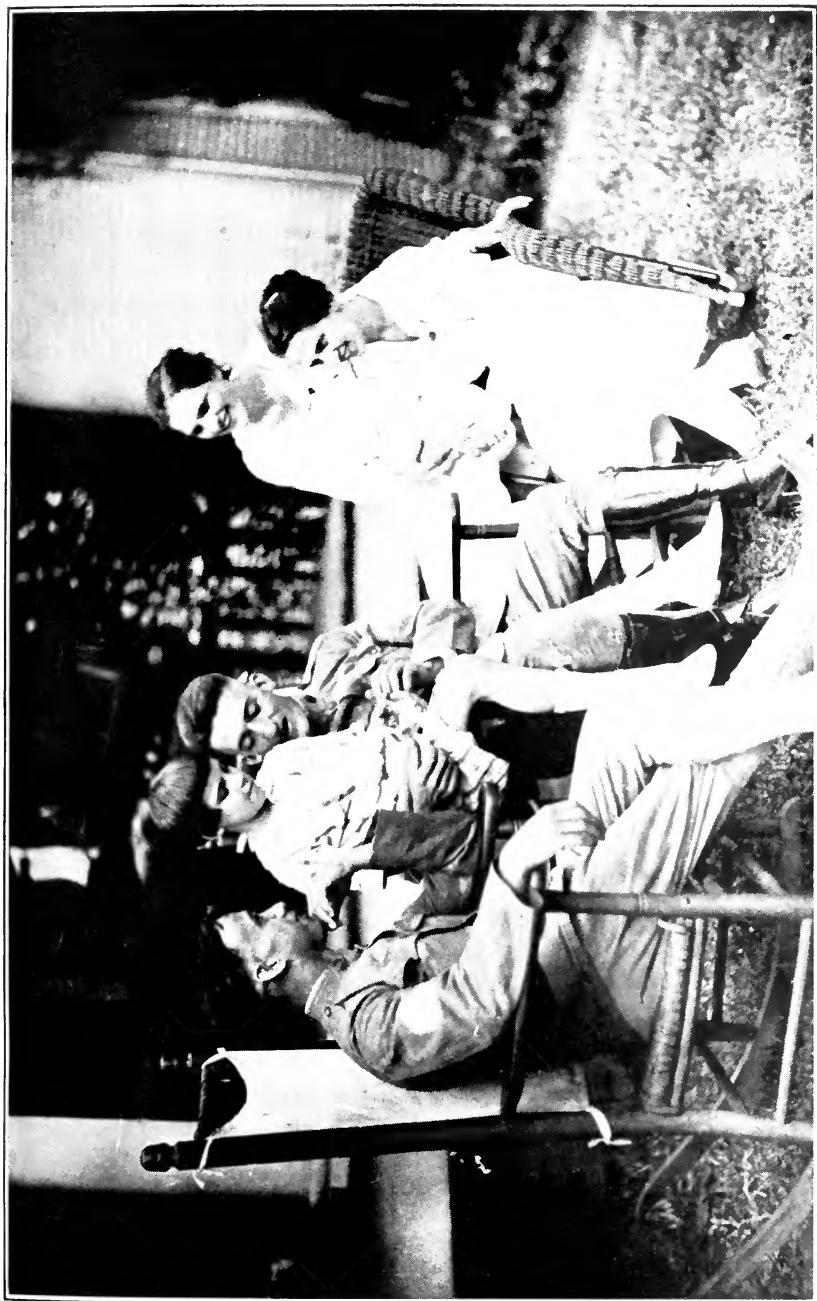
*Methodist Church, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*

MOTHERS ARE POPULAR IN THE SOLDIERS' RECREATION ROOMS

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



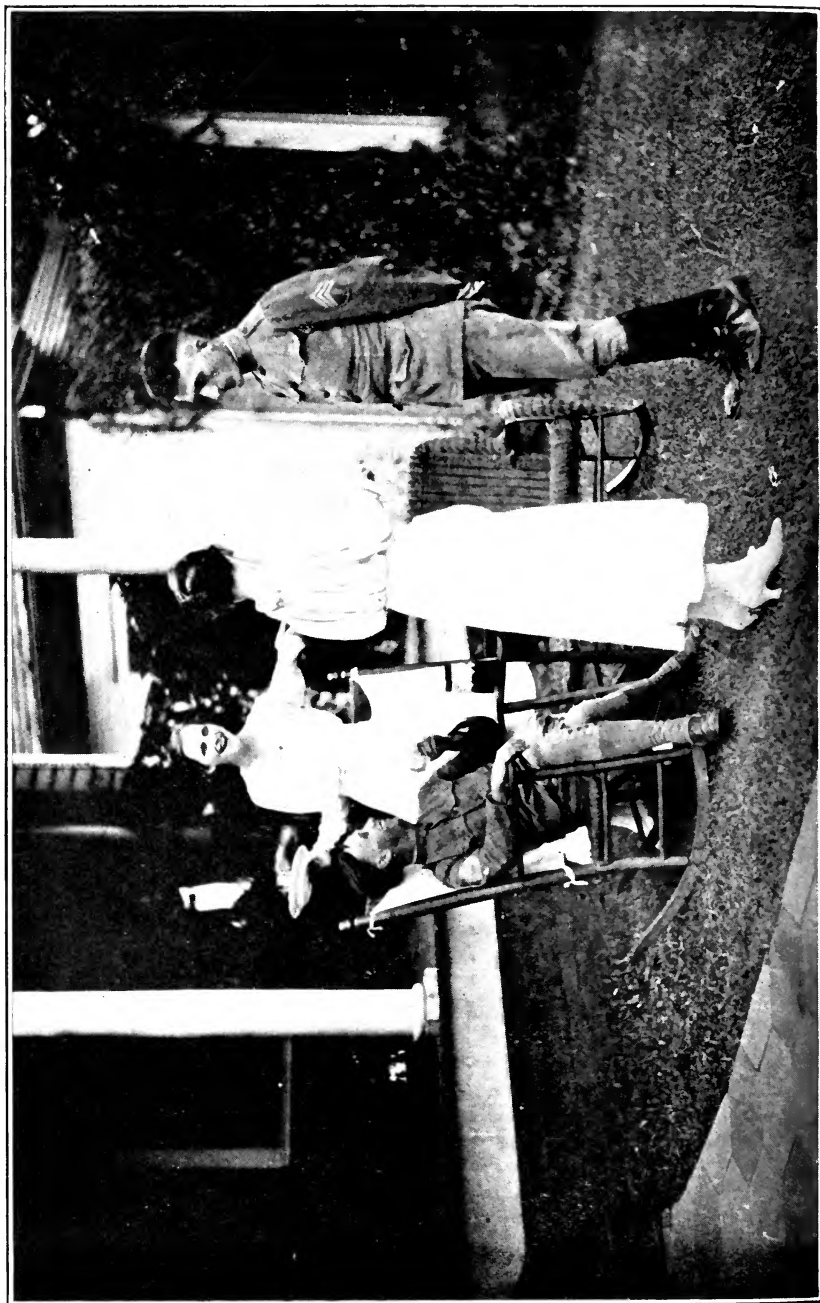
*Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*



*Chattanooga, Tennessee*

BOYD FAMILY ENTERTAINING SOLDIERS AT THEIR HOME SUNDAY AFTERNOON

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



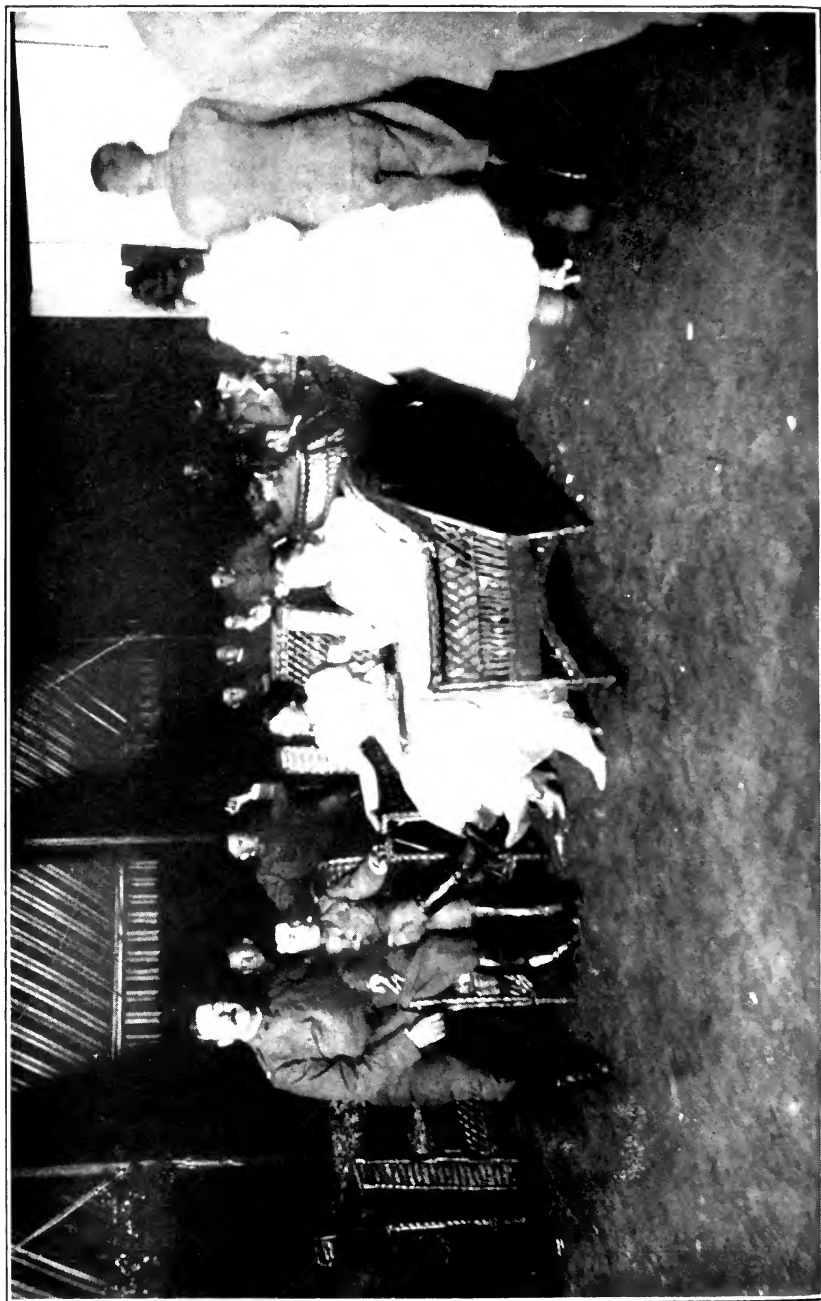
*Chattanooga, Tennessee*



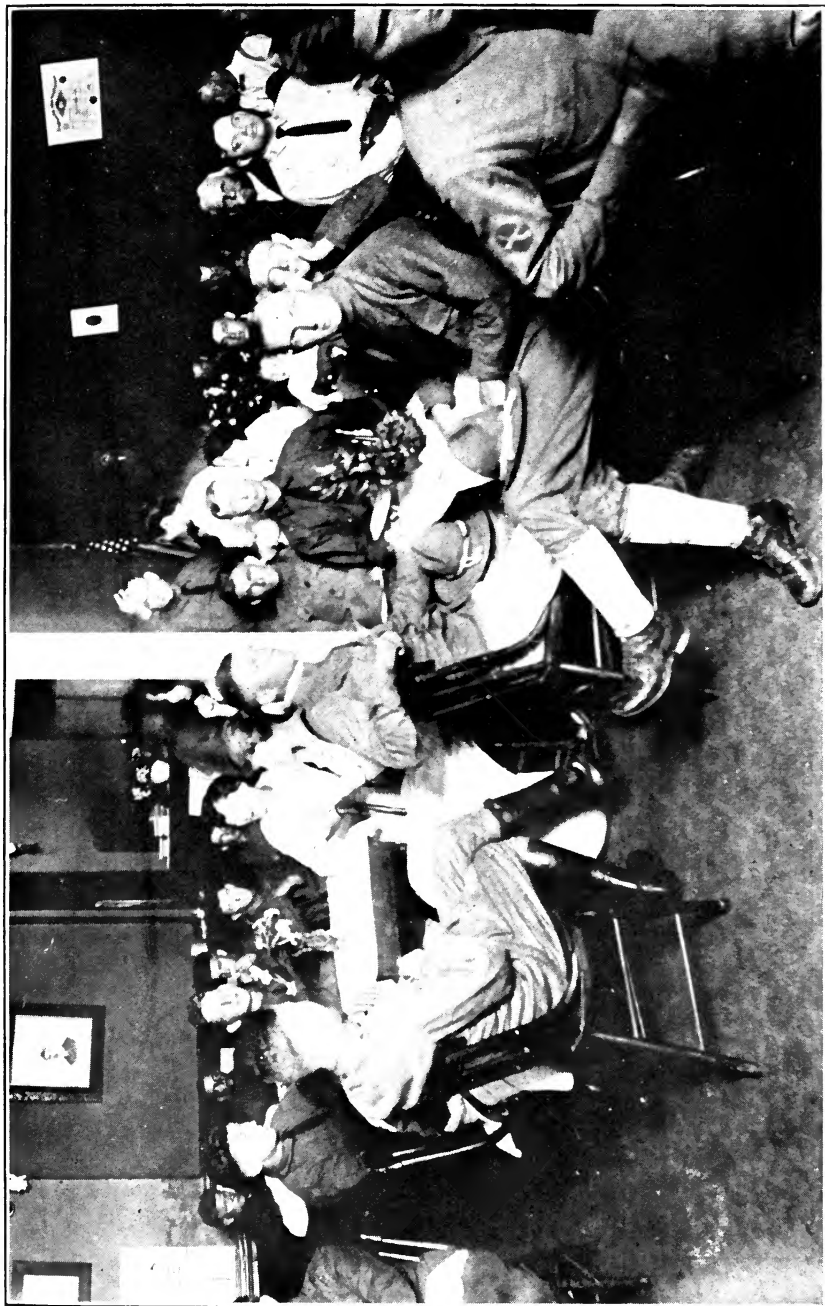
*Country Club, Chattanooga, Tennessee*

SATURDAY EVENING DINNER

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Country Club, Chattanooga, Tennessee*



*Presbyterian Church, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*

A SOCIAL EVENING IN THE CHURCH



WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*

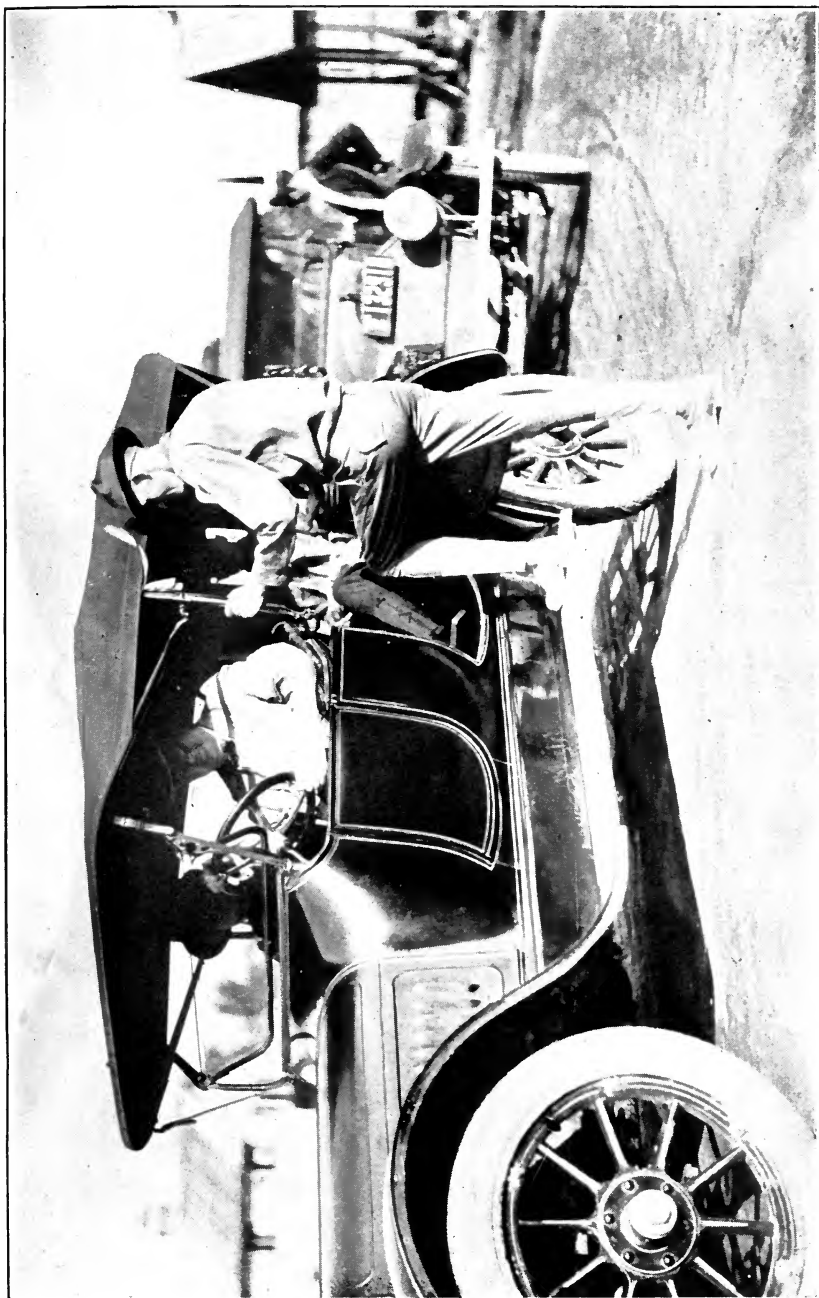
HOSPITAL TENTS



*Chattanooga, Tennessee*

LADIES OF CHATTANOOGA HOSTESSES TO SICK  
SOLDIERS FOR AN AFTERNOON'S MOTORING





*Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*

TAKING SICK SOLDIERS FOR AUTOMOBILE RIDE



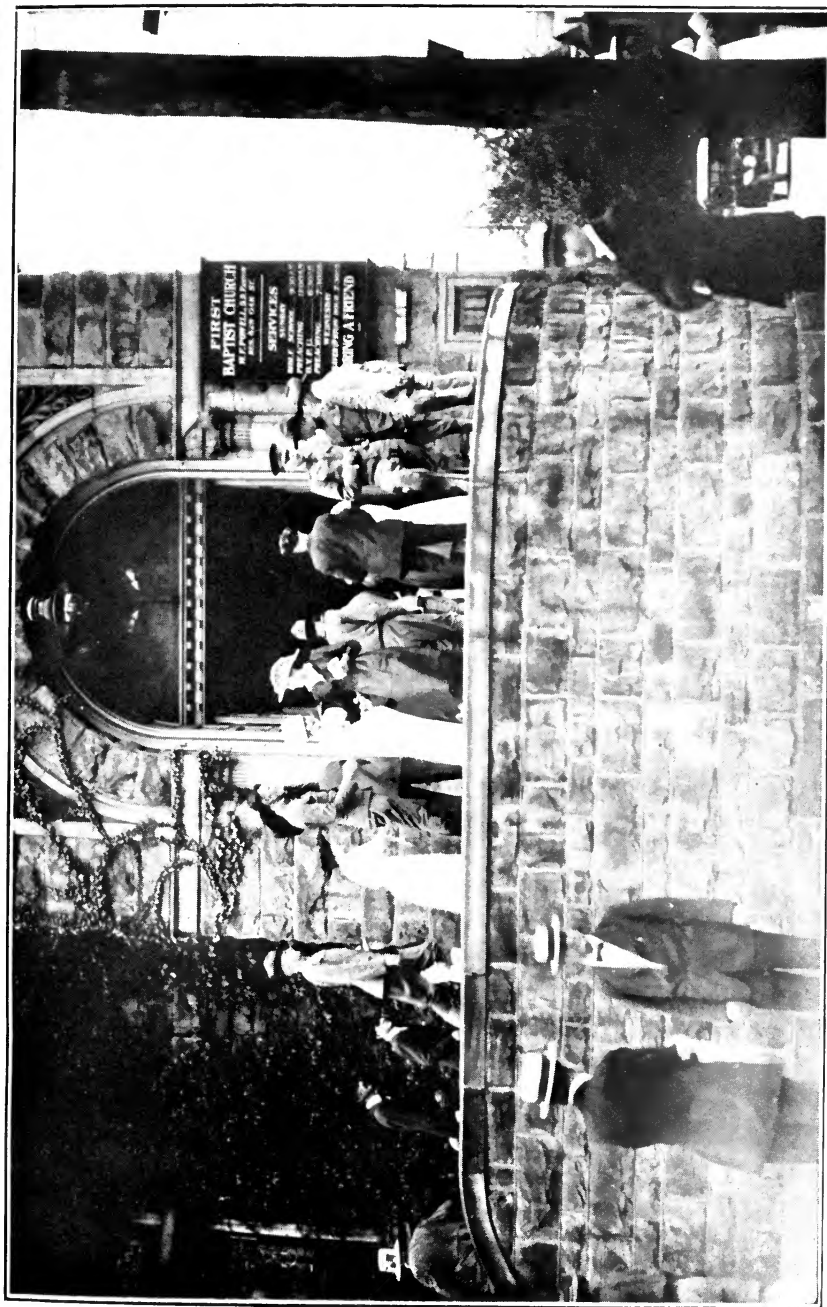
*Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*

OFFICERS' FAMILIES MAKING THEIR HOME IN THE  
ACADEMY, USUALLY CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER



*Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*

ACADEMY USUALLY CLOSED FOR SUMMER, OPENED  
THIS YEAR AS A HOME FOR OFFICERS AND THEIR  
FAMILIES



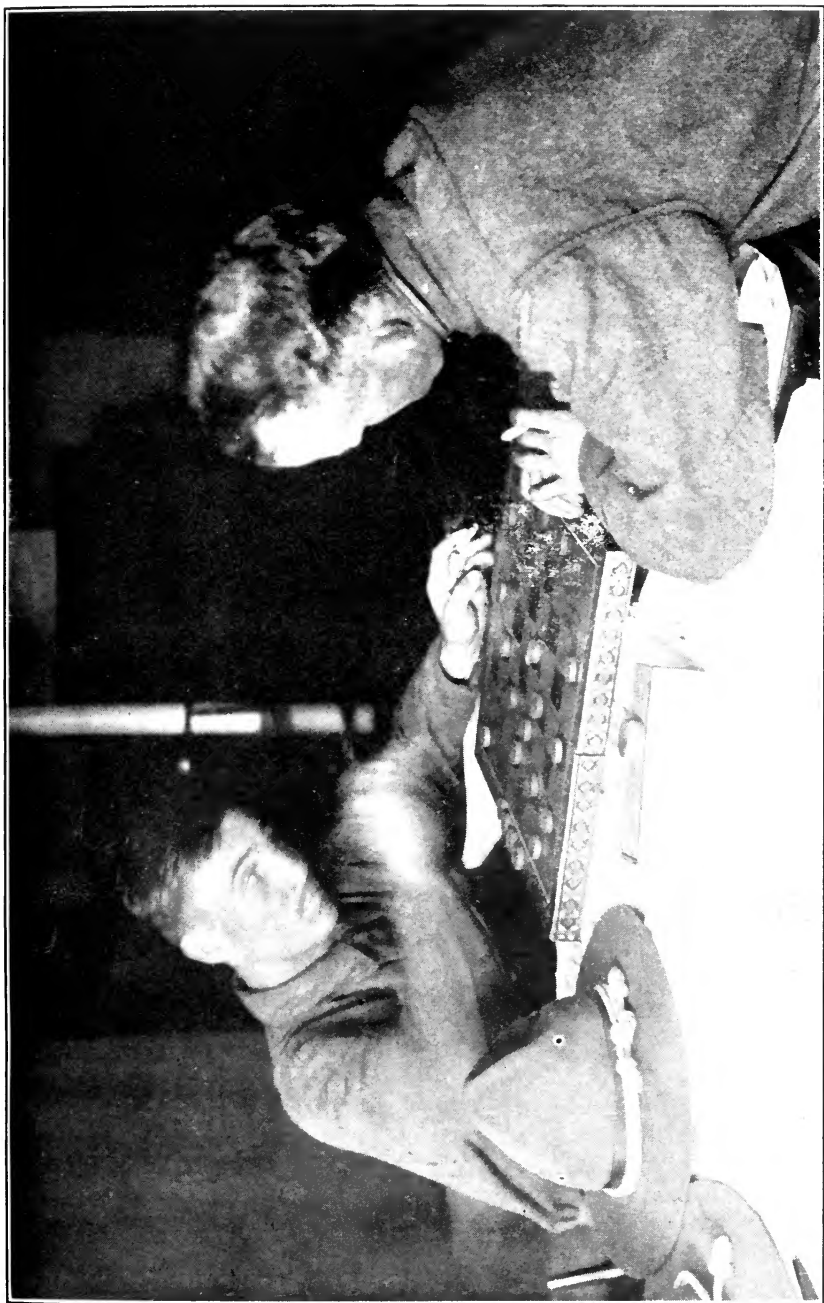
*Chattanooga, Tennessee*

SOLDIERS WELCOMED AT CHURCH

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



Gettysburg, Pennsylvania



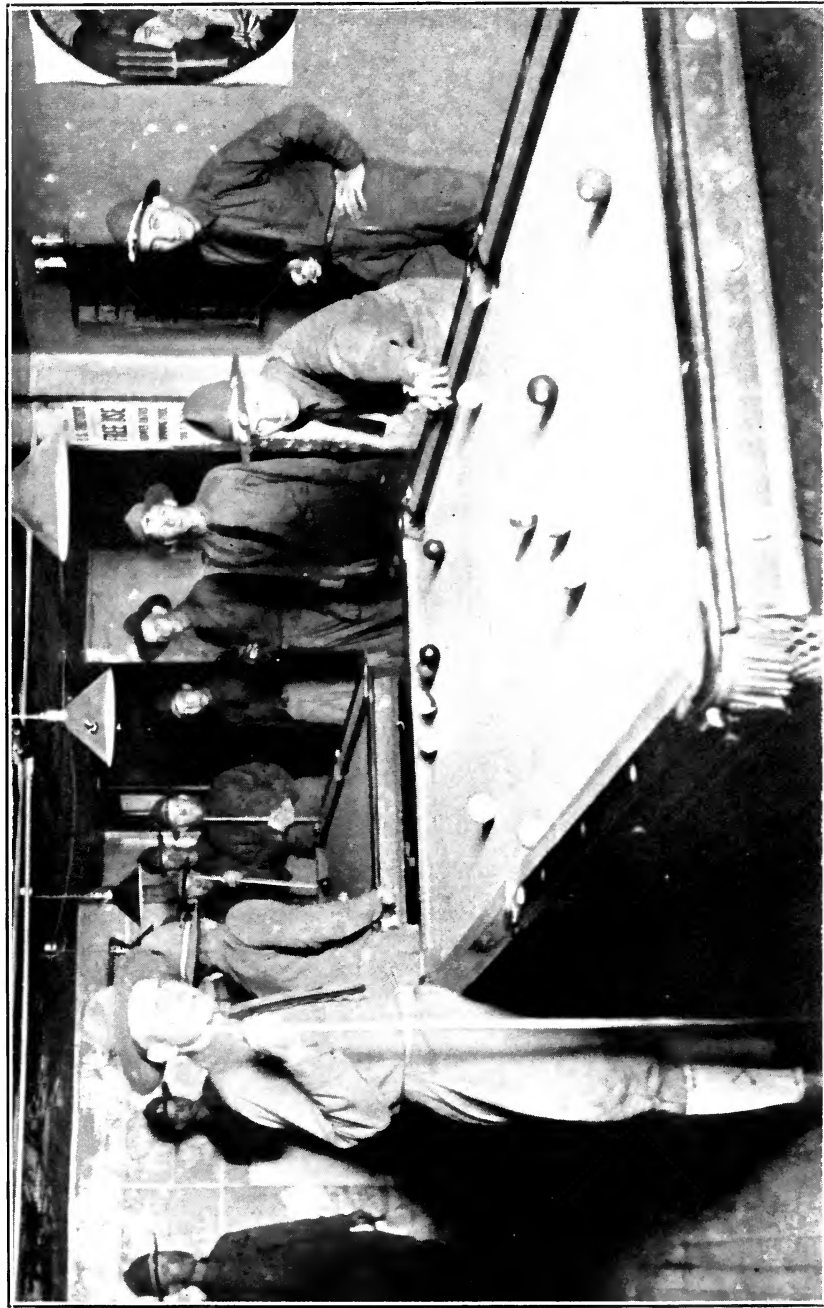
*Red Cross Room, Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*

PLAYING CHECKERS



*Red Cross Room, Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*

AROUND THE PIANO

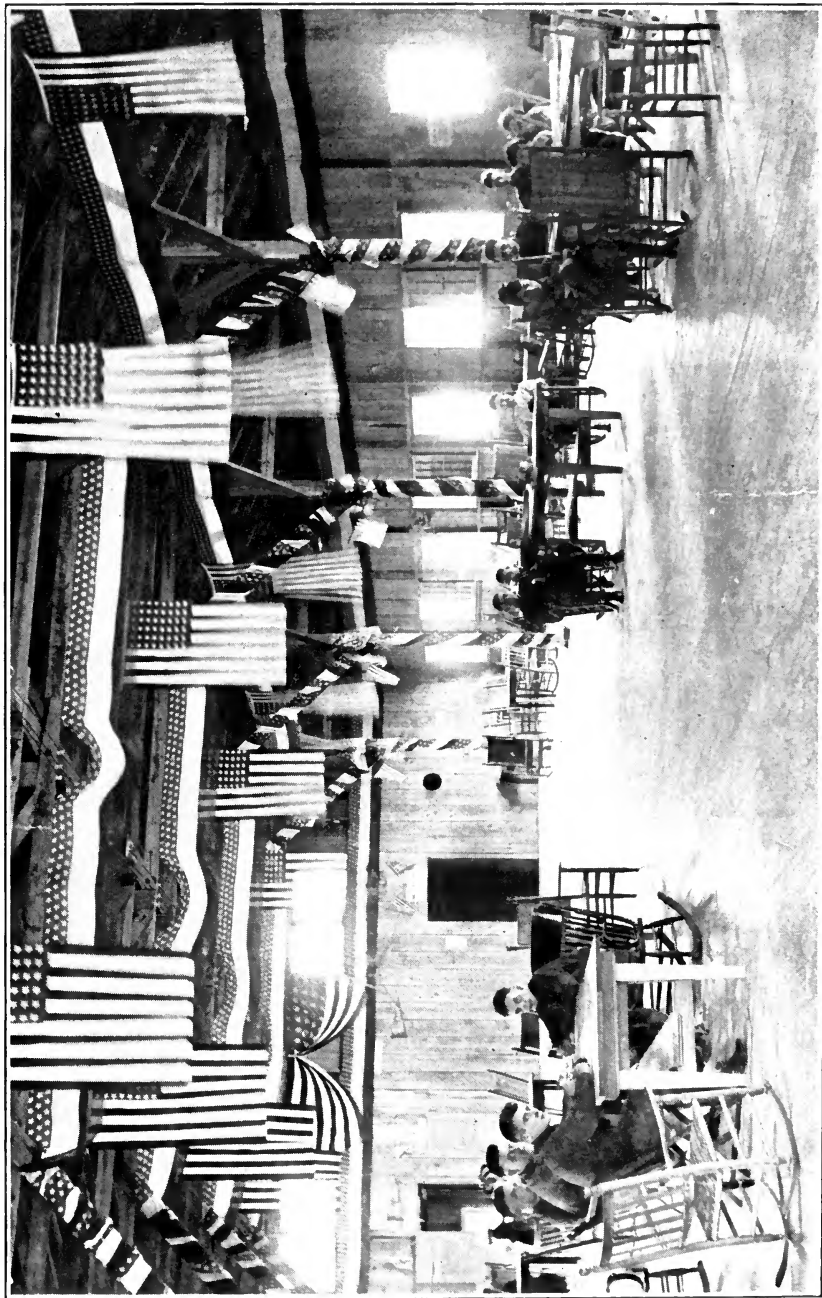


*Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*

POOL ROOM FOR SOLDIERS



WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Junction City, Kansas*

A SPECIAL COMMUNITY CLUB BUILT FOR THE SOLDIERS

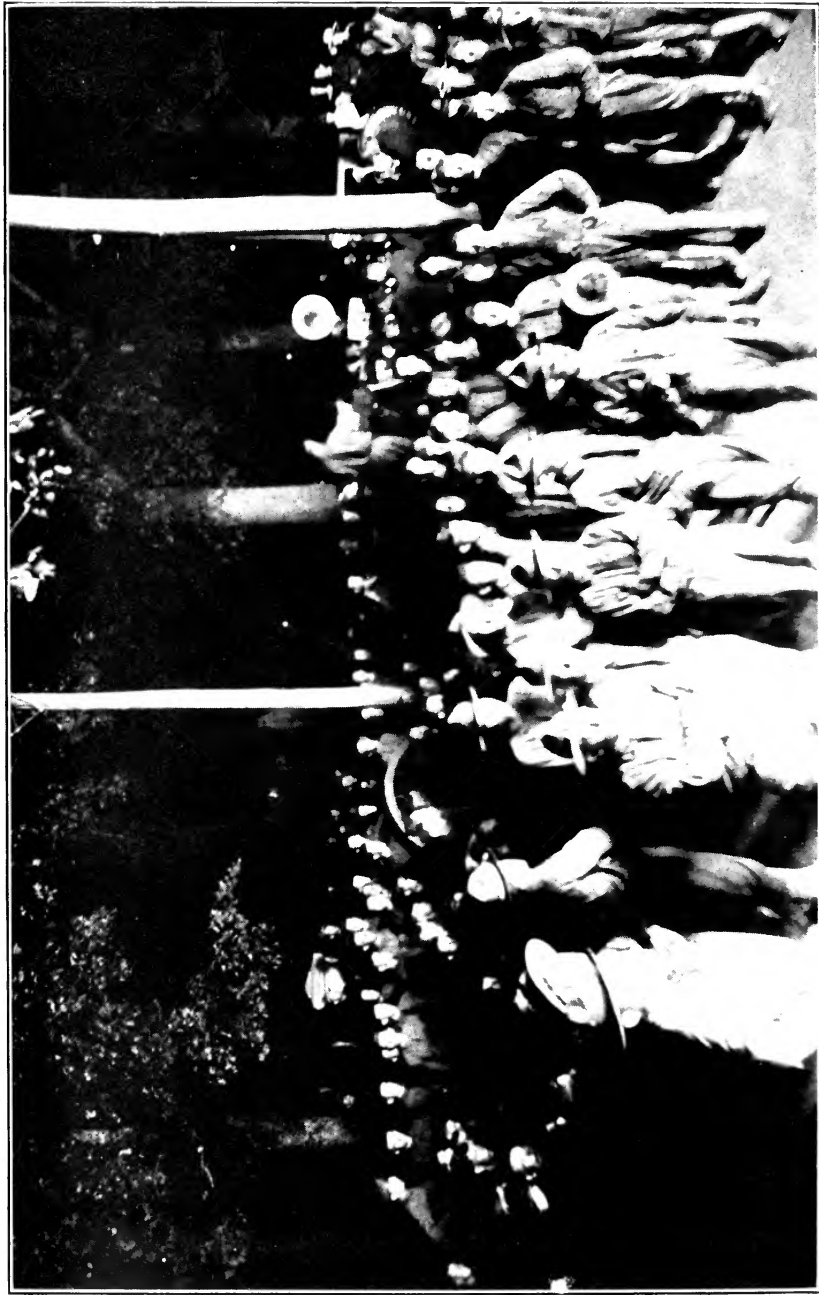


WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*St. Xavier's, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*

WEEKLY VAUDEVILLE CONDUCTED BY FATHER BOYLE



*Chattanooga, Tennessee*

BAND CONCERT GIVEN EVERY TUESDAY BY WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

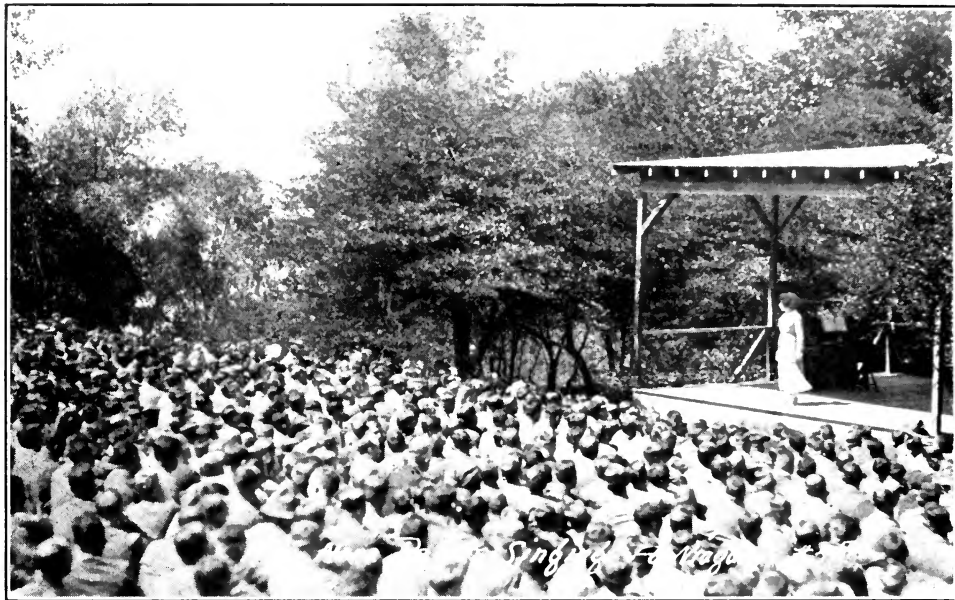
WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Recreation Room, Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee*

HUNDREDS OF SOLDIERS ATTENDING CHURCH SOCIAL

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Fort Niagara, New York*

THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZER SECURED MISS NORA  
BAYES TO SING FOR THE SOLDIERS WITHIN THE CAMP  
AT FORT NIAGARA

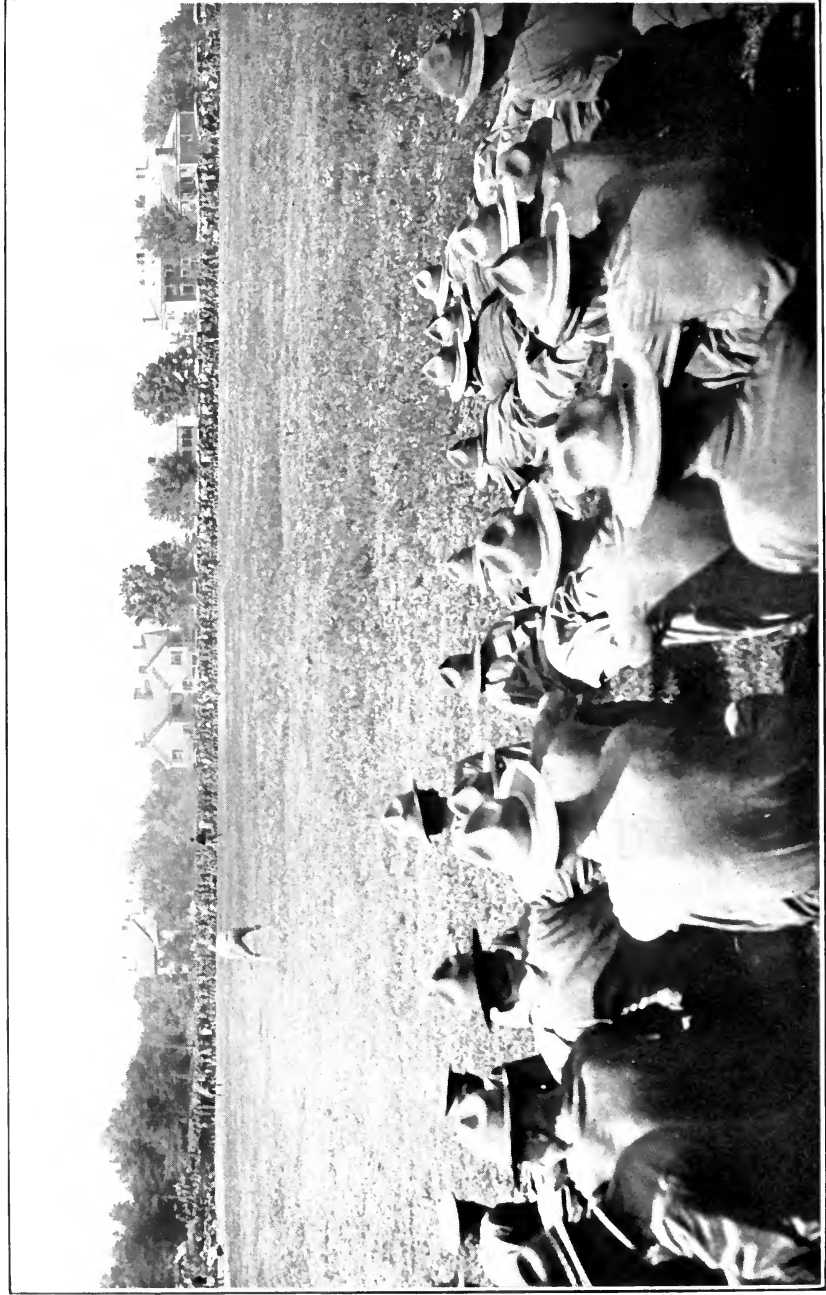


*First Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee*



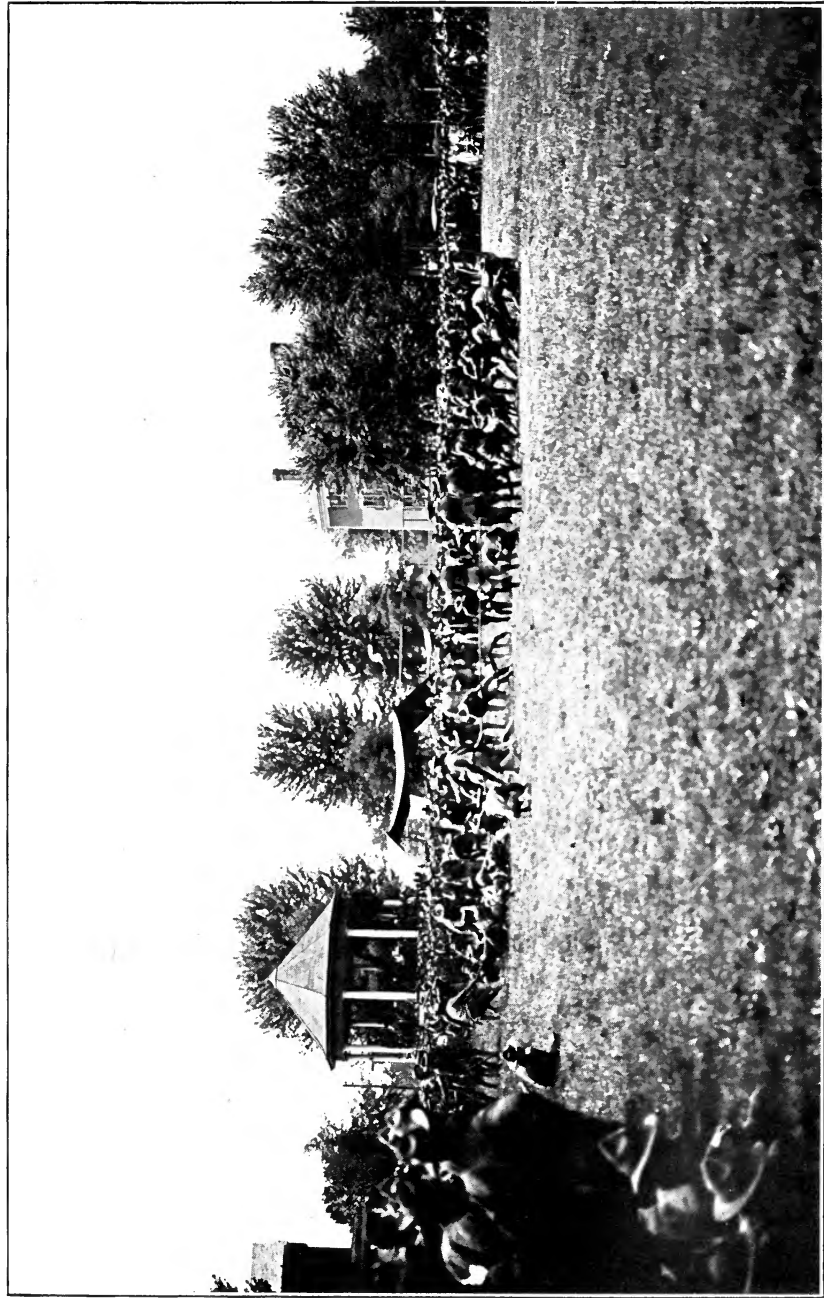
*Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia*

FORT OGLETHORPE VS. FORT McPHERSON, FOURTH OF JULY BASEBALL



*Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia*

BASEBALL, JULY THE FOURTH



*Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia*

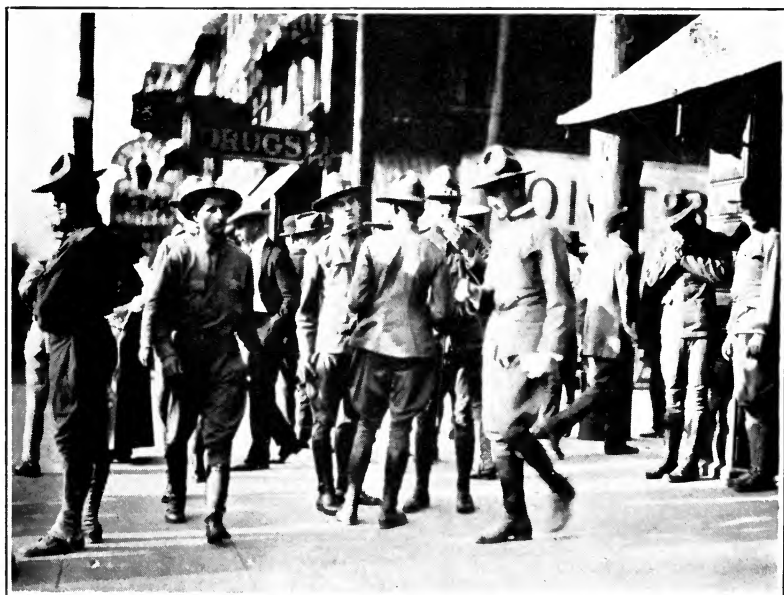
SIXTH INFANTRY, REGULARS, BEATS THE ELEVENTH CAVALRY IN FINALS OF THE FOURTH OF JULY  
TUG-OF-WAR





*Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia*

MULE RACE

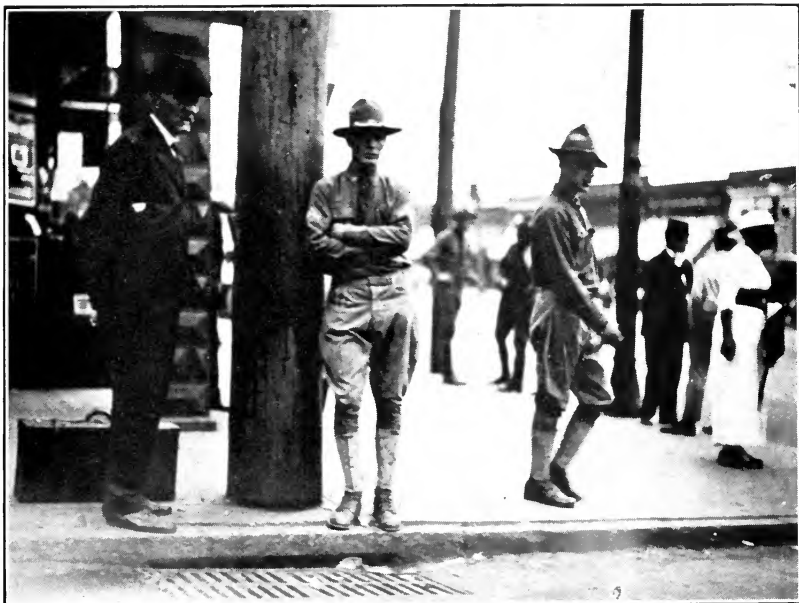


*Chattanooga, Tennessee*

SEEKING RECREATION



WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Chattanooga, Tennessee*

STREET CORNER "HANG OUT." SOLDIERS SEEKING  
RECREATION SATURDAY AFTERNOON



*Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia*

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Indianapolis, Indiana*

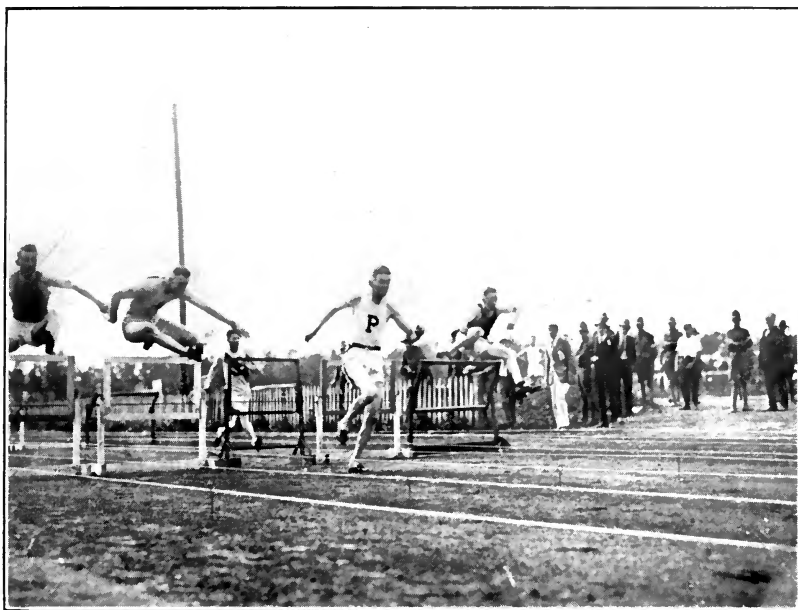
A FULL GRAND STAND FOR THE SOLDIERS' ATHLETIC  
EVENTS



