

EDUCATION THROUGH PLAY

BY

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New York

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

1921

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Set up and electrotyped. Published January, 1915.

Norwood Press
J. S. Cushing Co. — Berwick & Smith Co.
Norwood, Mass., U.S.A.

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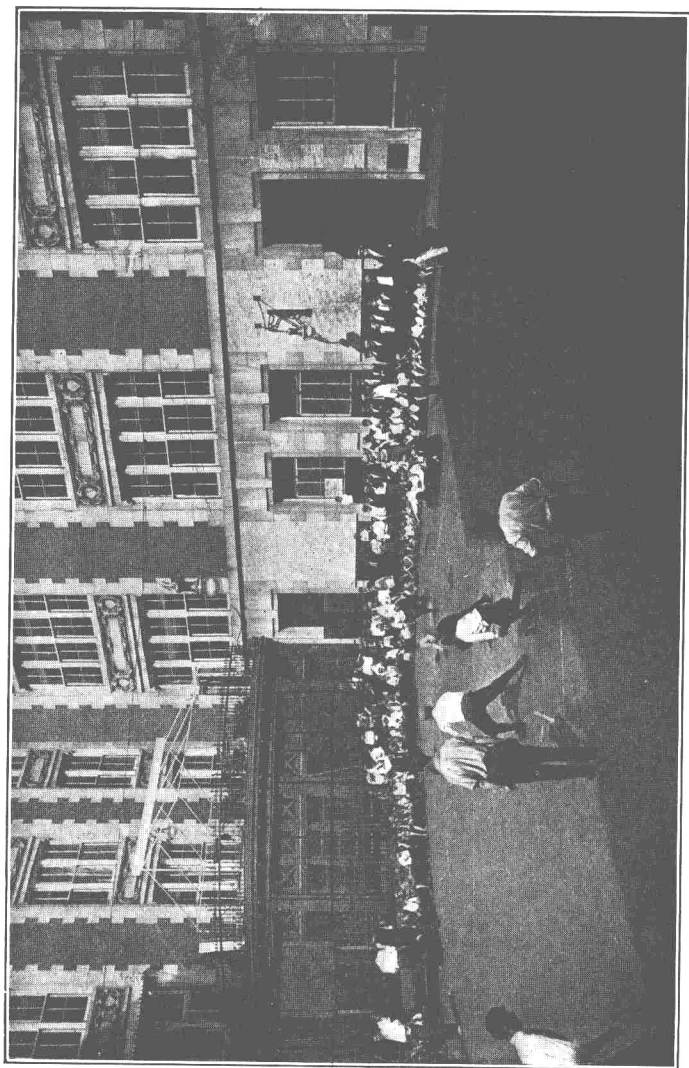
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TORONTO



INDOOR BASEBALL IN BOYS' PLAYGROUND, NEW YORK CITY

**TO THE
TWENTY MILLION SCHOOL CHILDREN
IN THE UNITED STATES**

INTRODUCTION

WHEN the author began this work, it was with the intention of treating the entire subject in a single volume, but as the book began to take shape, it became evident that the material in hand was too manifold to be treated satisfactorily in a book of the size that would be appreciated by the reading public.

Accordingly the subject of public recreation is scarcely touched upon here, as the author purposes to devote a volume to this subject a little later. The play of the little children in the home also has been omitted for the same reason. A volume on The Practical Conduct of Play, intended specifically for the play workers, has already been prepared and is to follow this at once.

The author has avoided the statistical method because play statistics can be had from the yearbook of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, and because in a field that is changing so rapidly as that of play, these can have value for a single year only.

The author's interest in the play movement began in 1898 with a study of the activity of children which was a part of his thesis work in psychology at Clark University. The same summer he took a position as an assistant director of a playground in New York City under Superintendent Seth T. Stewart. From this position he was promoted to be a director and then a general director in charge of psychological and sociological investigations. The summer of 1902 was spent

in investigating the playgrounds of Germany and England, and the intervening years have nearly all been given to some phase of the work. Every play system of any considerable size in this country has been visited, and the work has been organized in some fifteen different cities. Courses have been given in thirty or more different universities and normal schools.

This book was begun six years ago. During the intervening time, it has been held in solution and presented at many different universities and teachers' institutes. It is written with the conviction that the play of school children is a school problem, that no other city department can deal with it satisfactorily, and that thus far the school has not done so. It is believed, also, that this play problem of the school children is the chief play problem of our cities.

PREFACE

IN giving this book to the public, I wish to express my thanks to the *Review of Reviews* for the permission to republish the article on Our New National Games, to the Bureau of Education for the privilege of republishing a part of my bulletin on the Reorganized School Playground, and to the *Survey*, *The American City*, *Education*, and *The American Physical Education Review* for permission to republish certain paragraphs from articles of mine that have appeared in the pages of these magazines.

I am also indebted for the photographs here presented to the following people and my thanks is herewith tendered to them: Supt. Edward Stitt, Mr. W. Francis Hyde, Supt. William Wirt, Dr. Edward Rumley, Dr. Dudley Sargent, Mrs. Henry Parsons, Mr. R. E. Hawley, Mr. H. K. Staples, and the Board of Education of New York.

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