

PLAY GROUND ASSOCIATION FORMED; MANY INTERESTED

Organization Meeting Held Friday Evening—Fifteen Named on Board of Directors.

LECTURE BY CURTIS

Recognized Authority on Playgrounds Gives Illustrated Lecture Before the Meeting.

The Playground Association of Keokuk was organized Friday evening in a meeting at the high school building, following an address on the subject of playgrounds, by Prof. Henry S. Curtis, of Olivet, Mich.

The new organization starts out with a membership of about forty; thirty-seven became members that evening and there are several others not present then who are numbered among the members. The organization has a board of directors, elected Friday night, comprising fifteen prominent men and women. They are: William Aldrich, Jas. W. Hulst, P. C. Hayden, Mrs. Leonard Matless, Rev. H. B. McElree, Mrs. O. W. Weyer, Rev. Geo. Gillingham, Lee A. Hamill, Dr. B. C. Hinkley, Rev. F. John P. Hornish, J. F. Lutz, Rev. F. B. McAllister, Hon. E. W. McManus, E. S. Patterson, Miss Younker.

Prof. P. C. Hayden acted as chairman of the organization meeting. He read the report of the committee, composed of members of various organizations in this city which had taken formal action in approving the playgrounds movement, on the organization of Keokuk Playground association.

The report of that committee follows:

Report of Committee on the Organization of a Keokuk Playground Association.

We recommend that a playground association be organized by those attending this meeting tonight; that the membership fee shall be one dollar per year and that all paying this fee shall become members of the Playground association for one year.

Board of Directors.

We further recommend that an executive committee of fifteen be elected to have immediate charge of the playgrounds affairs until their successors are elected; that this executive committee elect a chairman, a vice chairman, secretary and treasurer, and that these officers shall be the officers of the Playground association until their first annual meeting or until their successors are elected.

We recommend that when this meeting adjourn it adjourns subject to the call of the officers of the association.

Approved by
WM. ALDRICH,
JAMES W. HUSTKAMP,
PHILIP C. HAYDEN,
MRS. LEONARD MATLESS,
REV. H. B. MCELREE,
MRS. O. W. WEYER.

Directors Chosen.
Following the adoption of this report a nominating committee was appointed which reported on the names given above for the board of directors. This report also was accepted and the directors chosen. Thirty-seven joined the organization at the meeting Friday night.

The work immediately ahead of the organization is to secure more equipment to install in school yards, and as soon as possible, to employ directors to have active charge of the

grounds at all times when the children are using them. The association also is anxious to create a wide interest in this movement among the people of Keokuk.

Lecture by Prof. Curtis.
Before the organization of the association took place Prof. Curtis gave an illustrated address on the needs of playgrounds and showed by the slides what can be done and what has been done as well as what should be done.

The speaker made quite plain the point that he favored only the organized playground, where the children engage in "directed play," as he called it. Without directors, and competent directors, the playground can be compared only with the vacant lot, a very bad place for children, according to Prof. Curtis.

The speaker made the statement that, in his opinion, the playground was no whit less important to the child than the school. He cited many facts to support this contention.

Only a Question of "How Soon."
"It's not a question," he said, "of whether or not Keokuk shall have playgrounds for its children. It's merely a question of how soon she shall have them." He pointed out that two thirds of the cities in the United States the size of Keokuk have playgrounds supported by public funds.

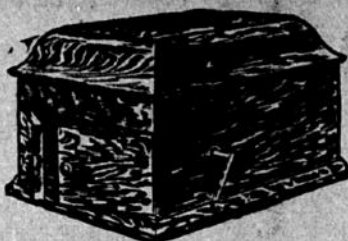
"Adults," said the speaker, "could not live one week under the conditions that prevail on the vacant lots where your children live." He referred to the law of might makes right in the children's code on the vacant lot. But place a competent director over the children on a modern equipped playground and a sense of justice is created among them; the use of bad language ceases; and the formation of fitting ideals begins. The speaker claimed that the playground does what the Sunday school cannot. Knowing what is right and doing what is right are two different things, he said. And a boy who learns to be honest in play will be honest in business when he becomes a man.

Slides Illustrate Lecture.
The slides with which the lecture was illustrated were reproduced from photographs taken in many cities in various parts of the country. As the slides from different cities were shown Prof. Curtis explained what had been done in these places toward advancing the playground movement.

New York city has the great playground system. It has paid as high as \$1,000,000 an acre for playgrounds was largely due to the fact that 600,000 in the last eight years for this purpose. He explained that the enormous cost of the New York City playgrounds was largely due to the fact that it had been necessary often to purchase entire blocks on which were erected large and valuable buildings, and these buildings torn down.

MOORHEAD SPEAKS BEFORE INSTITUTE
(Continued from page 11.)

of health. A sick man is not only useless so far as producing is concerned, but he is a consumer of what has already been produced. He burns the candle at both ends. He earns nothing and, at the same time, incurs large expense. Without going into figures in detail let me cite an example or two of the cost of neglecting the laws of health. One epidemic of typhoid in a Pennsylvania community cost nearly \$100,000, and the persons who died in it were earning in wages \$19,000 a year. Munich, Germany, was at one time probably the most unhealthy city in Europe. It was known the world over as the home of typhus fever. In one year 407 died from that disease alone. At another time the cholera swept away its inhabitants like a devastating flood. More than 50 per cent of the children born there died in infancy, and the



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