*Indianapolis, Indiana*

TUG-OF-WAR

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Indianapolis, Indiana*

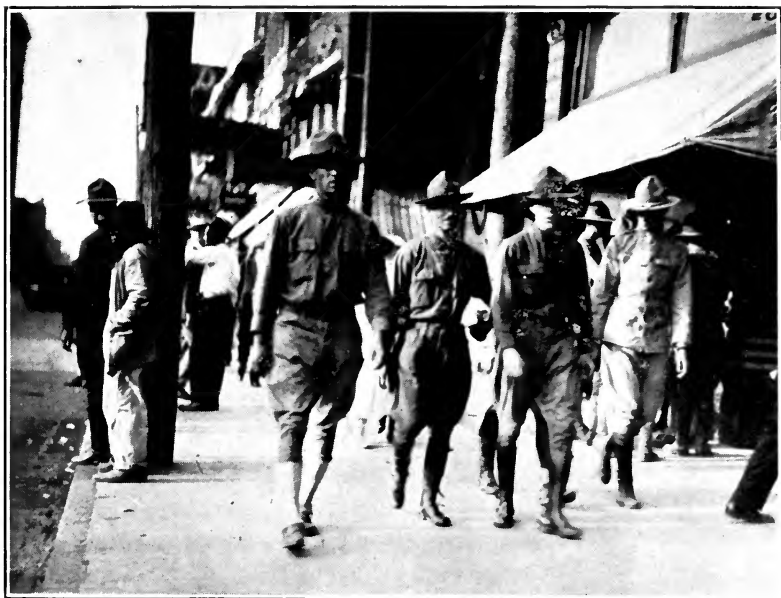
THE HURDLERS



*Indianapolis, Indiana*

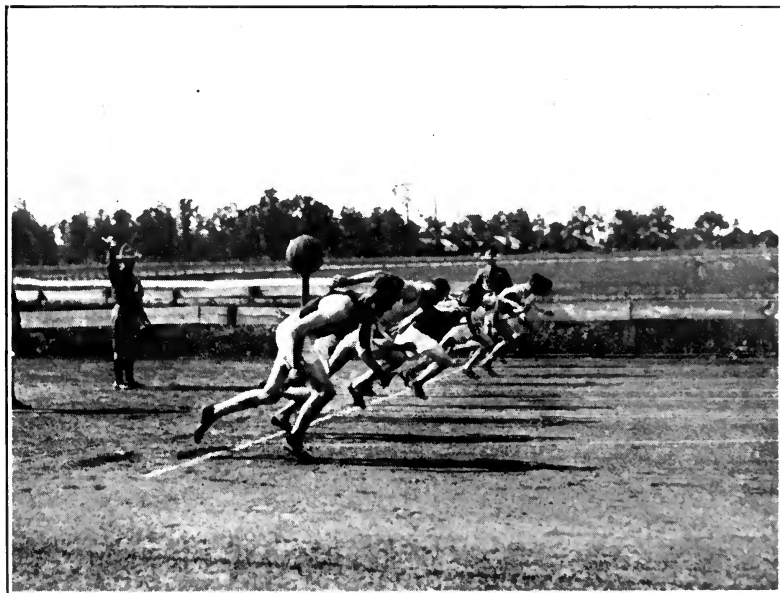
POLE VAULT

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Chattanooga, Tennessee*

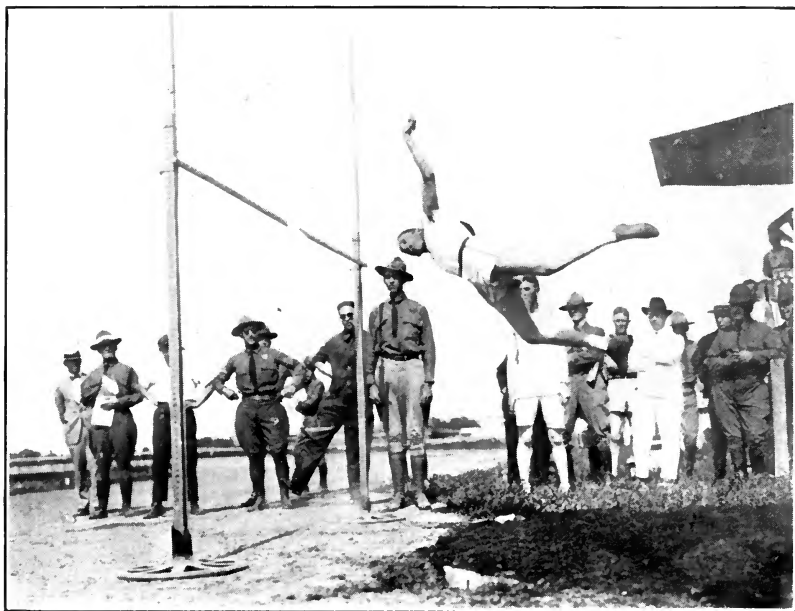
SATURDAY AFTERNOON



*Indianapolis, Indiana*

THE SPRINT

## WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Indianapolis, Indiana*

### THE HIGH JUMP



*Coddington Point, Newport, Rhode Island*

THIS CLUBHOUSE OF FIFTY ROOMS WITH 125 ACRES OF LAND AND A LARGE GROVE OF TREES WAS GRANTED FOR RECREATION PURPOSES BY THE REALTY COMPANY WHICH OWNS IT. THE EXPENSES OF RUNNING THE CLUB, \$350 PER MONTH, HAVE BEEN UNDERWRITTEN BY A LOCAL ORGANIZATION, THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE WAR RECREATION SECRETARY

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



*Coddington Point, Newport, Rhode Island*

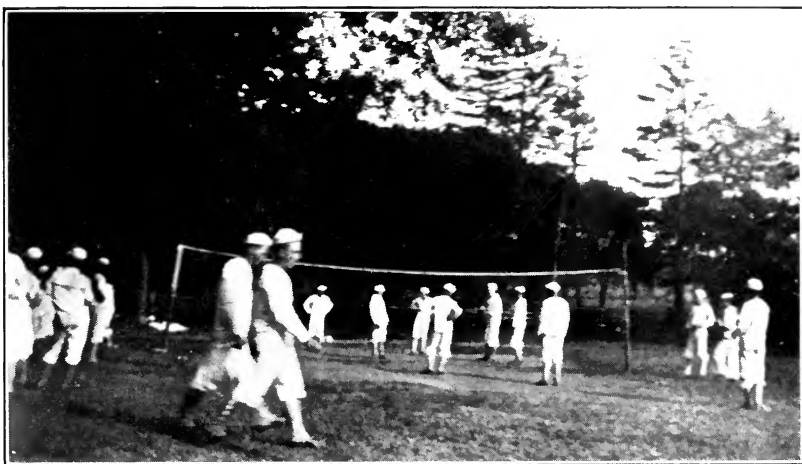
THE BOYS FURNISH THEIR OWN MUSIC AT CODDINGTON  
POINT



*Coddington Point, Newport, Rhode Island*

BRIDGE BUILT BY THE MEN, WITH PERMISSION OF THE  
GOVERNMENT, ACROSS THE CREEK WHICH SEPARATES  
THE CLUBHOUSE FROM THE TRAINING STATION

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE



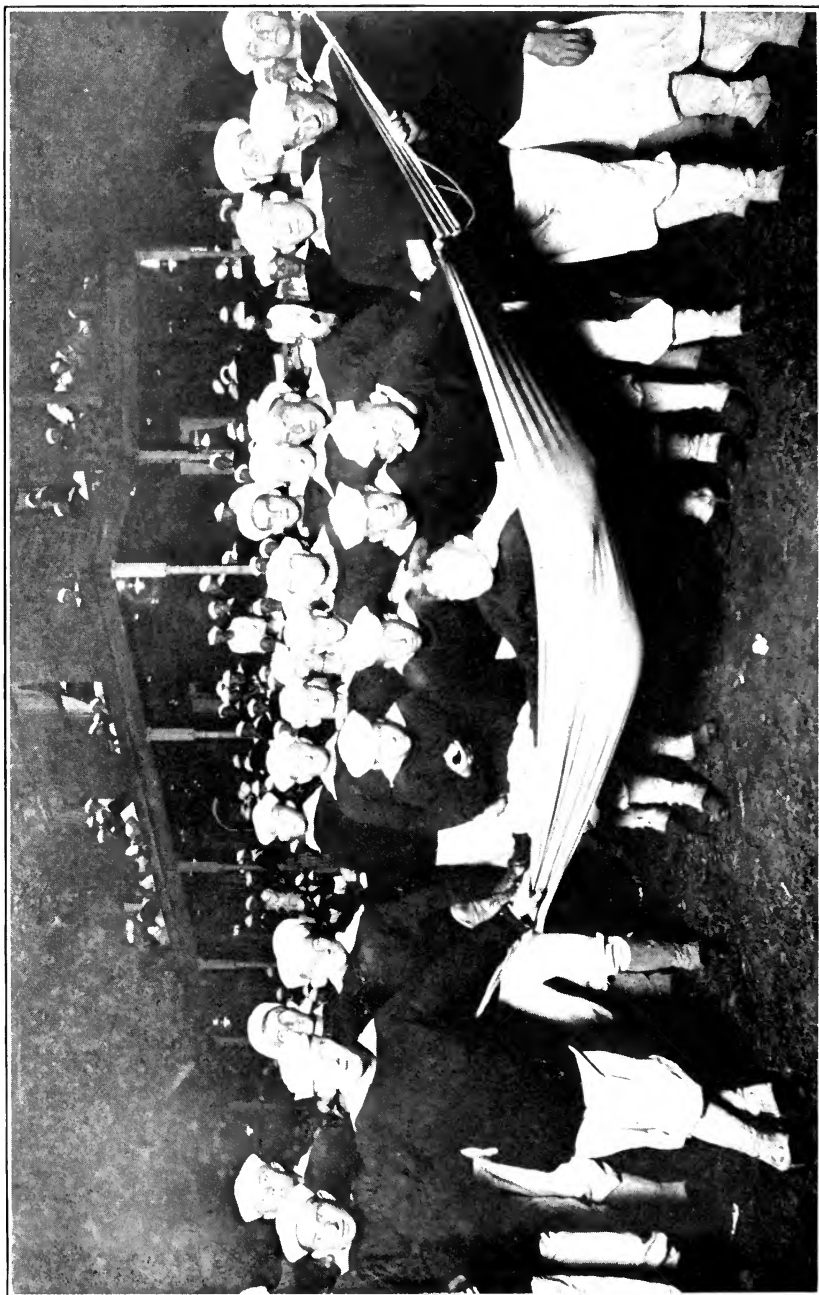
*Coddington Point, Newport, Rhode Island*

VOLLEY BALL COURT



*Coddington Point, Newport, Rhode Island*

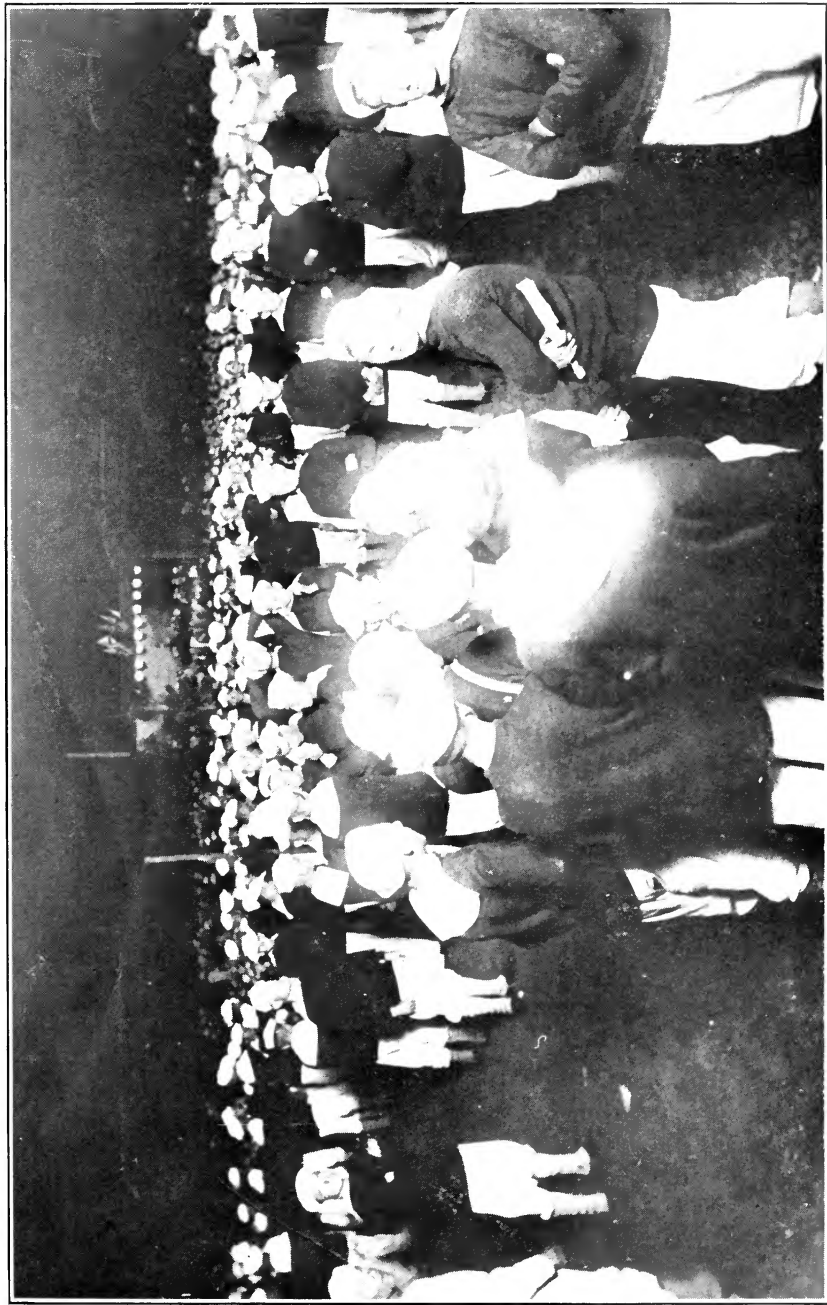
WRITING LETTERS IN THE GROVE



*Coddington Point, Newport, Rhode Island*

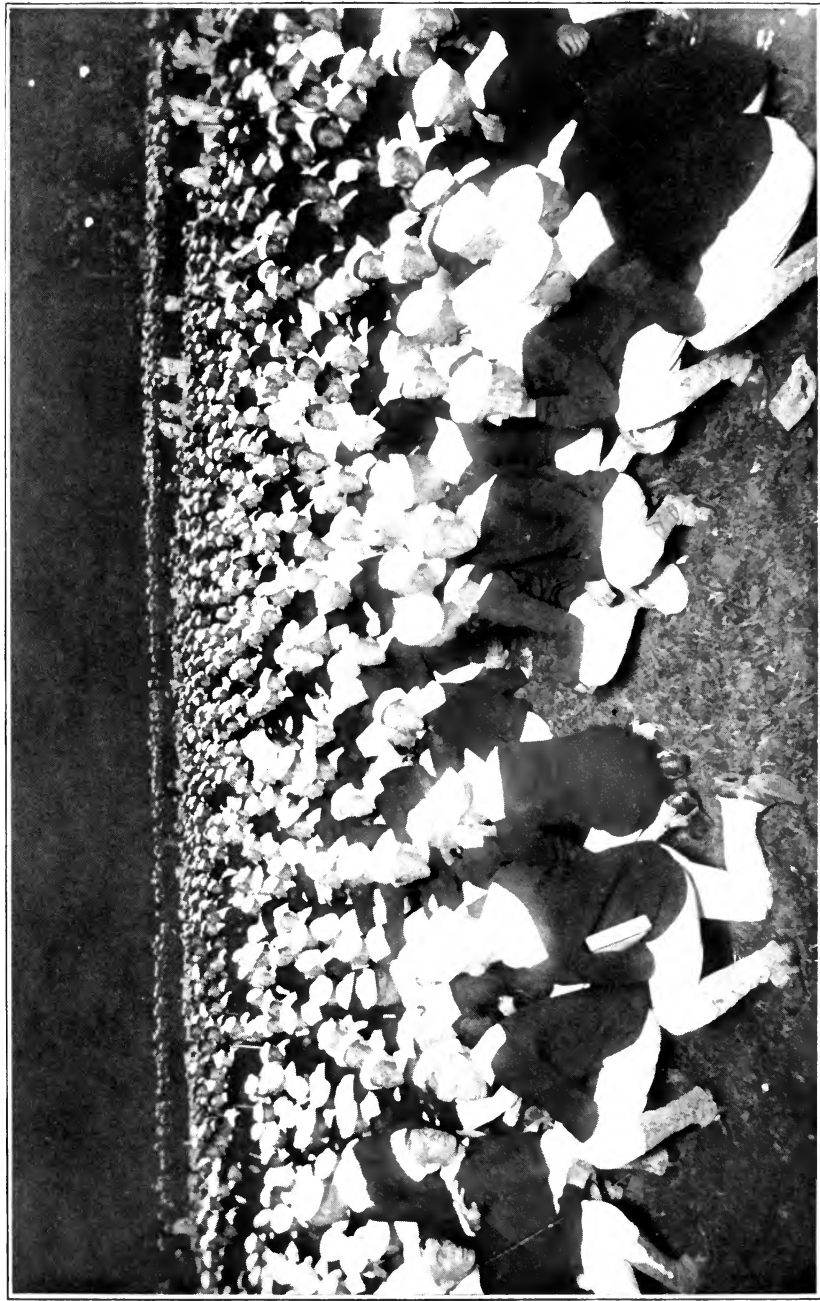
NO DOUBT ABOUT THE POPULARITY OF THE CLUB  
ABOUT ONE HUNDRED HAMMOCKS HAVE BEEN HUNG IN THE GROVE FOR THE COMFORT OF THE MEN AND  
THEIR GUESTS





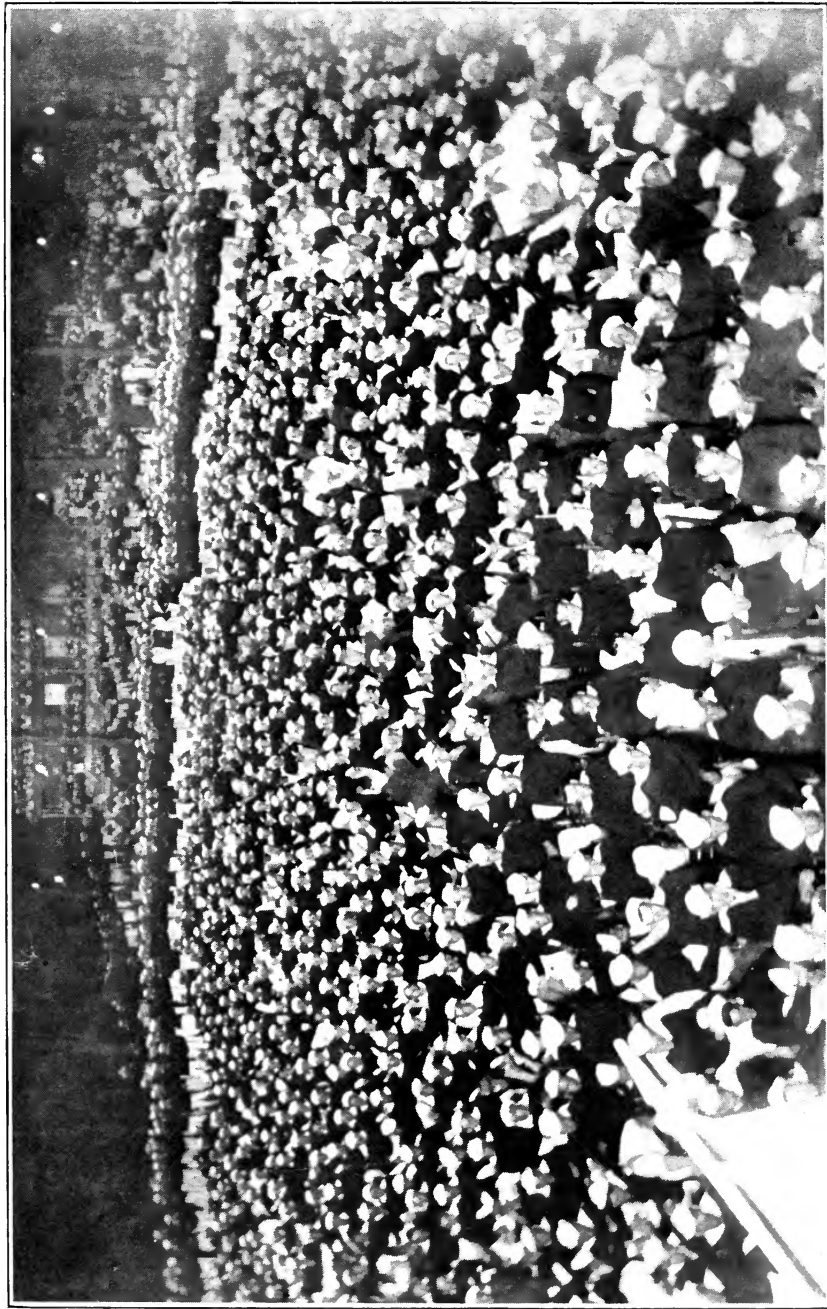
*Coddington Point, Newport, Rhode Island*

AN EVENING'S ENTERTAINMENT ON THE CLUBHOUSE GROUNDS



*Coddington Point, Newport, Rhode Island*

SOMETIMES FIVE THOUSAND SAILORS AND MARINES ARE TOGETHER AT ONE TIME ON THE  
CODDINGTON POINT CLUB GROUNDS



*Coddington Point, Newport, Rhode Island*

MOTION PICTURES have come to be the ideal form of entertainment for mixed audiences. The right kind of motion picture simplifies the problem of the Playground and Recreation Association in securing entertainment for communities in the neighborhood of training camps.

Committees who are planning diversion for these centers will want to include EDISON CONQUEST PICTURES on their program, because they contain everything that is worth while, bright, stimulating stories and other subjects, artistically photographed, and of peculiar interest to everyone.

A few sample CONQUEST programs may illustrate the value of these pictures.

#### PROGRAM NO. 1

"Chris and the Wonderful Lamp".....	4 reels
"Luck of Roaring Camp" } .....	2 reels
"Skylarking on Skiis".... }	
"He Couldn't Get Up in the Morning" } .....	1 reel
"Captains of Tomorrow"..... }	

#### PROGRAM NO. 2

"Knights of the Square Table".....	4 reels
"Farmer Alfalfa and His Wayward Pup" } .....	1 reel
"Your Flag and My Flag"..... }	
"The Making of 100-Ton Guns".... }	1 reel
"What Form Means to an Athlete" ) .....	
"The Story of the Willow Plate".....	1 reel

#### PROGRAM NO. 3

"Billy and the Big Stick".....	4 reels
"Two Kentucky Boys".....	2 reels
"Climbing Mt. Washington"..... }	1 reel
"Gathering Bananas and Cocoanuts" ) .....	

#### PROGRAM NO. 4

"The Half-Back".....	3 reels
"The Boy Who Cried Wolf".....	2 reels
"Playing in Florida"..... }	
"Crystals in Formation"..... }	1 reel
"The Joy Rider of the Ocean" ) .....	
"In Love's Laboratory".....	1 reel

*The "STAR SPANGLED BANNER," reproduced from the story by Mary Raymond Shipman Andrews, a patriotic film of no little merit, should prove ideal for this purpose.*



## The Victrola and Victor Records

can bring to your school all the happiness of the Christmas season, and countless benefits, in pleasure and instruction, for every other school day of the year.

Have you a copy of "Pan and His Pipes," by Catherine Dunlap Cather? This little booklet of ten stories about music and its beginning is an appropriate Christmas book, and should be on the desk of all teachers for the story telling period. (Price 35 cents at all Victor dealers)

Here are a few Christmas suggestions of Victor Records for your school:

- |        |   |        |   |
|--------|---|--------|---|
| 45145  | Holy Night (Adam)   | 35594  | Angels from the Realms of Glory   |
| 10 in. | Marsh and Lyric Quartet                                     | 12 in. | (Long melody - marit) Trinity Choir   |
| \$1.00 | Silent Night (Gruber) (with Organ and Chimes) Lyric Quartet | \$1.25 | Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem  |
|        |   |        | (Phillips Books) Trinity Choir  |
| 35499  | Messiah-Pastoral Symphony                                   | 31873  | Christmas Songs and Carols  |
| 12 in. | (Handel) Victor Concert Orchestra                           | 12 in. | (Christmas Awake) "Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem," "God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen," "The First Nowell," "Silent Night"           |
| \$1.25 | (Handel) Victor Mixed Chorus                                | \$1.00 | Victor Mixed Chorus   |
|        | Messiah-And the Glory of the Lord                           | 31770  | Messiah-Hallelujah Chorus   |
|        | (Handel) Victor Mixed Chorus                                | 12 in. | (Handel) Victor Chorus  |
| 45144  | Messiah-He Shall Feed His Flock                             | \$1.00 | and Sousa's Band  |
| 10 in. | Elsie Baker   |        | Merry Christmas (2) Sleighing Song  |
| \$1.00 | Messiah-Come Unto Me Lucy Marsh                             | 17869  | (Riley-Gay) Olive Kline   |
|        | Nazareth  | 10 in. | Around the Christmas Tree (Old Swedish Folk-Song) Little  |
|        | (Gounod) Lyric Quartet                                      | 75c    | Christmas Shoes Elsie Baker   |
| 17647  | First Nowell  | 35566  | Scrooge-Part 1-"Marley's Ghost"   |
| 10 in. | (Old Christmas Carol) Lyric Quartet                         | 12 in. | William Sterling Battis   |
| 75c    |   | \$1.25 | Scrooge-Part 2-"The Ghost of Christmas Past" (Monologue arranged from "A Christmas Carol") (Dickens) William Sterling Battis    |
|        | The Night Before Christmas                                  | 35567  | Scrooge-Part 3-"The Ghost of Christmas Present"   |
|        | (Moore) Cora Mel  | 12 in. | William Sterling Battis   |
| 35418  | Patten  | \$1.25 | Scrooge-Part 4-"The Ghost of Christmas to Come" (Monologue arranged from "A Christmas Carol") (Dickens) William Sterling Battis |
| 12 in. | The Gingerbread Boy   | 60080  | Babes in Toyland-The Toymaker's Shop (Herbert) (Christmas record made especially for the children)                              |
| \$1.25 | (Old Folk Tale) Georgene Faulkner                           | 11 in. | Victor Herbert's Orchestra  |
|        |   | 75c    |   |



**Victrola XXV, \$75**  
specially manufactured  
for school use

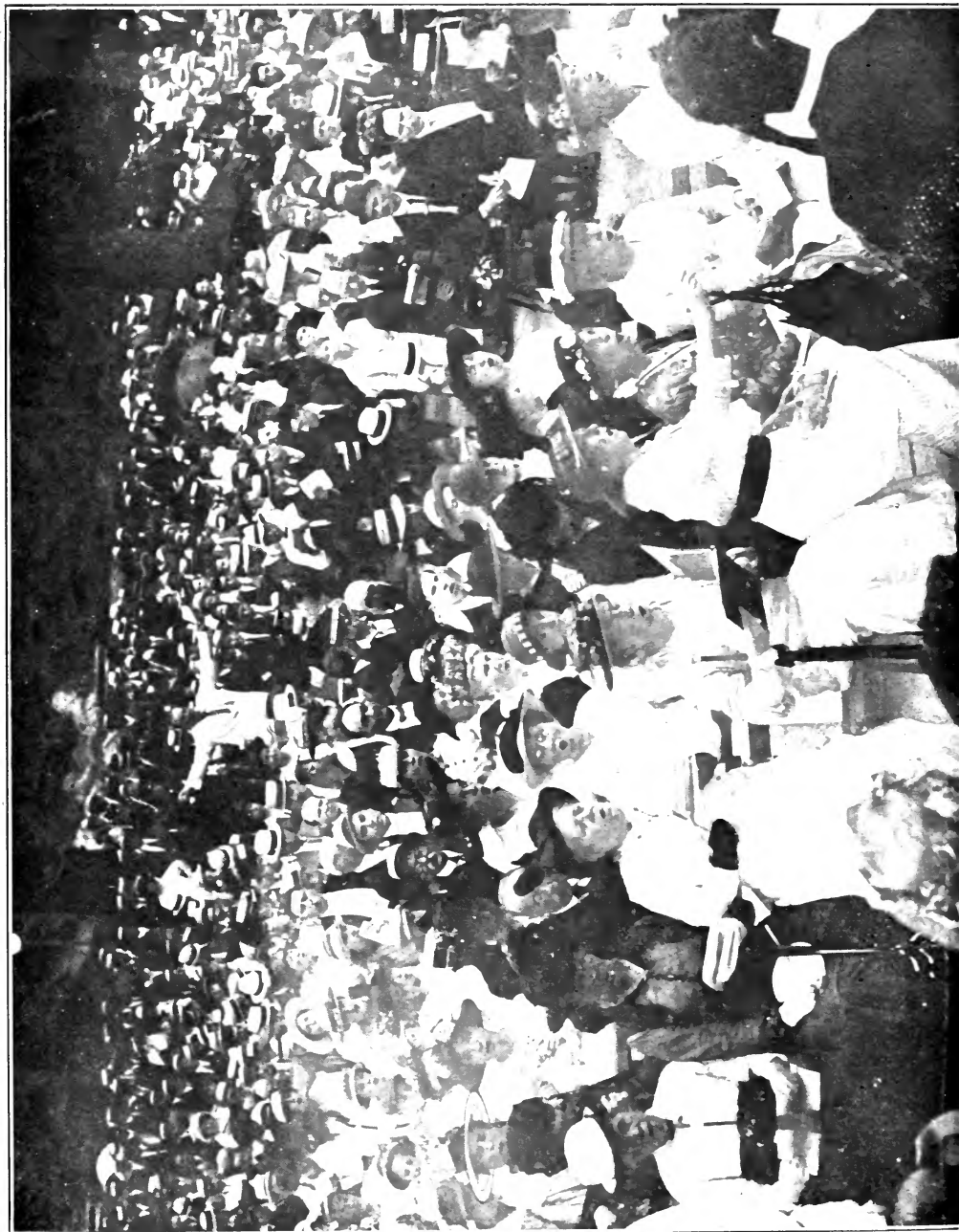
When the Victrola is not in use, the horn can be placed under the instrument safe and secure from danger, and the cabinet can be locked to protect it from dust and promiscuous use by irresponsible people.

Hear these Victor Records at any Victor dealer's. For further information, write to the

Educational Department  
Victor Talking Machine Co.  
Camden, N. J.

# Victor





he Community Chorus, New York City, winter and summer, indoors and out, in public halls and parks, sings together for the joy of singing and what singing can do to awaken and inspire the community spirit. There are generally almost as many men as women and every age is represented.

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

### A Playground for Java.—

C. M. Goethe writes in *The Survey*: "A letter has just reached me from my correspondent in Java, James Etty. He has been receiving regularly *The Survey* and THE PLAYGROUND. He writes, 'I have great pleasure in stating that our place is getting its playground.' He then modestly adds that, while he did not take an active part in it, 'I think the many times I spoke about your American playground movement must to have helped to level the paths.'

"It is just these beginnings all over the world, promoted by just such articles as appeared in *The Survey* and in THE PLAYGROUND that are leading to a broader internationalism and helping to make the way for a better understanding and a more lasting peace in the future."

Mr. Goethe writes that he has received a copy of the grant of 600 rupees from India toward the Lee Memorial Playground, one of the first municipal appropriations in India. "Once the people own the playground they take an interest which otherwise is impossible."

**Carry On.**—"China needs

playgrounds tremendously and the biggest help we can get in proving that to the people to whom we must look for support and maintenance is the proof of their necessity and high value in America. May you enjoy the greatest success in your propaganda, not only for the good you will do America, but for the great good you will send on to the Orient as well."—Extract from letter of Frank Eckerson, Tong-An District of the Amoy Mission, Tong-An, Amoy, China

**A "Macedonian" Cry from Russia.** — Xenphon Kalamatiano, a progressive Russian who has been educated in this country, now sends the following urgent appeal through the American Consulate in Moscow:

"In connection with the various changes which are taking place in Russia as a result of the revolution, there is growing interest in the reconstruction of the school system, with a special view towards paying more attention to the physical training of the students, which up to the present time has been almost entirely neglected.

"As a graduate of American schools I have been asked by a new Union of Parents to pro-

cure such assistance from the States as possible to help in the preparation of a new program for establishing schools more or less on the American plan.

"What is desired is literature describing American grade and high schools, with as much detail as possible, especially if possible the steps taken to insure hygienic surroundings, the system of gymnasiums and gymnasium work, also descriptions of the various field sports and how they are of assistance in the general training of the scholars.

"The new Union also would like to get in touch with institutions which in the States furnish schools with supplies such as pencils, paper, notebooks; also supplies for gymnasium and sport; as also school furniture of all kinds.

"I trust that this request may find you interested and that the office of the Union of Parents may receive literature and possibly be placed in touch with organizations that may be helpful to it."

Graham R. Taylor who sent us this letter adds: "This is only one of a multitude of ways in which America can be of inestimable service to Russia in this most critical period of her national development. It is a thrilling time to be here

—and has been such all of the past year. I am anxious to get back home and see all my friends and tell them what is going on here and about the experiences I have had. But I cannot break out just yet, and even when I do come back I know I shall feel like keeping in the closest touch possible with affairs here, and perhaps coming back here."

**Community Buildings in Small Towns.** — Sheboygan, Wisconsin; Coldwater, Kansas, and Russell, Kansas, are among the towns reporting new community buildings. Sheboygan has bowling alleys, billiard tables, dancing, and gymnasium and storytelling classes for the younger children, all under the direction of a paid worker.

Coldwater provides stage and four club-rooms, two shower-baths, library, reading-room and rest-room.

Russell built its Community Hall at a cost of about \$3,000 by selling shares at five dollars each. It stands on land owned by the city, which also provides tennis, hand-ball and tether-ball facilities besides some playground apparatus. Community singing and a series of musical and dramatic entertainments will be held in the Hall.



## THE WORLD AT PLAY

**Pooling Interests.**—Cedar Springs, Michigan, in an effort to solve the rural community problem has established a community center in a building formerly occupied by the Congregational church. The work is controlled by the Board of Education. The superintendent of schools, Mr. J. E. Luiden, in writing of the work says: "The school does not pay a cent toward maintaining the activities, as the motion pictures meet the bulk of the bills. The other activities pay their own way with the help of concerts.

"These activities include a library of 1,000 volumes, a dramatic club of twelve, an orchestra of twenty-five, and a chorus now organizing for a second season. Motion pictures are given twice a week, a home school association is flourishing and plans are being laid for a winter Chautauqua.

"Each organization has its own officers, but the superintendent of schools is ex-officio a director in all of them, thus unifying and building up all interests from an educational standpoint. This eliminates local politics and petty personalities, while enabling each society to feel itself responsible for its own success.

"To clinch matters this year,

we also plan a Community Clearing Council, to act as an advisory committee to assist the Board of Education and the Superintendent in securing the best interests of the community. The council is to be composed of about twenty-five public-spirited citizens of both sexes, representing a dozen communities and public enterprises. This will help develop public sentiment, keep close tab on any untoward developments, sense new needs and suggest new solutions, besides unifying the town."

**Making Use of a Run-down Church.**—Earlville, Illinois, is using two lots and an old church building for basket-ball, Boy Scouts, Mothers' Clubs and other interesting gatherings.

**Interest in Gardening in South Bend, Indiana.**—Nearly 4500 registered in the Home Garden Contest, while 457 received vacant lot gardens directly from the director of gardens of the municipal recreation system. The number reached about a thousand including lots granted by Oliver, Studebaker and other large industrial plants. The annual Flower and Vegetable Show was held at the Inter-State Fair.

**A Miniature Olympiad.**—

Over one thousand boys competed in New York City on Labor Day for the Public Park Playground Athletic and Recreation League Championship. Every race which goes to make up a cosmopolitan city was represented. Winners in each of the ten events received gold, silver or bronze medals and the playground winning the championship, a silver cup—all presented by the New York Evening Mail.

**A Scale for Grading Neighborhood Conditions.**—It is published by the Whittier State School, Whittier, California. It includes playground facilities, institutions and establishments, social status of residents.

**Dramatic Courses at Columbia.**—Columbia University is to have two very significant courses in the training of leaders of dramatic play. That given by Emma Sheridan Fry on Principles of Educational Dramatics will serve as a foundation for the more specialized course given by eminent lecturers, conducted by the Children's Educational Theatre. Full information regarding these courses may be secured from the Director of Extension Teaching, Columbia University.

**Musical Baseball.**—West

New York, New Jersey, ran a municipal baseball series with semi-professional teams, charging for seats but not for admittance. The profit of nearly three thousand dollars was used for free band concerts to the number of fifteen.

**Food Conservation for Schools.**—The United States Food Administration will issue each school month a bulletin of family and civic economics prepared under the direction of Charles H. Judd, Dean of the School of Education of the University of Chicago. These lessons are intended to stimulate closer cooperation between the school and the community in solving the problem of our democracy.

Enthusiastic cooperation was extended by all the summer schools of the country in carrying the messages of the Food Administration to their students, who, as teachers, have infinite possibilities of influencing "the food habits of the one hundred million of our people."

**Inter-State Character Education Methods Research.**—The National Institution for Moral Instruction is offering a prize of \$20,000 for the best method of Character Education in the public schools of the United States. In 1916, a competition for a prize of \$5000 was

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

conducted for the best "Children's Code of Morals." Nine collaborators from each state may be appointed to work out the proposed system. Only one plan from each state will be eligible. Further information may be secured from the Institution, 3730 McKinley Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

**Boys' Clubs Annual Meeting.**—The Boys' Club Federation held its eleventh annual conference in Buffalo, with 114 delegates present, representing sixty organizations. The Older Boys' section voted to raise one-fourth of the expense for a field secretary for the far west. One of the memorable events was the lighting of eleven candles upon a huge birthday cake symbolizing the eleven years of the Federation. The candles were lighted in a darkened room by Older Boy delegates with a torch which the president hands on from year to year to his successor as a symbol of the lighting of new beacon fires in the form of boys' clubs throughout the land. Among the speakers were Irving Bacheller, Ernest K. Coulter and James A. Wilder, the last from Honolulu.

**Dedication of McGolrick Recreation Field.**—William E.

Harmon, speaking at the dedication services at McGolrick Recreation Field, in New York city, urged young Catholics there present to make the occasion the starting point for nation-wide propaganda for the establishment of playgrounds by Catholic parishes. Mr. Harmon spoke in part as follows:

"I wonder how many of us here today realize the meaning of this recreation field we are about to dedicate. I wonder how many are thinking of the part it is to play in this section of the great City of New York?

"Scarcely a day will pass but that a new child will enter for the first time its welcoming gates, to take possession of it, and to have it for his very own for five, or perhaps, even ten years.

"About the time our dear Lord was born, nearly two thousand years ago an open space in the Imperial City of Rome was set aside for a park or market place. Today it is still in use, and children have gained health and strength from its grassy turf, and in its cooling shadows for sixty generations.

"About one thousand years ago a London manufacturer gave a few acres of ground ly-

ing between his house and his small factory upon condition that a path should be kept open between the two buildings for all time. While the very name of that man has, in the passage of the centuries, become a question of history, so my informant told me, the City of London has kept the path open traversing the park in a curious criss-cross way, and on the night I was there, in the middle of a spell of extreme heat, I saw not less than five hundred men, women and children stretched out asleep under the stars.

"I speak of these things because I want you to see what great work has been done for you and your children, and your children's children by your beloved Pastor, I also want you to try to realize a far greater significance in the promise that this playground gives to other Catholic parishes, the inspiration that it will give to other spiritual leaders who are concerned with the health of the body in connection with the health of the soul, and the hope that it will bring to the mothers and fathers of children in other places where our work may be duplicated. I trust with God's aid to sow under ground, watered by your Pastor's love, seed

that will multiply a hundred-fold from the dedication of this day.

"A few years ago while riding on the Twentieth Century train to Chicago, I became interested in a discussion of philanthropies. The question at issue was, What form of gift to the public would be most likely to become a permanent or perpetual benefaction? The gentlemen were men of wide experience and broad education, and many were the suggestions made, and many were the cogent arguments scored against them. When libraries were proposed, the point was made that books wore out, and buildings must be kept up with fresh money. Hospitals performed their wonderful service to the public, but under the same handicap. Educational institutions became sluggish and out of step with progress, unless refreshed by new blood. Endowments are subject to theft or misuse. Even churches decay or moulder from ravages of time. Land, naked land, was found to be the only form of a public gift that stood the test of years of decay or misuse. Land is always where God put it—ready to serve his children, whenever men are wise enough to put it to good use. It may be made to serve

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

evil ends, but of itself it is uncontaminated."

**Putting New Life into the Community.** — Word comes from a small community in New York of the work of one man, a minister, in helping his young folks to rich, happy lives. He desired more modern facilities for work with his young people.

"Only chloroform could be the means of separating his pews from their dollars. He was big enough to undertake physical directing in a gymnasium for the village in order to keep his little flock. Well, it does seem as though the Lord had raised him up! I understand that he is to be made a member of the school faculty another year with a regular salary—he's doing it all gratis now—directing the training of his 400 pupils, except that one teacher has the girls from 16 to 18. He is an Englishman, son of an officer, and has had good previous work along this line I judge—clean, enthusiastic, well-educated. I do not dare to put into words the things I hope he may do for us. Our men's social club at their annual picnic raised \$200 for starting the gynasium. He rented the skating rink and fitted it up for a gynasium. He has classes

every day excepting Friday and Saturday. He is a scout-master into the bargain and the boys meet there, regularly. He had them camping for two weeks during the summer.

"I had been very much discouraged during the year just after I made my master effort. I had sifted to the last ounce I was able and it seemed a last effort. But it has just begun to blossom. Roots must have been growing in the dark. The business men have joined with the Grange to establish a fine rest-room, a place so much needed in a rural community. They provide all the late periodicals and papers, have a comfortable place for farmers to bring their luncheon and to eat it, a toilet and lavatory. Just what we needed. Saturday nights this summer the pavement has been swept clean and dusted over with cornmeal and after the band concert, the town has danced, the village president being floor-manager. Some of the ministers have looked for the heavens to fall but on the contrary I seemed to see the stars twinkle a bit more gaily, sure am I the get-together spirit is manifesting itself and the wave is going to be so strong that even the ministers will be swept on with it. My enthusiasm, so

crushed, is reviving and I begin to get the vision again."

**Playshed for Winter.**—"Bluefield, West Virginia, has a gymnasium for winter sports 40x80 feet. It might be called a playshed yet can be warmed, has pine floor and porch nine feet wide running all around for running track and roller skating. Shower baths below."

**Municipal Golf Club House.**—The Racine, Wisconsin, municipal golf clubhouse contains a heating and hot-water plant with baths, dressing-rooms for men and women, storage-room, and office, as well as a refectory and dining-room and a clubroom.

Racine has given up the concession system and the refectory service is now handled directly by the Park Board. "Better and increased service" is the report under the new system.

The Park Department municipal Chautauqua, was a success financially and every other way and the department plans to repeat it. The Ben Greet players give an annual performance in one of the parks.

**Socialized High School in Eveleth, Minnesota.**—The Eveleth high school building cost \$175,000 and contains two swimming pools 20x60 feet,

showers and lockers, a gymnasium 50x110 feet, with dressing-rooms and an office for the directors. A large auditorium with movable seats and a stage between the gymnasium and the auditorium make a building which, from the standpoint of recreation, is one of the most complete in the United States.

Since the high school is to have two swimming-pools, the municipality has given up its plan of a natatorium and has built instead a curling and skating rink. The curling rink is on the first floor of the building and the skating rink on the second.

The schools at Eveleth have established a system of physical training based upon play. This includes class-rooms and gymnasium activities with play with a play leader during recess and after school. In the evening there is indoor recreation conducted for the older children. The night school for foreigners has community singing. A teachers' training class in plays, games, folk dancing, and calisthenics was conducted during the winter of 1915-16.

A municipal bathing beach has been established at Ely Lake. The Board of Educa-

## A LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE

tion maintains a bus line from the city to the beach. Children are carried free. There is a small charge for adults. Supervision at the bathing beach was also provided by the Board of Education.

From Virginia, Minnesota.

—By vote of the people the council appropriation for municipal music was increased from \$2000 to \$3500. The new city hall is to be used as a municipal recreation center as well as for administrative purposes.

## A LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE

For four years a communal service has been held on Christmas night in the city park of Riverside, Cal., and the death of no growing thing has been necessary to commemorate the birth of Jesus. No monarch of the forests nor of the mountains is cut down for this one night to have its sap drawn for years from unseen reservoirs gradually dried up. No! Riverside decorates with tinsel and spangles, gay ornaments and pure white ribbons a magnificent living cypress which towers symmetrically for eighty feet into the dark blue sky that glitters with millions of stars which the tree's solitary star crown emulates. Riverside, located as it is in the southern part of California, has been chosen by one of the big circuses as a winter quarters. With this circus available, why not, came the thought to the originator of the Community Christmas Tree, revive the memory of the old-world animals chewing the cud of idleness in their open fields. Accordingly a procession is formed each Christmas night several squares from the park and floats are prepared to add to the festivities; then, marching as solemnly as if they were carrying the Three Wise Men of Old and passing through rows of applauding thousands, the camels, elephants and Arabian horses lead the festal procession through the orange-bowered city which nestles in the Sierras as did the hamlet in Judea lie in the hollow of its hills so long ago.

And as they turn through the rose-covered gates and approach the glittering tree a message radiates through all its branches "Joy to the World." Then the Spirit of Christmas, impersonated by a young girl who is drawn to her throne in the tree on a lovely chariot, glides to her place amid the welcome from the trumpets, the brasses, the viols and the voices of thousands.

## THE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Once again the jeweled lights flash out, carols are sung and a tender hush comes when a simple prayer is made by a gentle old man ending in the Lord's Prayer in which all join. And the old tree rustles, whispering to itself.

## THE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Now is the time to plan your community Christmas. Here are a few suggestions from last year's celebrations that may be helpful.

As the clock in the Metropolitan tower struck six o'clock the day after Christmas, the thousands of lights on the Municipal Christmas Tree in Madison Square were switched on and the great pine became indeed a "Tree of Light" and color, topped by the brilliant white "Star of the East." A short distance to the north of the tree a large electric sign blazed forth the Christmas message, "Peace on Earth, to Men Good Will."

Within a few moments after the lights were turned on, an interested crowd had gathered to gaze at the tree and by seven-thirty the paths around the tree and the singers' stand were filled with people. The Community Chorus led in the singing of *America, Silent Night, Holy Night, The Christmas Tree Carol* and *Come All Ye Faithful*. At seven-forty singing Arthur Farwell's *March, March*, the chorus proceeded to Madison Square Garden through a moving aisle formed by Boy Scouts with their staffs held horizontally at their sides.

A large crowd had already gathered in the hall and people continued to pour in until not only the balconies and boxes were filled but also the 1500 or more chairs which had been placed on the main floor. The audience was an unusually democratic one, men and women of every class and nationality sitting side by side.

"An audience typical of New York it surely was. Women from the tenements with shawls over their heads hurried along side by side with women in opera cloaks. An old white-haired man with one empty sleeve, plainly a Civil War veteran, followed some cherry cheeked high school girls. An old negro crept in and asked if there was a seat for him, receiving the hearty answer, 'Seats for all.'

"Mothers with their sons, young men just back from the



## THE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

border, in khaki, fathers and mothers with their little children, rich and poor, richly clad and shabby, young and old, all came hurrying in together.

"There were blind people, led by their friends. There were deaf men and women, wearing contrivances for hearing at their ears. There were lame people, limping eagerly along.

"If any element preponderated it was citizens with cheap clothes and dark, intent faces, music loving Italians and Russian Jews from the East Side."

The platform for the Community Chorus erected at the east end of the hall was banked with evergreens in front and at the sides. The singers, said to be one thousand in number, were of all ages from little girls with curls hanging down their backs to white-haired men and women. All of the women in the chorus wore white. The orchestra which played the accompaniments numbered about ninety pieces. Harry Barnhart directed the singing of *The Messiah* by the Chorus and familiar hymns by all.

The audience seemed a little timid about letting out their voices at first but soon they forgot themselves in the songs which they were singing and made the place ring with the well-known carols and hymns.

Comparatively very few of the audience left before the last hymn had been sung. The audience stood during the singing of the impressive *Hallelujah Chorus*.

One could but feel that a true Christmas spirit reigned supreme in the hearts of the great throng that took part in this celebration.

At the community Christmas tree in Harlem, arranged by the Harlem Council of Women, in Mount Morris Park, the Harlem Young Women's Christian Association gave the pageant of the Nativity on Christmas night. Costumes were borrowed from local churches and other organizations. The lights from the tree and a spot-light provided the illumination. The actors, following the light, came down the hill to the manger, where they presented their gifts and sang carols. Many had felt that the program for Christmas night was unimportant as most people would have home interests, but the attendance and appreciation fully justified the efforts of the Y. W. C. A. Other organizations had charge of other nights, in turn.

The children of the parks, playgrounds and gymnasium under the Department of Parks celebrated Christmas and their annual

## RECREATION IN INDUSTRY

exhibit of their work during the week with a playlet, *Father Time and His Children*, followed by general dancing.

The program of the South Bend, Indiana, Christmas tree celebration consisted of carols and seven living pictures of scenes of the Nativity.

Los Angeles conducted a series of Christmas festivals, ending with a particularly gay occasion in the old Plaza, where a program of Mexican and Spanish songs and dances roused these warm-blooded foreigners to great enthusiasm.

## RECREATION IN INDUSTRY

CHARLES FREDERICK WELLER, Associate Secretary, Playground and Recreation Association of America, Chicago, Illinois

(Continued from September)

### VIII. SOCIAL SERVICE

In one of the smallest of the Northern Range Towns of Minnesota, I talked with an assistant superintendent of important mining interests. He came to this little, isolated settlement, some fifteen years ago, as a young man, a cultured college graduate. He told me that the desolation, the utter loneliness and dullness of his position, was so overwhelming that, for a long time, he was constantly on the verge of deserting the industry and fleeing to a more congenial fellowship. He did not "break-loose" into dissipation, as many workers do, but it is probable that something vital has been killed in that man—and in scores or hundreds of others, who appear to have "made good" as industrial leaders, but have really murdered some of their richest potential powers.

From the librarian at Virginia, Minnesota, I learned such pathetic stories of life-hunger among industrial workers and their families as would surely stir to action the noble-minded leaders of those great iron mines, if they could understand somewhat more adequately the human elements of their mammoth industrial machines.

Foreign-born women, especially, linger shyly around the librarian's desk, seeking eagerly for some excuse for just talking to some one. Weeks drag along with no opportunity to talk with any human being about anything but the grim toil of the man's industry

## RECREATION IN INDUSTRY

and his sleeping-eating place. These women are sometimes desperately lonely. They feel that "nobody cares." They have no place, no human usefulness, no community consciousness; no sense of their own function and value among their fellows. Their souls starve for fellowship—which organized recreations could give.

### IX. MODERN CIVILIZATION'S TWO PITFALLS

But, why should industries lead, or share vigorously, in the solution of the leisure-time problem? Because industries have become the main determinants of social thought and action.

Not only has the influence of our industries grown mightily, but their characteristics have greatly changed. Even since I was a laboring man—in 1889 and '90 at Swift's slaughter house in the Chicago Stock Yards—there have been large alterations in industrial, social conceptions. And the rapidity of the changing movement increases constantly. Five years in the twentieth century bring us farther forward than fifty in the nineteenth or five hundred in earlier periods.

Therefore, it is vitally important that our industrial leaders should apprehend two dangers which threaten modern civilization:—

One danger is that the characteristic modern emphasis upon material standards, upon *conditions*, will not be corrected or controlled by an adequate emphasis upon *activities*, upon life itself. My whole discussion of recreation deals obviously with this theme—which was expressed in the first of the two results promised from recreation activities in industry, namely the increase of productive power—of efficiency. We are constantly forgetting that life is more than meat or raiment.

The second danger is that those who now control our industries will be so slow in realizing and expressing the growing, general sense of brotherhood, of democracy, that people will become impatient and incline, sweepingly, towards class hatred and class warfare. To this theme is related the second of the two promised results of recreation, namely the development of team play, of cooperation—a spirit of united endeavor.

Nothing is more democratic than play. Team mates in an earnest sport forget all class distinctions. If you have played good games with others you feel a glow of friendly fellowship for them.

Eleventh Conclusion:

The unifying power of recreation can be applied in industries to

## RECREATION IN INDUSTRY

lessen class antagonisms and to develop cooperation. The spirit and detailed suggestions of preceding paragraphs have been expressed inadequately if this democratic, unifying power of recreation has not, throughout, been indicated.

### **Community Movements**

One of the greatest services an industrial leader can render in any community is to help develop a public recreation system to be sustained by public taxes. Greater than giving outright to the community a Young Men's Christian Association or any other recreation institution would be the giving of such leadership as will enable the community, itself to develop and maintain its own institutions.

Here, I am suggesting a new subject—the relating of an industry to the whole, independent community in which the industry is placed. All my preceding paragraphs have dealt with a single industry, suggesting recreation activities which that industry should develop for its own employees and their families. Now, I turn to speak, very briefly, of the general public—the whole surrounding community, be it large or small.

To be specific;—let the directors of an industry, or a group of industrial leaders, in "Exville," say to the Playground and Recreation Association of America;— "Up to \$2,000 we will pay the actual cost, (about \$136 weekly) of having one of your expert field secretaries do four things for Exville, namely;—

- (1) Study Exville
- (2) Plan an appropriate system of playgrounds and recreation centers
- (3) Enlist school, park, and city authorities to conduct them, and
- (4) Return often enough to get the activities successfully established, under competent playleaders."

Such a gift to the community would do more than create a single Young\* Men's Christian Association;—it would develop Young Men's Christian Association methods, at public expense, and for all the people, in several public schools. It would be better than buying one ten-thousand-dollar playground;—for it would lead the community to buy playgrounds for all its schools and to develop play in all its parks. It would be more surely permanent and more

\*This is not to criticise or belittle the Y. M. C. A.—an altogether admirable institution which deserves to be even more generously and generally supported than at present. It is named here to make my suggestion specific and forceful.

## RECREATION IN INDUSTRY

broadly democratic than any philanthropy, however noble-spirited;—for it would develop the unfailing springs of power of all the people.

Such a gift from the industrial leaders of a town or city would be like “water to flush the pump”;—for it would assure a steady, growing stream of popular interest and public support. This is not theory. It has been demonstrated in many communities—small and large—where sufficient funds have been assured to enable one of the field secretaries of this National Association to work from two weeks to three or four months, as needed, in each place.

On this subject of moving whole communities to develop public recreation institutions, adequate information may be had by any inquirer. I must return now to the immediate subject, “Recreation in Industries”—within the industries themselves.

### X. TWO GENERAL CONCLUSIONS SUMMARIZED

To an open-minded man, who is trying to read the signs of the times, I believe the preceding pages will suggest that:—

(1) Appropriate recreation activities can be developed in industrial plants as an important means of conserving and increasing productive power and of strengthening the spirit of cooperative unity.

(2) Everything depends upon the recreation leader employed and the specific plans developed for each distinct industrial establishment. There is little use in going about it in a cheap, patent-medicine way.

**A “Recreation Engineer” Necessary** Before the local, permanent leader of recreation is employed in any industry there should be called in, for preliminary service, an efficiency organizer or conservation engineer, experienced in the large, specialized field of recreation. He is needed to study the local situation and possibilities, the personnel and resources, and to plan out the recreation program—with as much expert resourcefulness as the Company would naturally employ for the installation of any other important new department.

Such a general industrial field secretary would develop plans for the one industry in the light of experiences in other industries. He would help to discover, to train, and, subsequently, to guide, the permanent recreation leader of the local industry.

Exactly such engineering service or “field service” as this, the Playground and Recreation Association of America has been suc-

## STADIUMS

cessfully rendering for ten years—not to industrial plants, but to cities and towns wishing to start or to remodel their recreation activities.

### XI. THE VERY FIRST THING TO BE DONE

This experienced, efficient "Playground and Recreation Association of America" should now be enabled to offer such organizing, engineering, recreation-planning service to industrial plants.

The Association should also be enabled to carry on preparatory experiments and demonstrations, to study and systematize the experiences of industries in which recreation activities have already been tried, and to search out and develop promising leaders of recreation in these industrial fields.

## STADIUMS

In 1914 there were completed stadiums at Harvard, Syracuse, Yale, Princeton, the College of the City of New York, and at Tacoma, Washington. The expenditures for these stadiums totaled \$1,895,000. Since 1914 the University of Michigan, Cornell University, the Boys' High School of Louisville, Kentucky, Evansville, Indiana, and San Diego, California, have built stadiums or are building them at the present time. The cost of these stadiums, exclusive of that at the University of Michigan, is \$350,000.

### **Methods of Construction**

The methods of construction of stadiums do not vary greatly from two main processes: a stadium is either erected as a complete unit, that is "poured" of concrete or it is made of blocks of reenforced concrete. The stadium at Princeton University was the first to be erected as a monolith. The structure was all poured at once into wooden moulds. The area of the seats is thus self-supporting and the girders, of the same material as the seats, were moulded at the same time. The stadium at the University of Michigan and that at San Diego, California, have been built as monoliths, following the Princeton plan. The stadium at Harvard, built in 1903, is an example of block structure strengthened by twisted steel rods. The stadium of the College of the City of New York is not a monolith but each section of seats carried through to the outer wall is a

## STADIUMS

unit in itself and the builders were most successful in effacing the cracks which it was feared would be visible on the outer wall. The Yale Bowl varies from any of the above plans in that the ground excavated was used as an embankment which was faced with concrete slabs to make steps. Bars of steel were put just below the break of the steps in order to provide for the settling of the earth. The bowl is thus 27' above the level of the street and 27' below it.

The shape of stadiums also follows two plans: In general they are either complete ovals or ovals open at one end. The Yale Bowl, following the plan of the Roman Colosseum, is a complete oval. The stadiums at Tacoma, Washington, San Diego, California, the University of Michigan, Evansville, Indiana, Harvard, and Princeton, are all ovals with an open end after the Greek models. Exceptions to either the Roman or the Greek plan are: The stadium at Cornell which is a straight grandstand running along one side of the field and the stadium of the Louisville Boys' High School which is similar to that already erected at Cornell. Cornell plans the erection of a second building which is to be in the form of a truncated right angle.

In size the stadiums already erected vary from 60,617, the seating capacity of the Yale Bowl, to 4,300, the number accommodated by the Louisville Boys' High School stadium.

**Cost** Princeton, Syracuse, and the College of the City of New York have all been given their stadiums by individuals. Cornell's grandstand stadium was also a gift. The cost of the proposed building at Cornell is to be met by alumni subscriptions. The Yale Bowl was built through alumni gifts while Harvard's Athletic Association, aided by a gift of \$125,000, provided the funds for the stadium there.

In Louisville, Kentucky and Evansville, Indiana, the stadiums have been built and are owned by the school boards. In Evansville the school board rents the stadium to the Central State Baseball League for seventy days including Sundays during the baseball season. The Board thus realizes \$2,000 on the stadium annually. San Diego, California and Tacoma, Washington, secured their stadiums through the interest of the high school students. In Tacoma the amount needed for the stadium—\$135,000—was met by private subscription begun by the students themselves. To all persons contributing \$10 a ticket good for all stadium performances for the next five years was given. San Diego provided for the cost

## STADIUMS

of her stadium—\$132,752—by a bond issue for park improvements. It is maintained by the Board of Education, which contributes \$60 a month for this purpose. The Athletic Association at Princeton had for several years built a temporary grandstand for the big games at a cost for erection and removal of \$10,000 annually. The Athletic Association now pays this sum to the Educational Fund of the college. Thus Mr. Palmer's gift of a \$300,000 stadium is working as a permanent endowment fund for the institution.

### Uses

The stadiums built on the Roman plan cannot be used, as a rule, for as many sports as can those built after the Greek pattern. For example, the Yale Bowl, although enclosing a field 300' x 500', is used only for football. It cannot be used for baseball or track. A plan is now on foot to tunnel it so that there may be a straight-away suitable for track purposes. Pageants and Greek plays have been given in the bowl with excellent effect. The Syracuse University stadium also built after the Roman plan has nevertheless a 220-yards running course made possible by piercing tunnels. The track is separated from the set structure by a five-foot space so that track events are visible to all spectators. The straight-away is in front of the grandstand of the stadiums which are complete ovals, that at the College of the City of New York providing for the most activities. There is on the field enclosed a baseball diamond, a football field, a one-fifth mile running track with 450' straight-away. The stadium has also been used for pageants and Greek plays. This stadium although dedicated to the college is available under the supervision of the faculty to all who care to use it for recreation.

Of the stadiums built on the Greek plan with one end open, that at Princeton, enclosing a field 700' x 580' is the largest. This field has space for football, a quarter-mile running track, and a track for field events. Under the stadium building itself is a covered concourse with eight large toilet-rooms. The stadium at Tacoma, also an open oval, encloses a field 400' x 390'. It is used for football and track events and is made available for baseball through the fact that the walls flare. This was possible because the stadium was small enough to allow those spectators seated in the farthest tiers to see, even though the walls flare. In the case of larger stadiums, flaring walls would make the distance between the players and the spectators too great.



## STADIUMS

Cornell's concrete grand stand covers an area 80' x 700'. An interesting feature of this structure is the space at the top of the grandstand which allows for the parking of 120 automobiles within sight of the games. The grandstand overlooks fifty-seven acres known as the "Playground." Thirty acres of this are unfenced. The balance is fenced and used for track, football, and baseball.

In San Diego, California, the athletic field is 621' x 287', allowing for baseball, football, and track events. The stadium at San Diego is in charge of the Park Department. No charge is made for the use of the stadium if admittance to the event is free. If there is an admission fee, the minimum charge is \$25 and the maximum one-third of the gross receipts.

The Board of Regents controls the stadium at the University of Michigan, which is not yet complete; one long side of the oval is finished and faces a field of thirty-seven acres on which there are tennis courts in addition to baseball, track, and football facilities. The stadium is at the disposal of the college for pageants and dramatic events and has been so used.

### Special Features

The use of a wooden covering for the concrete step is a feature of the Louisville Boys' High School stadium. This covering is high enough in the rear for persons to walk under it and affords comfort as well as protection to the patrons' clothes. There are also fixtures on the building which make possible the erection of a canopy over the spectators in case of rain. The stadium at Evansville, Indiana, has 5,380 seats under cover and 1,400 without cover, known as bleachers. A cement screen built as part of the College of the City of New York stadium runs along the Amsterdam Avenue side of the building where street traffic is heavy and cuts off the noise of the street most effectively. In connection with the stadium at San Diego there is an athletic house which encloses a court for basket ball and general athletics.

# STADIUMS

NAME AND DATE	SEATING CAPACITY	MEANS OF SECURING	CONSTRUCTION AND COST	USES AND AREA OF ENCLOSED FIELD
Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. 1903	22,500—with additions 48,000	Athletic Association, \$225,000. Class of '79, \$125,000	Open at one end. Re-enforced concrete strengthened by twisted steel rods, inclined trusses of steel slab units. Built July-November. \$350,000	230' x 363', includes 4-lap running track and football ground
Yale Bowl, New Haven, Conn. 1913-1914	60,617 seats	Alumni donations and also donations from non-graduates	Playfield 27 feet below original level; earth embankment 54 feet high faced with concrete slabs moulded in form of steps; bars of steel just below break of steps to provide for settling of the earth \$750,000 when finished	Field oval 300 x 500 feet area. Three acres used for football, lacrosse, pageants, opera
Princeton University, Princeton, N. J. 1914	41,000	Gift to college for use of athletic association from Mr. Edgar Palmer. \$10,000 paid annually to College Education Fund by athletic association. This amount previously paid for construction and removal of bleachers.	Poured concrete in wooden moulds. Area of seats self-supporting. No steel columns, girders of same materials as rest of building and were moulded with it. Curved end points to west and north. Covered course under building \$300,000	580 x 700' 60' above playfield; running track; 1/4 mile space for field events; 8 large toilet rooms
Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y. 1907	20,000 with extra places for 20,000 more	Gift of Mr. John D. Archbold	Built 1905-8. Arched structure to make track. This is separated from set structure by 5' space so that track events are visible to all spectators, straightaway in front of grandstand	475' x 670' enclosed oval. 250,000 cubic yards of ground excavated; 220 yards course made by piercing tunnels
University of City of New York, N. Y. C. 1913	5,880 with space for 1,000 extra	Gift of Mr. Adolph Lewishohn, dedicated to college and available for all who care to use it for recreation under supervision of Director of the Department of Hygiene	Screen of cement along Amsterdam Avenue to cut off noise; structure not a monolith but each section of seats carried through to outer wall is a unit; re-enforced concrete	Baseball diamond, football field, 1.5 mile running track oval shaped with 450' straightaway
Tacoma, Wash. 1910	30,000	Popular subscription begun by high school students. To every contributor of \$10 a ticket good for all stadium events for 5 years is given	Walls flare out to allow for playing baseball. Oval open at one end on Puget Sound \$135,000	Football, baseball, and 1.5 mile running track 390' x 400'

# STADIUMS—(Continued)

NAME AND DATE	SEATING CAPACITY	MEANS OF SECURING	CONSTRUCTION AND COST	USES AND AREA OF ENCLOSED FIELD
Cornell University, Alumni Field, Ithaca, N. Y., 2 parts (a) complete 1915 (b) planned	(a) 9,000	(a) Memorial gift from children of Jacob Schoel- kopf	(a) Concrete grandstand; \$80,000 including work on field; place at top of stadium for 120 automobiles; stadium covers area of 80' x 700'	(a) 760 acres football and track; 1/4 mile 30' wide, 220 yards straightaway
	(b) 6,500	(b) Alumni subscriptions	(b) \$150.00 for improvement of baseball field including \$65,000 grandstand in form truncated right angle	
Louisville Boys' High School, Ky. 1916	4,300	School board	\$11,000; re-enforced concrete; along one side of school grounds; 368 feet long. "One feature is the covering of each step with a wooden bench sufficiently raised in the rear to pass under it. This is to add comfort and prevent the soiling of patrons' clothes by the person seated behind them."	
Evansville, Ind.	Covered, 3,380 Bleachers, 1,400 Total—6,780	Built and owned by school board	\$60,000; concrete and steel construction	3 acres; baseball, football, general school athletics. Board of Education leases stadium to Central State Baseball League for 70 days during baseball season for \$2,000. Sunday baseball is played upon it.
University of Michi- gan, Ann Arbor, Mich. (a) completed 1914 (b) planned	(a) 13,200 (b) When completed to seat 52,000		(a) Poured re-enforced con- crete; that already built a unit (b) Whole will be horseshoe shape	37.7 acres; gridiron, base- ball field, and track; also tennis courts; stadium avail- able for pageants and festi- vals through permission of Board of Regents and has been so used.
San Diego, Cal. 1914-1915	30,000	Bond issue for park im- provement. Board of Educa- tion contributes \$60 a month toward upkeep.	Horseshoe shape; poured con- crete \$132,752	Athletic field 287' x 621' baseball, football, track; no charge for use of stadium if admittance is free; if gate admission, minimum charge \$25 or 1-3 gross receipts; stadium in charge of Park Department

## SURFACING

A study of surfacing on the playgrounds of twenty-six cities visited by a worker of the Playground and Recreation Association of America showed that of two hundred and eighty-two playgrounds, eighty were ungraded and forty-five were unimproved. On sixty-five playgrounds efforts had been made to develop grass surfaces.

<b>Surface Treatment</b>	Surface treatment of the remaining one hundred and seventy-one grounds was as follows:
	Gravel . . . . . 47
	Cinder and sand . . . . . 33
	Macadam . . . . . 21
	Cinders and clay . . . . . 17
	Cement . . . . . 16
	Sand . . . . . 15
	Brick . . . . . 8
	Clay . . . . . 5
	Tan Bark . . . . . 5
	Slag . . . . . 2

**Cost** On a playground 250' x 350' cinder surfacing cost \$837.34 and the labor \$1,150. On a playground where tan bark was used, a two-inch surface of bark was sufficient for a season's use.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A REGULATION BASEBALL FIELD\*

**Size** In an investigation of the athletic fields of fifty colleges it was found that twenty had ten acres or more, twenty had from five to ten acres, ten had five acres or less. The fields containing over ten acres belonged to the larger colleges and in most cases, parts of the fields were not used.

**Surfacing** The most important point to be considered in laying out a baseball field is the selection of a plot of

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\* Drawn up from report of A. E. Metzdorf for Dubuque, Iowa

## CONSTRUCTION OF BASEBALL FIELD

ground which will lend itself naturally to the game but which will yield as nearly as possible the best natural soil so as to reduce the amount of excavation and handling. The most generally accepted arrangement of strata is a surface soil, a porous stratum, and a retentive stratum for the bottom or deepest layer. In a properly drained athletic field, the first, second and third layers of soil should be arranged in the following order:

Porous

Retentive or impervious

Mixed and thoroughly pervious

A study of the fields of fifty colleges showed that the various materials for surface or porous soil were used in the following proportions and depths:

18 loam—8 inches

17 sandy loam—6 inches

7 clay—3 inches

5 clay and loam—4 inches

2 sand and clay—3 inches

1 pulverized slate—4 inches

For the second layer of retentive or impervious soil, the materials were used in the following proportions:

20 clay—4 inches

8 gravel—5 inches

5 sand—4 inches

4 stones—4 inches

2 sand and clay—3 inches

2 slate—2 inches

6 combinations

For the third layer crushed stone or a similar solid material partly pervious is recognized as the proper material to be used.

The conclusion has been reached from the data just given and from other investigations that the best arrangement for a field consists of eight inches foundation of crushed stone topped with four inches of clay and with a top layer of six inches of loam.

For a baseball in-field, it is suggested that the inside of the diamond be of turf with four inches of rich loam resting on a bed of clay. In the areas where the infielders play as well as on the base lines, clay mixed with loam in the proportion of one part of clay to three of loam, should make a satisfactory top

## CONSTRUCTION OF BASEBALL FIELD

soil. The character of the clay, however, and the degree of stickiness must be deciding factors in determining the amount of these substances to be used.

**Drainage** There are two kinds of drainage, natural and artificial. Through natural drainage the water runs off the field because of the sloping ground or the water sinks into the ground because of a porous sub-stratum. In artificial drainage the water is taken care of by a system of channels, mains or pipes. For a field of scientific construction, natural drainage is not so satisfactory as artificial. The simplest form of artificial drainage is the open ditch running along one or both sides of a field. Of the fifty colleges investigated, however, only two reported this system of drainage.

These open drains should be distinguished from the more complete form of underground or covered drains which are simply open channels afterwards refilled except at the lower part, along which the channel is preserved by one of several methods of construction. The simplest method in the main, consists of filling the bottom of the dip with stones which are covered with loam.

Other methods of drainage call for a roughly constructed stone sluiceway at the bottom of the dip which is covered with loam. Where piping is not necessary, either of these two forms may be used with slight variations in the shape of the drain or sluiceway.

The most popular method in use in the fields of the fifty colleges investigated is the following: In view of the fact that the pitcher's plate should be fifteen inches higher than the base lines, it is well to drain the in-field from the pitcher's box to the base lines and short out-field, by running trap rock trenches eighteen inches below the surface from the pitcher's box to a ground trench running parallel to the base lines and just outside of them. The out-field may be drained in a similar manner from the right field, center field, and left field to trenches eighteen inches under ground. This method of drainage is necessary only where the bottom soil is heavy and impervious to water and calls for more or less scientific treatment.

Where the soil is naturally sandy the natural method of drainage may well prevail providing the diamond slopes grad-

## CONSTRUCTION OF CLAY TENNIS COURTS

ually from the pitcher's plate with a fifteen-inch drop to the base lines. For the construction of such a diamond the following method may be followed: Take off about eight inches of the sandy soil and put in eight inches of blue clay mixed with loam in the proportion of three parts of clay to one of loam. If this is rolled well into the sub-soil and graded as has been suggested, it should make a fast and smooth "skin" diamond without any grass. It is well to mix 300 to 400 pounds of salt with this mixture for the in-field.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF CLAY TENNIS COURTS\*

The success of clay tennis courts depends to a very great degree on foundations and drainage and for this reason great care should be given to these two considerations in the constructing of courts.

The tennis court of the clay-gravel type consists of two layers of which the lower is the foundation and the upper the surfacing. The foundation is made up of what is known to road-builders as water-bound macadam, which consists of large, medium, and small stones mixed with sand by the action of water and rolled into a firm mass. The upper surface is composed of clay and sand mixed with shovels and spread over the foundation to make the playing surface.

#### **First Steps in the Construction of Tennis Courts**

Secure a civil engineer to find the grade or elevation level of the bottom of the foundation so as to determine how much material must be removed. The next step should consist of the driving in of about fourteen stakes for each court, locating one on each corner of the court and the other ten at intervals of twenty feet along each of the longer sides. The stakes, measuring two feet in length by two inches square, should be driven at least one foot into the ground so that they will not be knocked out of place. On them the elevation of the bottom should be marked, provision being made for a pitch of

\* Suggestions drawn up from report of A. E. Metzdorf on Dubuque, Iowa.

## CONSTRUCTION OF CLAY TENNIS COURTS

from one inch to two inches from each of the back lines to the net.

### **Surfacing**

After the material has been removed to the proper depth for the foundation, the bottom should be rolled down hard with a good, heavy steam or horse roller so as to secure a hard level surface for the foundation. Over this foundation spread seven or eight inches of trap rock to about one and one-half to two inches in diameter. Roll lightly to render this fairly compact but not too close to fill up all the crevices formed by the uneven edges of the rock. Over this spread two inches of one-half to one inch trap rock which is to serve as a drain. Fill this in with pebbles or small cobblestones one to two inches in diameter and level to the grade. A half day's rolling should be given with a heavy roller, keeping constantly in mind the grade lines as this level should be as smooth and true to grade as the finished surface. This should prove sufficient to prepare the foundation for the final process in the construction of a water-bound macadam.

Next, spread coarse sand in thin layers over all and continue wetting it down and rolling it in with a hand roller or a light horse roller until no more sand is required to bind the stones together. Be sure that all the air spaces between the stones are filled up. The resulting surface should now be so hard that the imprint of a horse shoe will scarcely show. If possible allow this to harden in warm sunny weather for half a day.

Over this surface spread one inch of blue clay well dampened so that the roller will pass over it without picking it up. Roll well into the foundation in order to work it into it as much as possible and to form a union between the foundation and the last surfacing. Mix three parts of sand to one of clay, first wetting the clay so that it will resemble soft putty in consistency. Add 300 to 400 pounds of salt as a weed killer. When this has been thoroughly mixed together spread a layer four inches thick over the whole. The greatest care should be exercised to see that the material is so distributed as to keep the grade at all times. Roll this lengthwise and then crosswise with a hand-roller until the surface has been pressed down and made very compact. After it has dried, wet and repeat the rolling until



## CONSTRUCTION OF CLAY TENNIS COURTS

the desired surface has been secured. If high spots appear above the grade levels, wet them thoroughly and rub down with a heavy thick board on the end of a long pole until the surface is entirely level.

When the court is sufficiently dry fill in the one-foot strip under the net with screened cinders ranging from three-fourths inch at the bottom to very fine cinders at the top, covering the top with a layer of sand which should be rolled to the level of the court.

Before the court is thoroughly hard screen fine brown sand over the whole and roll well into the clay. This not only gives a better wearing surface but tones down the light color of blue clay when it dries.

### **Drainage**

During rainy weather the water will run to the strip under the net and, owing to the pitch of the court to the net, will drain down out of the way. If the courts are pitched away from the net, the water will remain well in the back court where continued playing has worn away just enough of the surface to make a hollow which makes the courts unusable a day or two longer than if the pitch is towards the net.

If, however, the slope is too great to permit of drainage towards the net, it is advisable to pitch the courts toward the center with a one-inch drop towards the sides and a two-inch drop to the base lines, constructing trap rock and gravel basins between each set of courts and at the very edge of the plot parallel to the base lines.

### **Arrangements of the Courts**

Courts should be placed so that they will lie north and south. The regular court measures seventy-eight feet in length by thirty-six feet in width. Fifteen feet for match games is the usual amount of space left behind the base line on either end—twenty-one feet for championship games. It is desirable, if possible, to leave ten feet between every two courts as this allows for plenty of space and permits of better drainage.

### **Back Stops and Fencing**

When courts lie next to the street it is necessary to erect a higher screen along the street side than would otherwise be neces-

## WADING POOLS

sary. Such screening should be fifteen feet in height, all other screening ten feet in height.

Galvanized iron piping covered with a heavy one-inch wire screening makes the most serviceable back stop and will outlast any other material which could be used for this purpose. The ground pipes should be set in concrete. The uprights should consist of two-inch pipe; the cross beams of one-inch to one and one-half inch pipe.

### **Water Pipes and Connec- tions**

While the excavating is being done it is advisable to lay any water pipes necessary arranging for a drinking fountain or bubbler in the center of the field.

## WADING POOLS

A study of wading pools in eight cities visited by a worker of the Playground and Recreation Association of America shows a number of variations in the construction and use.

Although in all instances the pools were constructed of reinforced concrete of a finish somewhat rougher than that of the ordinary sidewalk, at least four different shapes were in use—the bowl shape pool, the oval, the round and the rectangular shaped pool. In the great majority of cases the intake and outlet were through the same opening at the deepest part of the pool. In two instances the intake was arranged for at the shallower end, the outlet at the deeper. More than half of the pools were circular in boundary; this arrangement has been found to be the more generally satisfactory plan. The pools were found to vary in depth from ten inches at the shallower end to twenty-five or thirty inches at the deeper.

The shading of the areas surrounding the wading pool, particularly the sand court, is a matter which frequently governs the shape of the pool. For example, the reason for the circular pools used in Chicago is not alone the fact that it sets off symmetrically the circular end of the men's outdoor running track, but also that it permits of the use of a semi-circular pergola and awning over the sand courts. This arrangement, if the awning is properly placed with respect to the compass points, admits of sand court

## WADING POOLS

either in the shade or sunshine at the option of the child. Such an hour-glass shade idea, it is felt, is well worth taking into consideration in constructing the wading pool.

### **Elizabeth, New Jersey, Wading Pool**

In Elizabeth, a pool has been constructed which has been found very satisfactory. It is oval in shape, forty-five feet long and twenty-five feet across—outside measurements. The floor slopes towards the center so that the maximum depth of the water will be sixteen inches. The curb, walls, floors, and walks, are not integral but were constructed separately. This arrangement, it was found, eliminated the cracking due to expansion.

The curb wall which is high enough to be used as a seat by the children, was built first of material composed of one part cement, three parts sand and five parts aggregate stone. The curb is also useful in preventing surface and waste water from seeping into the pool from the surrounding walks. Exposed parts of the wall are faced with a composition of one part cement and two parts sand with a certain amount of water proofing. All of the walls are re-enforced with steel bands.

After the walls were built the plumbing fixtures for the feed and drain pipes were installed. A six-inch layer of cinders was placed over the bed of the pool, the ground having first been tamped and a blind drain installed to prevent water settling under the floor. Over this layer of cinders was spread a five-inch layer of concrete re-enforced with electrically-welded wire mesh. The surface of the concrete was troweled hard and then flooded to make it "slip proof." The walks and the floor of the pool are of the same composition as the curb walls. The walk is graded away from the walls with a drop of one and one-half inches and a blind drain arranged to carry the water to the sewer opening. A bed in the center of the pool is so arranged as to catch all sand and prevent it from clogging the drain pipe.

The entire cost for the plumbing and mason work on this pool was \$850.

### **Chicago Wading Pools**

Mr. E. B. De Groot, formerly of the South Park Commission of Chicago, has suggested two methods of constructing wading pools. The first involves the scooping out of a small area of the play-

## WADING POOLS

ground so that it resembles a saucer. At the lowest point a drain should be played which may be opened and closed at will; at the same point bring in a supply water pipe letting it extend a little higher than the grade line of the playground. This not only serves to fill the pool but makes an attractive fountain. The bottom of the saucer-like area should be covered with clay to keep the water from seeping through and torpedo sand spread over the clay to the depth of from four to six inches. The water should be drained off every few days and the empty pool permitted to bake in the sun.

Another way to construct a wading pool requires an excavation of a specified area and the building of a cement basin with an intake and outlet such as has been described. A cement pool, circular in form, with a diameter of forty feet, twenty-four inches deep at the center and eleven inches deep at the side, is in use at some of the Chicago centers. In filling a pool of this type, the water should be kept at a depth of eighteen inches in the center and five inches at the sides.

Sand courts adjacent to the wading pools are features in many playgrounds. Such courts should be open underneath for an occasional flushing to carry off waste and foreign matter. In a number of places where concrete bottoms have been built under the sand basing, the sand sewers have become foul through lack of filtration and drainage.

A number of people have felt that wading pools might well be made to serve as miniature bathing pools, suggesting that even though the pool is limited to a depth of twenty-five inches, the little people will still have excellent opportunities for learning to swim. On the other hand, there are playground officials who feel that such an arrangement is undesirable not only from the point of view of increased cost and the necessity of providing places where the children may dress, but because it is liable to prove very dangerous to the little people in that there is great risk of drowning accidents occurring.

Except in a very few instances it was found that the water was changed daily. All pools were drained after playground hours and were ready for use in the morning. One pool in Cincinnati, forty feet in diameter, can be drained, cleaned and refilled in four hours. It is desirable to arrange it so that the pool when empty shall have the benefit of the early morning sunshine.

The pool should be located near the field house or dressing

## REGARDING APPARATUS

room. In this way problems of discipline and supervision may more easily be solved. It should be in as sunny a place as possible and away from the baseball field where the children will not be in danger.

A combination of wading pool and sand court with seats under a canopy when the mothers may sit while the children are at play, will provide a never failing source of enjoyment to the children and a social center for mothers.

THE PLAYGROUND would be very glad to have its readers discuss these problems and to learn of the experience which cities have had in the matter.

## REGARDING APPARATUS

A study of playgrounds in twenty-six cities showed that many playground officials are still making use of home-made playground apparatus although in most instances this is being replaced by manufactured equipment as rapidly as funds will permit. In ten of the twenty-six cities visited by a worker of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, standard manufactured apparatus was used exclusively, in one, wooden home-made apparatus, and in thirteen a combination of wooden and manufactured.

A number of city departments have found that they can successfully and economically manufacture frames and fixings such as swing ropes, swing seats, rings and ring chains. Experience has shown that fixtures such as joints, couplings, eye fittings, and roller-bearing fittings, give better satisfaction if secured from manufacturers of standard apparatus. Where fixtures are home-made they should be made to fit the standard frame fittings.

### **Placing of Apparatus**

The apparatus was in most cases placed at the sides or ends of the playground or at both sides and ends, the frame work lying parallel to the boundary lines. In some instances the playgrounds were filled with apparatus, little or no space being left for free play. Frequently it was found the apparatus was placed under the trees regardless of free play space, boundary lines or other considerations.

## REGARDING APPARATUS

**Anchoring of Apparatus** As far as can be ascertained, wooden swing frames were set into the ground to a depth of from three to four feet. There was no uniformity in the use of underground braces. The steel frames were uniformly set into concrete to a depth of from three to four and one-half feet.

**Apparatus Found on the Various Play-grounds** The various pieces of apparatus found on the playgrounds were as follows:

Swings	were included on	213 playgrounds
Seesaws	" " "	168 "
Sand Boxes	" " "	134 "
Giant Strides	" " "	119 "
Basket Balls	" " "	99 "
Slides	" " "	95 "
Gymnasium Frames	" " "	54 "
Horizontal Bars	" " "	40 "
Tether Ball Poles	" " "	36 "
Volley Ball Courts	" " "	35 "
Tennis Courts	" " "	22 "
Teeter Ladders	" " "	19 "
Wading Pools	" " "	18 "
Rings	" " "	13 "
Swimming Pools	" " "	3 "

**Popularity of Various Pieces of Apparatus** A study of the amount of use given the apparatus showed that swings, giant strides, rings, wading pools, swimming pools, and tennis courts were in constant use. Sand boxes, slides, gymnasium apparatus, and teeter ladders were on most playgrounds indifferently used. Basket ball, volley ball, seesaws, horizontal bars, and tether ball were unused except when a special effort was made by the play leader.

**Construction of Swings** A twelve-foot frame for swings has been found very satisfactory. The experience of the various cities showed wooden seat swings should be six inches wide and one inch thick. On nine of the playgrounds

## REGARDING APPARATUS

visited the swings were guarded by a low fence to reduce the number of accidents caused by children running in front of swings in motion. These guards were from two feet to three feet high and built of sticks with rope or wire stretched between.

### **Surfacing of Ground under Swings and Giant Strides**

The materials used to prevent the wearing away of the ground underneath the swings and giant strides were cement, sand gravel, macadam or tan bark. It was the general feeling that cement was probably the most satisfactory as it proved easier to the children's feet, was not difficult to care for and was more lasting. The strips of cement running parallel to the frame work varied in width from three and one-half feet to four and one-half feet.

### **Care of Apparatus**

In spite of the fact that equipment can be made to last much longer by giving attention to oiling and prompt repair of broken pieces, the amount spent upon the up-keep of apparatus seemed to vary in the different cities with the interest and feeling of responsibility on the part of the executive. The rule, which should be rigidly enforced, of a daily examination of bolts, ropes, and chains, was indifferently carried out and squeaking swings and missing parts of gymnastic frames were found in the majority of cities visited.

### **Drinking Fountains**

It was found that in the cities visited little provision had been made for drinking water. Of two hundred and fifty-six playgrounds only twenty-two had special provision for drinking water. One hundred and nine were without water and the remaining one hundred and twenty-five used the facilities in adjoining recreation buildings or schools.

Difficulty in keeping the drinking fountains in repair was general, more as a result of stoppage of pipes with sand and food stuffs than because of the breaking of fixtures.

### **Toilet Facilities**

Toilet facilities were provided on only forty-nine of the two hundred and fifty-six playgrounds visited. Eighty-two had no provision whatever and the remaining one hundred and twenty-five grounds made use of the facilities in adjoining recreation buildings or schools.

## TRAINING CLASSES FOR PLAY LEADERS

Training classes for play leaders are fast coming to be a part of the recreation program of cities carrying on comprehensive plans for recreational activities. In the eleven cities visited by a worker of the Playground and Recreation Association of America classes are held for periods of time varying from one week to ten months, in a number of instances the classes being held just prior to the opening of the summer playground season. In other instances classes are given during the summer playground season and consist largely of instruction on immediate problems. In the majority of cities the classes are given by the superintendents of recreation.

A brief outline of the work as given in eleven cities is as follows:

**Lynchburg,  
Virginia**

Under the direction of the superintendent of recreation a two months' course meeting two hours a week is given to a class made up largely of college students, a number of whom put to good use the information gained through the course by starting playgrounds in their home towns during the summer vacation. Instruction is given in games, folk dancing, and other playground activities and opportunity for practice teaching on the playgrounds is offered. No examinations are required.

**Cleveland,  
Ohio**

For one week two to three hour daily sessions are held by the superintendent of recreation and the supervisor for special activities for applicants who have passed the civil service examinations. Attendance is required. The subject matter of the course includes five hours of lecture on theory of play and games, six hours lectures in playground organization, four hours of athletics and games with practical administration, four hours lectures and practice in construction activities such as building, whittling, and saw work, and two hours in gardening activities.

**Wheeling,  
West Virginia**

During the summer months the superintendent of recreation devotes one hour a week to lectures and conferences with the workers which take the form of an open forum for the discussion of immediate problems.



## TRAINING CLASSES FOR PLAY LEADERS

### **Washington, District of Columbia**

The supervisor of girls' activities gives a course of lectures from March through June to the playground workers of the city whose attendance is required. There are two divisions of two three-hour sessions. Oral examinations are given. The course includes lectures in theory of play, practice demonstration of plays and games, folk dancing, storytelling, first aid, and hand work.

### **Red Bank, New Jersey**

The superintendent of recreation has given courses in playground work extending over a period of six months. The class met for one and one-half hours once a week. The course which consisted of games, folk dancing, and practical demonstration was designed to educate the community and arouse interest rather than as a training class for specific positions.

### **Orange, New Jersey**

During the summer months at one hour sessions held weekly the superintendent of recreation conducts discussions among the workers on problems arising each day in playground work.

### **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

The superintendent of recreation and the supervisors of special activities conduct a training course at which the attendance of the workers is required. The course which extends over a period of ten months meets weekly for a three-hour session. It includes lectures on the theory of playground work, practice work in teaching games and folk dancing. Special articles on different phases of the various activities are prepared by individual members of the class and submitted for general discussion. No examinations are required.

### **Cincinnati, Ohio**

Previous to the holding of the civil service examinations required weekly sessions of two hours each are held for three months under the leadership of the superintendent of recreation and special lecturers. Lectures are given on the theory of playground work and games. There are, however, no practical demonstrations of games. During the summer months the superintendent has weekly conferences for the workers.

**Sprinfeld,  
Massachu-  
setts**

For a period of two and a half months during the summer one-hour sessions are held weekly for the workers under the leadership of the superintendent of recreation who gives talks on the practical conduct of playground activities, including handwork. There are also general discussions of immediate problems. The attendance of the playground workers is required. No examinations are given.

**Dayton,  
Ohio**

For ten weeks preceding the holding of examinations required courses are given weekly at two-hour sessions by the superintendent of recreation. The courses include lectures on the theory and practical conduct of playground activities. The subsequent examinations given to candidates for playground positions are based upon the subject matter offered in these courses.

**Columbus,  
Ohio**

For three months at weekly two-hour sessions required courses are given by the superintendent of recreation, the supervisor of special activities, and by special lecturers to the candidates for playground positions. In addition to the lectures on theory and conduct of play and first aid, there are practical demonstrations of games and folk dancing. These courses with the subsequent probation period of three months of practice teaching secures for the candidate a playground position.

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Of THE PLAYGROUND, published monthly at Cooperstown, N. Y., for October 1, 1917.

State of New York }  
County of New York } ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the state and county aforesaid, personally appeared H. S. Braucher, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the editor of THE PLAYGROUND and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

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Publisher, Playground and Recreation Association of America, 1 Madison Ave., New York City; Editor, H. S. Braucher, 1 Madison Ave., New York City; Managing Editor, H. S. Braucher, 1 Madison Ave., New York City; Business Manager, H. S. Braucher, 1 Madison Ave., New York City.

2. That the owners are: (Give names and addresses of individual owners, or, if a corporation, give its name and the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of the total amount of stock).

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H. S. BRAUCHER,  
Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 8th day of October, 1917.

(Seal)

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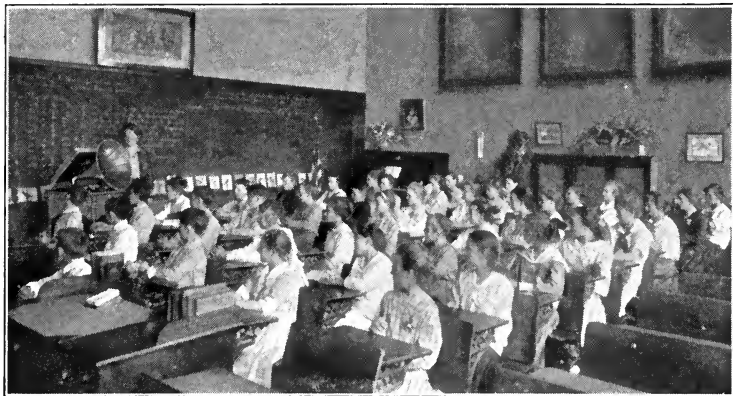
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We are interrupting the normal life of this Nation. We are summoning out of their communities and their homes a vast number of young men. We are taking men from their normal environments, from their usual occupations; we are violently interrupting their customary modes of thought. Now, everybody knows, of course, that one of the great social restraints, one of the things that make ordered society possible at all, is the existence of a state of social habits on the part of a people; that those social habits are the things we acquire as we grow up in a community. They are enforced by the sanction of personal approval of the people with whom we have to deal. They are enforced by the approval of neighborhood opinion. They constitute the chief force for the preservation of order and the progress which society makes.

### **The Idea of Social Restraint**

I am sure that everybody in this company, perhaps, will remember Emerson's description of a child's first contact with society, how he goes out of his house and finds a policeman, who to him represents a restraint, the social restraint, of his community. That policeman embodies the idea of force in the interest of order; and as the child

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\* Address delivered at the National Conference on War-Camp Community Service held in Washington, October 23, 1917

## ADDRESS OF NEWTON D. BAKER

grows up, he gradually enlarges the policeman until the policeman becomes the Government. As he grows up more he philosophizes the policeman, until the officer represents the consent of the community to those sacrifices of individual liberty which are necessary in the interest of the common good.

Now that state of mind, which exists in every community and in every individual, is being violently disturbed by our withdrawal of large numbers of young men from their homes, from their families, from their social organizations, from their communities, from their church organizations, from all the various affiliations which the young men have made as a part of their social education.

### **New Conditions to Face**

We are collecting those young men in vast groups and subjecting them to an entirely unaccustomed discipline. In a certain sense, we are training their minds to an entirely new set of ideals. We are sweeping away all of the social pressures to which they have become accustomed; and are substituting therefor military discipline during that portion of their time when drill and the military regime are necessarily imposed on their lives. And we are taking these groups of men and bringing them up to and in contact with city civilization and town civilization.

Now a large part of these young men have been accustomed to city life. Some of them, however, are straight from the country. Some of them are from remote parts of the country, far away from the places where they have hitherto lived, away from the people whose opinion has hitherto been their guide and control. We are surrounding the people of this country with an entirely new population, a population which is not integrated with its life, a great mass of people who are encamped on the borders of a town or a city and are wholly foreign to the local feelings and sentiments of the community.

Now that presents a very grave problem in dealing with human beings. It presents several problems. The first of them is: What are those soldiers going to do to the towns, and what are the towns going to do to the soldiers?

I think it is safe to say that no army ever before assembled in the history of the world has had so much thought given and so much labor performed in the interest of its social organization. It is no reflection on anybody to say that the ancient method of assembling



an army was first to have some sort of inspiring music marched through the street, to have a local oratorical outburst on the subject of the particular cause for which the army was desired, to have young men follow the music and then be taken off to make their own camps, to make their own conditions, and then to be sent to the battlefield with that much training.

**The American  
Way**

But the United States is a civilized country. Nobody realized how civilized it was until we assembled this army, for instantly there came

from all parts of the country a demand that this army should not be raised as armies hitherto had been; that it should not be environed as armies hitherto had been, but that such arrangements should be made as would insure that these soldiers, when actually organized into an army, would represent and carry out the very highest ideals of our civilization.

In the second place, this army came from the country. Everywhere there was the demand that these young men, whom we were taking from their homes and families, from wives and children, from mothers, sisters and intimates, these young men whom we were separating from their church environments, their social organizations and social clubs—everywhere, I say, there was the demand that they should come back with no other scars than those won in honorable warfare!

Now the accomplishment of that task is not difficult, but it requires a tremendous amount of comprehending cooperation and sympathy, and this great company of men and women here this morning is the answer to that need. It shows that the commercial organizations of our country, bodies like the Rotary Clubs, those organizations which are leaders in their various communities, appreciate the demand of the country with regard to its soldiers, and are willing to supply the social basis for a modern civilized army.

America has learned, I think, more than any other country about the life of adolescent youths. There is no other country, to my knowledge, in which the task has been so thoroughly done as it has been in America by the American colleges and higher schools. I have sometimes been rather skeptical about the advantage of intercollegiate athletics. It has seemed to me to lay the emphasis on the wrong place, and rather to overemphasize the development of the athletic as against the mental in the boy.

## ADDRESS OF NEWTON D. BAKER

### **A Living Object Lesson**

When we established training camps for young officers, the American high schools and colleges poured out into the lap of this Nation the finest body of material for the rapid manufacture of officers that any country ever assembled from the beginning of time. And they came to us not merely with trained minds, with handsomely developed aptitudes for acquiring new habits of thought, but they came to us with finely trained athletic bodies, and they came to us with the American spirit of fair play, which, if not born, is at least nurtured on the athletic field. If we can do for the boy in the training camp what the American college has done for the boy in college and what the American high school has done for the boy in the high school; that is to say, if we can work his mind and work his body, and surround his moments of recreation and leisure with such wholesome opportunities as to keep him from being diverted and turned to unwholesome things, we have solved the problem.

For a great many years in America we have been struggling almost despondently with the problem of the large cities. We knew that the large city was economically and industrially more efficient. We knew that by getting people close to the place where they were to work, getting them in large groups, we multiplied the industrial output of the individual. We knew that by getting people into large cities we were able to extend over a wider surface the so-called conveniences of modern civilization; that people could live in better houses; that they could have better sanitation; that they could have better medical care; that they could have freer access to public libraries and opportunities for culture; that they could have better schools. But we realized that we paid a price for the city, and that price consisted in the tempestuous and heated temptations of city life, and every man who has had any opportunity to study city life has had his mind more or less held in a state of balance between its advantages and its disadvantages.

### **The Price of City Life**

It used to be said that a family ran out in three generations living in a city, and that it was necessary to replenish the vitality of city-dwelling people by constant drafts upon the unspoiled people of the countryside; and that was, we learned, because of the vices which grew up in cities, and because all of those restraints of neighborhood opinion were gone. A boy in the country was known to everybody of his neighborhood. His misconduct was marked. The boy

in the city could be a saint in the first ward, where he lived, and a scapegrace in the tenth ward, without anybody in the first ward discovering it. There was an absence of that pressure of neighborhood opinion, that opportunity to cultivate the good opinion of old neighbors, which was evident in the countryside where conduct was more obvious.

Now, for a long time we tried a perfectly wrongheaded process about the city; we tried to pass laws and to enforce them by policemen, which would cure all these ills. I do not mean that we ought not to have some policemen, but we imagined that our sole salvation lay in the passage of laws and in the employment of policemen. And I can remember when I was mayor of a middle-Western city, that every now and then some movement would get its start to have a curfew law passed in that city, to make everybody go to bed at a particular time. Some laws of that kind were passed, and some supreme courts held they were unconstitutional, and some held they were constitutional, but no court had any right to pass on the real fact involved, which was that they were ineffective.

**Combat Evil  
with Good**

And then all of a sudden the discovery was made that the way to overcome the temptations and vices of a great city was to offer adequate opportunity for wholesome recreation and enjoyment; that if you wanted

to get a firebrand out of the hand of a child the way to do it was neither to club the child nor to grab the firebrand, but to offer in exchange for it a stick of candy!

And so there has grown up in America this new attitude, which finds its expression in public playgrounds, in the organization of community amusements, in the inculcation throughout the entire body of young people in the community of substantially the same form of social inducement which the American college in modern times has substituted for the earlier system of social restraints.

And now that we have these great bodies of young men to consider, we have also the analogies which are necessary to apply to the task. We have organized in the camps themselves, agencies to supply athletic opportunities, wholesome recreation. The Young Men's Christian Association, the Knights of Columbus, the Training Camp Activities Committee are taking up just as much of the soldier's unoccupied leisure as can be taken up by the inducement process.

And now we come to the last and other side of it. These boys do not stay in the camp all the time; they move out of camp into

the nearby towns. I took a ride some two or three weeks ago pretty nearly along the entire length of Long Island. There were two military camps on Long Island at that time, the so-called "Rainbow Division" and Camp Upton, which is the cantonment in which the drafted men from New York are being trained. Long Island—at least the part I saw of it—is about ninety miles long, and it was dotted throughout that entire ninety miles with men in uniform. Every little village, every hamlet, every small town and large town had soldiers all scattered through its streets and its hotels and throughout all the places of entertainment to be found there. The Chief of Staff, who was riding with me, remarked that soldiers always reminded him of ants in the directions which they traveled. They seemed to scatter from the center in every direction, for wholly unexpected and unanticipated distances.

**Wholesome Inducements**

Now that is what we have to face. The soldiers of these camps in their days off and their hours off and in their moments of relaxation, are going to scatter through all of the cities and towns nearby. The railroads, the street railroads, and the motor cars will take them to all of those centers of civilization. Now we must make the advantages as wholesome, we must make the inducements in them to wholesome thinking and wholesome living just as fine and as numerous as we can possibly make them.

And in order to do that, we must organize every social activity in these towns. With that thought in view we must have the Y. M. C. A.'s of the towns, the Y. W. C. A.'s, the Masonic orders, the Elks, the Eagles, the churches—particularly the churches with social opportunities, those that have large rooms where they can have gymnasiums or sociables and receptions—even in our homes, if we happen to be near enough to a camp to make it possible, invite in the boys and give them contact with a normal city life and the domestic opportunity which they are cut off from by reason of their separation from their own homes. I have no doubt there are many examples of exactly that sort of thing going on in this country.

Now, you gentlemen, you men and women, are assembled for the purpose of spreading throughout the communities of this country that attitude toward this army, and encouraging in this army that attitude toward the cities of this country. It is a tremendous problem. It has been partially worked out, locally. But as this

war goes on we are going to have more and more camps, more and more soldiers, and one set will go and another will come.

The attitude of the community has got to be continuous and growing in its hospitality and in its conscientious recognition of the right way of solving the problem of the soldier. It seems to me, therefore, a most cheering and encouraging thing that a man of affairs, a man of business, a man who is accustomed to success like Mr. Willys, was willing to accept the chairmanship of this committee. It is a cheering thing that you are willing to come these great distances to consult and confer about the things in the communities which will tend to bring about the fine social basis upon which the wholesomeness of our army must rest.

These boys are going to France; they are going

**Invisible Armor** to face conditions that we do not like to talk about, that we do not like to think about. They are going into a heroic enterprise and heroic enterprises involve sacrifices. I want them armed; I want them adequately armed and clothed by their Government; but I want them to have invisible armor to take with them. I want them to have an armor made up of a set of social habits replacing those of their homes and communities, a set of social habits and a state of social mind born in the training camps, a new soldier state of mind, so that when they get overseas and are removed from the reach of our comforting and restraining and helpful hand, they will have gotten such a state of habits as will constitute a moral and intellectual armor for their protection overseas.

You are the makers of that armor. General Crozier is going to make the guns; General Sharpe is going to make the clothes; but the invisible suit which you are making, this attitude of mind, this state of consciousness, this *esprit de corps* which will not tolerate anything unwholesome, this brand of righteousness, if I may speak of it as such, which you are going to put on them here by making them, as a mass, acquire an attitude towards themselves and towards communities in which they happen to be, and toward their own country, this pride that they ought to have in being American soldiers and representing the highest ethical type of a modern civilization—all that you are manufacturing in your armories, in the basements of churches, the lodge rooms of societies, the dinner tables of private homes, the rooms of Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations. There are hospitals, houses, all manner and

## ADDRESS OF NEWTON D. BAKER

kinds of places, where the sound consciousness and sound mind of a community can be brought into contact, in a wholesome and inspiring way, with the soldier group in its process of training.

Now when this is all over, by virtue of the work which this committee and this group are doing, and are going to do, our soldiers will come back to us better citizens, not merely for the patriotic heroism in which they have been engaged, but because of this lesson of social values which they will have learned; and in the meantime our cities in this country will have gotten, I think, a greater start toward a realization of the community responsibility for the lives of people who live in it, and near it, a higher realization of the value of these experiences, which we are putting into operation, and a stronger sense of its own greatness, by what it has done for the stranger within its gates, than it has ever had before.

### **Will Help Solve Problem**

So that I see in this work, not merely a contribution to the strength of our Nation, great as that is—and I may say that an army is strong just as its individual components are strong, and a sick soldier, whether physically sick or mentally sick, is a detriment rather than an asset to an army—this contribution is going to be not only toward the strength of the army, making it a vigorous sound army physically, mentally and morally, but it is going to advance the solution of that vexing and perplexing and troublesome city question which has for so many years hung heavy on the conscience of our country.

And when the war is over, and our boys come back, and our cities have strengthened themselves by their cooperation, and we have throughout the country the common feeling that we all helped and shared the pride of having participated in this great undertaking and this great achievement, we will find that for the after-war reconstruction, for this great remedial process as to which none of us know much, and of which most of us are almost afraid to think, our people are sound and virile and intelligent, and that American public opinion has been strengthened and made more wholesome and comprehending, and that America is truly a more united people, and that it understands itself better than it ever did in its history.

Now it is for this reason that I am particularly happy to be here this morning, and I trust that those of you who come from other cities will not abate anything in making those of the cities

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from which you come meet the tremendous importance of this community reorganization, of this community assumption of the burden of surrounding the soldier with a proper environment.

### **The Master Heroisms**

Everybody in America wants to help. Most people in America want to do some—well, I do not want to say that—but many people in America want to do some individual thing. I suppose I am just like everybody else. I would like to go “over the top.” I would like to storm a rampart. I would like to grab a flag which was shot down and raise it up and go forward with it, and feel that I had taken Old Glory where it ought to be. That is the heroic appeal, but one of the great difficulties of life is that we fail to realize that the master heroisms of social progress are aggregations of inconspicuous acts of self-sacrifice.

Now this is the opportunity for us to do the master heroism of this age, and if you will impress that upon the people of your communities, I think they will respond, and they will feel, not perhaps the spiritual exaltation that comes from carrying the flags, but they will feel that they are really builders in the final and higher civilization, the civilization of justice and opportunity, and of high thinking and high doing which we pray is to be the permanent state of civilized man after this terrible visitation and tragic calamity is safely passed.

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## WAR-CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE

### A NATION-WIDE EXPERIMENT IN FRIENDLINESS

“Though we are all killed there will be songs again but if we were to submit and to survive there could be neither songs nor dreams nor joyous free things any more.”

It is because the world cannot live without songs and dreams and joyous free things that America is sending over her million and a half of young men to help in crushing the enemy of Freedom. And it is because if our young men are to do their part valiantly and effectively they must be armed with a new social state of mind and a new set of habits, that American cities near the training camps are mobilizing their forces to produce the attitude of mind,

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the state of consciousness, the *esprit de corps* which Secretary Baker has characterized as the indispensable "invisible armor."

It has been six months since the Playground and Recreation Association of America, at the request of the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities, sent out its first community organizer to blaze a new trail in the conduct of the world war. Without precedent to follow, with nothing to profit by save the mistakes of other nations in their failure to safeguard the environs of the training camps, these men have gone out to arouse the cities near the camps to their responsibilities and to help them fulfill their trust.

One hundred seven war recreation secretaries are now at work and at least 170 cities and small communities have been organized for service and aided in carrying through the program of activities. While a war recreation secretary has not been stationed in all of these communities they all have some form of organization or have received the assistance of a war recreation worker in furthering their plans.

<i>Alabama</i>	Vallejo	Rockford
Annis-ton	<i>Connecticut</i>	Waukegan
Montgomery	New London	<i>Indiana</i>
Selma	<i>District of Columbia</i>	Indianapolis
<i>Arizona</i>	Washington	North Indianapolis
Douglas	<i>Florida</i>	<i>Iowa</i>
Nogales	Jacksonville	Des Moines
Phoenix	Key West	<i>Kansas</i>
Tucson	Pensacola	Army City
<i>Arkansas</i>	<i>Georgia</i>	Junction City
Argenta	Atlanta	Leavenworth
Little Rock	Augusta	Manhattan
<i>California</i>	Decatur	<i>Kentucky</i>
Alameda	Lafayette	Louisville
Benicia	Macon	<i>Louisiana</i>
Linda Vista	<i>Illinois</i>	Alexandria
Los Angeles	Champaign-Urbana	Lake Charles
Oakland	Chicago	New Orleans
Palo Alto	Evanston	<i>Massachusetts</i>
Redwood City	Galesburg	Ayer
San Diego	Glen Coe	Boston
San Francisco	Great Lakes	Clinton
San Jose	Lake Forest	East Weymouth
San Mateo	Paxton	Fitchburg
Santa Clara	Rantoul	Groton



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Harvard	Trenton	Port Royal
Hingham	Wrightstown	Spartanburg
Lancaster	<i>New Mexico</i>	<i>Tennessee</i>
Leominster	Deming	Chattanooga
Lowell	Silver City	Memphis
Lunenburg	<i>New York</i>	Millington
Pepperell	Centre Moriches,	Rossville
Shirley	L. I.	<i>Texas</i>
Springfield	Garden City, L. I.	Brownsville
Waltham	Hempstead, L. I.	Corpus Christi
Westfield	Lewiston	Del Rio
Worcester	Manorville, L. I.	Eagle Pass
<i>Maryland</i>	Mineola, L. I.	El Paso
Annapolis	New York City	Forth Worth
Baltimore	Niagara Falls	Houston
Emmitsburg	Patchogue, L. I.	Laredo
<i>Michigan</i>	Plattsburg	Marfa
Augusta	Riverhead, L. I.	San Antonio
Battle Creek	Sacket Harbor	Waco
Kalamazoo	Syracuse	<i>Utah</i>
Mt. Clemens	Watertown	Salt Lake City
<i>Minnesota</i>	Yaphank, L. I.	<i>Vermont</i>
Minneapolis	Youngstown	Burlington
St. Paul	<i>North Carolina</i>	Essex Junction
<i>Mississippi</i>	Charlotte	Winooski
Gulfport	<i>Ohio</i>	<i>Virginia</i>
Hattiesburg	Chillicothe	Berkley
Jackson	Columbus	Hampton
<i>Missouri</i>	Dayton	Newport News
Kansas City	Springfield	Norfolk
St. Louis	<i>Oklahoma</i>	Old Point Comfort
<i>New Jersey</i>	Lawton	Petersburg
Bordentown	<i>Pennsylvania</i>	Phoebus
Burlington	Gettysburg	Portsmouth
Closter	Hanover	Richmond
Cresskill	Philadelphia	Virginia Beach
Demarest	York	<i>Washington</i>
Englewood	<i>Rhode Island</i>	Olympia
Hackensack	Newport	Seattle
Haworth	<i>South Carolina</i>	Tacoma
Moorestown	Beaufort	<i>Wisconsin</i>
Mount Holly	Charleston	Beloit
New Egypt	Columbia	La Crosse
Pemberton	Greenville	Sparta
Rutherford	Greer	
Tenafly	Mount Pleasant	

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Other cities, such as the North Shore communities near Chicago might be added to this list. It is planned that additional cities will be organized in the immediate future.

A certain amount of machinery has been necessary to start the work—a frame work has been essential to give permanency to the structure. And so each city has begun its work with the organization of a War-Camp Community Board, the name of which varies in the different communities, with a number of sub-committees. These sub-committees on accommodations, finance, commercial amusements, commercial relationships, fraternal organizations, receptions and entertainments, physical recreation, information, girls' work, education, church cooperation, music, dramatics, public celebrations and other activities, are undertaking the marshalling of the communities' forces and resources.

### **Linking up Camp and Community**

No part of the machinery which has been installed to link up camp and community has been of greater importance than the census cards which have been secured with the help of the commanding officers. These cards make it possible to know a man's church, fraternity, college, professional and trade affiliations and to put him in touch with the groups in the cities with which his former interests and relationships would naturally tie him up. The cards also disclose a man's favorite form of recreation or hobby and with this knowledge the local committees are better able to plan their programs. The information on the cards is making it possible for the churches to extend personal invitations to their members, for lodges, clubs and fraternal orders to entertain their brothers in camp, and is giving a personal touch to all the work.

The six months which have elapsed since the first pioneers set out has seen many interesting developments in the great experiment in friendliness which the cities are working out. A number of these developments have been along the line of providing the material equipment which the presence of large numbers of soldiers and their guests has made necessary temporarily but which will, after the camps are no longer in existence, remain as valuable additions to the cities' facilities.

### **Adding Material Equipment**

Among the very practical features included in the program of community organizations, have been the erection of comfort stations and the installation of drinking fountains. Atlanta, Ga. has erected a com-

fort station at a cost of \$20,000. Charlotte, N. C. has installed 16 drinking fountains and several comfort stations. Deming, N. M., Fort Worth, Tex., Greenville, S. C., Hattiesburg, Miss. Little Rock, Ark., Montgomery, Ala., Patchogue, L. I., Pensacola, Fla., and Petersburg, Va. are a few of the cities which, through the addition of material equipment, have contributed to the comfort of the soldiers and their guests.

**Living Accommodations**

The community organizer and the committee through which the city is mobilizing its forces face no more practical or urgent problem than that arising from inadequate sleeping and eating

accommodations for the thousands of people—families and relatives of the men—who flock to the camp cities in order to be near their friends in camp. The problem is especially acute in the small communities near the large cantonments where there are practically no hotels and few eating places. In an effort to meet the needs, in practically all of the cities an Accommodations Committee has been organized as a sub-division of the main board. These committees have made a thorough investigation of all the hotels and boarding houses and a house to house canvass of available rooms in private houses. The location of the rooms, the facilities and prices are then listed so that all the information will be available for the use of the men. Many people who would not at any other time open their houses to strangers have been glad in the present emergency to “do their bit” in this way. A number of cities have adopted novel means of securing the information regarding available rooms. At Newport News the sanitary inspectors of the District Health Service in the course of a sanitary survey of the city listed available rooms. In Norfolk many rooms were secured through newspaper publicity. San Antonio adopted the plan of distributing housing blanks to the school children who took them home to their parents. In some of the cities, as in Little Rock, Ark., Petersburg, Va., and Anniston and Montgomery, Ala., the work has been placed in charge of paid workers. During the summer a number of colleges turned over their dormitories for the use of the soldiers and their families. In some of the communities the problem has been so acute that the erection of portable houses and of hotels has been found necessary. At Niagara Falls, through the efforts of the War Recreation Board, a number of citizens rented a large summer

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resort hotel for the use of the soldiers' families. At Chillicothe, O. the Daughters of the American Revolution, in cooperation with the local board, plans to erect a \$12,000 hotel and the Red Cross five buildings for the accommodation of guests. Anniston, Ala. is considering the erection of a \$100,000 hotel of 150 rooms. In some instances church basements, Y. M. C. A. quarters and the rooms of various organizations have been turned into emergency dormitories by the simple expedient of putting in cots.

The provision of rest rooms for the women guests of the soldiers and the placing of benches in the parks, squares, yards and churches and along the main streets are a further indication of the very practical hospitality which many of the camp cities through the community organizer and local committees are offering their guests.

### **Making the City Known to Its Guests**

The information bureaus which practically all the cities now have are invaluable to the soldiers and their guests in acting as clearing houses for information regarding available boarding houses and rooms, city facilities, car lines and all the points which are so essential for a stranger to know. The War Recreation Board of San Antonio has an attractive building especially erected to house the information bureau. Many of the information bureaus are established at the railroad stations, department stores or at the headquarters of the War-Camp Community Boards which in so many instances have been made possible through the hearty cooperation of the Chamber of Commerce and Boards of Trade of the various cities. Many of the communities through the efforts of the local boards are publishing guide books and booklets of information on hotels, boarding houses, theatres, churches and points of interest in the city and surrounding country.

The bulletins telling of the clubs and special activities and entertainments for soldiers, church services and meetings of fraternal orders, which are sent to the camp and posted in a conspicuous place in the city, are proving very helpful to the soldiers and their visiting friends.

### **Combating the Ogre "High Cost of Living"**

Closely allied with the problem of providing living accommodations for the soldiers' guests is that of combatting the tendency which has been shown on the part of many merchants and hotel and restaurant keepers to take advantage of the soldiers by over-

charging them for facilities and commodities of various kinds. In coping with this form of commercial greed and spirit of unfairness a number of the cities are doing very effective work through Grievance Committees which are making an appeal to merchants for a square deal and acting as arbitrators in matters requiring adjustment. Overcharges for food served in restaurants and eating places are not uncommon. In Deming, N. M., the Health and Sanitation Committee of the War Recreation Board has inspected all eating places in the city and in the so-called "mushroom town" just outside the camp grounds. Where places were found unfit, pressure was brought to bear for a complete cleaning up or a provost guard was stationed in front of the door. The restaurant managers were quick to see the advantage of conducting clean places and selling clean food at reasonable rates. At the suggestion of the committee, the commanding officer at Camp Cody wrote the mayor regarding the exorbitant prices asked for food. Through this letter supplemented by a communication from the mayor, all the eating places have reduced their prices. In Indianapolis a Complaint Board is being organized consisting of camp officials, representatives of business interests and of the War Recreation Board. Forms are being distributed among all the organizations at Fort Benjamin Harrison on which the men register their complaints with the Better Business Men's Bureau, and it is possible that a black list will be made of all offending firms and the men at the fort warned not to deal with them. The Square Deal Men of San Antonio was organized to protect the soldiers. Many business men have signed a pledge not to overcharge the men in khaki, to ask only a legitimate profit and in case of complaints to submit the matter for arbitration to the Grievance Committee of the Square Deal Association, abiding by this committee's decision. The work of this committee and similar groups in other cities is gradually resulting in the elimination of many of the evils.

### **Making the Boys at Home**

The provision of material comfort and the securing of a square deal have, however, been only the first step towards the goal of a hospitality which will not only be a means of affording entertainment and wholesome recreation to the boys in training; but will prove an effective antidote to the loneliness and depression so destructive to the morale and fighting efficiency of our representatives in France. A hospitality which leaves the men feeling merely as

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guests and not as a real part of the city's life, is not the aim of the cities' war recreation service. And so the cities through many channels are attempting to give the boys in uniform the "home feeling" which will mean the safeguarding of the right relationships and loyalties of life.

**Nothing so Fine as Their Own Clubs** One of the first facilities which the cities have offered their guests has been Soldiers' and Sailors' Clubs, or Khaki Clubs and Service Clubs, as they are called, where the men may feel at home and have many of the facilities which cannot be offered at camp but which are an intimate part of their normal life. In providing these clubs many organizations, fraternal, church and civic have pooled their resources. In a number of cities special buildings have been erected to house the clubs. Ayer, Mass. and Junction City, Kans., are among the communities having specially planned buildings. Junction City's club has taken the form of a community club providing not only facilities for the soldiers but a meeting place for the men in uniform and the townspeople. About \$9,000 was subscribed by the community for the building which is filling a great need. The club is equipped with comfortable chairs, 18 card tables, checker and chess games and three long writing tables about which the men crowd. Stationery with the heading "Community House for Soldiers and Citizens," is supplied. A daily attendance of about 1,500 during the week and 3,500 or 4,000 over the week-end, testifies to the popularity of the building.

In many of the cities vacant houses, stores, warehouses, firemen's halls and church social and basement rooms have been transformed into Soldiers' and Sailors' Clubs. The features found most popular are smoking, reading, writing and rest rooms, facilities for playing billiards, pool and quiet games, comfortable chairs, couches, shower baths and bathing facilities, canteens where soft drinks, sweets, tobacco and similar supplies may be secured, books, magazines and newspapers, telephone service, pianos, victrolas and drinking water. Most of the clubs are much alike in equipment and in the activities offered. A few have special features which are of particular interest. The Wesley Memorial Church of Atlanta, a \$300,000 model structure, has been turned over for the use of the soldiers. It has a large auditorium with a seating capacity of 5,000, a gymnasium, shower baths, reading and rest rooms. It is being conducted on an inter-denominational basis with paid

secretaries in charge. Alexandria, La., has a club rented by the local committee for the exclusive use of the officers and their wives. A number of fraternal orders in Alexandria have opened their club houses every night and are providing cots. For the men from Camp Devens the Young Men's Christian Union of Boston is being refitted at an expense of from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for use as a club. It will have, in addition to the usual equipment, a stage and canteens and will provide lodgings. The Beaufort, S. C., War Service Board is using the old arsenal as a club house, refitting and re-decorating it and installing a lunch counter. In Chattanooga a four-story building with an office, check room, refreshment counter, reading, writing and lounging rooms and sleeping quarters has been secured. A shower of soap and towels given by a group of women in the city proved a novel feature. The Shriners' Temple at Des Moines, Iowa, is to be used as a club. A large banquet hall, reception rooms for women, club rooms, an auditorium seating about 1,000 with a floor suitable for dancing and a large kitchen will make it a very desirable meeting place for soldiers and citizens. The Soldiers' Club at Douglas, Ariz., has a board of managers consisting of a civilian, two non-commissioned and one commissioned officer. Indianapolis also has a self-governing club under the direct control of the soldiers and military authorities. For this club the old Elks' Club was secured and remodeled by the Rotary Club of the city. A dormitory, a restaurant and a large auditorium add greatly to its usefulness.

About the naval club at Coddington Point center largely the free time activities of the naval reserves and apprentices at the Newport Naval Station. A vacant house with 50 rooms surrounded by extensive grounds has been equipped with all necessary facilities. The porch, 175 feet in length, is furnished with 150 arm chairs. A canteen at which the usual commodities are sold carries on a flourishing business. A large motion picture machine has been supplied. The grounds, which are connected with the training station by a bridge built by the government, are laid out in baseball, football and athletic fields. The grove has been wired with electric lights and hammocks supplied. A sylvan theatre made possible by the erection of a stage in a natural amphitheatre is the scene of many vaudeville shows and entertainments provided by the men themselves. As many as 1,200 attended the performances given here.

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St. Helena's naval training station near Portsmouth, Va., is fortunate in having a club house which, like the Coddington Point Naval Club, provides delightful out-of-door facilities in its spacious gardens and lawns. An old southern mansion at Berkeley has been offered by its owner to the Berkeley committee. When equipped, it will have a pool room, lounging and reading rooms, a smoking room and quarters for the Red Cross and other local patriotic organizations. The management of the club will be in part in the hands of a committee of enlisted men.

The first of the service clubs to be opened in New York City is maintained by the Harvard Club. Service Club No. 1 will be conducted in the same style as any regular city club and will be for men only. A member of the firm of architects who built the Pennsylvania Station in New York City is directing the arrangement, decorating and furnishing of the club. There is a bar at which only soft drinks are served. The club, it is hoped, will serve as a model for other clubs throughout the country. A trained worker is in charge. Other service clubs have been opened in various parts of New York City and a number of organizations, cooperating with the local committee, have established rest rooms and opened club facilities.

Patchogue, L. I., has a club house, formerly a theatre, which has been remodeled and furnished at a cost of about \$2,500. A lunch counter and shower baths are to be installed. San Diego's Enlisted Men's Club, furnished at a cost of \$10,000 is beautifully decorated and equipped. A special feature is a well-appointed kitchen with its pantry and serving room where the men may secure meals. San Francisco's National Defenders' Club for Soldiers and Sailors, is described as a big home where the home touch is given by the women who act as hostesses. Home-cooked food is served and everything possible is done to make the men feel that the club belongs to them. The War Recreation Board of Seattle has secured at a rental of \$450 a month, the old Seattle Athletic Club, a seven-story building with facilities for swimming, a splendid gymnasium, and sleeping quarters for 50 men. The Army Club opened by the Solvay Process Co. of Syracuse has been a great boon to the men. Many social activities have centered there and at the Army Club opened in the building vacated by the University Club, where it has been possible to serve meals.

In the provision of club facilities, no organization has been



more active than the churches of all denominations which have performed invaluable service in fitting up their recreation rooms, parish houses and basements as reading, writing and rest rooms and in serving luncheons and Saturday night suppers. An illustration of what churches are doing to serve the men in khaki is given by the First Presbyterian Church of Spartanburg in opening up its Sunday School facilities including 25 small rooms useful for games, writing, conferences and for library purposes and a large room for general social use. The club is open daily from four to ten p. m. with a paid secretary in charge. A newly completed plant built at a cost of \$90,000 by one of the churches in New London and containing three large rooms and a number of smaller ones, a gymnasium and a kitchen, has been made available for the use of the soldiers.

**A Warm Welcome  
from the  
Churches**

The hospitality of the churches has by no means ceased with the provision of club facilities. Every effort is being made to make the man in uniform a part of the church life not only through attendance at the services but through active participation in them; to give him not only pleasant entertainment but the opportunity of forming permanent relationships and friendships with the people whom he meets at the services and social functions. Some of the churches, as in Atlanta, Ga., are sending automobiles to the fort to bring the men to church. Macon made this a feature of its "Go to Church Sunday" when the automobiles which brought the men to church were decorated with flags by the Boy Scouts and an official touch was given the procession by the presence of the mayor and a number of city officials who rode in the first automobile. The Alexandria, La., committee was successful in arranging for a Sunday morning train known as the "church special" which was met at the station by automobiles to take the men to the various churches. Each of the 16 churches in Atlanta is responsible for the furnishing and maintenance of one recreation room at the base hospital at Fort McPherson which may be used by the relatives of the soldiers as meeting and rest rooms. One of the Catholic churches at Augusta, Ga., makes a point of serving breakfasts to all the soldiers who come to early mass. Between 500 and 600 men are enjoying the church's hospitality each Sunday. The Chattanooga churches are following the novel plan of "adopting a regiment," making the men in this group their particular charges, one of

the churches sending its choir every Sunday to its adopted regiment. Union services, many of them held out-of-doors, some of them in theatres, have been very popular and have done much to further the community singing idea. Junction City, Washington, Louisville, Montgomery, Norfolk, San Antonio and Sparta are among the cities which have laid a great deal of emphasis on this phase. The union services held in Washington at the White House Ellipse on Sunday afternoon have had an average attendance of about 500. At the open air vesper service at the Cathedral Close the singing of hymns and patriotic songs by soldiers and civilians created great enthusiasm.

Special patriotic services have been features of the programs in many of the churches and personal invitations extended to the men have resulted in a large increase in the attendance. The men in khaki have added greatly to the enjoyment of the townspeople by providing music at the services, both through orchestras and choruses. It has become no rare sight to see uniformed ushers or the men in khaki serving as Sunday School teachers or occasionally occupying the pulpits.

On the purely social end of the church program, numberless activities are making the churches popular centers. Organ recitals, concerts, socials, dances, motion picture shows, receptions, picnics, watermelon parties—are only a few of the excursions in friendliness which the churches are making. The provision of Saturday night suppers by many churches is going far in helping to solve the difficult problem of adequate eating places.

**From Church to Home**

No phase of the churches' activity in war recreation service is of greater importance than the part it is playing as the connecting link between the soldier and the home. No substitute has ever been found for home life and nothing appeals more to the man away from home than the opportunity to share in the home life of the city of which he is temporarily a guest. The "take a soldier home to dinner" idea has been greatly furthered by the churches to the mutual enjoyment of host and guest. It has become the usual thing for the soldiers attending church service to be taken home to dinner by members of the congregation. One of the churches of Chattanooga has become so enthusiastic that a number of the soldiers are entertained as week-end guests and are supplied with latch keys which they are urged to use as a member of the family. Week-

end parties are exceedingly popular. One Chicago home is opened every week-end for the use of the Princeton men at Fort Sheridan. Another Chicago resident entertains 25 men every Saturday afternoon. Lawton, Okla., has inaugurated block parties at which the homes in each city block join in entertaining a company of soldiers. On one Sunday, the citizens of Forest Hills, L. I., a small community near Camp Mills, entertained 1,300 soldiers at dinner in private homes. The invitation specified that the hosts wanted men who were the farthest from home and who had the fewest attentions from their own friends. A wealthy citizen living in the Norfolk-Portsmouth district since last June has made a practice of entertaining from 200 to 300 men at his country home each Saturday. On Labor Day he had 500 soldiers and sailors as guests. A number of the citizens are giving small dances in their homes for the men. A resident of Chicago each week entertains 24 young men at luncheon, inviting young women to meet them.

Thanksgiving Day was a real home day for the boys in camp. A Thanksgiving dinner in a home for every soldier was the slogan in a number of camp cities and thousands of men far away from their own families on this essentially home day joined with other families in celebrating the national holiday.

Next to the relationships of home, church and the circle of friends and acquaintances among whom a man moves and finds his social life, there is probably nothing the loss of which is so keenly felt by the man in camp as are club and fraternal relationships. And everywhere private clubs and fraternal orders are extending cordial hospitality not only to their own members in camp but in many instances to those who have no claim upon them. Many country clubs, golf clubs and private clubs of many kinds are issuing free membership cards or reducing the fee, giving their guests all the privileges of membership while they are near the city. In this way the officers, in particular, are being cared for. Many private clubs have been active in giving dances and banquets. College fraternities and graduate clubs have provided special entertainment for their members in camp. Rotarians, Masons, Elks, Woodsmen, Knights of Columbus, Knights of Pythias and numberless other organizations are extending the hand of fellowship with a practical demonstration of the principles of brotherhood for which they stand. Open houses, smokers, receptions banquets,

**Extending the  
Hand of Good-  
Fellowship**

picnics and special meetings are only a few of the activities which the lodges and orders are conducting. Many of the fraternal orders are turning their rooms into club rooms for the soldiers or maintaining rest rooms in their quarters. Several are providing temporary sleeping facilities. Specially prepared banners and bulletins in a number of cities welcome the soldier to his particular lodge and keep him posted regarding functions at which he will be a welcome guest. The Masons of Rantoul, Ill., pride themselves on having the only High Twelve Club in the army. Weekly meetings are held with a special entertainer and a supper is served at which regular army officers, reserve officers and privates sit at the same table.

The contribution which clubs and fraternal orders are everywhere making to the social life of the men in uniform is a very important one.

**Nothing Omitted  
from the Pro-  
gram of Activities**

The church, the home, the fraternal order, the club, represent only a few of the agencies which are functioning for the soldier in his free time through the War-Camp Community Service.

All organizations and many unorganized groups are having a part in this great get-together movement which is uniting the camp and the community, making the man in camp a part of the city life, giving him the friendship, the sense of belonging, which no money can buy.

Every phase of social entertainment is being undertaken by these various groups that the man in khaki may have the opportunity of meeting the townspeople. Dances, receptions, concerts, organ recitals, lawn fêtes, festivals, track meets, community singing, automobile rides, dramatics, military tournaments and special holiday celebrations are only a few of the activities which, with the relationships they have made possible, will help to send the boys away the better prepared for their great task because of the feeling that they have come very close to their own countrymen and have received only the best they had to offer.

**Dancing a Popu-  
lar Feature**

Dancing never loses its charm and the dances which are being given in the various communities under the careful chaperonage of the women of the cities, rank high in popularity. These dances are providing the opportunity for the men to meet the young women of the town under the best possible circumstances. It is the general feeling

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that small group dances are preferable to the larger affairs and that they must be very carefully supervised. Very often they are limited to specially selected groups of soldiers and the girls are required to come with chaperones. In Columbia, S. C., the men of the medical department were so eager for dancing that they applied to the mayor for a license to run a dance hall. The local committee came to their rescue and arranged a dance, inviting the girls and furnishing the chaperones. The men assumed the responsibility for the boys in uniform who attended and paid the bills. Deming, N. M., has made use of a somewhat similar plan for the company dances which are held at the armory. With the exception of the provision of chaperones, the dances are given entirely under the auspices of the soldiers. For the weekly dances of the National Guardsmen a careful plan has been worked out by the committee. At the first of a series of dances given for one battalion at a time, each girl was asked to register her name and address. Later a printed invitation was sent her for the next dance and no girl was admitted unless she could present an invitation. The men were provided with identification cards which were presented at the door. Fort Worth has instituted a series of invitation dances for enlisted men, 250 having been invited. The invitations are not transferable. The Gettysburg committee held a very successful dance at the Country Club attended by 400 men selected by their own company commander. The girls were taken home afterwards by the townspeople who were present. The Lawton, Okla., War Recreation Board has established an officers' club for dancing. At one of the officers' training camp dances at Little Rock a unique feature was the use of bugle calls for the dances. For the numbers designating the dances bugle calls were substituted. From the opening number when "reveille" was played, the dance proceeded through "sick call," "police," "fall in with full packs," "recall" to "taps" when the band played *Home, Sweet Home*. The Montgomery War Recreation Service stands ready when an organization wishes to give a dance, to provide patronesses and chaperones and to see that a sufficiently large number of girls is on hand. The Saturday night dances for the men at Fort Niagara have been very successful. Two types of dances are being maintained, one series for student officers, the other called a community dance, for the regulars and for the townspeople who are not provided for by other dances. The Pensacola War Recreation Board

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has successfully combated the low class commercial dance by a series of Saturday night community dances. There is no charge for dancing but refreshments are sold by the Red Cross, the proceeds of the sales being divided between the Red Cross and the War Recreation Fund. Military bands provide the music; prominent women of the city act as chaperones and introduce the men to the girls. A manager and assistants are on the floor to keep order and a plain clothes man is on hand. The dances given by the citizens of Watertown, N. Y., for the Madison Barracks have been very successful in providing a point of contact between the student officers and the citizens. Acquaintances formed at these dances resulted in extensive home entertainment.

**Music and Community Singing** "It is just as essential that the soldiers know how to sing as it is that they carry rifles and know how to use them," is the opinion of Major-General Wood. Singing as a force in helping to win the world war is coming into its own. Singing under the song leaders sent to the camps is gripping the men with a power which will help them to fight and strengthen their courage. Community singing is receiving an impetus in the camp cities such as it has never known and is catching the imagination and reaching the hearts of thousands who have never before known the power of song. Singing in the cities near the camps in which citizens and soldiers unite is one of the accomplishments of the War Recreation Service which is making most effectively for camp-community unity. Communities in increasing numbers are having such sings. The first one attempted by Norfolk, Va., was held in a park and attended by at least 4,000 people, half of whom were soldiers, sailors and marines. The singing of patriotic songs and old familiar hymns was led by the combined choruses of the five churches cooperating in the movement.

Between 5,000 and 6,000 people joined with the community chorus of Syracuse under the leadership of Harry Barnhart in a community sing which inspired and thrilled all who sang and all who listened. The popularity of this sing resulted in its becoming a weekly function. Fully 12,000 people, civilians and soldiers, assembled at the stadium of Drake University at Des Moines for a community sing. The sing, which was led by Dean Holmes Cooper of Drake University, was accompanied by three military bands. The singing by 300 negro soldiers of *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*,

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*Shouting All over God's Heaven* and *Tiperrary* created intense enthusiasm. As the flag was raised and lowered, 12,000 Americans, white and colored, rose and sang *The Star Spangled Banner*.

Augusta's War-Camp Community Service is conducting weekly Sunday afternoon sings for civilians and soldiers at the Grand Theatre and similar entertainments are being planned for Macon. San Diego's music committee of the War Recreation Service has organized a class in sight reading for 60 boys from the naval training school who are taking part in the community chorus. Very successful community sings have been held at Niagara Falls under the direction of the camp song leader.

Ayer, Mass., is conducting regular Saturday night sings under the leadership of Mr. Vernon Stiles, the song leader at Camp Devens. The town hall is the scene of these camp-community get-together occasions. The special union Sunday evening services held at Junction City during the summer furnished an opportunity for singing by civilians and soldiers as did Washington's Sunday afternoon out-door concerts at which the marine band played and prominent soloists and choruses led in community singing. San Antonio has had a number of sing-songs. In one of these a military band of 90 pieces participated and 800 picked voices from camp joined with local musical clubs. Chattanooga, under the direction of the camp song leader, has planned an ambitious community chorus program for camp and city.

The first community sing held in Alexandria, La., was a great success. A chorus of 300 voices made up of all the church choirs, of local music clubs and the members of Bolton High School, assisted by a military band, took their position on a grandstand built for the occasion. Fully 2,000 people crowded around to hear the program. Community singing has been started at Atlanta under the direction of the camp song leader. During the summer Fort Worth had a series of sing-songs for which the Park Board furnished seats for 5,000 people. The community sing in San Diego was held at Spreckel's organ auditorium and the 3,000 people present entered whole-heartedly into the spirit of the occasion. Only old familiar songs were sung. Some were accompanied by the organ; others by the Twenty-First Infantry band. At one of the regular Sunday matinees at Fort Worth, the oratorio *The Creation* was given. The War Recreation Boards of a number of cities have enlisted the services of various musical organizations to fur-

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nish music at the camps. In Atlanta the Women's Club arranges a weekly program for the Officers' Reserve, while another club looks after the Regulars. Twenty-two musical societies are represented on the musical committee of Chicago and regular Thursday evening entertainments are planned for the Great Lakes Training Station. The Spartanburg committee, before the arrival of the camp song leader, carried community singing into the camp, the community chorus being taken to camp where it led the soldiers in singing. Twilight sings at the Post, arranged through the local committee at Anniston, proved very popular. Very impressive was the sight of 1,500 soldiers gathered under the rays of a large arc light on the side of the hill which makes a natural amphitheatre.

### **Instrumental Music Has Its Charms**

Much pleasure has been afforded both the soldiers and civilians by the music provided in nearly all the communities near the camps by the regimental bands. These bands usually give one or more concerts a week, many of them in the parks. The interest aroused by the concerts is shown by the account of one of these functions held at Little Rock.—“The band concert at the Old State House given under the direction of Sergeant Joe Raetano was a big success. Several thousand people gathered in the park and sat on every available bench and stump. Scores of automobiles parked around the square added zest to the occasion. Several real anvils were thumped as accompaniment to the Anvil Chorus from *Il Trovatore*, played by the First Regiment Band. The crowd cheered and cheered and the chorus had to be repeated three times.”

Many organ recitals and similar musical affairs are held in the cities near the camps on Sunday afternoon when the men are in town in great numbers. Plans have been effected in Fort Worth for a symphony orchestra which will hold concerts on Sunday afternoons free to all men in uniform. The approximate cost of the concerts will be \$1,200.

### **Automobile Rides a Never-failing Source of Pleasure**

Among the many forms of entertainment offered the soldiers and sailors by their hosts are the automobile trips which are arranged in many of the cities. It is no rare happening for a citizen driving through the city in his car to invite the man in khaki he passes in the street to go for a drive. These rides usually end in an invitation to dinner at the citizen's home. Pleasurable as these trips are for the able-bodied soldiers they are even more ap-



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preciated by the convalescent men in the hospital. The Anniston, Ala., community follows up the drive for the convalescent soldier with a few hours' entertainment at one of the homes of the city. The committee at Deming, N. M., arranges for rides for convalescents every week. In Chicago the Camp Fire Girls are responsible for securing automobiles for Sunday morning drives for the sailors who have spent the night at the Y. M. C. A. dormitories. Many other cities are adding this welcome touch of hospitality to their entertainment.

### **Playgrounds Serving the Men in Khaki**

Many and varied are the forms which the spirit of hospitality has taken in the various cities. One of the most helpful things which the cities have done is to place their public recreational

facilities, playgrounds, swimming pools and athletic fields at the disposal of the soldiers and in arranging for seats, platforms, band stands, and other facilities in the parks. The Chicago Park Commissions are performing very valuable service by placing their recreational facilities and leaders at the disposal of the soldiers. Athletic meets have been arranged, coaches supplied and the athletic equipment made available. San Diego's splendidly equipped playground at La Jolla with its recreation building, one of the finest in the country, is used day and night by the men in uniform, dances and special entertainments being given continually. The men are taken to the grounds each night in army trucks so that they may enjoy the shower baths which the center provides.

### **Giving the Sol- diers Opportuni- ties for Physical Recreation**

In addition to the sports and athletic programs provided within the camps, the War Recreation Bureaus in the various cities are making possible in the communities opportunities for athletic meets, tournaments and contests in many of which the townspeople may measure their prowess with the man in uniform.

No form of physical recreation is more popular with the man in khaki than swimming, and substitutes for the "old swimming hole" are everywhere being provided. In a number of cities or in the territory immediately adjacent to the camps where there were no swimming pools they have been constructed. When it was learned by the war recreation worker in the Long Island communities near Camp Upton, that there were no swimming facilities at the camp, he secured permission from the owners of a large mill pond and of a beach near the camp to use their property. The camp com-

mander, enthusiastic over the plan, put up tents and the local Red Cross chapter supplied several hundred bathing suits. At Spartanburg, two citizens have made possible the construction of a swimming pool in a creek. Hattiesburg, Miss., lacking other bathing facilities, has turned an old gravel pit into a swimming hole. The local committee at Gettysburg very ingeniously provided two swimming pools for the men in camp by constructing a dam across neighboring streams. Burlington, Vt., has fitted up a swimming beach in the Winooski River which runs near the camp. A broad stairway was built from the mainland to a wooden platform which stretches for 90 feet along the river edge; there diving boards were installed and a life boat provided. An abandoned ice pit which a chance exploring expedition disclosed has proved a very popular swimming pool for the men at Salt Lake City. The discovery of the inlet and outlet made possible the diverting of the water. The cutting away of weeds and the construction of simple dressing quarters and toilet facilities completed the work.

Municipal and private pools are everywhere being made available for the men. In Washington, for example, the municipal and playground pools are being used by large numbers of men. Arrangements have been made to light them at night and swimming instruction is being given. Among other cities, Minneapolis and St. Paul have been particularly active in placing public and private bathing and swimming facilities at the disposal of the men. Water sports and regattas have become popular in a number of cities in which bathing beaches and swimming zones have been provided for the men.

**Athletic Meets,  
Carnivals and  
Sports**

The success of the efforts to secure for the soldiers gymnasiums, athletic fields, baseball fields, tennis courts, stadiums and other facilities for athletics and sports has made possible athletic carnivals and meets and football and baseball games which have brought out thousands of enthusiastic spectators and participants. Boxing and wrestling matches are features greatly enjoyed by the men.

An unused reservoir at Deming, N. M., covering 15 acres of ground, is being converted into an amphitheatre which will seat 20,000 soldiers. In addition to baseball and football fields, volley ball, tennis and basket ball grounds, it will have an open air swim-

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ming pool. Six hundred engineers have been detailed to put the grounds in shape.

In Des Moines, the stadium of Drake University has been secured for Sunday football and baseball and the college has agreed to fit up a skating rink. Many thousands attended the football game for the benefit of the Mess Fund, which was played by two companies of the National Guard. An athletic carnival at which several world champions in boxing and wrestling gave exhibitions, netted \$2,500 for the Athletic Fund.

The playground supervisors of Junction City have volunteered their services as umpires and in helping to train the soldiers of Fort Riley for the athletic meets. A special Fourth of July carnival at Little Rock was attended by 3,000. Athletic sports never wane in popularity at the naval club at Coddington Point, Newport, where over 700 men participated in one athletic meet. In the Norfolk-Portsmouth district, weekly games are arranged between teams from battle ships, the Navy Yard and the Naval Training Station. A band from one of the naval stations furnishes the music.

Athletics are playing an important part in the program of activities at San Diego. During the summer twelve baseball teams were organized and regular games scheduled three days a week at the stadium, the playgrounds and the exposition ground. A number of boxing bouts were staged. For the Labor Day Service Meet and Military Exhibition at the stadium there were over 300 entries. A large track and field meet held at the stadium in October represented the united efforts of all the organizations in the city and all branches of the service had representatives among the entries.

San Francisco's Fourth of July program which included an athletic meet and ended with a military ball was voted a huge success, as was the Columbus Day athletic tournament at which the men in khaki gave a demonstration of their ability in competitive drills, bayonet and tent pitching contests, trench digging, hand grenade throwing and races of all kinds. The athletic committee of Seattle has worked out an elaborate schedule of athletic events covering three months. Football games, an athletic carnival and a water carnival have already been held. An ice carnival, an indoor track meet and a relay carnival will follow. The military tournament held at Sparta, Wis., attracted an audience of over 7,000 people.

The use of the Tacoma stadium has been secured for large

athletic meets. A football match between the officers of the 361st regiment and the State College was attended by 3,000 soldiers who marched through the city to the stadium for a preliminary drill before an audience of over 20,000 people. Around the field marched company after company of loyal men cheering themselves hoarse for their officers.

**Dramatics and  
Pageants**

A man's enjoyment of dramatics does not cease when he dons a uniform nor is he averse occasionally to taking part in a show himself.

Many of the local amateur dramatic societies are entertaining the men with plays or arranging easily staged performances in which the men will have a part. On alternate Saturday evenings the Elks and Masons of Junction City have programs for the men and very often amateur theatricals are put on in which the soldiers participate. Informal programs at the Opera House consisting of solos, monologues, clog dances and Indian war dances afford the soldiers excellent opportunity to display their talent, while performances given by the Agricultural College at Manhattan provide such programs as Shakespearean plays.

Very often 1,200 men attend the popular outdoor performances given at the Coddington Point naval club at Newport where the townspeople join with the boys in taking part in the shows. The War Recreation Board of San Diego is responsible for the organization of the Liberty Players Stock Theatrical Co., the purpose of which is the presentation of clean, up-to-date plays for the soldiers and sailors at a nominal price, the best seats in the house being sold to men in uniform for twenty-five cents. The Drama League of the city has been active in entertaining the men with short plays and they are opening classes for the soldiers and sailors so that they may present plays themselves. The San Francisco Drama League is also playing an important part in making performances by the men possible.

The boys of Company D New York troops at Camp Wadsworth returned the hospitality of the citizens of Spartanburg by giving them a minstrel show at one of the theatres. Washington's national sylvan theatre, owned by the government, is attracting many thousands of people to the impressive pageants and plays which are being given. Under the auspices of the War Recreation Board a program of pageants and plays to be given throughout the year is being arranged.

**Serving the Men within the Camp Limits** Although the work of the War-Camp Community Service lies within the communities near the camps, there are occasional instances in which, because of community ties and an intimate knowledge of community resources, the local committee is able to aid the Y. M. C. A. and other forces within the camp in providing for the men.

**Educational Classes** One of the ways in which the local committees are cooperating most effectively with the camp forces is in the securing of teachers of French and other subjects. The men are eager to prepare themselves for the time when "somewhere in France" they will meet the men with whom they are to fight side by side. The War Recreation Boards in many cities are making this possible by providing teachers not only at the camps but in the communities. Atlanta, Ga., for instance, is furnishing French teachers for the Y. M. C. A. educational director at camp; Burlington, Vt., Charleston, S. C., Chicago, Ill. (where a five-hour trip is involved for the teachers going to Highland Park), Indianapolis, Ind., Pensacola, Fla., San Francisco, Cal., Spartanburg, S. C., Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn. and many other cities are performing similar services. In Alexandria, La., a grammar school has been opened in the evening for classes in French and History. In Chattanooga the Board of Education is attempting to supply the educational material necessary for the 300 men enrolled in classes in camp, many of whom can neither read nor write. Three hundred fifty arithmetics sent to the War Recreation Board by the American Book Company of Cincinnati are being put into excellent use at camp.

The University of South Carolina at Columbia is giving courses in French, History, Mathematics and Typography at a nominal rate. Saturday night lectures are being given at the base hospital at Camp Cody by teachers from the Deming high school which will be opened evenings for classes in French, Spanish, Mathematics, Science and History. The educational work for the men at Fort Bliss has been taken over by the president of the University of Texas who has assigned five university instructors and three volunteers to the work, the army providing transportation to the camp for the instructors. Two thousand men were enrolled in the classes. At Macon, Ga., an educational course has been arranged giving high school and college credits.

The men at the Navy Yard, through the courtesy of organiza-

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tions in Philadelphia, are having instruction in automobile mechanics, electricity, typewriting and surveying, as well as in academic subjects. The Universities of Wisconsin and California are sending instructors to the nearby camps.

**Providing the Boys with Books and Magazines** Closely allied to the educational work at the camps and in the communities is the movement which has spread rapidly through all the camp cities to collect books and magazines for the men in camp for use at the Y. M. C. A. recreation huts, the base hospitals, the barracks and in many instances in the khaki clubs in the communities. In all of this work the city libraries have been most helpful in acting as clearing houses and in sorting and grading the books before they are sent to camp. The libraries of a number of cities are throwing their facilities open to the soldiers on Sunday afternoon and in the evenings when the men are in town. Many of them have established branch libraries at the camps.

Many interesting plans have been devised for collecting the books and arousing the interest of the communities in the project. In El Paso the Boy Scouts helped in collecting the books which were catalogued by the public library in units of one hundred. At Nogales, Ariz., boxes were placed in various parts of the city where contributions might be made regularly. Atlanta and one or two other cities made use of laundry wagons which gathered up the books as they made their collections. The hotels were asked to gather up the magazines left by their guests. Through the school children of Augusta, circulars telling of the movement for providing reading matter for the soldiers, reached the homes of the city. The Girl Scouts were active in helping to gather the material. The local committee of Dayton secured a large collection of technical and mechanical magazines through advertising agencies. The public library of Washington undertook the task of supplying with books and magazines all nearby camps, soldiers' clubs, rest rooms and detached guard stations. Moving picture films were used as a medium of appeal for reading matter.

**Taking Entertainment to the Camps** Mention has already been made of the singing and the many musical programs at camp provided through the local committees. No less welcome are the dramatic productions and entertainments of various kinds through which the War Recreation

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Boards are cooperating with the officials and organizations within the camps.

From 12,000 to 15,000 men at Camp McClellan enjoy the entertainments which are sent three times a week by the local committee of Anniston, Ala. The Women's Committee at Atlanta has been very active in providing entertainment for the men at Camp Gordon, taking from 12 to 14 entertainments a week to the camp. Readers, minstrels, violinists, soloists and pianists are featured on these programs.

A very successful production of *Trial by Jury* was staged at the camp riding hall by the Burlington, Vt., committee on music and dramatics. The West Side Park Commission of Chicago gave the pageant *The Coming of Peace* for the Cicero camp. The drill hall of the Great Lakes Training Station is the scene of four entertainments a week given by the local committee. Many of the base hospitals are being provided with entertainment. The War Recreation Bureau of Des Moines devised a novel means of entertainment for the men in camp in a series of picnic suppers for the men of the Iowa National Guard at Camp Dodge. Army trucks transported the refreshments, consisting of home-made pies, cakes and ice cream which were served by a number of young women of the city.

The Indianapolis committee has been successful in securing for the camp such well-known speakers as Ex-President Taft and William Jennings Bryan and such features as the Kilties Band and war motion picture films. The work of the entertainment committee of Minneapolis has assumed such proportions that a booking office has been opened in one of the department stores where the professional and amateur talent of the city is lined up for the men at the camp. Some of the men at Fort Snelling returned the hospitality of their citizen hosts by giving a minstrel show in camp which had been coached by a member of the Drama League. The traditional songs and jokes were appreciated as never before.

The War Recreation Service of Fort Niagara, with the hearty cooperation of the commanding officer, has been particularly active in providing entertainment at camp where a platform has been erected for the performances. A concert by the Kilties Band, a recital by Nora Bayes and a number of entertainments of various kinds have been given.

The Washington committee has worked out an elaborate

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scheme for providing entertainments at the surrounding camps and stations. A census has been made of all available talent both professional and amateur. Rehearsals are held daily for these volunteers and only those who come up to a fair standard of excellence are accepted. During September entertainments were held at more than nine different camps and it is estimated that the entertainments furnished to the soldiers in October, both within and outside the camps, reached 80,000 men.

### **A Multiplication of Problems**

Many and varied are the problems which must be faced by the War Recreation Boards and community organizers in their task. The newness and urgency of the work and the suddenness with which it has come, the breaking up of old traditions and the readjustments necessary to meet new conditions are all contributing factors in creating many of the conditions and complications which the splendid spirit of cooperation and helpfulness displayed throughout the War Recreation Service is going far to overcome.

### **Commercial Recreation Problems**

One of the important duties of the War Recreation Bureau in every city has been the maintenance of high standards in all such forms of commercialized amusement as motion picture and vaudeville performances and dance halls. The great majority of the War Recreation Boards now have a sub-committee whose duty it is to censor the type of entertainment shown in the motion picture and vaudeville houses, the managers of which have, in most instances, shown a splendid spirit of cooperation. The National Board of Review of Motion Pictures is in correspondence with the managers of the motion picture theatres, urging them as a patriotic duty to refrain from showing certain types of pictures and supplying them with lists of particularly desirable films for presentation before soldier audiences. In Charlotte, N. C., the mayor requires the coming week's program of films to be submitted to the local committee with a view to eliminating undesirable features. The City Councils of Augusta, Ga., and a number of other cities have ruled that no licenses shall be granted for commercial amusements until after the applications have been referred to the committee on commercial recreation for investigation.

Turner Amusement Park at Deming, New Mexico, consisting of 160 acres with a speedway and a grand stand to accommodate 40,000 people, is being laid out on grounds adjacent to the camp.



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It is planned to spend \$500,000 in establishing this park which will be a permanent state fair ground for New Mexico. Ten per cent of the gate receipts and twenty-five per cent of the concession rentals will go to the War Service Board. On October the thirteenth at Fort Worth, Como Park and Lake were thrown open to the public by the Parker Amusement Company, marking a distinct epoch in the annals of commercial amusement as it is the first time one of these parks has operated under semi-military regulations. The War Service Board receives a portion of the receipts and is able to control in some degree the type of entertainment given. The commercial enterprises of San Antonio have been put under the supervision of the city and the War Recreation Board, no amusement project being permitted without the sanction of the Board. Another phase of cooperation with commercial recreation companies lies in the arrangement existing in a number of cities whereby reduced rates of admission to men in uniform prevail.

The dance hall problem because of the undesirable features connected with it, presents, perhaps, more difficult phases than any other form of commercialized amusement. The local committees have tried in a number of cities to meet some of the problems by securing the permission of the managers to place chaperones in the halls. Another line of attack lies in the substitution of well-conducted dance halls. At Little Rock the license has been made so high that only the better class of dance halls can afford to pay it, thereby eliminating many small poorly-managed ones. A new \$300,000 building is under construction which will contain a well-managed, splendidly lighted and ventilated dance hall under the supervision of the War Recreation Board.

The War Recreation Board of Louisville, Ky., is attempting a solution of the dance hall problem by conducting a large commercial dance hall under its own auspices. The Girls' Work Committee has been placed in charge with authority to make decisions regarding any problems which may arise. At the dances, which will be held seven days in the week, chaperones will be present to introduce the soldiers and girls and supervise the dancing. Another step toward controlling the dance hall situation has been taken in the employment of a dance hall supervisor to standardize dancing in all the public dance halls in the city. The city administration is giving authority to these supervisors to appoint chaperones

## WAR-CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE

who will be paid by the dance hall managers. If the conditions maintained are not satisfactory the administration will close the hall in question.

Allied with the Girls' Patriotic League of Montgomery, Ala. which has given a number of dances, is the Chaperone Committee of at least 200 women. The organization has become so extensive that in a short time it will include practically all the girls in the town and it will be impossible for any individual or organization to hold a dance which does not meet with the approval of the League and the Committee on Training Camp Activities. The proprietor of a dance hall conducted on a commercial basis to which girls were admitted free while men were charged an admission fee of fifty cents has agreed to allow the Chaperone Committee of the League to supervise its dances. A definite understanding will be reached regarding the hours and type of dancing.

The extension of existing commercial recreation places to meet the suddenly increased needs is another phase of the problem. It is essential that the War Recreation Boards shall have the co-operation of any new enterprises in order to keep the standards high. In one city a local business house plans to open a roller skating rink and to build new bowling alleys and pool rooms. A large theatre with a seating capacity of 3,000 which is to be built near the entrance to Camp Lee has agreed to submit all its plans for the censorship of the War Recreation Bureau of Petersburg. Roller skating rinks have been opened in a number of cities. Tacoma is to have a new motion picture theatre which will seat from 3,000 to 3,500 men.

### **Sunday Recreation**

The problem of providing recreation for the soldier on Sunday, in some camps the only day on which he has leisure time, has been a perplexing one. This is particularly true of those parts of the country where Sunday has always been strictly observed and in the small town as contrasted with the city which offers greater facilities for Sunday entertainment. In a number of states laws forbid the opening of motion picture houses on Sunday and popular sentiment is against such action. Whatever the feeling, however, on the part of individual communities or people regarding Sabbath observance, it is the consensus of opinion that some form of wholesome recreation must be provided for the men in uniform on Sunday which is universally the lonesome day for one away from home. As

## WAR-CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE

a result, even in the towns where the bluest Sunday laws prevail, much has been done to provide amusement for the men although the communities have not been willing to permit the opening of any form of commercial recreation. In one community in the South the ministers not only consented to sanction a constructive program of recreation for the men but expressed a desire to share in it themselves. As a result regular Sunday matinees have been inaugurated with musical and dramatic programs. In another city the Ministerial Alliance decided to use the municipal auditorium on Sunday afternoons for social and other entertainments and also to provide a program in each of two theatres. A number of cities, among them San Francisco, Chattanooga, Indianapolis and Ayer have arranged to have the motion picture theatres open on Sunday, and still others are featuring baseball games.

The provision of music and singing has been one of the solutions of the Sunday recreation problem. The second Sunday on which community singing was tried in Augusta, hundreds of people were turned away from the theatre because of lack of room. The out-of-door union services such as have been held in Washington, San Antonio and other cities in which singing has made so important a part of the program, band concerts and organ recitals are also helping to solve the problem as has, in no small degree, the increasing emphasis on home hospitality.

**Providing for the**      The relationship of the southerner to the north-  
**Colored Troops**      ern negro and of the northerner to the southern  
                                 negro whose ways he does not understand, is  
                                 creating something of a problem in War Recreation Service as it touches the colored soldier. Efforts are, however, being made to provide recreation for the colored troops in the way which will be most acceptable to them and to provide the activities which they will most enjoy. In a number of cities such as Columbia, S. C., Anniston and Montgomery, Ala., Atlanta, Ga. and Petersburg, Va., committees of colored citizens have been organized to provide wholesome leisure time activities for the colored troops in the same general way as for the white soldiers. These committees receive whatever assistance may be needed from the general committees.

In Chicago a very successful community sing for negro troops was organized by the War Recreation Board. Over 4,000 people both white and colored were present. A community sing and review

## WAR-CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE

of negro troops at the stadium at Des Moines resulted in an increased regard for the ability of the negro soldier and an appreciation of his service to the country. Plans are on foot in San Antonio whereby the negro citizens will organize an amusement park for colored soldiers. The army officers at Montgomery, at the suggestion of the war recreation worker, gave to the negro troops at Camp Sheridan a very careful explanation of southern customs and of Alabama laws relating to the negroes, suggesting the line of conduct which should prevail in order to avoid difficulties.

### **The Problem of the Young Girl**

One of the fundamental problems—no new one but suddenly aggravated by the abnormal atmosphere and excitement accompanying the presence of large numbers of the soldiers—is that of the relationship of the young girl and the soldier. What has been called the “lure of the khaki” is but an expression on the part of the girl of her admiration for the spirit of the men who are willing to give their lives, if need be, in the defense of their country. How to turn this feeling into the right channels, how to make the girl realize that the attitude of the soldier towards her will depend entirely upon her and that it is her privilege to help the men in khaki respect and dignify their uniforms, how to build up ideals of life which will prove a safeguard against dangers; these are only a few of the phases of the problem.

The sub-committees on work for girls and women which are organized in connection with all the general committees in the cities, are having the assistance of a number of national organizations whose experience in dealing with questions relating to the welfare of girls is invaluable. The National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association is sending special workers to the camp cities to work with the committees acting as advisors, studying the needs and applying the remedies. Under the direction of Miss Maude Miner, of the Girls' Protective League, who is traveling from city to city, the foundation for constructive work is being laid. Policewomen are being employed where needed and detention homes are under construction in a number of cities. The national Travelers' Aid Society is stimulating the work of the local Travelers' Aid Societies in an effort to increase the number of workers in the camp cities, to enlarge the work to meet the needs, and to make it as efficient as possible.

Tying up the girls who desire to serve the men who are to fight

for their country with some form of patriotic work has been one of the main lines of effort. The organization of Girls' Patriotic Leagues, reaching as they do girls of all creeds and classes, has proved very helpful in drawing the girls together in groups for Red Cross activities, knitting and sewing, first aid classes and other patriotic activities. Classes in domestic science, telegraphy and stenography have been organized. In a number of cities employment bureaus have been opened and special efforts are being made in all the cities to provide activities for the working girls. A great deal of emphasis is being laid upon the desirability of providing recreational activities for the girls themselves. Hikes, picnics, athletics and games are rounding out the program of patriotic work planned for the girls. A number of club rooms for girls have been opened. Ayer, Mass., has a nine room club house used as headquarters for all the girls' activities with one large room set aside for socials, dances and entertainment of the soldiers. A resident director is in charge. Pageants in which only girls and young women participate have been given. Syracuse, N. Y., and Rossville, Tenn., have been especially successful in their pageants.

The Patriotic Leagues are affording the opportunity for the club leaders to put before the girls the need for high standards of living and idealism. Very often at the large rallies at which the girls come together for recreation and the singing of patriotic songs, talks are given them on the necessity for modest dressing. Similar campaigns are also going on among the mothers in an effort to point out to them the dangers of the situation. Gettysburg, San Antonio and other cities have arranged for a series of lectures to girls and women by women physicians. A western city has an organization of guardians consisting of twenty-five women representing the various churches, whose purpose it is to get in touch with the mothers of wayward girls and to establish friendly relations with girls seen in company with soldiers after dances.

Realizing the necessity for providing opportunities for the young girls and soldiers to meet under normal conditions, many cities are arranging entertainments at which the girls may act as hostesses to the men in khaki. This is sometimes done through the Y. W. C. A.'s, a number of which are holding open house and socials of various kinds, through churches and through women's organizations which are arranging for dances and other well-chaperoned forms of entertainment. There is a strong feeling,

## WAR-CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE

however, that it is desirable not to multiply such entertainments and to inaugurate them only when there is a definite need. There must, too, be adequate and wise supervision and leadership.

The action taken in Pensacola, Fla., is indicative of what is being done in all the cities to safeguard entertainments of this sort. Here a women's committee has been organized for the purpose of looking after the welfare of the girls at the community dances. The committee members not only see to it that the girls reach the dances and return home safely but select the patronesses for the dances and act as chaperones.

On the protective side much is being accomplished. The majority of the cities in which the war recreation secretaries are at work now have 'Travelers' Aid workers to meet the girls and women when they arrive at the railroad station and to see to it that they receive the proper care, in some instances sending them back to their homes if it seems wise. The 'Travelers' Aid Society of Massachusetts has arranged to have a representative in every town in New England so that any girl or women friend or relative of a soldier coming to Camp Devens may have all possible help. When she arrives at Ayer she may receive help at the information bureau in securing a place to stay and is given information regarding the camp. Realizing the importance of the work some of the cities are paying the salaries of the 'Travelers' Aid workers in part at least from municipal funds. In Portsmouth, Va., one of the railroad companies has contributed \$50 a month towards the salary of a worker.

As a phase of protective work, policewomen are being employed in many of the camp cities, in a number of instances the salary being paid by the city. St. Paul has a colored policewoman for work with the colored girls. The county and city commissioners of Charlotte, N. C., have voted to appropriate \$5,000 for the maintenance for a year of a reformatory for women, part of which is to be designated as a detention home for delinquent girls. In Lawton, Okla., and a number of other cities, plans for a detention home for girls and women are under way.

The passage of curfew laws in Burlington, Vt., and Gettysburg, Pa., and the agitation for such laws in other cities, are outgrowths of the movement to safeguard the girls and to retain normal relationships in a time of abnormal conditions.

## WAR-CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE

### **Woman's Work in War Time**

In the successful prosecution of interesting plans for the soldiers and in the furtherance of activities of all kinds, women and women's organizations throughout the country are playing a large part. Behind home and community entertainment, the development of work for girls, the establishment of rest rooms for the women friends and relatives of the soldiers, the provision of sleeping and living accommodations, and the establishment of canteens and many of the soldiers' clubs, stand thousands of loyal American women. Active in the work of raising money as have been the Daughters of the American Revolution and the State Federation of Women's Clubs of Ohio in giving thousands of dollars for the establishment of hotels and rest rooms at Chillicothe, generous and self-sacrificing in contributing their time, energy and devotion, the women of America are performing a large service in preparing the National Army for its task in the world war.

The Playground and Recreation Association of America wishes to express the deepest appreciation of the services rendered by the National Board of the Y. W. C. A., the State Divisions of the Women's Committee of the Council of National Defense, the Drama League of America, the National League for Women's Service, the churches, Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, Knights of Columbus, Jewish Societies, fraternal organizations and the hundreds of local societies which are making possible through their cooperation a community organization for soldiers and sailors which is felt by the Army and Navy Commissions on Training Camp Activities to be so important a part of the preparation of the new army.

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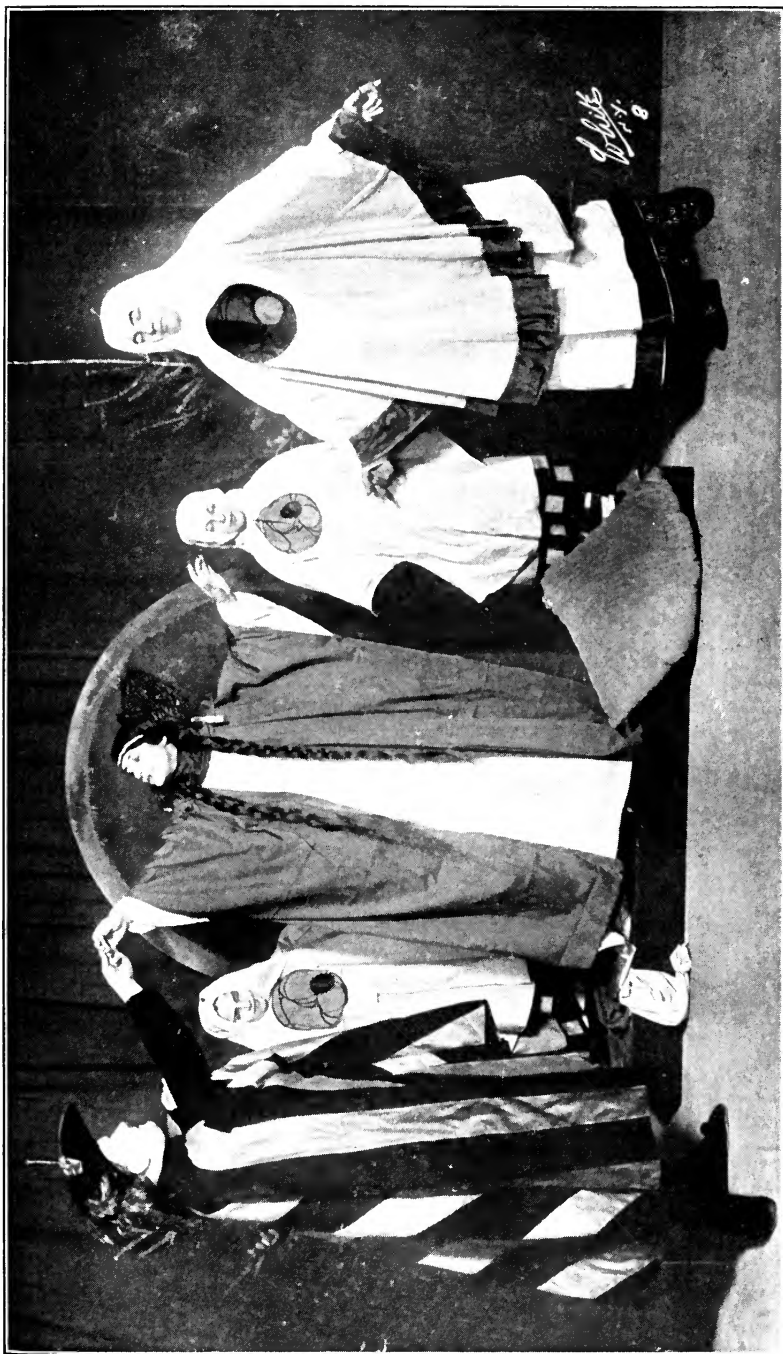
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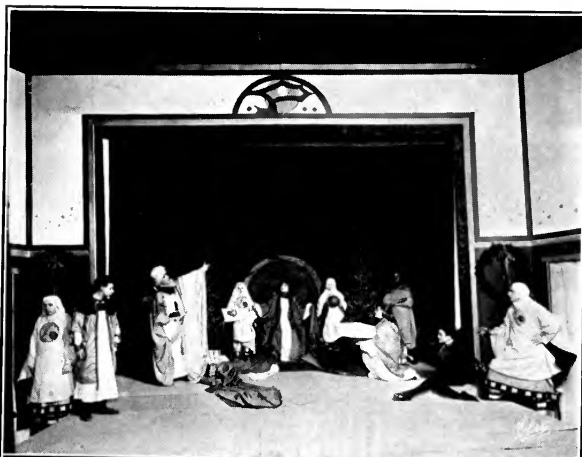
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From it you can get suggestions for the costumes of the servants, the Humble Woman and the Lowly Man.

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

**Third Liberty Loan.**—The third Liberty Loan will start the middle of February or first of March. The amount of money to be raised is much greater than was raised in both the previous loans, and the call upon the country's resources and upon every citizen will be greater than ever. Thrift, the indispensable prerequisite of victory, alone can make the great loan a success. Save and serve!

**Stenographers Needed.**—The United States Government is in urgent need of thousands of stenographers. Examinations are held every Tuesday in 450 of the principal cities of the United States and applications may be filed with the United States Civil Service Commission at any time.

**Soldiers' Thanksgiving in San Diego.**—What happened in many a community all over the United States is thus reported of San Diego by the *Service Journal* for December:

"San Diegans opened up their homes Thanksgiving day and entertained the defenders of their country. Many a soldier boy, having filled up on turkey and cranberry sauce and smoked a good cigar after-

wards, announced that he had had the best time since he enlisted in the army.

"It had been a long time since some of the men had stretched their legs under a real home table and had used real napkins, and it seemed mighty good to them, they said. One man said he missed his 'mess kit' but that it seemed good to miss it.

"That the boys were appreciative of their entertainment is proved by a number of letters which have been received by *The Service Journal*. Space is limited and only one of the letters can be printed. Of course, there were not enough homes to go around among the 50,000 men, but San Diegans did the best they could and they hope to entertain boys who did not get in on Thanksgiving dinners at Christmas time. Here is one of the letters:

"'Editor *Service Journal*, San Diego: I wish to express on behalf of my fellows and myself appreciation of the entertainment by San Diegans and San Diego institutions on Thanksgiving day. Everyone with whom I have talked has been hearty in the praise of the patriotism of San Diegans. It made Thanksgiving seem

more real to us and we want San Diegans to know how grateful we are. It was a splendid thing to do and we are all going to write home about it. When the war is over, I want to live in such a generous, patriotic community. I think there are many of us who feel the same way about it. Thank you for the space. Yours truly,

GEORGE L. STITT,  
115th Field Artillery' "

**Bowling in the Trenches.—**

It is reported that one regiment in the trenches discovered bowling as a trench sport. Pins and balls were supplied by a gift and dull days had a new interest.

**Thrilling Patriotic Spectacle Available for Amateurs.**

—*The Drawing of the Sword*, by Thomas Wood Stevens, which was so impressively presented in the National Red Cross Pageant in New York, may be secured from the Stage Guild, Railway Exchange Building, Chicago, at twenty-five cents a copy. Royalty is about five per cent of the gross receipts if admission is charged—otherwise, \$2.50. Waukegan, Illinois, gave the pageant successfully. There are twenty speaking parts and national groups to one hundred fifty, two hundred or any number.

In Waukegan, four hundred men from a near-by camp were guests, adding tremendously to the power of the pageant as they stood at attention during the playing of *The Star-Spangled Banner* at the close of the pageant.

**Church Collects Magazines.**

—The War Recreation Committee of the Sacramento Church Federation collects magazines from the church membership of Sacramento weekly for the men at the front.

Following the request of General Pershing that only fresh matter be sent magazines are brought to the churches weekly. They are stamped with a rubber stamp, "From the Church Federation." This stamping reminds the lonely man in trench or aboard ship that some churchman is thinking of him.

**Vital Work Ahead.**—The work before the San Francisco Recreation League is thus stated by Mrs. E. L. Baldwin, Secretary, Recreation League Bulletin, Member of Executive Committee of San Francisco Committee for Recreation of Soldiers and Sailors:

"To cooperate with the San Francisco Committee for Recreation of Soldiers and Sailors, by turning over to them our resources of organization

and equipment; to promote a greater participation by the community in recreation through music, drama, art, and athletics; to foster and stimulate all forces working to promote the welfare of the children and the young men and women of the community through recreation, is the present outlook for the year's work of the Recreation League."

**Forty-five Members Give Forty-five Thousand Dollars.**—The United States Army and Navy Recreation Committee of Los Angeles made this record for the benefit of the War Camp Community Service early in its history. The Playground Commission has appointed a committee to cooperate.

**Songs of the Soldiers and Sailors.**—A little booklet that even a crowded kit could hold is issued by the Commission on Training Camp Activities. All the general favorites of the present day (including a number resurrected), the patriotic songs and a few good old hymns are included.

**No Let-Down in War Time.**—Children protected from work by child-labor laws should have full-time schooling, especially in war time. Children, whether at school or at work, need all the

safeguards of peace, playgrounds, recreation centers, clubs, with increasingly skillful leadership.—*Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor Bulletin*

The war time record of juvenile delinquency abroad shows, according to the Children's Bureau, that the sure penalty for neglecting the home, the school, and the play needs of children is an increasing stream of young delinquents brought to court for offenses that community foresight and care should have prevented.

**Convention of Religious Education Association.**—*Community Organization* will be the theme of the Fifteenth Annual Convention to be held at Atlantic City, March 12-14, 1918. Headquarters will be at The Breakers.

**Gift Auditorium for Hartford.**—Mrs. Appleton R. Hillyer, for many years a member of the Board of Directors of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, will erect for Hartford a municipal auditorium near Bushnell Park. The building seating 4,000 will be available for concerts, conventions and city mass meetings. A great organ will be provided. The hall, like the park, will bear the name of Mrs. Hillyer's

## THE WORLD AT PLAY

father, Horace Bushnell, who saved for Hartford the park where the State Capitol now stands.

Mrs. Hillyer's daughter, Lucy Tudor Hillyer, is lovingly remembered by members of the Playground and Recreation Association of America as the giver of the first bequest, which established the Lucy Tudor Hillyer Field Secretaryship.

**Gift Playground for Los Angeles.** — Mrs. Katherine Putnam Hooker, now of San Francisco, whose husband was a former merchant of Los Angeles, has given a small area of land joining the recreation center on St. John's Street.

**Albany Children Lose Friend.**—In the death in September of Machtilde Van Der Wart the children of Albany have lost a devoted friend. Since the establishment of playgrounds in Albany seventeen years ago when the Mothers' Club first undertook the task of providing play leadership in city parks, Miss Van Der Wart directed the work, giving herself unselfishly and unstintingly to the interests of the children whose friend she was.

**The Playground Book.**—The Cincinnati Playgrounds, under the direction of the

Board of Education and the Board of Park Commissioners have their own playground book. It is edited by Mary Gross, Carl Ziegler and Randall J. Condon, assistant director, director of physical education and superintendent of schools respectively. Games and dances, athletic sports, playground management all have a place in the book, which is intended to serve not as a hard and fast course of study, but as a suggestion for wider activities.

**A Playground Newspaper.**—A newspaper entitled *The Playground News*, devoted to the playgrounds of Allentown, Pa., is published by four young men of Allentown who bear respectively the duties of General Manager, Advertising Manager, Editor, and Treasurer. Their motto is, "Watch Us Grow."

This is the first season for this playground newspaper and the manager writes us that it has met with the approval of the many patrons of the playgrounds and has the endorsement of the mayor and many prominent persons in town.

The publicity articles and editorials cover such subjects as *Accidents*, *Red Cross Activities on the Playground*, *Safety First*, *Fair Play*, and the *Value*



## THE WORLD AT PLAY

*and Need of Playgrounds.* The paper prints season schedules for volley ball and baseball games, special notices and reports of ball games and festivals, and notes on special playground features such as swimming. In each issue one picture appears of a prominent playground or recreation official or loyal supporter of the playground work.

The Playground News can be purchased on the playgrounds on Thursday and Friday of every week, and is delivered to the house if desired for two cents a copy anywhere in Allentown.

Following is an editorial written by one of the boy editors of this paper which appeared July 26, 1917:

### SAFETY FIRST ON THE PLAY- GROUNDS

Safety first on the playgrounds has always been the first consideration of the instructors but to accomplish anything they must have the aid of the parents and the children. The amusements themselves are perfectly harmless, but, if indulged in carelessness there are certain elements of danger present. If one goes to any playground they can see children running around swings while in motion which put the children in

danger of being knocked over, and many children have the habit of standing up on the swings which not only puts them in the danger of falling off, but is hard use on the swing.

There are other things which we could mention that are similar to the above, one being the climbing around on the apparatus.

The instructors are very often blamed for the accidents that occur in the playgrounds. It is the opinion of *The Playground News* that the instructors are being unjustly treated if so accused as these instructors have their routine work to do and there are various other things that they must attend to which take quite some time. They cannot be all over the playground at the same time, and very often when the accidents occur the instructors are at work elsewhere, which goes to show that had they been there they could have prevented the accident.

So it is absolutely necessary that the parents and the children cooperate with the instructors to have safety first on the playgrounds as it will probably save the life of many other children.

Again we say, safety first must be practiced on the play-

grounds. Suppose more of these fatal accidents happen, what will become of the playgrounds? Why, they will be condemned. So let us all try to help to avoid all accidents.

**New Club House for Wall Street's Backyard.**—A three-story playhouse with a large playground behind it was opened in December by the Bowling Green Neighborhood Association. Names of many of America's leading financiers are among those who made possible the well-equipped building for the children and young people who live in the financial district. A library and reading room, auditorium with small stage and a dental and baby clinic are among the attractions.

**Public Skating Ponds for New London.**—Work has progressed satisfactorily upon New London's five new skating ponds. The project started by the Playgrounds Association received material assistance from the Park Board in a \$500 contribution.

**Fatally Hurt While Playing at School.**—

"Earl Davis, the 14-year-old son of C. Fred Davis of 415 North Walnut Street, died this morning at the St. Francis Hospital. He is said to have been kicked in the back in a grammar school football game on the McCormick school grounds on Friday afternoon, October 19, when the Franklin School team was

playing the McCormick team. After the game, he complained to his parents that his back hurt. He left school on October 24, according to the teachers at Franklin School, and on October 26th his sister reported that he had a light attack of typhoid fever. He was taken to the hospital. Last night he was operated on, and he died this morning."—Extract from The Wichita Beacon, Wichita, Kansas, October 31, 1917

When Mr. L. W. Mayberry, superintendent of public schools, learned of the death he said:

"This is the strongest argument for a boys' physical director in each grade school. I am now in communication with a man who will take charge of all the physical activities in our grade schools. Ultimately the citizens of Wichita ought to be willing to pay the cash price for a boys' specialist in each of our intermediate schools. The lives of our children ought to be protected in this manner. Had these teams been properly trained, properly coached, and properly examined before the game—then the game provided with proper officials—such an accident would probably not have happened. Children will play, and it is right that they should play. The taxpayers of this city ultimately will see that it is their duty to vote sufficient funds to provide expert direction for their games."

Other men in Wichita made similar statements:

"I believe thoroughly that every one who plays this strenuous game should be physically fit, as determined by a medical examination. He should be well coached and in splendid physical condition before entering a contest."—La Mar Hoover, football coach for Fairmount College and one of the leading exponents of the game in Kansas

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"Boys ought to be physically fit, in condition and thoroughly coached before they are allowed to participate in an actual football contest."—Harold McFwen, Wichita High School football coach

"The majority of boys and men who are injured in football games are neither physically fit to begin with, nor are they in condition to withstand the severe strain that comes in an exciting contest."—Dr. J. Q. Banbury, coach of Friends' University eleven

**Reckless Playing.**—Here are some of the ways in which thousands of children have been killed or hurt. The policeman warns you not to do these things:

Hitching on the back of trucks  
or street cars

Roller skating in the street

Sliding on pushmobiles in the  
roadway

Daring each other to run across  
the street in front of moving  
vehicles

Building bonfires

Playing on fire-escapes and un-  
protected roofs

Riding bicycles in crowded  
traffic

The above is an extract from the pamphlet recently issued for children by the Chamber of Commerce in Paterson, New Jersey. On the last page of the booklet there is a directory of Paterson's parks and playgrounds with the following foreword:

"Children should not play in the streets. The city has provided parks and playgrounds for their use at the following places"

**He Who Runs May Read.**—The City Beautiful Committee of the Chamber of Com-

merce of Paterson, New Jersey asked the High School Civics Club, one of the outgrowths of the City Beautiful work, to make a digest of the laws of the city which the children could understand. The result is an attractive little pamphlet illustrated with views of the city and containing the laws and ordinances of Paterson in readable form. The booklet explains briefly and simply the necessity of having laws and contains outlines of the laws of the Health Department, Street Department, Police Department and Fire Department. It contains also the telephone numbers of city departments and a directory of the parks and playgrounds in Paterson available for the use of the children.

**Week-end Camp Popular.**—Los Angeles has had such a happy experience with summer camps that it is now trying out a week-end camp on San Dimas Mountain. Two groups from large department stores were guests the first two week-ends followed by a family group, a school glee club, boy scouts, and others, so long as the weather keeps fine.

About twenty-five hundred campers enjoyed the summer camp in the San Bernardino Mountains. Cash received

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for these outings amounted to \$15,000, donations \$500; expenses, about \$15,000. The Commission expects to open an area of 100 acres near Big Bear Lake next June, through special government permission.

**Kenosha Children's Fair.**—One thousand school children of Kenosha, Wisconsin, exhibited flowers, fruit, vegetables, poultry and pets. Millinery, canning, needlework, rugs and mats, reed, raffia and woodwork were also displayed. The show lasted but one day—that is, the actual exhibit. But the big thing is that one thousand children labored and achieved and took their parents to see the achievement. And they were so much pleased with it all that they are going to do it again every year.

**Making Recreation Adequate.**—A recreation center is conducted for the Seven Corners Branch Library, Minneapolis, under the supervision of the recreation division of the Park Board. The Board is working on its plan for the acquisition of 27 new sites for play and recreation purposes. This plan will provide for every section of the city not provided for and is perhaps the most comprehensive plan for providing play and recre-

ation facilities ever projected by a city in the class of Minneapolis.

**Daily Papers Helpful.**—Not one of the three daily papers of Utica, N. Y., printed an edition during the summer playground season which did not contain an article on playground activities. One paper has established a permanent department with a boxed heading *Playground Activities*.

**Sewing Classes in Utica.**—Two hundred sixty-one girls were enrolled in sewing classes on the five playgrounds of Utica, N. Y., this summer. Each paid an enrollment fee and received two periods of instruction a week. Workbags, aprons, bloomers, house-dresses and doll outfits were among the articles made.

**Checker Tournament.**—Checker teams representing the five playgrounds of Utica, N. Y., played a tournament for the city playground championship. Tournaments were first conducted on each ground to select the three members of each representative team. Four girls are included among the contestants in the tournament.

**A Pleasant Picture.**—It is pleasant to think of a town of 2000 people of which it can

be written, as of Randolph, Vermont:

"Our parish house serves as a community center in which are held meetings of most of the community organizations. It is the headquarters for the Camp Fire Girls, Boy Scouts, Young Men's Club, Young Women's Club and Men's Club. In the parish house are meeting rooms, dining-room, amusement room with pool, billiards, bowling alley as well as other games. In this same building is a modern theatre seating 700 people which is also conducted by the church as a community affair. Under the management of the Alumni of our high school we have an athletic field which affords opportunity for special outdoor games. In connection with the parish house we maintain a free tennis court.

"All these different activities are very much alive and seem to meet the needs of our small community of 2000 people."

**Patriotic Work on the Playgrounds of Lynchburg, Virginia.**—"Each of our five playgrounds is equipped with a colander, spoon, pan and wash-boiler, which we call a canning outfit. Up to date 702 quarts of food and 212 glasses of jelly have been

canned and preserved with these outfits, under the supervision of our directors.

"Red Cross sewing also has been on our patriotic program, the girls having made 150 dust-cloths and napkins in the past month.

"Throughout the summer, athletics and games have been continued with interest through assignment each week and all our patriotic days have been celebrated in attractive ways peculiar to the day. We are just about to start our annual athletic tournament."

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Extract from letter from Mrs. F. C. Wood, who took her husband's place as supervisor of physical training and recreation in Lynchburg last summer. Mr. Wood has been doing war recreation service in Augusta, Georgia, for the Playground and Recreation Association of America.

**Emphasize Community Interest.**—The opening bulletin of the Supervisor of Recreation in Philadelphia, J. Leonard Mason, urges the need of emphasizing this season community interest, "trying to reach those individuals, organizations and agencies who should be interested in your center. Make it known that this is a community move-

ment, the wider use of the school building for wholesome recreational purposes and all are welcome to take part." Sixteen recreation centers in school buildings are open in Philadelphia this year.

**Kenosha System.**—The play and recreation of Kenosha, Wisconsin, is provided for by the right to an added two-tenths of a mill upon assessed valuation of the city to the city budget for this purpose. A committee of the Board of Education known as the Wider Use Committee has charge of the funds, employing a director to manage the system. This director makes a monthly report to the committee, which is published regularly with the school proceedings.

**Real Results for a Year's Work.**—Starting out with the aim of making schools newly opened for evening use real neighborhood centers, attracting whole families, including adults, the Racine, Wisconsin, evening centers in one year went far toward realizing the aim. The school building became the meeting place for the neighborhood: parties, parent-teacher associations, booster clubs, school clubs all met in the building and had a good time. Certain fac-

tories near had regularly employees' nights each week. One center developed a neighborhood dance where grandfathers, grandmothers, fathers, mothers, and children danced old-fashioned dances. Some nights were young people's nights when the modern dances prevailed. No admission was charged but a silver collection was taken up to defray costs. Any surplus went to the building fund, out of which chairs, kitchen equipment and magazines for the reading rooms were purchased. All the holidays were royally celebrated, and costume, calico and basket dances and a monthly masquerade were given.

**Reason for Pride.**—Miss Fannie Lou Harman, Jewell Ridge, Tazewell County, Virginia, writes:

"I wish to thank you for the material and suggestions you sent to me by request last spring while I was a student at Columbia University. I am teaching in a model elementary school in a mining camp. With the aid of your suggested playground we are constructing a very attractive and helpful playground for our seventy mountain children. We feel very proud of our school, for until last year, there had been no school in this community and now due to the efforts of one of the mine owners, we have a nice attractive building, a well-organized school, a big American flag, and we hope in a few months to have a well-organized playground, with the help of the material which I am asking you

to send. The following is a list of the games and apparatus which we expect to have: Basket ball (indoor), baseball, volley ball (indoor), tennis, giant stride, merry-go-round, teeter board (four for girls and four for boys), swings, horizontal bar, sand box (14x16 ft.), bean bag, horse shoes or quoits, jumping standards.

"This is the first attempt for an organized playground in this section and I thought possibly the Association might be interested to know of the attempt."

**Two Thousand at a Farmers' Picnic.**—C. A. Spaulding, Assistant State Club Leader of Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics in the State of Michigan, reports a splendid play program for young and old carried out at the Aetna Farmers' Club picnic, attended by about two thousand farmers and business men and their families.

**Commercial Recreation of High Grade.**—Detroit has a new seven-story commercial recreation building, having many of the advantages of a private athletic club—without its expensiveness. Four floors are devoted to bowling alleys, twenty-two on a floor, with locker, rest and check rooms, telephone, soda fountain, cigar stand and sanitary wash-rooms conveniently near. The fourth floor is reserved for ladies. A sound-proof billiard room occupies the

entire second floor, with fifty-four carom billiard tables. On the third floor are thirty-nine pocket billiard tables and twelve English billiard tables.

The second and seventh floors have mezzanine galleries from which the players can be seen. The second floor mezzanine also includes a comfortable reading room and the billiard amphitheatre for match games.

A special lighting system for the bowling alleys sheds a diffused light over the whole floor, the brightest light shining on the white maple pins. A new system of ventilating changes the air in every corner in six minutes, so that, although smoking is permitted, no clouds of smoke gather over the heads of the smokers.

**A "Good" Town.**—J. Horace McFarland, President of the American Civic Association, writing in *The Country-side* upon *What Makes a Town Good?* has the following to say regarding play space:

"The residents of Compositeville have easy access to playgrounds, parks and social centers. An acre of open space has been provided for every hundred of the population, and the playgrounds are carefully equipped and as carefully maintained. Consequently the open air habit prevails, and home gardens are plentiful and beautiful. The modern schools—all having ample and well-fitted play spaces

about them—are year-round social centers as well; for these wise people believe in keeping their property in use. The saloon has gone out, and its place is much more than taken by these centers, where there is organized provision for recreation."

**Matinees for Children.**—The second season of holiday plays for children conducted in New York City by Alice Minnie Herts, Katharine Lord and Jacob Heniger came to a successful close January the fifth. *Buried Treasure*, *The Tinkelman* and the pantomime of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* delighted the children.

**Fayetteville's Successful Hallowe'en.**—Adele P. Hall writes of the occasion:

"Ghosts, goblins, devils, and other fantastic creatures filled Fayetteville's Main Street, and made a zig-zag march through the town, marching first on the road and then on the sidewalks, where the onlookers were forced to flee in haste to the background. The line included ministers, teachers, business men and most undignified grown-ups of all social groups. One man over seventy years old seemed to be having as much fun as the youngest in line.

"The parade was led by the band and marshalled by

a very wonderful clown. The regular band was assisted by a fake band.

"At the ball ground which the giant bonfires (built from railroad ties) lighted beautifully, every one unmasked and our little town never before had quite such a thrill of good fellowship. The Hallowe'en spirit of reckless fun and frolic pervaded the night and all classes mingled on common ground. Some grown men of the village passed huge baskets of fried cakes and apples (solicited from all the churches).

"The band played all the evening. The youngsters indulged in a pie-eating contest, a tug of war and other games. After the children's frolic many of the older people stayed to sing and dance until near midnight."

**Kansas All Community Hallowe'en.**—Wm. A. McKeever, of the University of Kansas, sent out suggestions for a real community celebration, with costume parade, street dancing, and novel stunts. Scores of the towns and villages made use of the plan successfully.

**Boston Park Shows.**—The third season of shows closed successfully in the fall. Nineteen performances in different parks were given during Sep-



tember. These included moving pictures of patriotic tone, patriotic music, stereopticon slides, "flags of the allies," news-talks by four-minute men speakers.

**Rip Van Winkle in Pantomime.**—One thousand people took part and about 28,000 people saw the two performances given by the staff and children of the municipal playgrounds of St. Louis at the Forest Park Municipal Theatre.

**Important Post for Professor Hetherington.**—California has appointed Clark W. Hetherington State Director of Physical Education. The many friends of Professor Hetherington throughout America will follow his work in this new and very important pioneer position with close interest. Professor Hetherington has already done much for the play movement and the physical training movement. Few men have thought the play problem through as Professor Hetherington has.

**County Work in Hawaii.**—*Rural Manhood* reports the organization of seventeen clubs for men and boys in Kanai County, Hawaii. Debating and public speaking has been promoted in most of the clubs. Volley ball is popu-

lar where it has been introduced.

A Japanese band, a Filipino orchestra and a Hawaiian glee club represent the musical interests. The clubs from all over the island have had several get-together socials.

**Developments in the Philippines.**—The municipal system of Manila, after less than a decade of work, has a staff of twenty workers, and an attendance of 433,576. The first playground, Tondo, has been expanded into an evening center. The current budget is more than 80,000 pesos.

**New Playgrounds for India.**—The government has given permission for needful steps to be taken to start public playgrounds at Hyderabad. At Madras the government has agreed to set apart the land, fence it and pay the supervisor, while the Young Men's Christian Association is to supply the equipment and organize the work.

**Playgrounds in India.**—*Young Men of India* reports play enthusiasm in that country: "Everything going fine. Playground not open yet. We (the mayor, city engineer and I) meet the applicants for playground instructors next week. We seem to have to go through a lot of red tape to get anything done. How-

ever, the apparatus we are having made locally is almost completed. I was over at the park this morning, football goal posts are up—the sand-bin complete, and 29 children playing in it already (you should have seen the sand-elephant which was made in it), the volley-ball court nearly levelled and ready. We put up a swing and in less than two minutes 75 children (by actual count) were clamouring to get in it. One of the number, a young man, on his own initiative lined them up in a row and made the little children take turns, while another of the older fellows helped swing them. There is great material there and a wonderful opportunity. They seemed very appreciative, and when I told them through an interpreter that more equipment was coming if they took good care of it, they said they would see that nothing happened that would harm any of it."

**Seventh Annual Report of the Boy Scouts of America.**—Emphasis is laid upon the growing understanding of the movement. Even under the unusual conditions of the past year, newspapers and magazines as well as scout leaders everywhere have dwelt upon the civic service which scout training promotes. Over

200,000 boys are now registered scouts. About 50,000 men are helping in the direction of these boys. And yet the call for leadership and more leadership is insistent. The new department of education has endeavored to help to solve this problem by providing institutes and training courses throughout the country.

The report on *Boys' Life* shows a subscription increase from 13,245 to 100,000 in three years, "not all sent in by fond maiden aunts and doting grandmas, but mostly by boys."

**Argentina Watching Moving Pictures.**—*La Prensa* reports a survey of attendance of forty thousand children at moving picture houses in Buenos Aires:

"Ninety-five percent of the children attended and enjoyed motion pictures, stating that they were not only diverting but instructive. The most popular type of motion pictures was the comic, then the drama, then police and adventure, then science and nature. The first group was most popular with 40 percent of the children; the fourth group with 12 percent; 22 percent selected the second; and 24 percent the third; 2

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percent expressed preference other countries the effect of  
for other types." movies on children is consid-

It is interesting that in ered worth investigating.

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BY STUART WALKER

As described by Grace Humphrey

PANTOMIME! Does the mere word suggest something particularly out of your reach, an expensive, brilliant spectacle which had to depend for its "show" upon the setting and the brilliancy of its lighting effects, in order to make up to the spectators for the absence of the spoken part? If this is so, then *The Seven Gifts*, by Stuart Walker, will be a revelation to you. This is a pantomime with infinite possibilities. It was first given at the Community Christmas tree in New York City and was tremendously effective. But its big asset lies in the ease with which you or anyone else could produce it. It can be given indoors or out, on any sort of a platform, without a curtain if you haven't one, without footlights, without any elaborate stage setting, and still lose none of its effect.

Pantomime is the fundamental thing in all acting, and in the oldest kind of drama. The Greeks used it widely, the Romans featured it in their circus. In medieval times, pantomimists traveled about giving their shows, popular everywhere, but most polished and most technical in France. To-day the pantomime is more popular than ever because of the movies, since from them, people have grown to catch a story readily. And what is more, it will be a relief from the usual succession of brownies and fairies, of Santa Claus and his reindeer, from all the usual Christmas legends that go to make up the plays we are accustomed to.

As a Christmas entertainment, a pantomime, instead of the spoken play, has many advantages. Primarily, it is a novelty; it offers color, and it presents a vivid story told by living actors. *The Seven Gifts* may well be announced and advertised as a living movie—a play which young and old, alike, will enjoy; a play for all races and creeds, which will entertain all and offend none. Furthermore, since there are no lines to be learned, people will be eager to participate.

The fantasy calls for twenty-nine people; three boys, three

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girls, seven women, and sixteen men. You could omit two of the heralds and one bearer, but they help to make the picture. Some of the performers will require six and some only four rehearsals.

It will be more effective if all the actors are above average height. The *Brave Man* should be tall and commanding looking. Select for the *Queen* a tall woman, regal and dignified in every movement; having no words to give this impression, it is the more important that her every gesture tell this to the audience.

For the stage setting you will need two small Christmas trees, two benches, a throne at the center back on a six-inch platform, a black circle five feet in diameter, made of profile, or of pasteboard, or canvas on a wooden frame. If you prefer, use a hanging back for the *Queen's* seat, a piece of tapestry or a curtain lovely in color and texture. The throne may be a plain seat with arms, or any decorative chair.

Two sets of placards should be made of stiff cardboard, two by three feet, and placed on easels, at either side of the stage. If possible, it would be well to have an electric light for each, to burn throughout the play.

It would be a good idea to place the entire set of placards on the easels, and remove them one at a time, as the action of the fantasy introduces the various characters. This is a device borrowed from the movies, and a good one, as the story is never interrupted. The thirteen placards will need to announce:

- *The Seven Gifts*—A Fantasy of Christmas Giving
- The Wanderer and the prologue.
- The Emerald Queen
- Jack-in-the-Box—An Intermezzo
- The Lowly Man and His Son
- The Rich Man
- The Haughty Lady
- The Humble Woman
- "You Gave the Bird His Freedom, the Bird Gave Me His Song"
- The Brave Man
- The Strolling Player
- A placard naming your interlude
- The Dear Child
- The properties that will be needed for this pantomime consist of a great pack for the Wanderer, not heavy, but bulky; a box painted black, with handles of rope at the sides, strong enough to

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hold a boy; a bunch of flowers, a black ball, white wig and beard for the Lowly Man, a scraggly little Christmas tree, undecorated, a bag of gold, a jewel box, large and showy, with bracelet, necklace, rings (from a five-and-ten-cent store), and half a dozen pieces of rich fabrics, very bright in color, one or two of them embroidered or brocaded (why not borrow some remnants) a yard and a half to three yards long, an opalescent or silver balloon, eight inches in diameter, filled with air (hydrogen is too dangerous). Half a dozen will be needed to practise with. You will want, also, a great cake two feet in diameter, made of profile, which is an ordinary black cardboard, painted white, and sprinkled with diamond dust (or have a real cake; this to be cut up for the guests afterwards), two swords with fancy hilts, which may be bought at ten-cent stores; three irises, or some bright artificial flowers; three embroidered cushions; a bird-cage, as near like the quaint one in the photograph as possible; a cardinal bird, stuffed—any bright bird will do; a tiger's skin, cut out of quarter-inch orange felt, with black stripes painted on, tusks made of cotton and paper muslin sewn in the head, and stuffed tail; three little artificial trees in pots; a folding screen, with black and white design; and, finally, a battered doll, which embodies the point of the entire playlet.

The Christmas tree for use out in the auditorium is to have an electric star, wired separately, so that it can burn throughout the play, the other lights to be turned on at the end. If this is impossible, you could use a big star, covered with gold or silver paper. Have a property committee, to provide all these things; or make each actor responsible for the things he is to use. There is nothing in this list the average club or committee can not manage, and there is no difficult stage business except floating the balloon across the court.

To do this, stretch across the top of the stage a heavy thread with a small ring on it, to which is attached the inflated balloon. Tie to this ring two long threads—long enough to reach to either side of the stage, pass through a little stationary ring, and down to the floor. Two people are needed to work this, and it must be tried several times.

Playing out the right-hand thread, and taking in the left, will make the balloon move across the stage. The overhead thread will give sufficiently to make the balloon move up and down. The balloon bursts when it is touched by some one in the crowd who has on a ring with a sharp stone, the setting turned inside.

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The music goes on throughout the play, adding to its effectiveness. It should be played on the piano, if possible, but a phonograph may be substituted. If victrolas are used, two should be in readiness as the music must not stop. Five or six rehearsals with the music should be sufficient. The following are most appropriate selections to be played with the different scenes:

Adam's "Noel," for the Wanderer

The Trio from Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstances," for the Queen's entrance

Gounod's "Funeral March of a Marionette," for Jack-in-the-Box's dance

"Good King Wencelaus," for the Lowly Man

The "March" from Meyerbeer's "Prophet," for the Rich Man

The Dessauer "March," for the entrance of the Haughty Lady

Tschaikowsky's "Song Without Words," at the Humble Woman's entrance

Beethoven's "Turkish March," for the Brave Man

Pierrot's "Serenade," for the Strolling Player

Any suitable selection for the Interlude; Delibes' "Waltzing Doll," for the Dear Child, changing to the "Adeste Fideles," when she sees the star.

The costumes, since so much depends upon them in a production of this kind, should be followed out as closely as possible. They should be of bright colors and beautiful (glossy) textures, but not necessarily of expensive materials. Cotton poplins and sateens (the latter require careful pressing) are good.

The dress of the Prologue should be of brocaded material, scalloped. Any romantic costume will do.

The Wanderer may be merely all tattered and torn.

The Heralds should be in blue, gray, and orange, relieved by black. The design on their robes should be painted on with dyes. Oil paints do not catch the light.

Have the Majordomo's costume like the Heralds' but of white, red, and blue.

The robes of the Queen are emerald and Nile green.

Jack-in-the-Box should be all in black, with a red tarlatan ruff.

The Lowly Man and his Son must be in ragged attire of some sort (use gunnysacking smeared or dyed in places); the red scarf should be of some soft material that will readily pull to pieces. It can be lightly basted together in strips.

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The Rich Man's dress, which must be very long, should be of orange and cream color with the coat of light blue. He should wear showy jewelry and gilt necklaces. His cream colored turban should have an orange edging and a big jeweled pin in front.

The Haughty Lady must have a long train and wear a large purple cloak lined with yellow. The decoration in her hair should be three long wires, wrapped, with tiny pompons at the ends.

The Humble Woman could wear any cheap, humble-looking dress; a white apron, a little shawl, and a dark hood that has slipped off her head will serve.

The Brave Man's dress should be of wide stripes and he should wear a high plume on his head.

The Strolling Player should wear an enormous cape which can be made of yellow and black strips sewed together. The hat should have sweeping black feathers.

The Dear Child should wear a white apron with little conventional Christmas trees around the bottom. These may be cut from red and green cloth and tacked on, not pasted.

Electricity is the most satisfactory lighting for this little spectacle, although gas could be used. Three lamps (40 or 60 watts tungsten) may be placed on each side, in the wing just back of the curtain line, and three on each side, in front of the proscenium arch. You may use your lights wherever you find they work out best for your particular setting, since your own ingenuity will probably bring you the most satisfactory results. The first rows of seats on the sides are so seldom satisfactory for guests that they may be used for lights, with screens to shield them from the audience. Three overhead lamps will be needed at the front of the stage and six at the back, to avoid shadows. These must be placed at such an angle as to cover the entire stage. For each lamp, there should be a cone-shaped reflector, with the inside painted white, or silvered, or aluminized. Your electric light company, if you have one, would very likely be willing to lend you something of this sort for the occasion, either free or at a slight expense; and, at a pinch, one of your own deft-fingered members could fashion them.

For the final tableau, the overhead lights should be turned off and the only light be from the front. As the Dear Child gazes at the star, the lights should be changed from the clear white which has burned steadily throughout the play, to red, then to green, blue, and back to white again. This change can be made by passing gelatine mediums—square pieces of gelatine which come in

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various colors and are fastened in a frame—in front of the lamps still burning; tissue paper may be substituted. One color over another may be needed to get the desired shade—experiment with lighting during the rehearsals.

At the first two rehearsals, the director, seated in the auditorium, should read off the story of the pantomime which follows. As she describes the action, the various actors should go through their parts, just roughly. It is best not to stop to try things over and over, but each time go through the play from beginning to end.

Check up what goes well and what badly, and talk things over between rehearsals. Like a movie, it must go along smoothly, with no stops, waits, or delays, and this will never look after itself on the day of the performance, unless the director looks out for it at every rehearsal.

There are no words in a pantomime; you can't rely on some clever actor's saying the right thing to cover up a mistake. Watch the time at each rehearsal; at first it will go slowly; but gradually you will get it moving faster, till at the last four rehearsals it should take only forty minutes. Plan for fifteen rehearsals, the attendants to come for the last six. Have special rehearsals for *Jack-in-the-Box's* dance and his game with the *Brave Man*. The interlude should be practised by itself, till it goes well in eight or ten minutes; four times is sufficient to try it with the whole play. Little by little, the actors will get their "business" learned, and the director will have less and less to do. Occasionally invite a guest who does not know the story; if he can follow it your pantomime is going well. If the last four rehearsals do not go of themselves, put in some extra ones.

Most valuable and important of all, there is a real, living story connected with the fantasy. It starts out with the Wanderer, who with his pack comes from among the spectators, sees the stage, the drawn curtains, and the waiting audience. He wonders what all this is for. He starts to investigate, when out steps the Prologue and tells him it is a play, for him and for all the guests. The Prologue claps his hands three times, steps to one side, and shows the first placard, announcing the name of the fantasy. After this, the Prologue and the Wanderer show the placards, both watching the play and joining in the applause.

Enter the Majordomo, announcing the Queen and her attendants—two little princesses, two big and two little heralds, and three bearers. The Queen greets the audience as her guests and seats



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herself on the throne. The bearers bring in two great wreaths of evergreen, with red ribbon on them, which they hang on either side of the stage. Then they carry in the black box, and out hops Jack-in-the-Box who gives the Queen his gift, a bunch of flowers, and dances, playing with his ball.

Then come the Lowly Man and his Son, almost blinded by the lights of the court. Awkwardly they present their gift, a poor, scraggly, little tree, which the Queen accepts graciously, though it causes great laughter among the courtiers. Surprised and deeply hurt, the Lowly Man looks about to see why his gift meets such a reception, discovers the red ribbons on the wreaths, takes the warm red scarf from his neck, tears it into shreds, and with Son's help trims the tree. The Queen motions to the Majordomo to bring her a bag of gold, which she gives to the Lowly Man. (This episode shows that a poor gift, given freely, is not bettered by imitation.)

The Rich Man enters next, with his two retainers carrying the jewel-box and the cake, which he cuts ceremoniously with his sword. The Queen suggests that the cake be passed to all those present, but the servant merely shows it to them. The Rich Man gives the Queen a ring from his finger, unlocks the casket, and is presenting jewels and fabrics when a bubble blows by and attracts her attention.

The servant is ordered to get it, but it is out of reach. The Rich Man stamps his foot, ordering it to come to him; he offers it the cake, jewels, fabrics; and draws his sword to kill the servant, when the Queen interposes, asking would he take a man's life for a mere bubble? The Rich Man offers the courtiers a bag of gold if one of them can get it, and in the confusion the bubble breaks and is gone. (This episode shows that great wealth can not make gifts valued, if the right spirit is lacking.)

Then, with two servants, comes the Haughty Lady, bearing three irises. She bows to the Queen very haughtily and is shown a seat next the Lowly Man; but with such folk she will not associate, and she crosses the stage to another place. Everyone stares at her till she remembers her gift, puts one iris on a pillow, and sends a servant to give it to the Queen.

The Humble Woman comes with a bird, which sings for the Queen. (If there is not some one who can give a bird song off stage, use a water-whistle or part of "The Mocking-bird" record on the phonograph. Victor Record, Number 18083 has been found

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very satisfactory.) A bearer brings a cage, but the Humble Woman says that her bird shall never be caged and sets it free, tossing it up and out into the wings. Then, realizing that she has done a terrible thing in freeing the Queen's bird, she falls on her knees; but the Queen, understanding, kisses her on both cheeks, gesturing, "You gave the bird his freedom, the bird gave me his song!" The Haughty Lady, chastened, begs the Queen's permission to give the remaining irises to the Lowly Man and his Son, and sits between them.

Now comes the Brave Man, with his gift of a tiger-skin. He will show the Queen how it was obtained. His attendants bring in three little potted trees, to represent the jungle. Who will impersonate the tiger? Up pops Jack-in-the-Box. He is handed the skin, and slips it on.

The Brave Man takes off his sword, lies down in the jungle, and falls asleep. The tiger creeps up, tickles his face and neck, and sits near the sword. The Man, finally wakening, wheedles the beast away from the spot, gets his weapon, and lunges at his prey, who keeps always just out of his reach. The contest continues till the Brave Man is utterly tired out, and he sits down dejected, when his hand happens to touch the salt-cellar at his belt. He puts salt on the beast's tail, the curious tiger tastes it and falls down dead. Cautiously, the Brave Man makes sure that the tiger is dead by plunging his sword into him; then he bows to acknowledge the applause of the court, when Jack-in-the-Box hops up, slips under his arm, and takes the praise for his own! (This episode is pure burlesque, and must be made very funny. The music for it is to be played at high speed.)

The Strolling Player enters, greets the Queen, and suggests as his gift, an interlude. Will the Queen be gracious enough to move her seat? He offers his arm, but Jack-in-the-Box steps in, takes her hand, and escorts her to a seat at the side, he sitting at her feet. The guests and attendants move to left and right, leaving the center of the stage clear.

The Strolling Player claps his hands, the bearers bring in a folding screen, with a black and white design (this makes the best background), and his actors give the interlude. For the interlude something that has already been given, or an incident dramatized, may serve. It should last at the longest ten minutes. A little dance in it is extremely attractive. Or, the entire interlude might be a dance—minuet, or some folk dance—or a dancing-game. It

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can be given by any number of children or grown-people, depending on the space available. (This episode is introduced for sheer beauty.)

Last of all comes the Dear Child with her doll. The Child looks wonderingly around the court, not knowing which is the Queen. She picks out the Haughty Lady, who graciously shows her the real Queen. The child kneels down to present her gift, then draws it back to kiss the doll good-by. (This incident must bring out clearly the value of simplicity and sincerity in giving.)

Accepting it, the Queen is so impressed by the fact that this gift is a sacrifice, coming from the heart of the giver, that she motions the Child to choose what she will have of all the gifts. The Dear Child examines them all—the empty cage, the jewels, fabrics, which she tries on and struts about in, the cake, the iris, the ball, the flowers, and Jack's box (he jumps at her and makes her laugh), then she sees the star on the tree, and points to it with a gesture which means she wants that!

The Queen motions to the court to leave. They go quietly, to right and left. The Queen starts toward the Child, to take her in her arms, stops half way, turns, and slips out. Left alone, how can the Child decide? She takes the doll from the throne, shows it all the gifts in turn, but the doll, too, shakes her head, no, no, until she is shown the star; and to this she nods her head yes.

While the Dear Child and the doll, sitting on the throne, are gazing at the gleaming star, the colored lights are played on this final picture, and the lights on the tree are turned on. Slowly the curtain closes.

*Editor's Note.*—"The Seven Gifts" can be produced by any one who wishes, with two provisions: As soon as you decide to give it, write the author for his permission—this is merely a form but is necessary since the play has been copyrighted—but go right on with your rehearsals while you are waiting for the answer, so that you will not be losing any time. Address Mr. Walker at the Portmanteau Theatre, 200 West 56th Street, New York City. The second provision applies only to those who plan to charge admission to the performance of the play. In that case, a fee of five dollars, payable to "Tree of Light," and sent to "Tree of Light," Post Office Station G, New York City, is necessary.

## A NIGHT ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP

HENRY S. CURTIS, PH.D., OLIVET, MICHIGAN

While I was lecturing at the University of Colorado last summer, I suggested to the audience that we go up the mountain the next afternoon, and that I would give my evening lecture on the mountain top. There were from 250 to 300 people present, nearly all of whom were teachers from the high schools and grades of Colorado and adjacent states. I thought that possibly thirty or forty might like to go, but to my surprise 190 had signed up by ten o'clock of the next morning and had paid the necessary fifty cents to cover the expense of the two meals and the transportation of blankets.

At four o'clock the next afternoon, the time set for starting, a drizzling rain was falling, but nevertheless some 170 people appeared and fell into line for the three or four-mile walk to the top of Flagstaff. The rain continued until about half-past six and most of us were pretty wet by that time. Nevertheless not more than two or three of the company turned back. We soon had a roaring fire and in the dry climate of Colorado it was only a short time before we were thoroughly dry. Before sitting down to supper every one was instructed to find as soft a place as possible under some tree where he might spend the night. Our supper consisted of sandwiches made on the spot from fresh rolls and beefsteak which we fried on special grates which the university had sent up, oranges and coffee.

Afterwards the company sang songs for an hour around the camp fire, had a thoroughly good time and grew somewhat uproarious at times. It seemed to me hopeless to attempt a lecture under these circumstances, but when the whistle was blown the company quieted immediately and I never had better attention. Following this was an hour devoted to story telling under the direction of the Dean of Women who was giving this course in the Summer School, and then we spent a half hour or so in sight-seeing.

Below us to the left, at a distance of about forty miles could be seen the lights of Greeley. Perhaps twenty-five miles in the same direction were the lights of Longmont, while almost beneath our feet were the lights of Boulder and the Chautauqua grounds. By passing over a few rods to the other side of the mountain, the

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city of Denver, though thirty miles away, lay beneath us in a glory of illuminated haze and occasional bright lights.

At about half past eleven the company broke up for the night, though not always to sleep, I suspect. It was a night worth lying awake to see, for the light of the moon sifted down through the trees and threw weird shadows along the mountain, while the stars stood out with a brilliance such as is only seen from a mountain top. Without even raising my head from my pillow of leaves I could watch the lights of Denver all night long.

In the morning we arose at four o'clock to see the sunrise, and were well repaid. We saw the first auroral flashes of the dawn shooting up from below the horizon and the clouds turn yellow and then red, until the eastern sky was a glow of fire which was reflected on more than a hundred storage reservoirs in the valley below, till each seemed the crater of a live volcano. We had finished our breakfast of eggs, sandwiches, coffee and oranges, by half past five, and by seven most of us were back again in Boulder.

In the company there were only two men.

## NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY LIFE

It is important that men and women in each neighborhood shall have opportunity to come together to learn mutual trust and esteem, to gain the temper and the ties which will make cooperation possible. The people of the neighborhood must have an appeal which unites rather than one which separates, they must be enlisted voluntarily and whole-heartedly in some constructive program.

The sharing of the play life of a neighborhood is one of the best ways of developing neighborhood and community spirit. When a neighborhood has a club house where all the members of the families can come to meet each other, play together, and to think together, in the course of years that neighborhood will gain a co-operation that would otherwise be impossible.

Perhaps there is no single force that has greater welding power for community building than music. Singing by large choruses, by smaller glee clubs, music by orchestras and bands, the rendering of special musical programs, draw the people together and help to make them feel as one. Men and women who have met night after night for months preparing for a concert for the neighborhood rejoice in that they have something to give to the entire people.

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Their joy is not only in the final concert but in all the preliminary work that goes to make the final event successful.

The drama also has a great power to make the people of the neighborhood think together on their common problems. Where the young people of the neighborhood endeavor seriously to interpret the problems of life in dramatic form, they gain a sympathetic understanding of the lives of those about them, their neighbors and their comrades, that makes them just so much better qualified for good fellowship in the community. Contributing whatever dramatic talent they may have to the enjoyment of their neighbors, the young people, because they have given to their neighborhood, feel a greater loyalty to it.

Any neighborhood is stronger when the men and women have learned to think together, to talk over together their common neighborhood problems. Most of the questions which vitally affect the individual lives of men and women can be safely discussed in a neighborhood center without risk of tearing the neighborhood apart. In many districts, however, the discussion of religion and political parties has been found to be unwise because the purpose of the center was to draw people together and not to split them asunder, and because there are provided in each city under the auspices of churches and political organizations opportunities for such discussion.

As the years go on the time will come when, as men and women consider the city in which they wish to live, one of the first questions which they will ask will be: Is the cultural life of the city shared, has the neighborhood developed something of the same feeling of understanding, of comradeship, of loyalty which the students of a college come to have? Is the city providing community leadership for the enjoyment of all that is beautiful in the world? Every other institution in the city will be strengthened if there be such sharing of the real wealth of the neighborhood.

Special holidays will come to have a new meaning where there is such a neighborhood spirit. They will long be looked forward to as time centers for the sharing of the larger neighborhood life.

## THE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER MOVEMENT\*

A. E. METZDORF AND WALTER CAMPBELL

A study of the use of the school building during pioneer days shows that the present neighborhood center movement is nothing

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\* Chapters from a forthcoming book

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more than a reopening of the schoolhouse for a common gathering place for the community. The dangers of the early pioneer days brought the settlers into a common brotherhood. The schoolhouse was the natural center of all activities and in it were held all meetings, religious or otherwise pertaining to the community, including debates, musicals, socials, as well as purely educational work. While primitive methods in farm life persisted, these conditions existed to a great degree. With the development of new machinery and the specialization of industry, new conditions arose. Farmers became independent of their neighbors and gradually the community use of the public school ceased.

Rochester, N. Y. was one of the first cities to work out a comprehensive plan for the use of the schools as evening recreation centers. Feeling the need for a common meeting place, representatives of labor organizations, social and civic organizations, and city departments organized a school extension committee which secured an appropriation of \$5000 for the first year's work. Mr. E. J. Ward was appointed in 1907 as organizer and supervisor of the new enterprise.

**Aims and Ideals** The central idea of the social center can best be told in the words of Mr. Ward himself: "The  
**of Neighborhood**  
**Center Work** social center is not to take the place of any existing institution; it is not to be a charitable medium for the service particularly of the poor; it is not to be a new kind of evening school; it is not to take the place of the church or of any other institution of moral uplift; it is not to serve simply as an improvement association by which the people of one community shall seek only the welfare of their district; it is not to be a civic reform organization pledged to some change in city or state or national administration; it is just to be the restoration to its true place in social life of the most American of all institutions—the public school center, in order that in the midst of our complex life we shall have the community interest, the neighborly spirit, the democracy that we knew before we came to the city."

**Appreciation of** The appreciation of the work of the center on  
**the Work of the** the part of the men attending the center at  
**Rochester Center** school No. 14 was shown by the following communication sent to the mayor: "Knowing that the question of extending the social center work of the public schools is now before you and believing that the judgment of the men who have fre-

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quented the social center at school No. 14 may be of value in this matter, we, the undersigned voters, residing in the neighborhood of school No. 14, and members of the Civic Club of the social center, declare that in our judgment the opening of the public school in the evening for recreation, reading and club meetings, so far as it has been tried at school No. 14, has been an unqualified success.

"Not only does it give opportunity for wholesome athletic exercise, literary culture, and training in good citizenship to the older boys and girls and the young men and women of the community, and in its free lectures afford opportunities for entertainment and instruction to all people, but especially in its clubs for men and women it is of great value as a place for the discussion and understanding of civic questions and the development of community spirit."

The wholesome result of the work of the center is again shown by the testimony of a merchant whose place of business was near the club: "The social center", said he to the director, "is accomplishing what I regarded as impossible. I have been here nine years and during that time there has always been a gang of toughs around this corner making a continual nuisance. This winter the gang has disappeared." "They are a gang no longer," answered the director, "they are a debating club."

### **Growth of Neighborhood Center Movement**

Since the organization of neighborhood center work in Rochester in 1907, the movement has grown rapidly until, in 1916, 127 cities reported that their schoolhouses were being used as neighborhood recreation centers. The development of the work has brought with it some very definite "articles of faith" in which the objects of the social center work have been set down. Philadelphia subscribes to the following creed:

1. "The purpose of the evening use of schools is to provide for the people a meeting place for any proper social or educational enterprise.

2. "Evening centers shall be a factor in the extension of democracy by providing recreation in educational and in health-giving activities, chiefly for persons over school age.

3. "The immediate content of an evening recreation center shall include lectures and an open platform for discussion of civic, social, hygienic and educational subjects, and the organization of



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small clubs devoted to debating, literary, gymnastic, musical, dramatic and kindred subjects."

Cleveland has the following aim in its social center work: "The common gathering place, the head and heart quarters of the society whose members are the people of that community; an institution wherein people may and will gather of right, across all different lines of opinion, creed and income, upon a common ground of interest and duty, just as neighboring citizens."

**Dancing as a Neighborhood Center Activity** Throughout the history of the development of the neighborhood center movement, no one activity has aroused more discussion than social dancing. In this connection, the statements from a number of leaders in the recreation movement will be of interest.

Mr. John R. Richards of Chicago writes:

"Dancing has been much abused. Investigating committees report the dangers as (1) promiscuity, (2) liquor, (3) intimate personal relations. Promiscuity eliminates the social inhibitions or restraint upon conduct. Liquor breaks down individual inhibitions and then follow intimate relations. Eliminate whiskey and reduce and control promiscuity and the dance could then be made constructive and not a form of dissipation. Where the schoolhouse is the social center of the community, the promiscuity can be controlled as easily as the attendance of the pupils at school."

Rev. H. E. Gates of Rochester writes:

"There is the social party and dancing, a form of recreation with which we must reckon. No matter whether we approve of it or not, it still remains a fact that dancing offers to a very large group of young people, almost the only attractive form of social recreation and opportunity for them to meet one another."

Dr. Henry S. Curtis writes:

"It breaks down the reserve between people and makes them better acquainted. The commercialized dance presents grave problems that ought to be remedied. There are certain dangers inherent in the dance and the dance tends to prey upon these and emphasize them. Dancing is going to be and the only thing to do is to control it. The city should see that the proper dances are taught and the environment made the best for conducting these dances."

Mr. George Sim, of the Los Angeles system, writes:

"To my mind, it is as natural for young people to dance as for birds to sing. Dancing may have the most debasing or most re-

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fining influence, and when dancing is carried on in well-lighted and ventilated halls and under supervision of interested directors, and when the dancers are required to go home at a reasonable hour, one can only conclude that an evening thus spent has been an evening of real wholesome recreation."

Mr. E. J. Ward says the following about his own work:

"Members registered and in good standing in the male clubs are the only men allowed at the dance. The woman principal has the right to refuse admission or request the withdrawal of any young man present. Those not able to dance are taught. It has been astonishing to note the improvement in grace, courtesy, and manly dignity by the young men. Much attention has been paid to the matter of personal cleanliness and correct dress, so that clean collars, polished shoes and little refinements of polite society soon come to be recognized by all."

Mr. Clarence Arthur Perry of the Russell Sage Foundation speaks of the New York Center dancing in the following way:

"Public dancing in the recreation centers in New York began in 1909-10 by an invitation party of one of the girls' clubs. So well behaved were those who came and such a good time was enjoyed by all, that weekly dances were planned. Boys' and girls' clubs combined and a fee of five cents was charged which paid for the music and a surplus was found at the end of the year, with which the club enjoyed an outing. Strict supervision was given and right dancing taught.

"During that year six centers developed dancing clubs and it became so popular that big waiting lists developed.

"On St. Patrick's Day in 1910 at one center on the East Side, there were 150 young people dancing while in a notorious dance hall, larger and easier of access, across the street, there were but 30 people.

"One principal wrote: 'Many of our girls change from the silly attitude toward boys to that of practical indifference or open frank comradeship and we have seen the boys who first came in untidy of dress and unclean of person, appearing with clean linen and hands, tidy clothes and freshly shaven face.'"

**The Movement in Springfield, Mass.** The neighborhood center movement in Springfield had its beginning in 1887 in a tenement house. The center was the result of an effort on part of a local improvement association to provide a social room

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for men. This work was carried on for a year with great success. In 1914, \$2,500 was appropriated to carry on work in the public schools under the direction of the Park Board. These centers have been conducted with such success that a prominent citizen says of it: "I am very willing to have my tax money used to start a neighborhood center. Where there are a large number having a good clean time, there are fewer having an unclean time. We are trying to create a community spirit out here, providing good amusement which the people must have."

**Investigation Conducted in Springfield** Some very interesting studies of evening recreation center work have been made in Springfield.

In an effort to learn the points of view of the people attending the center and to find out what effect the work was having on them, the following questions were put to some of the representative young men and women at the various centers in such a manner that they would not feel they were being quizzed:

1. Do you think the centers should be made more interesting?

2. What is your criticism of the present arrangement?

3. Are they really worth while or is the city's money being wasted?

4. What are they providing for you?

5. Are you out more evenings than before the centers opened?

In order to secure the point of view of those outside the centers, the police officers whose beats included the centers were asked to give their impressions.

**Age and Occupation** As a result of the study it was found that the average age of those attending the centers was from 19-21. The industrial and secretarial groups were largely represented.

**Can the Center Be Made More Interesting** The answers to this question showed that the attendants at the social center did not appreciate its possibilities. The second question asking for their criticism of the present arrangement elicited a request for more parties and a greater variety of dances.

**Is the City's Money Well Invested?** There was a universal feeling that the city money spent in supporting the center was not being wasted. Both the young men and the young women testified to their appreciation of the provision of a

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wholesome, clean meeting place as well as to the healthful relaxation gained by exercising and the keeping of early hours.

**What Do the Centers Provide?** The answers to the question, "What do the centers provide for you?" showed a realization not only of the fact that the centers were providing recreation, entertainment, and a place to meet congenial people and establish friendships, but also that they were saving money by keeping away from commercial recreation enterprises.

**Does Attendance at the Centers Decrease Home Attendance?** Most of those coming to the centers testified that their attendance there did not mean that they spent more evenings away from home than they did before the centers were established. A number stated that they did not care to stay at home and that if they did not attend the neighborhood centers they would go to pool rooms, movies, and less desirable places.

**The Center from the Policemen's Point of View** Very interesting testimony came from the policemen who were unanimous in their commendation of the work of the centers, particularly for the young men who formerly caused a great deal of trouble. Some of the comments are as follows: "I would commend very highly the work the center is doing. It has made a great change in the gang that used to frequent the pool room. I can pick out several fellows every evening at the center who used to hang around the pool room wearing black working shirts. Now they go home from work, get cleaned up, put good clothes on, and come to the center to dance. Their general attitude and manner has changed. A real polish of manner is coming out on them. It is in a fellow to respect a girl. Meeting girls under proper conditions is doing a lot for the fellows and it is also keeping the corners free and smaller crowds in the pool rooms. There is absolutely no loitering on the streets when the centers are closed but all seem to go directly home."

"The center is doing a lot of good. There are no pool rooms and moving pictures in this section but the crowds used to hang about the corners and the people would complain about the noise. When the dancing night comes around they dress up in their best and go to the centers. This has broken up the crowd hanging around the corners and their attitude towards the police has changed to a very civil one."

## IF THE VOLUNTEER DOES HIS BIT

"What can a volunteer recreation association do when its work has been taken over by the municipality?"

This is a question which frequently confronts a group of men and women who for a number of years, at the expense of much time, energy, and thought, have carried on playground work in their city. Experience has shown that in the majority of cases such private organizations, when the municipality has taken over the work, have disbanded. This result is often inevitable for without the direct incentive of executive work it is hard to keep people interested.

**Knowing What the City Fathers are Doing** There is much, however, that a volunteer organization can do to help the municipal work. One important function is the following up of municipal work. Joseph Lee says: "Public officials act very largely in a vacuum, that is to say, nobody knows what they are doing or whether it is good or bad. They get no credit for doing good work and the only public attention they receive is when they make a break of some kind. The moral is—and it is well learned by most of them—that it is safer to do nothing than to do anything either good or bad that can be taken exception to, and if they can not quite attain the ideal of doing nothing the next best is to do the most conventional which is often the least valuable thing. What they need is not criticism so much as appreciation, knowledge and interest on the part of somebody as to what they are doing or whether they are doing anything at all. The Recreation Association can be the somebody who has this knowledge and interest."

**Acting as Advisory Committee to the Municipal Authorities** "One form of apotheosis of the Recreation Association which has occurred in one instance is the taking over of some of the members to act as an advisory committee to the public authorities. Such a committee if it does not 'butt in' in executive management or claim actual power may be a factor of cardinal importance."

**Serving as Publicity Agent** A recreation association might render valuable service to the municipal work by arranging for writeups in the daily newspapers which would bring knowledge of the playground work to a large number of public-spirited men and women so that more general popular support would result. If facts regarding the local work were prepared, the local volunteer association could doubtless persuade many ministers

## *IF THE VOLUNTEER DOES HIS BIT*

and business men to deliver addresses upon the work. When this is done by any leading citizen, he is more ready to work for the movement.

### **Advertising Recreational Facilities**

Where there is backwardness on the part of municipal authorities in advertising their facilities, a private organization could well undertake special publicity in various neighborhoods to increase the use of the facilities. There are always districts which have not yet been covered and a volunteer association could do much by continuous agitation to keep the public informed of the needs of neighborhoods.

### **In Touch with the Work of Indi- vidual Centers by Personal Visits**

While there is some danger in arranging for regular visits to centers on the part of representatives of a private association, when the spirit is right and the visits are planned so as to interpret what is being done, such services can be made very helpful. Often the reason why better work is not being done is because better facilities are not provided. If a group of people have been in touch with the neighborhood center throughout the year, they can speak with authority before the city government.

### **Attacking Prob- lems of Commer- cial Recreation**

Great possibilities for service on the part of a volunteer association lie in the field of commercial recreation. A special committee might well keep in touch with each motion picture theatre, with the dance halls and other commercial recreation centers in order to have definite knowledge of what is taking place, and thus be able in cooperation with the city government to insure the maintenance of proper standards. By helping to secure new legislation if this should be necessary, but largely through cooperation with the managers and those whose money is invested in the enterprise, much might be accomplished.

### **Helping the Play Leader**

In order to help play leaders reach their highest efficiency the members of a volunteer organization might be organized into a series of committees each one of which would act in an advisory capacity to the workers in their center in much the same way that volunteer committees meet with the superintendents of charity organization societies in large cities. The members of such committees should keep thoroughly informed on all phases of recreation work so that they may offer intelligent suggestions to workers regarding the literature of the movement and new developments in the work..

## CHINA'S ATHLETIC TEAM VISITS JAPAN

They should keep closely in touch with the work other cities are doing which might be incorporated into the system of their city. All this information should be made available for the workers at the various centers. Members of the committees should also be a very practical help to the workers by offering their services as chaperons at dances, in introducing young men and women at the neighborhood centers, and in supplementing wherever possible the work of the paid leaders.

## CHINA'S ATHLETIC TEAM VISITS JAPAN

J. H. CROCKER

The Third Far Eastern Championship Games have passed into history. After China's brilliant accomplishment in Shanghai in 1915, when she won by a good margin, it was to be expected that two years later she would be a strong competitor for championship honors even in Japanese territory.

It was with great disappointment, therefore, that we saw our men losing one after another of the track events—not by a narrow margin, but in most instances being completely outclassed. Our surprise was all the greater when we saw our men out-generaled in several events, and losing in far slower time than they had won their trials in China. We had arrived in Japan a week before the games; and, although the weather was bad, yet we had been able to get into fairly good condition. The Philippine athletes had less than forty-eight hours between their arrival and competition, so if there was any advantage here, China had it.

In football and volley ball, our competitors from South China outclassed all their opponents. Our basket ball team, however, was poor—lacking in spirit, combination, and individual ability. The committee admit their mistake in allowing a basket ball team to leave the country as a representative team before having earned the right by meeting all other sections. Our high-jump and pole vault competitors were good, showing excellent form, and winning easily. The swimmers were not able to do themselves justice on account of the cold, but even that is not sufficient to account for the fact that Japan broke every one of China's records—many of them by long margins.

After this review, can we give any reason for our defeat?

## *CHINA'S ATHLETIC TEAM VISITS JAPAN*

Has China failed to improve? The author believes that the reason is very evident. China will not improve very much under her present system—or lack of system, of athletics. China has reached her limit until a new order is introduced.

The great progress of Japan and the Philippine Islands is the result of sixteen years of physical education, begun in the primary schools, and continued through the years as part of the college work.

All the great educators agree that the play life is the most essential element in the child's education. All western universities have the care of the body as one of the subjects on their curricula. In China there is practically no play life among the children; there are no national games to stimulate the growing boy, and it is not until he comes to college that he is likely to begin his athletic career.

From fifteen to seventeen years of age is altogether too late to learn those fundamental habits of courage, quickness of decision, and coordination of mind, will and muscle which attain their highest development only when begun in the play life of the child. These habits must be developed as early as from nine to twelve years of age if they are to reach their full power in the life of the young men later.

This is our decision, and many leaders have agreed with us that the diagnosis is only too correct, and that China will be wise if she will read into her defeat a lesson, and profit by it.

The Educational Societies of China must come to the rescue.

When we see what has been done for the Filipinos in a few years by twelve hundred American teachers, all college men of athletic ability, part of whose duties have been to supervise the physical work of the school,—when we see what has been done for such a nation, which was utterly lacking in physical ability, what cannot be done in China by twelve hundred teachers starting with the primary schools of this nation wherein may be found strong constitutions, and superior mental ability as a foundation. Let us not lose hope. Let us during the next two years prepare the best young men of China to represent her at the Fourth Far Eastern Championship Games in Manila, May, 1919; and at the same time let us begin to develop in the primary schools a program of physical education which will produce a generation of young men of power and character to be our future leaders.



## OUTDOOR SOCIAL DANCING ON THE PLAYGROUND

A. E. METZDORF, Division Public Recreation, Springfield,  
Massachusetts

The evening crowd on the playground was observed for a time in Springfield, Massachusetts. Numbers of young people used the swings, teeters, gymnasium frame, baseball fields, volley ball courts. Large crowds surrounded the hand-ball courts. Others watched the older men pitch quoits. Still another group found pleasure in watching the children play games. However, the great outstanding fact, one which had long been apparent, was the great crowd which came to the playground and roamed from one place to another, idling here and there with no definite desire to take part in any of the activities planned. This group was made up largely of young girls and boys ranging from sixteen to twenty-five. These young people paraded through the grounds with all outward signs of recreative desires, yet no one thing in the playground seemed to hold them, and as soon as seven-thirty or eight o'clock arrived they would disappear and one could find them continuing their promenade up and down the main streets.

A report bearing the above and other interesting facts was presented to the division of Recreation of the Park Board. Investigation of the recreative attractions, such as moving pictures, dance halls, pool rooms, bowling alleys, theatres and other commercial attractions which the city offers, revealed that great crowds of these young people were attracted to such forms of amusement, while a still larger group took trolleys and spent the evening at the amusement park just outside of the city limits. The star feature here was dancing at the two dance pavillions, one of which was in the open, without a roof or shelter. This seemed to be very popular.

With all these facts at hand the Park Board, through its Superintendent of Parks, decided to erect upon one of the large playgrounds an open air dance platform, forty feet by sixty feet. This was placed in the very heart of the busy end of the grounds near the main entrance. Incandescent lights were strung from poles all along the edge and a three-foot fence or rail was built entirely around it, leaving openings for an entrance and exit. A piano house so constructed as to act as a sounding board when it was open was built in the center of the long side.

The opening night arrived. About 1500 people had congregated,

## OUTDOOR SOCIAL DANCING ON THE PLAYGROUND

evidently as spectators. A group of sixteen young people had been previously enlisted to act as a committee, to regulate and control the dances. An announcement was made giving the general policy which was to guide the venture; the music started and the first dance was on—eight couples danced—"The Committee." After a brief rest the second dance was announced as another one step—eight couples again—"The Committee." Failure loomed large in the minds of those in charge when to the great delight of all, a later dance brought on twenty-five couples and the committee. In searching for the reason for the delay in starting it was discovered that the young people had preferred to give it the "once over," and "wait until it gets dark." This led to starting the program at seven forty-five instead of seven, as it was originally announced. Every fair night in the week, except Saturday, found large crowds of young people gathered here to dance.

As high as fifty-four couples crowded on the platform during some of the dances. Simple rules intended for controlling the dance position were posted and a floor manager, assisted by his committee of sixteen enforced them. Children under sixteen were not permitted upon the platform for social dancing.

Later in the summer special numbers were arranged and put in between the dances, such as children's folk dances, songs, solo dances, fancy marching.

During the summer a very decided demand was heard for some other kind of social dances, especially the Irish dances, this playground being situated in a community made up largely of Irish people. It was finally planned to present an entire program of Irish dances. A "fiddler" and his partner with an accordion were engaged to furnish the necessary music. The first night 2000 people gathered to witness these dances and thirty-six couples appeared for the opening dance. They danced all the beautiful old Irish dances, such as the Horn Pipe, Irish Jig, Stack O'Barley, Four-hand reel, with one or two solo jigs which pleased the throng which surrounded the platform on all sides. This special night seemed to be so successful that the Superintendent of Recreation planned every Thursday evening as Irish night, and it was a distinct pleasure to see the expression of keen delight which these dancers displayed as they followed the fascinating music of the old Irish dances.

The outdoor dance as an occupation for leisure time not only to the dancers but to the large audiences served so well that the Park Department has since then erected two other such platforms about

## PORTABLE OUTDOOR PICTURE SCREEN

the city and all these have taken care of large groups of people during the pleasant evenings of the summer months.

It was very interesting to study the audience, mothers with baby carts, some with babies in arms, fathers with their little ones—children—whole families came to *watch* the moving dancers (a very fascinating occupation for leisure time), *real moving pictures*.

## PORTABLE OUTDOOR PICTURE SCREEN

J. H. STINE, Norwood, Mass.

A portable screen for moving pictures out-of-doors was successfully used on the Norwood, Massachusetts, playgrounds. The screen was demountable and could be set up by two men in a few minutes.

It consisted of a framework of 1"x3" strips joined together by bolts and wing nuts and held up by braces pinned to the ground with iron stakes. The frame was 18' high by 18' wide. There were eight braces; four being 20' long, and four 10' long. Five feet from the ground was a horizontal tog rail. The screen was 13' by 15' and was five feet from the ground, thus affording all spectators a good view. The screen was attached to the framework, and held taut by light lines run through grommets and over hooks attached to the inner edge of the stiles of the frame. This method overcame all tendency of the sheet to "slat" in the wind and made a screen quite as stable and sheer as any used in the best vaudeville houses. The screen was mounted on double battens (top and bottom). The top battens were attached to the upper rail of the frame by bolts. The lower battens were tied to the tog rail by short ropes, thus permitting a perfect trim to be secured.

The material used for the picture screen was coutil. It is heavier than sheeting and slightly more expensive, but is stronger and needs no sizing or other treatment. It makes a splendid surface for the pictures. Lighter material might easily shred to pieces if caught in a sudden wind storm. The screen and frame described above successfully withstood a two-hour wind storm as a test. So strong was it that the iron brace cleats, holding the braces, were bent.

In building a screen and frame of this type the best of clear

## A HOME-MADE GYMNASIUM

seasoned white pine or spruce should be used. Any other material will tend to warp and check and will prove poor economy.

A good stage carpenter should easily make this equipment and paint it in one day. An ordinary carpenter or handy man could build it but might be puzzled about putting on the brace cleats and irons to the best advantage.

For the benefit of any who may want to use this screen a list of materials and cost estimate is appended.\*

6 pcs 1"x3" (net) 18' long clear seasoned white pine		
2 " 1"x3" " 22' " " " " " "	} Frame	
6 " 1"x3" " 20' " " " " " "		
4 " 3-4"x3" " 16' " " " " " "		
	(cut 2 to 10')	
	} Braces	
	Screen battens	
Total 84 ft. lumber .....	14¢ ...	\$11.76
8 only Scheel's brace cleat #438 .....	04¢ ...	32
8 prs #432 brace hook and rocker heel .....	35¢ ...	2.80
8 iron pegs 1-4"x12" .....	10¢ ...	.80
4 iron staples " " .....	20¢ ...	.80
8 only 3-8"x3 1-2" mach bolts-wing nuts		
and washers .....	60¢ ...	.60
4 only 3-8"x2 1-2" " " " " "		
2 doz screw hooks .....	10¢ ...	.20
2 doz grommets .....	10¢ ...	.20
1 hank light sash cord .....	80¢ ...	.80
1 gross 1" flat hd bright wood screws .....	20¢ ...	.20
1-2 gal paint .....	3.00 ...	1.50
Screen—30 yds coutil .....	.25 ...	7.50
Labor—1 man 8 hours .....		4.80
Total .....		\$32.28

## A HOME-MADE GYMNASIUM †

GROVER C. IMHOFF, La Fayette, Ohio

The picture illustrating this article is that of the gymnasium and auditorium erected on the school grounds at La Fayette. It was thought that this article would be of general interest to

\* Prices as before the war

† Courtesy of *The Ohio Teacher*

## A HOME-MADE GYMNASIUM

the readers of *The Ohio Teacher* for the reason that what is needed at La Fayette is needed in every other similar school in the state, and what can be done at La Fayette can be done nearly everywhere else and in the same way.

This building was begun as a part of the work of the year for the class in manual training, but as the pinching days of winter came on, every boy in school helped, so that perhaps not over one-half of the work done could be credited to the class in manual training. It is therefore entirely a school project, erected and financed by the pupils and the principal of the high school. It is 60 feet long, 40 feet wide and 14 1-2 feet to the square. The ceiling is run up the rafters so that it is 18 feet above the floor below. The room is entirely clear of posts, braces and beams. The material used throughout was the best that could be bought. The floor is made of 2x8x10 oak sleepers, well bridged and covered with 7-8-inch maple flooring.

The cost, complete, was \$900. One-third of this amount was given by the board of education, one-third was raised by subscription, and one-third is yet to be raised by school activities.

The possible uses of the building are, of course, many. Poultry shows, fairs, institutes, literary work, union church services, school exhibits and entertainments, organized play, basket ball, physical culture, and last but far from least, lantern slide exhibits and study are some of the uses.

The picture shows the boys at work on the day following Thanksgiving. Three men not connected with the school also turned out to help. The girls of the domestic science class prepared an excellent dinner for the 35 persons present. Their teacher was not present that day so one of their own number was selected as chief "chef."

This article is contributed at the suggestion of Dr. Williams, in the hope that other schools may have the benefit of our experience, and decide to abandon the old barns, vacated store rooms, lodge halls, town halls, always inconvenient and unfit for winter athletics.

School men everywhere are welcome to the assistance they may need in the way of further information if interested.

Address Grover C. Imhoff, Principal of the High School, La Fayette, Ohio.

## BOOK REVIEWS

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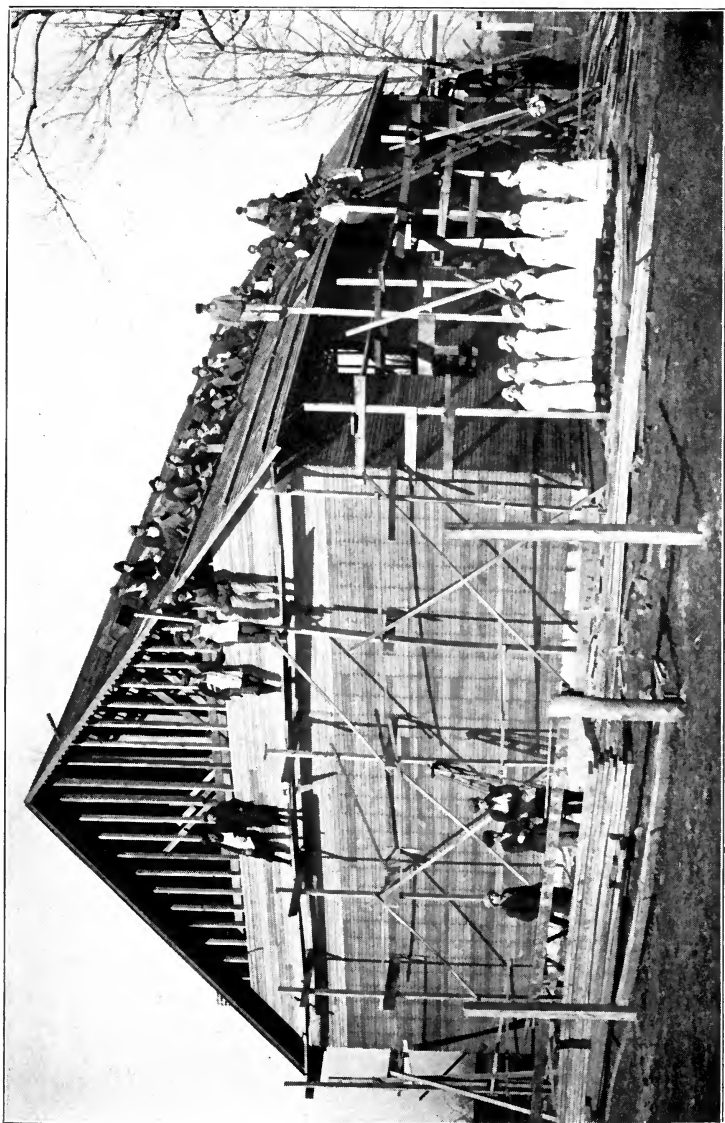
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(See Page 556)



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- |               |                                |                                 |
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# The Playground

Vol. XI No. 12

MARCH, 1918

## Six Months of War Camp Community Service

MAY-OCTOBER 1917

Six months have passed since the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities, determined that the men in uniform should have some substitute for the relationships of life from which they had suddenly been cut off, requested the Playground and Recreation Association of America to send a community organizer to each of the cities near the training camps to organize the recreational and social life of the community so that it would function for the benefit of the soldiers in their free time. Six months of experimentation—of path-finding on the part of the pioneers who have set out on the task which is without precedent in the history of the conduct of the world's wars; six months of a get-together movement such as American cities have never known, resulting in a welding of forces within each community which is making for the solidarity of its civic life as it plays its part in preparing the men in training for their great task.

One hundred seven community organizers are at work helping cities to fulfill their obligations to their soldier guests. At least 170 cities and small communities organized for service are being aided in their efforts to provide leisure time activities for the men in uniform. Thousands of individuals, churches and organizations of all kinds, are thinking and acting together that our new national army may be the stronger physically, mentally and morally, the better prepared to fight because they have not failed in their great task of friendliness. These are the human factors which have made possible the accomplishments of the first six months of War Camp Community Service.

It will not be possible to tell in any detail the story of the work in each city, of conditions overcome, of victories won; nor can any adequate conception be given of the results accomplished, since War Recreation Service deals primarily with that "intangible

## SIX MONTHS OF WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE

thing called the spirit." A brief outline, however, of the steps which have been taken in each city and of some of the tangible accomplishments brought about will be of interest to those who are following the history of America's new army on home battle fields.

### EASTERN DIVISION

#### AYER, MASSACHUSETTS—CAMP DEVENS

The character of War Camp Community Service at Camp Devens is determined in great measure by the fact that it is a large camp located near a number of small communities. Ayer, less than a mile away, has a population of 3,000; most of the other towns are smaller. Boston, which is visited by many of the men in their free time, is 30 miles away.

The Committee on Training Camp Activities organized in July has been instrumental through its various departments in having made a study of social and recreational conditions in the communities, taking into consideration the welfare of the community as well as of the soldier. As a result of the work of the committee and its many departments, extensive home hospitality has been developed and entertainments, suppers and dances are being given in profusion. Churches, social and fraternal organizations have thrown open their doors to the men in uniform. At the suggestion of the committee the churches of Ayer have united in the Christian Federation which is using one central plant not only for religious services but as a social center. The establishment of an information bureau with its registry of houses and rooms and a miscellaneous service department, and weekly conferences of representatives of all the agencies working inside and outside the camp, have been very effective in strengthening the work.

One of the most important developments has been along the line of soldiers' clubs, ten of which have been erected. One within the cantonment near a pond furnishes opportunities for outdoor sports as well as indoor activities; the other at Ayer has only indoor facilities. Bath houses have been built at a nearby pond with accommodations for both officers and soldiers.

Work for girls centers in two club houses, one in Shirley, the other in Ayer, both with resident workers who are directing the activities of the girls in the neighborhood of the camp and providing properly conducted dances and socials. A home for

## *SIX MONTHS OF WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE*

working girls is under way, a Travelers' Aid worker has been placed at the Ayer railroad station and representatives of the Travelers' Aid Society in towns throughout New England stand ready to give aid to the women relatives and friends of the soldiers going to camp.

### **BALTIMORE, MARYLAND—CAMP MEADE**

Organization of the community work for Camp Meade, inaugurated in August, has involved not only work in Baltimore but in Annapolis and in the communities in Prince George and Howard counties in the immediate vicinity of the camp. Although the main organization centers in Baltimore it has representatives from the state at large and is known as the Maryland War Recreation Commission. The churches of Baltimore are initiating the "take-a-soldier-home-to-dinner" movement and extensive home hospitality is being enjoyed.

Work for the Jewish men at camp has made rapid progress, the Y. M. H. A. having opened an information bureau and a building for club house and lodging purposes in Baltimore. A United Service Club will be opened in Baltimore in a short time under the auspices of the Mothers' Congress. Public recreation facilities have been turned over to the soldiers, the public baths of the city being free to men in uniform as are the municipal dances which are a feature of Baltimore's public recreation program. Bulletins of information have been issued and in an effort to meet the soldiers' need for lodging facilities one of the largest churches of the city has opened its parlors for dormitory purposes, and other churches are considering similar action. Work for girls is progressing under the Patriotic Leagues which are being organized in the communities near the camp by a representative of the Y. W. C. A.

### **BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN—CAMP CUSTER**

Uniting their efforts and activities under a community War Recreation Board, the organizations and citizens of Battle Creek since July the thirty-first have been "doing their bit" for the men at Camp Custer.

The generous action of the Elks in turning over their entire building with the exception of the lodging rooms proper to the Community War Recreation Board has secured for the Board headquarters for its work and a soldiers' club for the men in

## *SIX MONTHS OF WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE*

training. Pageants and special holiday celebrations have added greatly to the program of activities. The military pageant staged in August showing a day's activities at camp and the big Labor Day celebration in which the soldiers and military bands had a prominent part, proved especially enjoyable.

The efforts of the War Recreation Board have greatly improved the standard of theatrical and musical productions given at Battle Creek, performances having been arranged for such artists as Mme. Bernhardt, Fritz Kreisler, Mme. Galli Curci and Charles B. Alexander. The vaudeville and moving picture managers have agreed to submit their bookings to the committee each week for censoring.

Receptions, banquets, Hallowe'en parties, entertainment through the churches, a Community Sunday with special sermons on War Recreation Service, the opening of a number of club rooms, the development of girls' work through Patriotic Leagues which are conducting four information bureaus, the formation of a community chorus under the direction of the camp song leader, the collecting of flowers for 600 men at the camp hospital by the school children—these are a few of the experiments in friendliness which the citizens of Battle Creek are making.

### **BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS—NAVAL STATIONS AND FORTS**

Definite organization of the work in Boston was not effected until the middle of September when the Boston Committee on Training Camp Activities was created and activities inaugurated for the men at the six nearby naval stations and seven adjacent forts as well as for the men at Camp Devens coming to Boston in their free time.

Among the accomplishments of the committee have been the listing of rooming houses for visiting women, the issuing of weekly bulletins of information, home entertainment, entertainment through many churches, week-end parties and dances in Boston and many of the surrounding cities and towns, the opening of a United Service Club, the extension of club privileges to officers and the organization of branch committees in Higham and Weymouth. The Committee on Athletics has been active in raising funds for athletic equipment for the men at the Naval Stations, forts and Camp Devens, and in arranging cross country runs, baseball and football games, golf tournaments and an athletic carnival.

## *SIX MONTHS OF WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE*

### CHILlicothe, OHIO—CAMP SHERMAN

In the development of the work at Chillicothe much emphasis has been laid upon meeting the problem of inadequate facilities and upon the need for providing such essential material equipment as hotels for the men in khaki. Through the working out of the plans for the so-called Camp Sherman Community Project, funds will be available for the provision of such equipment, the Red Cross, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Federated Women's Clubs, the Y. W. C. A. and other organizations having contributed large sums. It is estimated that the plan will involve the expenditure of half a million dollars.

Further accomplishments of the Community Service include the establishment of an information bureau, the organization of a church federation which has opened ten rest rooms and club rooms in churches and arranged for suppers and concerts; the promotion of a Girls' Patriotic League, the organization of a Protective Bureau and the securing of temporary detention quarters; the provision of comfort stations; the enlargement of the facilities of a number of fraternal organizations for the entertainment of soldiers and the publication of a guide book telling of points of interest in the city and containing a white list of local hotels and restaurants.

### GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The Gettysburg Committee on Soldiers' Free Time Activities has been at work since June organizing and enlarging the facilities which were inadequate for the needs of the thousands of men at camp.

The community's activities inaugurated in a splendid spirit of cordiality have centered largely in the club and rest rooms, at least seven of which have been established, five of them under paid leaders, by the churches and Red Cross. The Old Home Newspaper room in one of the church rest rooms with its filed newspapers from the home towns of the men, is justly popular. Socials and entertainments of all kinds make these club rooms invaluable. Band concerts twice a week on the band stand erected by the local committees, glee club concerts, automobile rides for convalescent soldiers, home entertainment, the provision of a circulating library for the families of the men and of two swimming pools made possible by the generosity of the business men

## SIX MONTHS OF WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE

of York, socials, dances, baseball games and an athletic meet in which the whole camp participated have made Gettysburg's hospitality to its soldier guests noteworthy.

The facilities of Gettysburg College with its athletic and baseball fields were early in the history of the work turned over to the committee and during the summer the dormitories housed many of the officers' families.

Much emphasis has been laid on the work for girls in Gettysburg, Hanover and York. Patriotic Leagues have been organized and a curfew law passed, volunteer officials having been appointed to aid in its enforcement. Lectures have been given the girls and women of the community by a woman physician.

The extension of the work of York and Hanover has resulted in extensive entertainment in these communities and the opening of a number of khaki clubs. A committee has also been organized at Emmitsburg, Md., to provide for the men going there from camp.

### HEMPSTEAD, LONG ISLAND—CAMP MILLS

The work initiated in August has been steadily expanded under the name of the Nassau County Commission on Training Camp Activities so that it now definitely includes eight or ten of the communities within a radius of fifteen miles. Seven permanent soldiers' clubs are in operation in Hempstead, Freeport, Mineola, Westbury and Jamaica. The privileges of four country clubs have been extended to commissioned officers. A map of recreational facilities in the vicinity has been issued.

As Camp Mills affords only open-air shower bath facilities, the need for warm baths when the cold weather set in has been met on a large scale through private and public generosity. Probably two thousand men daily have thus been accommodated in homes, the Hempstead fire headquarters, Garden City Hotel and other places without charge.

Home and group entertainment has perhaps been the outstanding feature of hospitality. All the communities have shared in this, entertaining from fifty to 1,300 men. Many churches are giving weekly affairs ranging from simple refreshments after Sunday evening service to bountiful supper dances. The soldiers have reciprocated this hospitality in a most gratifying manner. They have participated in the religious and social services at the



## *SIX MONTHS OF WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE*

churches by acting as ushers and by furnishing choral and band music. They have also provided music for the open-air concerts and dances.

To aid in the development of work for girls a Patriotic League has been organized at Hempstead, the high school girls have been brought together in a Girls' Friendly Society and an organization of business girls effected.

### **KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN—CAMP CUSTER**

Until September the activities in Kalamazoo for the men at Camp Custer were considered a part of the general program in which Battle Creek is also participating. In September, however, a war recreation secretary was stationed at Kalamazoo and a committee known as the War Recreation Board was organized. Lack of transportation facilities between the camp and city has prevented any extensive program of activities. A foundation for constructive work is, however, being laid through the organization of a Girls' Patriotic League, the employment of two Travelers' Aid workers, the formation of a Soldiers' Friendship League by one of the churches, the giving of two dances each week and a number of entertainments. At Augusta, two miles from camp, the Methodist church is conducting community work for the soldiers.

As soon as transportation facilities permit of the men's coming to the city, Kalamazoo will have an opportunity to put into effect the plans which have been so enthusiastically made.

### **NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT**

The community organizer assigned to New London faced the problem of coordinating the efforts of a number of organizations which had already undertaken the task of providing recreation for the soldiers at the three forts near the city, at the camp at Niantic and for the naval reserves and men at the navy base and state pier. In September an organization was effected and the War Recreation Bureau of New London established.

The churches are extending a hearty welcome to the men and providing socials and other forms of entertainment. Home hospitality is rapidly increasing and entertainments are being provided at the different bases, a number of recitals having been given.

### **NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND—NAVAL TRAINING STATION**

An unusually well-equipped naval club at Coddington Point—the pride of sailor and citizen alike—was one of the first achieve-

## *SIX MONTHS OF WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE*

ments in June of the War Service made possible through the efforts of the war recreation secretary by the cooperation of the local Red Cross. Connected as it is with the training station by a bridge built by the government, surrounded by spacious lawns and groves covering 125 acres, the club house of 50 rooms with its long piazza, club equipment and canteen is serving thousands of men. Athletic meets and contests on the grounds which have been laid out in baseball and athletic fields by the men themselves, weekly vaudeville performances in which the boys take part and which are frequently attended by 6,000 men, are adding to the popularity of the club.

The Newport Committee on Training Camp Activities, organized in October, is responsible for the stimulation of community activities. Four churches have opened their parish houses as club rooms. One of them employs a special war worker. Two Service Clubs have been opened on Thames Street and on the Government Landing. Bureaus of information with rooming house lists have been established through the Civic League and Red Cross. Many citizens are entertaining the men in their homes and several fraternal orders have opened their rooms for dances and socials.

### NEW YORK CITY

The first problem faced by the war recreation worker in New York City involved the getting of information to the men as to what they could see in New York City and what kind of recreation was open to them by public and private agencies. This has been done in part through the distribution of bulletins of information.

The establishment of National Service Clubs has been another important line of work. National Service Club No. 1, across the street from the Pennsylvania Station, was established under the auspices of the Harvard Club of New York City. A second has been opened in the theatrical district; a third is designed for the use of men from all the ships in the North River. There are in addition a number of clubs and restaurants run by churches and settlements. The getting of enlisted men into the theatres at reduced rates and in some cases for the payment of war tax only; the securing for soldiers and sailors of homes open for Sunday dinners, and special entertainments on Thanksgiving

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have been among the other accomplishments of the National Service Commission.

Work for girls has run into the enlistment of fifteen to twenty thousand girls under a Patriotic League in which the clubs represented are under various auspices.

In coordinating the work of the numerous agencies anxious to help the 45,000 to 75,000 men coming to the city, the recreation workers are using the Clearing House Service of the Mayor's Committee and the Mayor's Committee of Women on National Defense.

### NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK—FORT NIAGARA

Niagara Falls was one of the first communities to be organized for work for student officers, the Niagara Falls Committee on Training Camp Activities having been active since May. Three communities have been affected by the presence of the men: Youngstown with a population of 550, Lewiston with its 700 people and Niagara Falls, a resort town of 30,000 inhabitants 12 miles from camp. One of the first accomplishments of the committee was the setting forward of the date of opening of a large commercial recreation resort near the camp from June 23 to May 30. A large summer resort hotel opened in May for the benefit of the soldiers and their families has served as a social center for the soldiers and townspeople. A tea room opened in Youngstown by the Y. W. C. A. has proved a great boon.

The provision of Saturday night dances chaperoned by women of the community has been from the inauguration of the program one of the most popular features. These dances have been of two types—one for the student officers; the other, a community dance, has been developed in sections of the community not provided for by other dances. Entertainment by the country club, college clubs and fraternal orders and at private homes has added greatly to the enjoyment of the men.

With the hearty cooperation of the officers at camp, a great deal has been done to provide entertainments at the camp. A recital by Nora Bayes, a concert by the Kilties Band of the Shredded Wheat Co., vaudeville performances, war motion pictures, football games and many other types of entertainment have been made possible for the men. Community singing under the direction of the camp song leader has recently become a popular

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feature of the program. The formation of Patriotic Leagues for the girls in the various communities and special entertainment through the Y. W. C. A. at Youngstown is making possible a program of girls' work.

### PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The most important contribution of the War Camp Community Service to the work in Philadelphia has been the coordination of the efforts and activities of the many organizations and groups which had been working independently for the sailors at the League Island Navy Yard and other stations. In July representatives of each group were organized into a sub-committee on recreation of the Committee of Public Safety which under a number of departments is carrying on many activities. Over 50 organizations are represented in this sub-committee. Weekly bulletins have been published listing all theatrical attractions, special classes, socials and recreation centers have been developed and clubs have been opened to men in uniform; accommodations for friends and relatives of the men are being secured. Many of the clubs of the city are offering systematic week-end entertainments to groups of sailors and a number are extending privileges of membership. Extensive weekly schedules of dances, concerts and entertainments are offered.

Under the War Emergency Unit with its staff of paid workers educational service is made possible for the men at the marine barracks in classes in automobile mechanics, electricity, typewriting, surveying, and conversational French. The organization of a clearing house in charge of a paid worker and two enlisted men from the navy and marines has made available a complete file of all the entertainment forces of the city—professional and amateur, musical and dramatic, lecturers and speakers. This list is being placed at the disposal of all groups both within the city and at the various stations wishing to give entertainments to the men in uniform. This work has been greatly increased through the assuming of large responsibilities towards the men at Camp Dix where entertainments are now being sent regularly.

The definite organization of a women's committee consisting of 70 organizations working for the welfare of girls and women has given a great impetus to girls' work to which special workers have been assigned. A very practical and full program has been outlined and patriotic rallies and meetings are being held.

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### **PLATTSBURG, NEW YORK—OFFICERS' TRAINING CAMP**

The Plattsburg Federation for Training Camp Activities organized early in May represents one of the pioneer efforts of the War Camp Community Service. After a careful study of conditions in the community all the forces were set to work on the problem of providing wholesome recreation. Saturday night church suppers caring for about 800 men each week, receptions, Saturday night dancing, extensive entertainment by fraternal orders, and the development of work for girls under the direction of special Y. W. C. A. workers, have been features of the program.

### **SACKET HARBOR, NEW YORK—WATERTOWN, NEW YORK—MADISON BARRACKS**

Organized activities for the soldiers at Madison Barracks have been carried on since May when a Committee on Soldiers' Recreation was organized in Sacket Harbor, a small community with a population of 800 people, and a special Soldiers' Entertainment Committee appointed at Watertown, 12 miles from the barracks under the Efficiency and Preparedness League, a strong local organization.

The opening of a recreation room in the firemen's hall was one of the early accomplishments of the committee which has done much to provide recreation facilities for the student officers, regulars and national guardsmen. The construction of a tennis court at Sacket Harbor, dances, receptions and extensive home hospitality at Watertown with week-end entertainment by fraternal orders, community sings and an "auld folk's concert," have made the program of entertainment for the men at Madison Barracks a comprehensive one.

### **BURLINGTON, VERMONT—FORT ETHAN ALLEN**

The consolidation in July of two citizens' committees organized before the entrance of the war recreation worker resulted in a strong committee known as the Burlington Committee on Training Camp Activities which is conducting work in Winooski and Essex Junction as well as in Burlington.

The activities of the committee have included the promotion of commercial excursions on Lake Champlain, lawn fetes, dances, automobile rides for convalescent soldiers, the teaching of French, home hospitality and inter-camp athletics between the Plattsburgers

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and the men at Fort Ethan Allen. The construction of a swimming beach in the Winooski River, the furnishing of dramatic talent for camp and the securing of policewomen, are also among the achievements of the committee.

### **SYRACUSE, NEW YORK**

The citizens of Syracuse, voicing their hospitality through the Syracuse Hospitality Committee appointed in June, have given unusual response to the challenge, "What will you do for your soldier guests?" A number of large khaki clubs were immediately opened through the Solvay Guild, the Solvay Process Co. and May Memorial Church. At these clubs and later at the army club opened in August have centered many of the activities for the men—dances, receptions, concerts and socials. The churches, four of which have opened small recreation rooms, have been responsible for suppers and many forms of entertainment.

One of the noteworthy features of the Syracuse program has been the development of community singing which was inaugurated in June, culminating in August in a Song and Light Festival given by the community chorus and the soldiers under the direction of Harry Barnhart. Over 30,000 people including more than 14,000 soldiers participated in the performance, the success of which surpassed the expectations of its most enthusiastic promoters.

The hospitality of the citizens of Syracuse has been most cordially expressed through the opening of their homes to the soldiers, many hundreds of whom have been entertained weekly. For a citizen to pick up in his automobile the man in uniform whom he passes on the street, taking him home to dinner, is no unusual happening in Syracuse and no more welcome invitation can come to the soldier.

Much emphasis has been laid on work for girls in the development of the Syracuse program and the Girls' Patriotic League under the direction of a special worker is becoming a part of the city's life. The patriotic pageant staged in September by the League was a noteworthy success.

The withdrawal of most of the soldiers from Syracuse in October made unnecessary the retention of the services of a full time worker. The local work which is being continued is now under the general supervision of the worker responsible for

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activities in Burlington, Plattsburg, and Sacket Harbor where the departure of troops has made the services of a worker in each community inadvisable.

### SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS—CAMP BARTLETT—SPRINGFIELD ARSENAL

In making plans for the men at the arsenal and Camp Bartlett, the community organizer on going to the city in October found that a number of organizations were already at work. He has cooperated in centralizing the efforts of these organizations and through his suggestion a hostess house has been erected as a community enterprise.

No extensive program of activities has been planned through the committee on War Camp Community Service as Camp Bartlett will not be continued as a winter camp.

### TENAFLY, NEW JERSEY—CAMP MERRITT

The establishment early in September of an Embarkation Camp in northern New Jersey affecting Englewood, Hackensack, Tenafly and a number of smaller communities, necessitated the services of a war recreation worker. As it seemed advisable to carry on the work as a county undertaking, the Bergen County Committee of 100 was organized to act as a coordinating body for all civilian work conducted in the interests of the soldiers.

The Womens' Committee of the Council of National Defense, the Red Cross, Community Club, Borough Club, Womens' Club and many other bodies are cooperating, each doing the work for which it is best fitted. Social, reading, lounging, and writing rooms have been opened in churches of the towns nearest to the camp, some of them providing billiards, pool, shuffle board, bowling and shower bath facilities. Soldiers' Clubs are being maintained in four of the towns adjacent to camp, teams of men and women being on duty to care for the cafeteria and entertainment features. Entertainments have been furnished inside the camp for the Y. M. C. A. two nights per week since September the twenty-fifth and it is now planned to have entertainments every Wednesday night in the six church parish houses nearest to camp. Dances, concerts, church suppers and socials have been held in all the towns and home entertainment has been extensive.

A trained worker has organized branches of the Girls' Pat-

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riotie League in 27 towns of the county, the girls having made and raised the money to pay for 1,900 comfort kits which they presented to the members of the permanent guard regiment on Christmas.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

The organization in June of the District War Service Commission of 130 members marked the inauguration of organized work in Washington for the numerous encampments and forts near the city.

At the suggestion of the War Camp Community Service worker the Supervisor of Playgrounds of the District of Columbia made available the playground facilities such as swimming, tennis and other equipment adapted for the use of soldiers and all men in uniform. The reservation was secured of eight tennis courts at Potomac Park for the exclusive use of the men in uniform. Free instruction in swimming was given the soldiers, sailors and marines for whom the municipal pools were reserved at certain hours, one pool being devoted exclusively to the use of men for the entire day with a teacher in attendance. Arrangements were made for the reservation of five open air dance pavilions on the playgrounds and for the lighting for evening use of playgrounds, swimming pools and the municipal bathing beach.

The churches of Washington have been organized for undenominational union services. Two committees have been formed, one on religious ministrations and the other on church hospitality. One of the notable achievements of the former is the holding of open air services each Sunday afternoon in the public park in the rear of the White House and at Cathedral Close, when distinguished orators make stirring patriotic addresses and the Marine Band plays. The Committee on Church Hospitality has been organizing the churches of the District for such hospitality as is possible in the church plants, and has offered club facilities to men in uniform.

Through the efforts of the Committee on Special Entertainments a census of amateur and professional talent has been made and with the cooperation of commercial recreation interests vaudeville entertainments have been sent to each camp in the vicinity of the District of Columbia each week. Cooperating with this committee is a motor corps of volunteers who transport the



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entertainers from town to camp. Individual hospitality has been extensive and week-end parties numerous. At the suggestion of war workers many of the citizens of Washington have initiated a series of Saturday afternoon entertainments at home. A number of rest rooms have been opened by various organizations.

During August the provision of such special entertainments as pugilistic bouts attended by 15,000 people, twenty dances, twenty-three band concerts, forty-three entertainments and many dinners were reported as the result of the month's activities. Throughout the summer daily band concerts at the camps and in the city parks and Sunday afternoon concerts by the military band with prominent soloists and choirs leading in the community singing gave much enjoyment to the citizens as well as to the soldiers. Home hospitality has assumed large proportions, 600 men having been entertained in private homes during the first week in September. The Board of Education has granted the use of school buildings and equipment for educational classes for soldiers. Arrangements have been made for girls' clubs to hold dances and entertainments.

### **WRIGHTSTOWN, NEW JERSEY—TRENTON, NEW JERSEY—CAMP DIX**

Although Camp Dix is located at Wrightstown, a small village of a few hundred people, work in the camp has extended to Trenton and to the communities of Burlington, Mount Holly, Pemberton, New Egypt and a number of small towns.

In August the War Recreation Board was organized in Trenton and as a result of its efforts an outline of laws affecting soldier life has been prepared and distributed; the armory has been secured for public entertainments at state expense and two volunteer police-women have been appointed. An effective organization of church forces has been created to coordinate the activities of the local churches. A music committee is at work securing talent for camp entertainments, forming a community chorus and orchestra and arranging for a production by the soldiers.

Committees have been organized in New Egypt, Pemberton, Burlington, Moorestown and Mount Holly. In New Egypt and in nine other communities Girls' Patriotic Leagues have been organized with great success; churches and fraternal organizations are planning entertainments and a hospitality house has been opened by the Women's Council of Defense. A recreation center is being

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established at Bordentown and rooming house conditions are being studied. Two khaki clubs have been opened under the Women's Council of Defense at Wrightstown where increased business enterprises due to the presence of the camp have necessitated the formation of a Board of Trade. Arrangements have been made for a rest house in Mount Holly and a number of churches in the community are holding socials for the soldiers.

Because of the complexity of the problem arising in connection with the work for the men at Camp Dix it has been found advisable to give one recreation secretary responsibility for the work at Trenton, New Egypt, Bordentown and the district northeast of camp. A second worker with headquarters at Mount Holly is supervising work at Pemberton, Burlington and the vicinity southwest of the camp. A third worker stationed at Wrightstown acts as the medium through which the other workers deal with the soldiers and camp authorities.

### **YAPHANK, LONG ISLAND—CAMP UPTON**

Camp Upton, located as it is in the open country with no large city in the immediate vicinity, presents many difficulties from the point of view of community work for the soldiers. Upon six communities, the largest of which has a population of only 7,000 falls the burden of extending hospitality to the men. Organization was effected at Riverhead, at Patchogue where the federation numbers more than 700 enthusiastic members, and in Centre Moriches. Community choruses have been started. The military club at Patchogue has proved a very popular center and several well-conducted dances have been held. A number of homes in this community as in others of the small places near the camp have been opened for the accommodation of officers' families.

In the small communities such as Yaphank and Manorville work is being carried on through existing agencies. A club house has been opened at Centre Moriches and arrangements made for a community chorus.

### **CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN DIVISION**

#### **ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA—CAMP BEAUREGARD**

Since August when the Alexandria War Recreation Board was organized Alexandria's activities for its guests have been unceasing.

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Entertainments, dances, concerts, home hospitality and social activities of all kinds have marked the progress of War Camp Community Service. The collection of books for camp, the opening of a grammar school for educational service, the erection of a large tent in the open space near a post office as a rest room, the provision of three khaki clubs and of a club for girls, have been further proofs of Alexandria's hospitality towards its soldier guests.

The churches have been very active and through the efforts of the Board a Sunday morning special is being operated between camp and town. Entertainments are being given at camp and community singing has been introduced. The band stand, athletic field and baseball diamond fitted up at City Park are popular facilities. Sunday afternoon band concerts are being given regularly at the park.

The presence of large numbers of guests in the city has necessitated some very practical demonstrations of Alexandria's hospitality. All available rooms have been listed and placed at the disposal of the guests; a number of organizations have arranged for cots to be installed at their headquarters and a plan is being worked out for the erection of 25 portable houses for the use of officers' families. For the erection of additional comfort stations the city has appropriated \$1,000. As soon as funds are available a community auditorium will be erected.

### **ANNISTON, ALABAMA—CAMP McCLELLAN**

The enlargement in July of the work organized by the Chamber of Commerce has resulted in a comprehensive program for the men at Camp McClellan.

The Soldiers' Welfare Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce had been in operation only a short time when plans had been completed for a down-town comfort station and drinking fountains and a canvass made of available rooms for the soldiers' guests. So rapidly has this work grown that in August an expert was secured to take charge of the work of providing accommodations. Fifty thousand dollars has been expended in the renovation of an old inn and a new hotel is being built at a cost of \$60,000 or \$70,000. The information bureau, maintained at a cost of \$100 a month has been used extensively by the men and officers, over 500 soldiers' families having been aided in finding accommodations.

The extension of private club privileges, the opening of a club

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for officers as well as a number of rest rooms and khaki clubs for the privates through churches and fraternal orders, the provision of Sunday afternoon entertainments by the Pastors' Union, of twilight concerts and entertainments at camp and of dances and entertainments in the community have made Anniston's program a very comprehensive one. Home hospitality has assumed large proportions especially for the men of Jewish faith. A soldiers' rest room has been opened and is being maintained by the Bureau. All of the twenty-four wards at the base hospital have been adopted by various clubs in Anniston and Birmingham, and entertainments of all kinds are provided the convalescent soldiers.

### **ATLANTA, GEORGIA—CAMP MCPHERSON—CAMP GORDON**

The Atlanta Commission on Training Camp Activities has been actively engaged since last May in giving a "home feeling" to the boys at camp.

Notwithstanding the destructive fire which in May swept 75 blocks of the city, Atlanta has made splendid progress in the entertainment of her soldier guests. One of the first accomplishments of the Commission was the securing of the use of the public swimming pools, baseball fields and tennis courts of the city. Special Sunday entertainments, musicals, organ recitals, singing and vaudeville at the city auditorium from two to nine p. m. attended by at least 8,000 people, Saturday night dances, weekly band concerts, a Fourth of July entertainment and basket picnic bringing out 30,000 civilians and soldiers, a musical festival in which the choruses of all the negro churches participated, the collection of books for camp, automobile rides for convalescent soldiers, the provision of at least 15 entertainments a week at camp, community singing under the direction of the camp song leader and extensive entertainment in private homes, are all features of the program which is making Atlanta justly popular with the soldiers. The Rotary Soldiers' Club with an average attendance of 3,000 men weekly, the Progressive Club reaching 2,500 men each week, and the Jewish Educational Alliance, attended by 3,000 soldiers during the course of the week, testify to the popularity of the club features which are being provided. From five to nine social clubs have reduced their rates for men in uniform while the Jewish Progressive has arranged to place cots in the auditorium for the use of soldiers.

A list of rooming and boarding houses has been made and the

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churches are exceedingly active in providing entertainments both in the community and at the camp and in keeping open house Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons. Work for colored troops is progressing under a special committee.

### AUGUSTA, GEORGIA—CAMP HANCOCK

Although the history of War Recreation Service in Augusta dates back only to July the eleventh when the Soldiers' Welfare Committee was organized, the city may well be proud of the record it has made as royal host to the boys in khaki. There are a number of reading and rest rooms at each of which a reception committee may be found from four to ten p. m. Dances are held each night in the armory and a half dozen churches are keeping open house involving entertainments of various kinds. A community concert is held every Sunday afternoon and community singing has caught the imagination of civilians and soldiers alike. Two military bands have been detailed for weekly concerts in the city's main street. The fraternal orders are unusually active in providing entertainment for their members, preparing special banners and posters announcing events of interest. Individuals are eager to entertain the soldiers in their homes with the result that home hospitality is being carried on on a large scale. Many entertainments are being taken to the camp and receptions and dances in the community are numerous. Sunday automobile rides were by no means the least popular of the many features of Augusta's hospitality, more than 3,000 men having been taken on one of these trips. A weekly War Camp Community bulletin schedules all events of interest to the soldiers.

The maintenance of high standards in commercial recreation has been assured through a recent decision of the City Council that no licenses shall be granted for commercial amusements until the application has been investigated by the Committee on Commercial Recreation.

### BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA—PARIS ISLAND, MARINE BARRACKS— FORT FREMONT

War Camp Community Service in Beaufort with its population of about 25,000, two-thirds of whom are colored, and with practically no facilities for entertainment and no regular transportation from the station to the town, presents no simple problem. The Beaufort War Camp Community Service, organized early in September, is

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making every effort to overcome unfavorable conditions and provide adequate entertainment. An old arsenal has been obtained for use as a soldiers' club. The opening of the club at which the men themselves provided the entertainment was a notable event in the social life of the community. The club house is becoming the center of most of the community effort of the city. At least two special affairs for enlisted men are given every week. A winter lyceum course of eight numbers was brought to Beaufort by the Sojourners' Club. A rest room at Port Royal may soon be made available for the marines.

### CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA—FORT MOULTRIE—NAVAL TRAINING STATION

Under the War Recreation Service Council organized in September are being coordinated all the activities conducted by various organizations at work previous to the arrival of the war recreation secretary. As the work touches not only the men at the army post, navy yard, quartermaster's barracks and naval hospital but also the men stationed at the rifle range at Mount Pleasant, activities have been extended to Mount Pleasant where rooms at Pythian Hall have been fitted up as a soldiers' club, special entertainments being given here each week.

For the men coming to Charleston in their free time, a club has been opened providing in addition to the usual facilities a restaurant where meals may be secured at any time. Dances are given each week and entertainments are being provided in the rest rooms established by one of the churches and the Salvation Army. Weekly entertainments are being provided at all the posts and stations and a splendid start has been made in community singing.

### CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA—CAMP GREENE

With true Southern hospitality Charlotte has undertaken the task of playing host to the men at Camp Greene. In August the Charlotte Commission on Training Camp Activities was organized which has, under the leadership of the war recreation secretary, developed many activities.

Acquainting the citizens with what other camp cities were doing for the soldiers, the publication of a map of the city and weekly bulletins of soldier entertainment, the establishment of a khaki club at one of the churches whose lawn has been fitted up as

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a park with seats, were among the early achievements of the Commission. Following this other churches rapidly fell in line until eight down-town rest rooms were provided by churches which are also active in furnishing socials, musicals and concerts and in furthering home entertainment. More than 2,500 soldiers have been entertained on a Sunday in Charlotte's homes. Fraternal orders are also doing splendid work for their brothers in khaki. In all, ten rest rooms are now in operation and two information bureaus have been established. A large number of benches have been placed about the city for the comfort of the soldiers and their guests.

Splendid progress has been made in work for girls and women. The city and county commissioners have voted to appropriate \$5,000 for the maintenance for a year of a reformatory for women, part of it to be designated as a detention home for delinquent girls. Through the Y. W. C. A. several hundred girls have been enrolled in Patriotic League clubs and a large cafeteria has been provided which is doing much to solve the problem of adequate restaurant facilities.

### CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE—FORT OGLETHORPE

As one of the pioneers and leaders in War Recreation Service the War Camp Community Service of Chattanooga has since last May been developing activities and devising effective methods of work. Before a month had elapsed forces were lined up, receptions, dances and banquets given, a twenty-five acre swimming pool secured, guides furnished for sight-seeing trips and plans were well under way for the opening of a rest room and dry saloon in the heart of the city. Following immediately on these developments came the opening of club facilities to the men in khaki, the arrangement of organ recitals and Sunday afternoon musical programs, bi-weekly automobile rides, the establishment of an information bureau, the collection of a library for camp and the sending of entertainments to the recreation buildings in the camp. Moving picture performances have been opened on Sunday, a community chorus organized, entertainment through the churches intensified, the women of the churches taking an unusually large share in this work and a number of rest rooms were opened.

Not content with the mere entertainment of men in their homes for dinner, which is one of the main features of Chattanooga's hospitality, many families are providing their soldier guests with

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latch keys and entertaining them over week-ends. Many of the churches, not satisfied to limit their activities to socials, suppers and special entertainments have each adopted a regiment, sending their choirs to camp, making plans for special Thanksgiving and Christmas activities and providing for their regiments the best possible type of entertainment.

Splendid work has been done for the Jewish soldiers by the citizens of that faith. Work for girls has progressed under the leadership of the Y. W. C. A. workers, a pageant at Rossville being one of the special features of the program for girls. Notwithstanding the car strike in September which seriously interfered with the program, work has gone steadily forward. All activities have been enlarged and intensified and a splendid spirit of hospitality manifested throughout the history of Chattanooga's hospitality towards its soldier guests.

### CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

War Camp Community Service in Chicago touches the needs of seven distinct camps and reaches twenty-three or more communities. In most of the eighteen North Shore communities a war emergency union for controlling war-time problems had been developed before the arrival of the war recreation workers in May. For the purpose of drawing these agencies into a centralized co-operating group, a Committee on North Shore Activities was formed with two representatives from each war emergency union. This committee later became affiliated with the Chicago War Recreation Service whose organization was completed in August.

At the beginning of the work a census was taken of recreation facilities available for the men in uniform as a result of which many tennis courts and athletic fields are in use, the splendid equipment of the Chicago Park Commission having been placed at the disposal of the men. The Commission has also provided an expert play leader for Saturday night socials and made possible the presentation of a pageant *The Coming of Peace*.

Entertainment in private homes has come to be a very important part of the program of activities in the North Shore communities and also in Chicago where such organizations as the Chicago Commons, Northwestern University Settlement and the Chicago Hebrew Institute are making a point of entertaining a large number of men each week-end.



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Through the Civic Music Association of the North Shore communities, much is being done to develop singing both in the communities and at the auditorium of the Great Lakes Naval Training Station which has been secured.

The publication of 10,000 maps of Chicago listing the attractions of the city, the opening of a number of soldiers' and sailors' clubs, automobile rides, dances, community receptions, concerts and musicals, the provision of many dramatic and musical programs at the camps and stations, and weekly open house at the Chicago Women's Club are only a few of the channels through which Chicago and the North Shore communities are extending hospitality to their guests.

### **COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA—CAMP JACKSON**

The organization in August of the Soldier Life Activities Committee marked the inauguration of an active program of work for the soldiers. As approximately half the population of 56,000 people are colored, the creation of a committee of colored citizens was found advisable to look after the needs of the colored workmen and later of the colored troops.

Band concerts, dances and the extension of membership privileges through clubs, entertainment through churches, the provision of extensive and systematic dramatic and musical entertainments for the Y. M. C. A. huts, the opening of a community club with a committee of eight non-commissioned officers aiding the committee of the National League for Women's Service, the establishment of lunch rooms in two of the churches and the development of work for girls through the Y. W. C. A. and the organization of Patriotic Leagues have made significant the activities of the committee.

### **DAYTON, OHIO—WILBUR WRIGHT AVIATION FIELD**

Under the direction of the War Service Recreation Board and the war worker who gives part of his time to the work, the provision of activities for the men at the aviation training camp has made progress.

Among the activities of the board are the collection for the camp of a number of books, technical and mechanical magazines, the securing of the privileges of the community country club, the supplying of concerts and entertainments at camp, dances, community singing and home hospitality.

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Springfield, O., about fifteen miles from the aviation field, is being organized in connection with the Dayton work.

### **DES MOINES, IOWA—CAMP DES MOINES—FORT DODGE**

Confronted with the problems arising from the presence of both white and colored troops, the War Recreation Board of Des Moines since the beginning of its activities in July has had a complex situation to face.

The organization of community singing in which the colored troops have had an active part, has gone far in offering a solution for some of the problems. At one such sing at Drake University, 12,000 people were present. Reviews of negro troops and special receptions for them have been helpful. The establishment of a special club for colored troops will soon be effected. This club will contain a temperance bar, cafeteria, music, game and reading rooms, a large auditorium and rooms for officers.

The extension of Travelers' Aid work for girls and the organization of clubs have been successfully undertaken. Football games, athletic contests, socials, band concerts, picnic suppers, home hospitality, a series of dances for officers and enlisted men, the provision of concerts and entertainments at camp, entertainment through the churches following a regular schedule, the listing of available rooms and the opening of information bureaus and club rooms have signalized the progress of War Recreation Service in Des Moines.

Many of the activities are now centering in the army club made possible through the securing of the Shriners' Temple with its equipment of a large auditorium and dance hall, assembly room, pool, billiard and card rooms. The club is under the direction of a paid leader and a house committee on which the military authorities have representation.

### **GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA—CAMP SEVIER**

The War Camp Community Service of Greenville, whose work for the men at Camp Sevier has been marked by true southern hospitality, represents the enlargement of an Efficiency Committee organized by the Chamber of Commerce previous to the arrival of a war recreation secretary in August.

The securing of an appropriation of \$7,500 for three comfort stations, the installation of drinking fountains, the listing of avail-

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able boarding houses and rooms and the publication of a folder with information regarding the city are indicative of the committee's efforts to provide for the comfort of the soldiers and their guests.

The churches are taking a very prominent part in Greenville's program of hospitality, many having equipped rest and club rooms and organized programs of suppers, socials and entertainments of various kinds. The extension of hospitality through fraternal orders and individuals, dances, sings, entertainments at camp and band concerts add greatly to the enjoyment of the men.

Work for girls is being developed through the employment of two probation officers employed jointly by the city and the committee and the securing of a Travelers' Aid worker. Work has been extended to Greer, a mill town of 6,000 people.

### **GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI—NAVAL TRAINING STATION**

No program of activities has as yet been worked out as no definite word has been received regarding the arrival of men at the naval training station. The community stands ready, however, to initiate a program of work whenever the need arises. The creation of War Camp Community Service will involve work for approximately twenty-seven miles along the beach as for that distance there is an almost continuous string of houses divided into mill towns.

### **HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI—CAMP SHELBY**

The enlargement in July of the work inaugurated by the Public Welfare Committee has resulted in the development of an active program in Hattiesburg under the General Welfare and Training Camp Activities Committee. With a splendid spirit of hospitality the city has gone about its difficult task of providing through its present inadequate facilities for the thousands of soldiers and their guests who have been added to the city's population.

Home entertainment has been developed largely through the churches which are actively participating in the program of providing socials and Saturday night suppers. Private homes available for guests have been listed and four clubs opened, one of them having been established by a Jewish order for men of all faiths. In connection with the officers' club a club for officers' wives has been organized. The city has installed comfort stations and drinking fountains and is paying one-half of the salary of a Travelers'

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Aid worker. A big reception at Kampo Park attended by 2,000 men in uniform proved a great success. The Committee is providing entertainment for the Y. M. C. A. huts in camp and has secured the cooperation of the local Y. M. C. A. in the free use for the men of all its facilities. Two fraternal orders have installed reading and rest rooms and all fraternal orders have made the connection with their members at camp and arranged special features for them. Two churches have opened reading and rest rooms in their parlors and the Kings' Daughters have cooperated by opening a cafeteria and rest room in the court house.

### INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA—FORT BENJAMIN HARRISON

None of the camp cities has proved itself a more eager host than Indianapolis which through the War Recreation Social Service Bureau organized in May has left nothing undone which might function for the well-being of the men at the fort.

The securing of tennis courts and all public recreational facilities, the extension of private club privileges and home entertainment were some of the accomplishments brought about before the bureau was a month old. Automobile trips, banquets by fraternities, the arrangement of classes in French, geography, and history, a performance of the opera *Pinafore* at which \$1,200 was raised for the work of the 'Travelers' Aid Society, the establishment of an information bureau and the publication of a booklet telling of points of interest in the city, marked the developments of the second month. Other accomplishments signaling the Indianapolis program of hospitality are a military athletic carnival given before 8,000 spectators, the opening of a three-floor khaki club equipped by the Rotarians at a cost of \$15,000 and under the management of the military authorities and soldiers, the collection of a library for camp, community singing, the strengthening of work for girls through the organization of Patriotic Leagues, the distribution of 25,000 booklets containing a map of the city and a calendar of events and activities and the provision of concerts and entertainments of various kinds.

A unique feature of the Indianapolis program has been the organization of Indianapolis men and women from Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia and Indiana, the four states represented at the fort, who are systematically entertaining the men from their respective states. A further home touch is given through the activities

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of the Home Department in communicating with the "folks back home." The Indianapolis bureau has done unusual work in providing entertainment for the men at the fort. Lectures by Ex-President Taft and William Jennings Bryan, war moving pictures and concerts by the Kilties Band and Indianapolis Glee Club have made this feature noteworthy.

### **JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI**

The Jackson Commission on Training Camp Activities organized in September has fitted up a large room as a club and rest room and is providing entertainment for the men at camp and in the town.

### **KEY WEST, FLORIDA**

Adequate facilities for swimming, baseball and commercial recreation and the activities and equipment of a number of existing organizations have made the task of the Key West War Recreation Bureau, organized in August, a comparatively easy one.

Activities through the churches, home entertainment, hospitality through fraternal orders, automobile rides and other special forms of entertainment have been planned although no permanent war recreation secretary is now stationed in the city.

### **LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY—CAMP TAYLOR**

Louisville's War Recreation Board has been at work since August developing a justly popular program of activities. Several paid workers including nine matrons for service at the four principal railroad stations have been employed; a rooming house list is being kept and Travelers' Aid work developed. The Protestant churches are uniting in a comprehensive program of activities, the Methodist Church having employed an executive secretary. A series of open houses on Sunday afternoons with entertainment features has been undertaken by several down town churches. A large three-story building has been secured for a club house and a centrally located tract will soon be at the disposal of the Board for the erection of a building for club purposes. The colored ministers, organized for work among the colored troops, are showing a splendid spirit of cooperation.

An interesting feature of the work is a commercial dance hall opened under the auspices of the Board which will operate every day in the week. The Girls' Work Committee in charge of the

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management of the hall is responsible for having chaperones on hand to introduce the soldiers and girls. A dance hall supervisor has been employed to standardize dancing in all the public dance halls of the city and to appoint chaperones who will be paid by the management.

In connection with the activities for girls a woman physician has been secured to organize this phase of the work and to give a series of lectures.

### **MACON, GEORGIA—CAMP WHEELER**

With a splendid spirit of cordiality the citizens of Macon through the organization in July of the Soldiers' Welfare Commission have undertaken their duties as hosts to the men in training at Camp Wheeler.

Dances, socials, band concerts, extensive church and home entertainment, the use of the public playgrounds where a number of festivals have been given, the provision of drinking fountains and comfort stations, the securing of accommodations for the soldiers' guests, the collecting of books and magazines, the opening of a rest room in a church, the provision of Sunday afternoon musical programs at the Grand Theatre, the arrangement of a very successful "Go to Church Sunday," the provision of entertainments (usually four a week) for the Y. M. C. A. huts at camp, have won for Macon well-deserved popularity.

The Rotary Club and a number of fraternal orders are uniting with the Commission in equipping a soldiers' club which includes a large hall.

An interesting innovation will be introduced if the City Council consents to the request to close a block on a business street from eight to ten each night for volley ball contests, wrestling, boxing and other athletic events.

### **MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE—AVIATION CAMP**

The Memphis Commission on Training Camp Activities was organized in September to provide recreation facilities for the men located at the aviation camp at Millington, a few miles from the city. Conditions do not justify the placing there of a special worker and the work will be carried on by the Commission which is well equipped for the task.

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### MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA—FORT SNELLING

Working with existing organizations in the twin cities the war recreation secretary began in May the task of coordinating and developing activities for the men at Fort Snelling.

The securing of the use of ten swimming pools which have served large numbers of men, the collecting of a library for camp through the systematic efforts of a number of city and state libraries, extensive entertainment through the Elks, Masons and other organizations and the publishing of a directory marked the early history of the city's hospitality. Following these developments, band concerts, the extension of privileges of membership by the St. Paul Association of Commerce, the securing of six extra policemen and two policewomen at the city's largest park, church and home entertainment, instruction in French, automobile rides, dinners, and the provision of entertainments at camp have rounded out the program.

In August a permanent War Recreation Service Bureau was created in each city with representatives from the leading associations. These committees work in the closest cooperation and act as clearing houses for the activities of the two communities.

As a chief factor in the entertainment work the St. Paul center of the Drama League of America is providing organized programs of entertainment for community and camp and making possible dramatic productions by the men themselves. A booking office has been established in one of the department stores which is acting as a clearing house for entertainments, thereby avoiding duplication of effort.

Work for girls is progressing under the Y. W. C. A. which is aiding in providing socials and entertainments. The use of the armory in St. Paul as a club house has been assured and club facilities will soon be available.

### MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA—CAMP SHERIDAN

Montgomery's program of hospitality for the men at Camp Sheridan had its beginning in July when the Committee of 100, appointed by the Chamber of Commerce, was reorganized and enlarged in preparation for the coming of the national guardsmen.

In spite of the lack of facilities and inadequate resources so much interest was aroused that a scheme for raising \$40,000 was immediately adopted. The Sunday afternoon after the first mass

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meeting was held in August, 500 homes were opened to the soldiers. Since that time entertainments, week-end parties, musicals, band concerts, hospitality through the churches, a number of which are serving suppers twice a week for a nominal sum, musicals, plays, dances and receptions have continued uninterruptedly. A number of club rooms have been opened by churches and other organizations and the city has appropriated a sum of money for toilets and shower baths and has equipped a rest room. The community has been organized to provide entertainments for the Y. M. C. A. huts; a combination information bureau and band stand has been erected, the information bureau being in charge of a paid director. Splendid work has been done by the Rooming and Housing Bureau in finding accommodations for the hundreds of visitors coming to the city. The finest homes in the city have been opened to soldier visitors. As a result of the work of the committee, 800 street signs were ordered by the city. Many activities have been conducted by the Knights of Columbus and Catholic women's organizations.

Committees have been organized among the colored citizens to carry out a program for the colored troops to whom a careful explanation of southern customs and of Alabama laws affecting the negro has been given. A chorus of colored people has been organized and a soldiers' club house opened. A schedule of baseball and football games for colored troops is the latest achievement of the committee.

A Patriotic League including practically all the girls of the city has been organized with a Chaperone Committee of about 250 women. The League has given a series of dances to the men. The proprietor of a commercial dance hall has agreed to allow the Chaperone Committee to supervise his dances.

The use of the city auditorium has been secured for Saturday night entertainments at which soldier talent will be featured. A series of ball games between the Cleveland-American team and a camp nine, the first game of which was attended by 8,000 men in uniform, is only one of the athletic activities planned for the city's new recreation field. Invaluable work has been done along the lines of health and sanitation, \$6,000 having been spent by the committee in making the city and territory surrounding the camp as sanitary as possible.



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### NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA—JACKSON BARRACKS—FORT SAINT PHILLIP—NAVAL STATION, ALGIERS

One of the first accomplishments of the New Orleans Commission on Training Camp Activities organized in September with splendid enthusiasm was the collection of books and magazines for the various stations. Over 2,500 books and an even larger number of magazines had been gathered before the end of the first month's work. Equally encouraging has been the progress of work for girls, a number of Patriotic League groups having been organized in a short time.

The furnishing of the returns of the World Series baseball games to all the camps in the vicinity was a feature very welcome to the men. Definite plans have been drawn up providing entertainment for the men at the stations and a vacant building is being equipped as a khaki club and headquarters for the men.

### NORFOLK—PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT

#### NORFOLK, VIRGINIA—NAVAL TRAINING STATION

Work for the sailors and enlisted men at the stations in the Norfolk-Portsmouth District, including not only Norfolk and Portsmouth but Newport News, Berkley, Virginia Beach and a number of other resorts and communities, began in June when the Union War Service Commission of Norfolk was created to meet the needs of men in all branches of the service.

From the inauguration of the work the churches have had an active part in providing entertainments, socials, musicals and dances. Soldier and sailor quartettes at the various churches have attracted large numbers of men in uniform. Home hospitality has been promoted by the churches through church parties and also by a committee of hostesses serving continuously at the Sunday sings. Hundreds of men are being taken home every Sunday. A number of down town rest rooms have been opened and many private clubs including two Jewish clubs have placed their facilities at the disposal of the men. Dances, automobile rides, baseball games, the collecting of books for camp libraries and of flowers for convalescent soldiers in the hospital, week-end parties, one individual entertaining 200 men each Saturday afternoon, and the equipment of Confederate Square with benches to provide meeting places for soldiers and civilians are making Norfolk's program a noteworthy one.

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Sunday afternoon services and community sings under the auspices of five of the churches have attracted large numbers of people. Fully 4,000 men in uniform and an equally large number of citizens attended the service. The community sings are now being held in the armory, the use of which has been secured for all Saturday and Sunday entertainments. An old mansion with spacious gardens, a beautiful example of southern architecture, in the Berkley ward of Norfolk within a few blocks of St. Helena's Naval Station, has been fitted up as a service club. A great deal of emphasis is being laid on work for girls, a number of Patriotic Leagues having been organized under special war workers from the Y. W. C. A.; two Travelers' Aid workers have been secured.

The War Service Commission of Virginia Beach has been organized for the benefit of the men guarding the wireless station and for the soldiers stationed at the rifle range. The Soldiers' Club operated by this commission is the only recreational facility at Virginia Beach. It is now caring for 150 men daily.

### PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA—MARINE BARRACKS—NAVY YARD—NAVY HOSPITAL

With the extension and growth of the work in the Norfolk-Portsmouth District it became necessary in September for a worker to give full time to Portsmouth. A separate committee known as the Portsmouth War Service Commission was organized and a definite program of activities initiated.

The churches are doing much to provide hospitality and are systematizing their activities with different churches responsible for entertainments on definite nights. Through the Girls' and Women's Committee the Seaboard Air Line is contributing \$50 a month for the services of a Travelers' Aid worker. This committee has aided materially in organizing constructive work among colored girls.

The use of the facilities of a number of clubs including the Catholic club with its gymnasium and showers, has been given the men and smokers, dances and programs of wrestling and boxing are being conducted.

### NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA—PORT OF EMBARKATION—LANGLEY AVIATION FIELD—FORTRESS MONROE

Although there have always been numbers of soldiers at For-

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At Fort Monroe, the selection of Newport News as a port of embarkation made it imperative to station a war recreation worker in that city. Men from five camps and aviation fields are affected by the Newport News organization, which also interests itself in the work at Hampton, Phoebus and Old Point Comfort (Fortress Monroe). The War Service Bureau was organized in September. It cooperated with the National League for Women's Service in coordinating the activities of the various interested agencies. A permanent office and information bureau, together with an accommodations department has been opened. Eight recreation places have been opened to the enlisted men since the bureau was organized. Among the larger projects are those of the National League for Women's Service and the Jewish Welfare Board. The churches are particularly active.

### **PENSACOLA, FLORIDA—FORT PICKENS—FORT BARRANCAS—AERONAUTIC STATION**

The organization in August of the Pensacola Army and Navy Life Activities Committee has resulted in the collection of books for the men at the stations, in the supplying of teachers of French as well as of regular entertainments at the fort and aeronautic station; the publishing of a bulletin of information and a series of Saturday night community dances which are performing a distinct service in combatting the cheap dance halls.

An option has been secured on a two-story building in which a club for enlisted men will be opened. The ministers of the different churches have issued invitations to the men at the aeronautic station to attend religious services. Many men have responded and much home entertainment is resulting from this. Several of the churches are conducting entertainments and socials.

### **PETERSBURG AND RICHMOND, VIRGINIA—CAMP LEE**

After a study of the Petersburg situation which disclosed a lack of adequate recreational facilities and of eating and sleeping accommodations, the Camp Lee War Council was organized in July.

In writing the history of the War Camp Community Service in Petersburg the churches have had a prominent part. Socials and entertainments of various kinds, home hospitality and the equipment of a number of rest rooms are the result of the activities of the churches. A committee of representative colored citizens has

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been organized to develop activities for the colored troops. The need for more sleeping accommodations has been one of the most urgent problems the committee has had to face. To aid in the solution of this problem and to provide additional facilities for the men from Camp Lee the Richmond Commission on Training Camp Activities was organized in September. A number of rest rooms have been opened and the Committee on Church Cooperation has adopted the policy of asking each denomination to concentrate on a down town church making it the center of all its community, social and religious activities.

### **RANTOUL, ILLINOIS—AVIATION CAMP**

The War Recreational Social Service Bureau organized in September embraces the work conducted at Champaign and Urbana, fifteen miles from camp, and at Paxton, eleven miles distant.

With the help of a war recreation secretary who has given part of his time to the work, the Bureau has established an information bureau and taken a census of all available rooming and boarding accommodations. A lot has been secured on which a town rest room may be erected. Bulletins of activities have been posted in prominent places and entertainments are being sent to camp.

The first High Twelve Club to be organized in the army has been made possible through the Masonic Lodge at Rantoul. The men are very proud of this club which holds weekly meetings and suppers at which regular army officers, reserve officers and privates sit at the same table.

### **ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS—CAMP GRANT**

Beginning its work with comprehensive surveys of the physical resources of the city, covering assembly places, physical recreation resources, churches, commercial recreation, schools, social centers, libraries and other city facilities, the Rockford War Service Commission outlined a program of work covering all the resources of the community.

In an effort to meet one of the most urgent needs—that of a club house for the boys who are crowding the streets—an option was secured on a well-adapted and properly located hall, to be used as a soldiers' club. Plans have been formulated for its equipment and management and arrangements are also under way for a club

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for colored soldiers. Plans are on foot for cooperation with the Chicago *Examiner* in a great Christmas celebration.

The community of Beloit is being organized for work through the War Service Committee.

### SPARTA, WISCONSIN—MILITARY RESERVATION

Four miles East of the Sparta Military Reservation lies the town of Sparta, a community of less than 4,000 people. Here the Social and Recreation Bureau with the hearty support of all citizens has been at work since June making its program for the soldiers as comprehensive as possible. As soon as the work started, the school buildings, athletic field and equipment were turned over to the committee for use and the school athletic coach was placed in charge of the field and of swimming instruction. Two khaki clubs were immediately equipped and guest privileges extended by the country club. A Fourth of July celebration attracted an audience of 10,000 people including practically all the soldiers off duty. Saturday night sales of home-made pies and cakes, the provision of two bulletin boards of weekly activities, the erection of a band stand at Court House Square for military concerts, community and camp sings, socials, dances and baseball and soccer ball games have signalized the progress of the work.

Between 8,000 and 9,000 people attended the military tournament held early in October; later in the month a banquet was given the military band in appreciation of the services they had rendered during the summer. The development of work for girls has been along the line of the organization of a Patriotic League for which a club room has been equipped, classes in domestic science and playground activities. In August a curfew law was enacted.

A club has been opened at La Crosse whose entertainment committee is supplying two entertainments a week for the Y. M. C. A. huts. The withdrawal of troops in October has meant the practical suspensions of the program of activities. Plans are on foot, however, for next year's work.

### SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA—CAMP WADSWORTH

Confronted with the problem of proving to the thousands of New York boys stationed at Camp Wadsworth that southern hospitality is worthy of its reputation, the Spartanburg Commission on Training Camp Activities inaugurated in August its campaign of good fellowship.

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Two information bureaus were immediately opened in banks and a census of boarding houses and available rooms was taken. During the first month a number of concerts, dances and receptions were held and the Sunday School facilities of a church with twenty-five small rooms and two large ones were thrown open from four to ten p. m. daily under the direction of a paid leader.

As the work developed the churches became very active, at least six of them giving regular Saturday evening entertainments and five furnishing talent at the camp. Much of the home entertainment which is so greatly appreciated by the men has been brought about through the churches. Small group parties, receptions, entertainment by lodges and concerts have increased, three band concerts each week by the military band being one of the latest additions to the program. As Spartanburg is the musical center of the South, much emphasis is being laid on this phase and community sings are becoming very popular. The auditorium of Converse College, seating 2,500, has been secured for use on practically all Saturday evenings and for Sunday afternoon concerts and song services.

The recent securing of Woodman Hall as an enlisted men's club represents an important and much needed addition to the city's facilities. The Rotary Club has voted to contribute \$60 a month to the support of the club which will be in charge of a special worker, the soldiers themselves being represented on the board of management. The equipment of a rest room in the Old Brick School House now used as barracks for the military police has been greatly appreciated by the men. A canteen service has been organized for the visiting men's club, with seven teams composed of fifteen women each who conduct the canteen from ten a. m. to ten p. m. A movement is on foot among the wives and friends of the army officers to raise \$20,000 for the erection, equipment and operation of a large club building.

### WESTERN DIVISION

#### DEMING, NEW MEXICO—CAMP CODY

Notwithstanding the limited resources of the town whose population numbers about 3,500, approximately 1,500 of whom are Mexican, Deming has been eager since the location of the camp near it to do all in its power for the national guardsmen. The

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formation in August of a War Service Board marked the strengthening of the scattered activities which had been started and the inauguration of an enlarged program.

The city has increased its commercial recreation facilities consisting of one motion picture house, several pool and billiard rooms and "bone dry" saloons by the erection of two large wooden frame buildings for use as vaudeville and musical theatres, two small motion picture houses, and one large opera house. A further step towards the material increase of commercial amusement resources lies in the erection of Turner Amusement Park of 160 acres which will be a permanent state fair ground. This park will be conducted with the cooperation of the War Service Board, ten per cent of the gate receipts and twenty-five per cent of the concession rentals going to the treasurer of the Board.

The city is cooperating with the Board by arranging for the installation of comfort stations and six drinking fountains and the jitney and car fare has been reduced from twenty-five cents to ten cents in order that more men may enjoy the program offered by the Board.

The comprehensive program of activities which is constantly growing in usefulness includes series of dances for enlisted men and commissioned officers, some of the dances being given by the enlisted men themselves with chaperones provided by the Board, the arrangement of classes in French, Spanish and Mathematics, the provision of entertainment at camp and in the community, of band concerts, athletic meets, baseball games, home hospitality and activities through the churches, the union church service held at the Crystal Theatre attracting large numbers.

An outdoor swimming pool has been built and work is now being pushed on the transformation of an old reservoir 800 feet square into an athletic stadium.

The organization of a Grievance Committee will, it is hoped, prove effective in adjusting differences arising from overcharges and unfairness on the part of tradesmen while the creation of a War Workers' Council with representatives from organizations within the camp and the community will, the feeling is, strengthen and coordinate camp and community forces and activities.

EL PASO, TEXAS—CAMP BAKER—CAMP STEWART—FORT BLISS

The soldier problem is no new one to El Paso, where last year

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many thousands of men were encamped. Because of the feeling that there may be an encampment for several years to come, the City of El Paso, through the group of interested citizens appointed in June, with the assistance of the Chamber of Commerce, has determined to make its work of a permanent character, directing its efforts towards making the men a part of the community's life rather than its temporary guests. The War Service Board of El Paso is a distinct organization dedicated to the welfare and efficiency of the United States Army.

One of the features of the work has been French instruction given under the direction of the high school superintendent. At least 2,000 men are enrolled in the classes which are held at camp with instruction from high school teachers and university professors. Instruction in English has also been instituted and many are availing themselves of the opportunity. Other activities for the soldiers have included the collection of books for camp, socials, entertainment through churches and lodges, automobile rides for convalescent soldiers and entertainments at the base hospital and other recreation buildings in adjacent camps. This work has become so extensive that a woman has been engaged to take charge of the organization of entertainments and local activities and to help in the planning of activities carried on by the churches and lodges. A continuous program of social center activities, entertainments and athletic events is now being conducted under the direction of this local director.

Money has been made available for a much needed swimming pool. The churches are providing many of the facilities for the soldiers' entertainment. A large church building is soon to be put in shape for a down-town club.

Splendid progress has been made in work for girls through the organization of a Patriotic League and a number of clubs. An employment bureau has been established and two policewomen appointed.

A Grievance Committee to arbitrate in cases of unfair charges and complaints is one of the latest contributions of the committee to the well-being of the city's guests.

### **BORDER TOWNS**

The war recreation secretary stationed at El Paso has given a part of his time to helping the so-called border towns in carrying



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out a program of activities. While conditions do not necessitate the placing of a permanent worker in each of these small places, the aid which is being given to the organization of committees to carry on the work is proving very helpful. Through visits and correspondence the interest and efforts of the committees in the various towns are being stimulated.

### **BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS**

Of the border towns Brownsville has been one of the most active in providing entertainment for its guests. The Recreation Board organized in July has secured the hearty cooperation of the Masons and Elks who are providing a reading room and opening their club facilities to the soldiers. The Girls' Honor Guard has secured the use of a shady park space in the center of the town equipping it with benches for the use of the soldiers. Library facilities have been provided and a program of dances, band concerts and community singing is being carried out. The Board is cooperating closely with the chaplain in providing entertainments at the post and is assisting in the construction of a skating rink for the men.

### **DEL RIO, TEXAS**

Work in Del Rio where a War Service Board was organized in July is being carried on under the general direction of the chaplain at the post, responsibility for carrying out various parts of the program being assigned to individual members of the Board.

Because of the splendid location of the camp on the banks of the San Felipe River, providing two exceptionally fine swimming pools, and the existence of a well-equipped Y. M. C. A. building in the community, War Camp Community Service presents fewer problems to the Del Rio Board than it does in some of the other border towns where conditions are not so favorable. The churches are providing a number of entertainments and town and garrison talent is cooperating splendidly in a number of events. Community singing and band concerts have added greatly to the program.

Not only the soldiers but the Mexicans and negroes in the community are being provided with means for recreation and self-expression.

### **DOUGLAS, ARIZONA**

The Soldiers' Recreation Board of Douglas prides itself on

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being the first organization for war recreation work created in the border towns. A smallpox scare in June interfered with the proposed program but many activities have since been carried on in a vigorous manner. Entertainments at the recreation building in the camp, the collection of a library of about 700 volumes, the equipment of a down town soldiers' club, automobile rides for convalescent soldiers, entertainment through churches and fraternal orders and work for Jewish soldiers through a special committee have won the appreciation of the men at the post.

### **EAGLE PASS, TEXAS**

The War Service Board of Eagle Pass formed in August is having the hearty cooperation of the chaplain who is doing much inside the camp to provide activities. Weekly band concerts by the regimental band are being given in the community, the band stand having been moved to the center of the plaza. The weekly parties which are being given for the men are proving very popular.

### **LAREDO, TEXAS**

Laredo's War Service Board, appointed in July, has arranged for frequent military band concerts at the city's beautiful plaza and for community singing. A special program of entertainment is being provided by the Women's Club which has also been instrumental in establishing a down town soldiers' club.

### **MARFA, TEXAS**

The churches of Marfa have provided the main avenue of approach to the enlisted men and scattered groups doing patrol and guard duty at thirteen posts along the river. Various forms of recreation are provided by the five churches and the men are taking active part in the services. Books have been furnished through the War Service Board of El Paso at the various patrol stations.

### **NOGALES, ARIZONA**

Although Nogales has a population of only 5,000, half of whom are Mexicans and its recreation facilities are limited to three moving picture shows, a baseball field, Masonic Temple and the equipment which four churches can offer, the splendid spirit of the citi-

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zens and their desire to be of service are making a number of activities possible through the Federation on Camp Activities organized in July.

The churches and lodges are conducting regular and systematic programs of activities. Magazines and books are being sent to camp and entertainments arranged at the post. A dancing club for enlisted men conducted under their own management is proving very successful.

The community organizer for the border towns has felt it wise to try to enlist the interest of the entire state of Arizona. With this in mind, influential officials and organizations in Tucson and Phoenix, the two most important cities in the state, are being lined up.

### FORT WORTH, TEXAS—CAMP BOWIE

In July Fort Worth assumed its responsibility towards the men at Camp Bowie in the organization of a War Service Board which, with the help of a permanent war recreation worker, has proved very much alive to its opportunities and responsibilities.

The publishing of a bulletin of activities and a directory of churches, fraternal orders and labor unions, the sending of letters to the towns from which the boys come, the provision of a comfort station and ten drinking fountains, club and reading rooms, community "sing songs," automobile rides, a performance of *The Creation* at one of the regular Sunday matinees, receptions, entertainments, socials, dances, musicals and hospitality by churches and fraternal orders have resulted in a justly popular program.

The Parker Amusement Company, operating for the first time under semi-military regulations, has opened a park which it is hoped will go far towards solving commercial recreation problems.

A Patriotic League has been organized for girls and many group activities are being carried on. A probation officer has been engaged and an employment bureau established.

### HOUSTON, TEXAS—CAMP LOGAN

Through the War Service Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce organized in July the citizens of Houston are expressing a cordial spirit of hospitality towards the men at Camp Logan. In less than two weeks after the creation of the bureau eight rest rooms and clubs, two of them for officers and their wives, were in operation ;

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a committee of colored citizens was at work providing activities for the colored soldiers through sings, dances and a social center at the colored library; a policewoman had been appointed and arrangements were being made for instruction in French. Further activities have resulted in the opening of four additional rest rooms, the appointment by the committee on work for the colored troops of ten women to receive training as policewomen, home and church entertainment, musicals, socials, dances, receptions, banquets and a very successful "hospitality week" arranged by the churches and hospitality committees.

The training of women as Travelers' Aid workers and policewomen is considered an important part of the program of preventive and instructive work for both colored and white girls.

Sunday afternoon community concerts, the first of which was attended by 4,000 people, have resulted in community singing and are offering opportunities for get-together occasions. Sixteen hundred volumes have been sent to the Y. M. C. A. huts. Details have been worked out for a pageant to be given in December and a committee appointed to give plays throughout the year.

### JUNCTION CITY, MANHATTAN, ARMY CITY, KANSAS—FORT RILEY— CAMP FUNSTON

#### JUNCTION CITY

The history of the Junction City Council on Training Camp Activities organized in May is one of splendid achievement under difficulties arising from inadequate facilities. When the Officers' Reserve Training Camp was established at Fort Riley, a survey of the recreational facilities of the city with its 6,000 inhabitants revealed the fact that the combined seating capacity of all recreational features including the motion picture house, opera house, pool rooms, hotel lobbies, cigar and refreshment stands was slightly over 3,000 while many times that number of soldiers were coming to the city daily for their free time activities.

Undaunted by the stupendousness of its task the council secured the cooperation of the fraternal orders, churches and Chamber of Commerce in opening their facilities to the men and providing all possible entertainment. Further activities of the Council included the publishing of the Junction City and Fort Riley pamphlet containing information regarding city and camp, the arrangement of a successful patriotic celebration and other special features in which

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the community and soldiers participated, the compilation, with the cooperation of the Chamber of Commerce, of a directory of available rooms and the stimulation of home hospitality through churches and lodges. Through the educational department whose cooperation was enlisted, two playgrounds were opened in connection with the schools under expert leadership and one city playground with an athletic field, baseball diamond and swimming pool was made available for the soldiers. Free use of the track of the driving club was secured for athletic carnivals.

To meet the imperative need for a suitable recreation building for the use of the soldiers, \$15,000 was raised through a quick canvass to provide for the erection of a community house and Young Women's League rooms. The community house which serves as a meeting place for soldiers and civilians and houses most of the soldier and civilian activities has had an average attendance on week days of 1,500 and week-ends from 4,000 to 5,000. A second recreation building costing \$27,000 exclusive of the lot will soon be under way.

Funds are now being raised among the negroes of the larger cities in the section of the country in which Camp Funston is located which, together with funds from other sources, will, it is hoped, provide recreational equipment for the thousands of negro troops whose needs cannot be met by existing facilities. The combined negro population of Junction City and Manhattan is less than 500 and their resources must be materially supplemented.

### MANHATTAN

An organization similar to that at Junction City has been effected in Manhattan and all officials and citizens are cooperating to make the city the best possible place for the soldiers. The State Agricultural College has offered all its facilities to the men, giving frequent entertainments, exhibitions, athletic meets and games. The churches are providing Sunday afternoon and evening entertainments. Four thousand dollars was raised by public subscription to equip and maintain a temporary recreation hall and the city has voted \$15,000 bonds for a permanent community building which will cost \$31,000, the Rotary Club of the district providing the balance of the funds needed.

The Y. W. C. A. is cooperating in Manhattan and Junction City by providing recreational facilities for girls and young women,

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by operating a rest room for women in Junction City and by conducting classes in physical education and hygiene in both cities.

### **ARMY CITY**

Army City, immediately adjacent to the Government Reservation, is a purely commercial town built to provide for the leisure time of the men at Camp Funston. A joint committee from the Councils of Manhattan and Junction City is planning the work. A cafeteria has been opened by the Y. W. C. A. which has erected a temporary building for housing about 40 young women employed at Army City.

The sixteen representatives of the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities inside and outside the camp have formed a council meeting twice each month which is making more effective the work for the welfare of the soldiers.

### **LAWTON, OKLAHOMA—FORT SILL**

In spite of the inadequate facilities of the community and the lack of any considerable wealth the War Service Board of Lawton appointed in August began at once to work out a comprehensive program.

A disused school building was immediately obtained as a soldiers' club with lounge, billiards, pool, reading and writing facilities and baths. Four comfort stations have been erected at a cost of \$6,000; large benches have replaced the "keep off" signs in town; lawn fetes, banquets, band concerts, Sunday night concerts, receptions, musicals, and socials, the opening of a number of church khaki clubs with hostesses in charge are only a few activities of which the War Service Board may justly be proud.

The Housing Bureau which is in charge of a paid worker has listed 1,200 available rooms and is rendering invaluable assistance to the officers and privates. The organization of a high school boys' club and of a business women's league are a unique feature of the work, while the forming of an association of jitney drivers which will pay \$500 a month into the treasury of the Board, is an enterprise no other camp city has undertaken.

The Lawton Hospitality House which opened in October has filled a great need. Here 500 soldiers were served with luncheon at the Gala Day performances attended by 30,000 people at which track events, a sham battle and flying feats by eight airplanes were fea-

## SIX MONTHS OF WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE

tures of the program. Under the direction of a special Y. W. C. A. war worker, clubs have been organized for girls and a club house built.

### LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS—ARGENTA, ARKANSAS—CAMP PIKE

Little Rock, another of the pioneer camp cities, began in May to blaze a trail in War Camp Community Service.

The second Sunday the boys were in camp the early efforts of the War Service Board bore their first fruits when many of the men attending service were taken home for dinner. With the use of the municipal auditorium secured for dances and other entertainments, a program of activities began immediately. Dances, lawn fêtes, baseball games, Sunday afternoon band concerts, community singing, automobile rides, musicals, entertainment through fraternal orders and churches have made a continuous and full program.

Many clubs and buildings have been thrown open for the comfort and enjoyment of the men. Drinking fountains and comfort stations have been installed and a swimming zone established in the Arkansas River at the foot of the fort, and dressing rooms provided. The old Capitol grounds have been fitted up with a band stand, park benches and electric lights and seats have been placed about the city for the men and their guests.

The Hotel and Rooming House Accommodations Bureau which is being conducted under the direction of a paid worker, has listed 750 available rooms. A Grievance Committee consisting of citizens and military authorities is working to secure fair treatment for merchants and soldiers.

A large room covering three stores is being used as a central soldiers' club and through the courtesy of the Elks rooms have been set aside for officers' wives. An interesting feature of the Little Rock work, indicative of the splendid spirit with which the city is expressing its hospitality to the soldiers is the welcome given men when they first reach camp. A committee of business men meets each train bringing troops to the city, greeting the men as they arrive and very often serving them with luncheons prepared for them by the women of the community.

The problem of the young girl is receiving careful consideration by the Health and Recreation Association in which thirty-seven women's clubs have representation. This association is working to secure better chaperonage for the girls in the city, more modest methods of dressing and to promote a curfew law sentiment.

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The Board has secured the cooperation of the city authorities in meeting the dance hall problems with the result that the licensing fee has been made so high that only the better class dance halls can afford to pay it. A further step in advance lies in the erection of a \$300,000 building which will contain a large well-lighted dance hall under the censorship of the War Service Board.

Argenta across the river is cooperating with Little Rock in activities for the men in uniform and a separate organization is now in the process of formation.

### **PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA—CAMP FREMONT**

In August the work was organized in Palo Alto under the Recreation Commission for Camp Fremont which, with the cooperation of Redwood City, San Mateo, San Jose and other small communities on the peninsula, immediately undertook a program for entertaining the men at camp.

The hospital equipment of Agnew including a complete theatre building, dance and reception rooms was turned over to the Commission and the state armory was secured as a club house. A series of baseball games was arranged between the hospital employees and enlisted men and a camp paper published. The temporary discontinuing of the camp made unnecessary further activities but with its reopening in October the work was enthusiastically renewed. Santa Clara College, prominent in athletics and dramatics, which has been selected as a reserve officers' training school, will make its facilities available for the use of the Commission. The recent gift of a large house and five acres of land located within a half mile of the camp, has made possible a well-equipped club house.

San Jose is offering weekly entertainment to the officers in a series of luncheons given by the Chamber of Commerce and dances given by the leading hotel of the city.

A systematic registration of all girls between the ages of 12 and 20 is being taken in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties with the purpose of organizing clubs for patriotic service. The churches and women's clubs became active from the first, the former in trying to get the men to attend church and church sociables, and the latter in developing social entertainment in the way of dances, receptions and entertainments of various kinds, the women's club houses being donated for that purpose.



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### **SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH—FORT DOUGLAS**

The Soldiers' Recreation Board, organized in June, has been active in securing the use of all public recreational facilities such as municipal swimming pools and a gymnasium and in arranging for week-end automobile trips and entertainments at the post hospital. During the summer reduced rates were secured for swimming, boating and roller skating at a near-by summer resort. A great deal has been done in securing free admission for men in uniform to the baseball games played in the city. The army club, established in a down town section, has attracted large numbers of men.

### **SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS—CAMP TRAVIS**

With splendid enthusiasm the War Service Board of San Antonio, organized in June, has faced the problem of providing facilities and activities for the men at six stations: Camp Travis, with the drafted men, the Aviation Station at Kelly Field, Camp Sam Houston, Camp Stanley, the Arsenal and the Balloon School.

As a result of the early activities of the Board, Travis Military Park was dedicated to the use of the soldiers. Lights, benches and a "sing-song" platform were installed at a cost of approximately \$1,000. The golf, tennis and athletic facilities at Brackenridge Park were opened to the men in uniform free of charge and two bathing beaches developed especially for them. The opening of a number of recreation and club rooms by churches and lodges, the establishment of the Tip Top Club at the top of a modern office building in the heart of the city, the distribution of bulletin directories giving the names of fraternal orders, labor unions and churches and the erection of an Information and Housing Bureau which has served the needs of hundreds of soldiers and their guests, have made San Antonio's program a very helpful one. Other activities include the promotion of union services known as Pleasant Sunday Evenings in which all denominations join, an outdoor theatre at Brackenridge Park, community singing, band concerts, entertainments, dances, athletic events, the organization of local talent for entertainments inside and outside the camp, the stimulation of such activities as automobile rides for convalescent soldiers under the auspices of the Red Cross, the promotion of the amusement park established under the supervision of the military authorities and the censoring of commercial amusement enterprise, the

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organization of a Square Deal Association, the inauguration of a systematic, city-wide work for girls, including the stimulation of patriotic activities, the development of protective work with a Travelers' Aid worker and seven policewomen and the establishment of a protective home.

San Antonio's attitude toward the work of the War Service Board is shown by the fact that the city has raised \$46,000 for it—the largest contribution for any phase of patriotic work except the Red Cross.

### **SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA—CAMP KEARNEY**

San Diego's Committee on Recreation for Army and Navy which has concerned itself with work for soldiers, marines, signal corps troops and an aviation corps stationed at various posts and camps near the city, is fortunate in having available for its use the La Jolla playground and social center with its unusually fine equipment of grounds and recreation building. Since the inauguration of the work in June these facilities have been in constant use, truck loads of soldiers going daily to the recreation building where the shower baths have proved a great boon. Baseball and basketball leagues have been organized on the playgrounds and athletic equipment furnished. Dances are frequently conducted on the playgrounds. Other facilities belonging to the Playground Department have been freely turned over to the men in service.

San Diego's splendid spirit of hospitality has found many channels of expression. Drinking fountains and comfort stations have been installed; many books have been collected for camp libraries; trade journals and magazines which will keep the men in touch with developments in their line of work are being made available for them. Night school courses including instruction in French and manual arts have been opened. The exposition grounds and the stadium have been made available for the men and many events are conducted there, the Labor Day service meet and military exhibition held at the stadium having attracted 8,000 people. A Fourth of July celebration was also voted a great success. Outdoor concerts, community sings, dances, aquatic and athletic sports, home entertainment, the expansion of club privileges and many activities through the churches are making San Diego's hospitality justly famous.

A number of khaki clubs have been established for two of which

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the Chamber of Commerce appropriates \$50 a month. The Enlisted Men's Club, splendidly equipped by the Rotary Club, is a very popular center. Plans are on foot for opening additional club rooms and for equipping the athletic field of the armory for military police, soldiers and sailors.

### **SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA**

Beginning its activities with a survey of existing recreational facilities, the Committee for Recreation for Soldiers and Sailors inaugurated in July an ambitious program.

A mammoth Fourth of July celebration including band concerts, an athletic meet and a grand ball, the provision of a branch library in camp as well as thousands of books for chaplains and of instruction in French, the securing of a number of private club facilities for the use of the men, extensive home hospitality and entertainments of various kinds, marked the first two months' achievements.

Plans for a number of soldiers' clubs rapidly matured. The opening of the National Defenders' Club for soldiers, sailors and marines, with the cooperation of the National League for Women's Service and of the Palace Hotel Club made possible by another group of women represents an achievement which has meant much in the history of San Francisco's War Camp Community Service. The City Federation of Women's Clubs carried through a series of over fifty dances, most of them held at the large ball rooms at the hotels, and the music committee inaugurated community singing culminating in a magnificent festival of Allied Songs, with tableaux, pageantry and ballets. All of the sings have been held at the Civic Auditorium and the attendance in some cases has been 12,000. An Auto Recreation Corps has mobilized patriotic auto owners and with the aid of seven secretaries has provided auto rides for convalescents and Sunday trips. Additional features have been provided in open houses and receptions including musical and dramatic entertainments in which the men themselves have a part, baseball games and a big army and navy tournament on Columbus Day.

The fraternal orders of the city have been most cooperative in providing club and reading rooms for the men as have been the hotels in permitting their facilities to be used for many functions. Recent action on the part of the managers of twenty of the best hotels has resulted in the privilege of free baths by all and a reduction in rates by a number.

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SEATTLE, WASHINGTON—BREMERTON NAVY YARD—FORT CASEY—  
FORT FLAGLER—FORT LAWTON—FORT WORDEN

The Seattle Recreation Committee for Soldiers and Sailors which has been at work since August may justly point with pride to its achievement in securing for the men at the nearby camps and forts a club house adequate for the demands which will be made upon it. The equipment of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Club, formerly the Seattle Athletic Club, includes a gymnasium where weekly functions are given, swimming pool, shower baths, rest, writing and game rooms and sleeping accommodations for 250 men. These facilities will prove invaluable in developing a leisure time program. Other accomplishments of the committee are represented in the securing of the use of the arena seating 8,000 people in which a military pageant was staged in September, the extension of membership privileges by two of the largest clubs of the city, automobile trips, the successful working out of a Mothers' Day program and home hospitality through which many men are sent into homes each week.

An ambitious series of athletic events covering three months has been worked out. Athletic carnivals, football games, an ice carnival and indoor track meets are features of the program. Many of the girls of the city, organized in groups of ten under the leadership of older women, will give dances, parties and other entertainments.

TACOMA, WASHINGTON—CAMP LEWIS

Tacoma and Seattle are working jointly in the provision of activities for the men at camp although each city has a war recreation secretary and separate organization.

Tacoma's Committee on Recreation for Soldiers, facing the problems arising from the sudden doubling of its population and with inadequate playground and commercial amusement resources and insufficient transportation facilities between city and camp, has nevertheless entered with enthusiasm on its great task. Home entertainment, small group dances, Saturday night church socials, automobile rides and the collection of books for camp were the outgrowth of the first month's work in August.

Private clubs and fraternal orders have been generous in placing their facilities at the disposal of the soldiers and in extending membership privileges. Available rooms have been listed and a

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weekly bulletin of social events and church activities published. Concerts, dances, several football games at the Stadium, one of which was attended by 12,000 soldiers, the provision of entertainment at camp and the laying of plans for an amusement zone at camp and for a club for colored soldiers have made Tacoma's program for War Camp Community Service memorable.

### **VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA—MARE ISLAND NAVAL TRAINING STATION**

One of the greatest achievements of the Naval Recreation Commission of Vallejo in its two months' history has been the development of a spirit of cooperation among the people of the community who have never before been organized for civic improvement.

In spite of the fact that military orders have restricted the liberty of the sailors in coming to the city, the work of the Commission made progress not only for the men at Mare Island but also for the men from San Francisco to whom a royal welcome is given.

Dances, extensive home entertainment, hospitality through fraternal orders, provision of extension courses in French, the formation of a community chorus and the arrangement of football games with Pacific Coast colleges and athletic clubs were features of the program during the early history of War Camp Community Service.

The provision of soldiers' and sailors' clubs has been one of the important features of the work. The Guild House which will care for 300 men has been turned over to the Commission, as have the facilities of the Motor and Yacht Club with its dance hall and reception room. Plans are on foot for the fitting up of the basement of the public library as a service club.

### **WACO, TEXAS—FORT McARTHUR**

The first step taken by the War Board on its organization in July was the provision of activities for negro troops through the stimulation of the interest of representative colored citizens and their appointment as committee members to take charge of the work. The second month of service was marked by the establishment of a number of rest rooms by the churches which also inaugurated socials and home entertainment; the equipment of a downtown club by the Young Men's Business League and the provision of comfort stations. Great impetus was given during August to

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the development of work for girls, through the formation of classes for factory girls, the employment of a policewoman and the establishment of civic centers in the schools. Later history of girls' work in Waco records the organization of Girls' Patriotic Leagues and of an employment bureau.

The fraternal orders of the city have been very active in entertaining their members and in opening their rooms as rest and reading rooms. Steps are being taken to meet some of the dance hall problems by the furnishing of chaperones for the public dances and the arrangement of private small group dances.

Other features of the program which have won the gratitude of the soldiers have included the listing of available boarding houses and rooms, the equipment of a swimming pool with dressing rooms, the establishment of rest rooms for Jewish soldiers, entertainment for the men at the base hospital and the appointment of an employment committee to find work for the wives of enlisted men who wish to be near their husbands.

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The first six months of War Camp Community Service with its experiments, its failures and its successes have passed. The foundation has been laid. The next six months will see the strengthening of the structure—the enlargement and growth of this epoch-making movement. For history is being made in this the first year of America's share in the world's war, not only on the battle fields of France but in the cities of America which are preparing the way for a new democracy.

To the National Board of the Y. W. C. A., the local Y. M. C. A.'s, the churches, lodges, civic clubs, women's organizations and all the groups and individuals whose cooperation is making War Camp Community Service a living force, and especially to the Chambers of Commerce and Rotary Clubs and other groups who are aiding so generously in raising the funds to finance the work, the Playground and Recreation Association of America wishes to express its indebtedness and appreciation.

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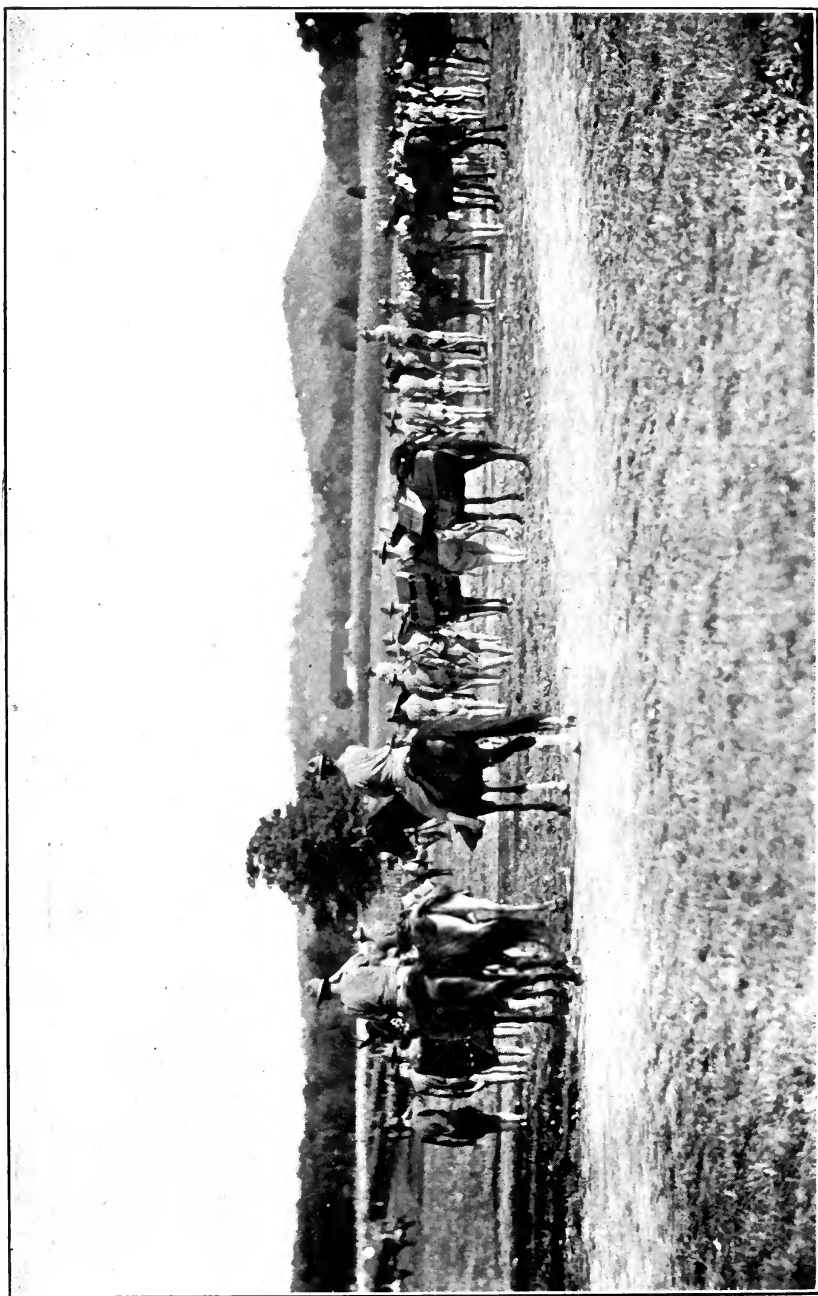
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JUNE, 1917

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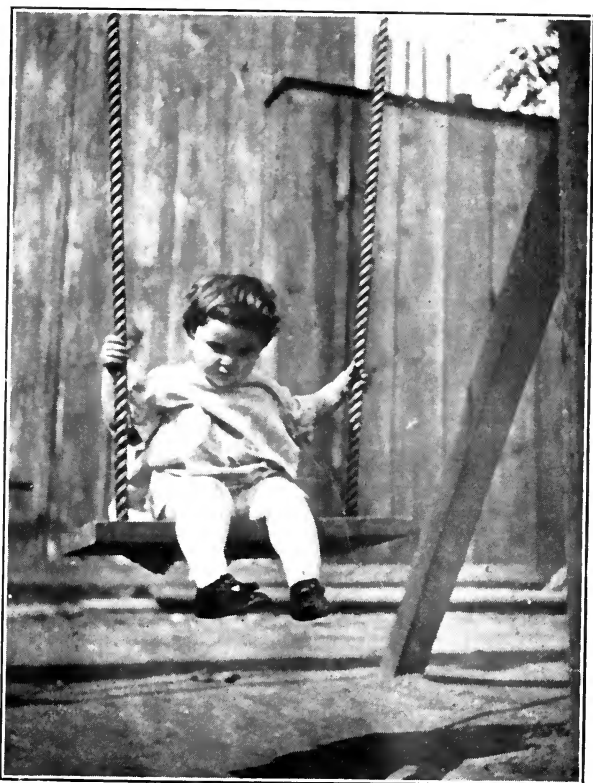
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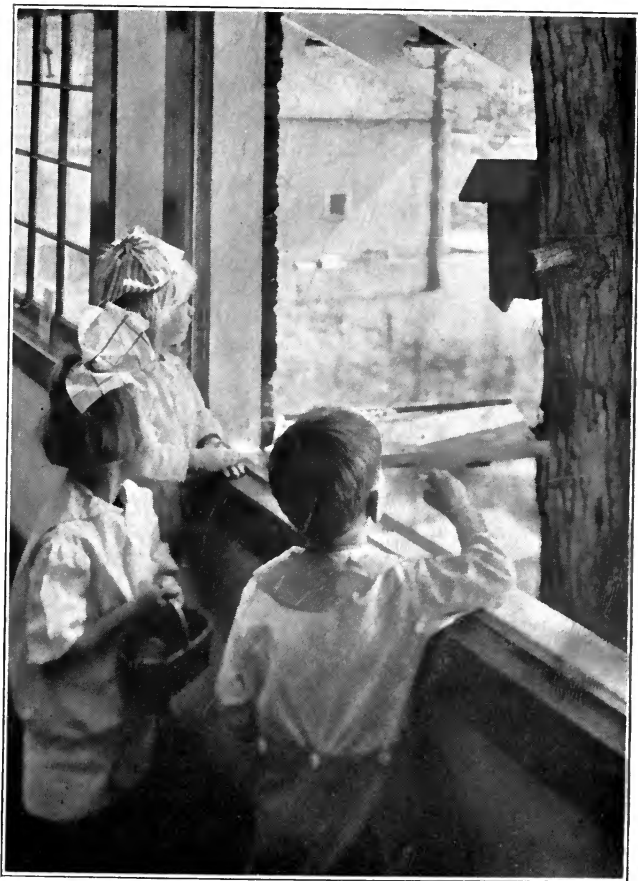
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## War Recreation Service

“The Commission on Training Camp Activities asks the Playground and Recreation Association of America to be responsible for the work of stimulating and aiding communities in the neighborhood of training camps to develop and organize their social and recreational resources in such a way as to be of the greatest possible value to the officers and soldiers in the camps.”

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Vol. XI, No. 10

JANUARY, 1918

# The Playground

## WAR-CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE

 HE appeal to America to supply the means of recreating home ties for enlisted men in cities adjacent to training camps must sound the depths of the Nation's heart. If the passion for home be allowed to become dulled, men will cease to make the supreme sacrifice in its defense.

"A myriad of young men have been called into training to maintain the Nation's ideals. We must accept the responsibility for their welfare during the period of training when duty requires their absence from home and thus severs those intimate human relationships that feed fine character and encourage noble deeds. Let us resolve that the very call to arms shall exalt the civilian sense of duty to preserve and enhance these intangible spiritual values that make America inexpressibly precious to us."

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Two Dollars a Year

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1 Madison Avenue, New York City

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Vol. XI. No. 11

FEBRUARY, 1918

# The Playground



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GRAPE FRUIT

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Vol. XI.

No. 12

MARCH, 1918

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**W**E have got these young men in camp and they are surrounded from the time they leave home until the day when they come back to it, if in God's providence they can come back, with more agencies for their protection and comfort and health and happiness, physical, spiritual and mental, than any army that ever went out on a field.

"They are classified by a system so that men who have mechanical instincts and training will be given mechanical opportunities in the army. The 'round' man is not sought to be put in the 'square' place. By virtue of activities started in the war department the communities which surround these camps have been instantly got away from the notion which used to be prevalent, of a certain alienation between a civilian soldier group and these soldier boys in these camps have been adopted into the homes and hearts of the people among whom they live. No such relation has ever existed between an army and a civilian population as exists with regard to this."

NEWTON D. BAKER





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“OUR boys are going to France; they are going to face conditions that we do not like to talk about, that we do not like to think about. They are going into a heroic enterprise, and heroic enterprises involve sacrifices. I want them armed; I want them adequately armed and clothed by their Government; but I want them to have invisible armor to take with them. I want them to have an armor made up of a set of social habits replacing those of their homes and communities, a set of social habits and a state of social mind born in the training camps, a new soldier state of mind, so that when they get overseas and are removed from the reach of our comforting and restraining and helpful hand, they will have gotten such a state of habits as will constitute a moral and intellectual armor for their protection overseas.”

NEWTON D. BAKER

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In the great encampments, where the men are to be trained, modern recreation experts are to provide wholesome and attractive amusements for their leisure, so that when they come out of the army they will have no scars except those honorably won in warfare against the enemy of their country.

*Newton D. Baker*

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I am determined that our new training camps, as well as the surrounding zones within an effective radius, shall not be places of temptation and peril.

*Newton D. Baker*



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## Told at Twilight

It is said that the playgrounds are never still. Even after the children have left and the swings stand as stark as a ship's rigging, and the sand-boxes lie there in the light of the moon, untouched and undisturbed—the sweet, ringing sounds of shrill and piping voices echo faintly through the air. So 'tis said. And who cares or dares gainsay a rumor so pleasant to reflect upon? If you had spent five minutes or so watching the little tots engaged in their merry business of keeping happy, you wouldn't think it a bit improbable that the evening winds should wish to retain the shouts and laughter of the playfield children—even long after slumber-time.—*The Civic Herald*

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# What Is Patriotism?

Written by a child of the Washington School, Indianapolis, the teacher certifying the child received no help; name, Ralph Nelson

What is patriotism? Patriotism is love for your country and to show your love you should sacrifice something. If a boy had a ball diamond in his back yard he would have to sacrifice it to have a garden. A garden represents love for your country and also patriotism. If a boy was used to going to parks of an evening after school, it would be sincere patriotism for him to have a garden to tend. Don't just hoist a flag, but do something to help the situation our country is in. Try to make two potatoes out of every one you see. Do not say "I sure am patriotic, I put my flag up at sunrise every morning and take it down at sunset," unless you have really done something. Don't even sing "America," until you have a patch of potatoes or carrots or something to help the nation out of its tight place.

# PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION

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# History Repeats Itself

“In the year 1828 the School Board of Lancaster, Ohio, being asked for the schoolhouse in which to debate railroads and telegraph replied, ‘You are welcome to the use of the schoolhouse to debate all proper questions in, but such things as railroads and telegraph are impossibilities and rank infidelity. There is nothing in the word of God about it. If God has designed that his intelligent creatures should travel at the frightful speed of fifteen miles an hour by steam he would have clearly foretold it in his holy prophets. It is a device of Satan to lead immortal souls down to Hell.’ ”

In the year 1917, there are those who oppose play centers upon equally progressive grounds!

Statement of the Ownership, Management, Circulation, etc., required by the Act of Congress of August 24, 1912

Of THE PLAYGROUND published monthly at Cooperstown, N. Y. for April 1, 1917.

State of New York }  
County of New York }

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the state and county aforesaid, personally appeared H. S. Braucher, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the editor of THE PLAYGROUND and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher, Playground and Recreation Association of America, 1 Madison Ave., New York City; Editor, H. S. Braucher, 1 Madison Ave., New York City; Managing Editor, H. S. Braucher, 1 Madison Ave., New York City; Business Manager, H. S. Braucher, 1 Madison Ave., New York City.

2. That the owners are: (Give names and addresses of individual owners, or, if a corporation, give its name and the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of the total amount of stock.)

Playground and Recreation Association of America, 1 Madison Ave., New York City which is composed of about four thousand members. The following comprise the Board of Directors:

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3. That the known bond holders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities, are: There are none.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of March, 1917.

(Seal)

JAMES S. WRIGHT,

Notary Public, Cert. filed in New York, Bronx and Kings Counties.  
(My commission expires March 30, 1917).

# What Will Decide the War?

“The war will be decided in 1935.

“The true victory will lie not so much in the actual tactical gains on the battlefield today as in the quality of the men who have to carry on the work of the country after the war. War kills off the best of a nation's manhood; therefore, extra care must be exercised to save every child—not for its own sake or for its parents' sake, but for the sake of the nation.”

—Robert Baden-Powell

No preparedness program is complete which does not make adequate provision for playgrounds and athletic fields for the children and the young people of America.



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## WHEN A MAN COMES TO HIMSELF

A business man who has already done much for the playground movement, who has been instrumental in setting free thousands of dollars for playgrounds for the children, has just written, "I have been reading Woodrow Wilson's 'When a Man Comes to Himself'. It has made me ponder if I ought not perhaps to 'come to myself'. Therefore, to drop everything else and devote the rest of my life to the playground movement. Because of the insight which my various trips have given me, I feel the responsibility to sell my life as dearly as possible for playground results."



