

PLAYGROUNDS

SOURCES OF JOY

Value of These Recreation Spots to Children.

Views of a Charity Officer

Says No Idea in Years Has Worked So Much Good for Tots.

In a general discussion of public playgrounds in Washington and what is being done upon them, an official of the Associated Charities said today: "Early this summer five vacant lots with apparatus for having a good time, varying in quantity and quality according to the location of the ground, might be seen in location of the ground, might be seen in the different sections of the city. They had been loaned temporarily for playgrounds and improvements had been made upon the vacant lots, and the ideal kind had not been realized. "In the spring the playground committee assembled in the general office of the Associated Charities to make plans for immediate work. So active was this committee that scarcely a month passed before arrangements were made to clear ten or twelve lots, erect such apparatus as might be in keeping with the modest hopes of those who knew the work, and employ a supervisor who should prepare grounds anew and supervise volunteer teachers and helpers in all parts of the city. "A number of months have passed since these plans were made and time has proved the wisdom of that early action. At the present time eleven grounds have been cleared, heavy and well-constructed gymnasium apparatus has been erected, baseball, volley and basket ball courts have been laid out, and sand boxes, with awnings for cover, have been erected for the smaller children. Everything is gradually being done, or will be done as soon as the funds in hand will permit, for the comfort and pleasure of the little ones of all ages. "Praise for Craig. "Too much praise for all the preparatory work cannot be given to Prof. A. T. Craig, of the Armstrong Normal Training School. Mr. Craig, who is a member of the committee, saw the need of some one to supervise the clearing, leveling and equipping of grounds, for it was evident that the regular supervisor could not prepare the grounds and train volunteers, and without waiting for the committee to act, volunteered to take up this work and carry it through to completion. The report is now made by Mr. Craig that all plans have been executed and that eleven grounds are ready for use. "Crowded with Children. "With the real playgrounds and proper equipment, it has not been necessary to search for children. The little playground in the rear of Neighborhood House, only about 25 by 90 feet, frequently holds a party of happy youngsters numbering 125. "In the hot hours of the day dozens of boys and girls may be seen upon the chute and parallel bars, and dozens more in the sand boxes, while in the evening hours, the party increases to about 200 or 300. "Finest in the city—the first evidence of the normal play spirit of children—deepens every day. Enthusiasm develops with numbers and frequently the regular class at each playground is so large that it is necessary to divide responsibility, and set many volunteers at work as instructors. "The League Spirit. "It is not unusual to see numbers of boys and girls, whose special duty has been to take care of baby-wanderer to the playgrounds with the little charge to watch "bigger brother" run on the giant slide, or slide upon the chute. One night a boy was sent off for fighting with his companion. The same evening the father of the boy came to the supervisor to ask forgiveness, and that the boy might be allowed to play once more. "League spirit and the desire to uphold division dignity, has been awakened. There is a South-west Club, a South-east Club, and many others. These clubs play one another at baseball, basket ball, and other games, and the enthusiasm of the participants increases every day. Who can say what this awakening spirit of pride may develop to be, and what may be the improvement for the individual and city from this first effort.

Eleven Grounds. "A number of months have passed since these plans were made and time has proved the wisdom of that early action. At the present time eleven grounds have been cleared, heavy and well-constructed gymnasium apparatus has been erected, baseball, volley and basket ball courts have been laid out, and sand boxes, with awnings for cover, have been erected for the smaller children. Everything is gradually being done, or will be done as soon as the funds in hand will permit, for the comfort and pleasure of the little ones of all ages. "Praise for Craig. "Too much praise for all the preparatory work cannot be given to Prof. A. T. Craig, of the Armstrong Normal Training School. Mr. Craig, who is a member of the committee, saw the need of some one to supervise the clearing, leveling and equipping of grounds, for it was evident that the regular supervisor could not prepare the grounds and train volunteers, and without waiting for the committee to act, volunteered to take up this work and carry it through to completion. The report is now made by Mr. Craig that all plans have been executed and that eleven grounds are ready for use. "Crowded with Children. "With the real playgrounds and proper equipment, it has not been necessary to search for children. The little playground in the rear of Neighborhood House, only about 25 by 90 feet, frequently holds a party of happy youngsters numbering 125. "In the hot hours of the day dozens of boys and girls may be seen upon the chute and parallel bars, and dozens more in the sand boxes, while in the evening hours, the party increases to about 200 or 300. "Finest in the city—the first evidence of the normal play spirit of children—deepens every day. Enthusiasm develops with numbers and frequently the regular class at each playground is so large that it is necessary to divide responsibility, and set many volunteers at work as instructors. "The League Spirit. "It is not unusual to see numbers of boys and girls, whose special duty has been to take care of baby-wanderer to the playgrounds with the little charge to watch "bigger brother" run on the giant slide, or slide upon the chute. One night a boy was sent off for fighting with his companion. The same evening the father of the boy came to the supervisor to ask forgiveness, and that the boy might be allowed to play once more.

Contractor Promises Good Garbage Service. Seventy Wagons in Use—Four More Than Were Ever Employed Before. The Washington Fertilizer Company, which holds the contract for the removal of garbage from the houses of the city, has assured the District authorities that on Monday the garbage service will be entirely satisfactory. There are now seventy wagons in use for the removal of the refuse, four more than were employed at any time last year. The improvement in the service has been made as a result of the communications sent to the company by District Commissioner Macfarland. Ten days ago Commissioner West took steps that resulted in a temporary improvement in the service. The lapse in efficiency was then taken up by Mr. Macfarland, who learned that there were sixty complaints about the non-removal of garbage on Friday and seventy-five last Wednesday.

Mrs. Bessie Young's Estate Goes to Her Husband. The will of Bessie P. Young, dated July 11 last, was yesterday offered for probate. She leaves lots 5 and 6 in square 151, to her husband, Clarence K. Young, in trust to be sold, and the proceeds to be invested for a home for her husband. At his death this property is to revert to her children, Clarence S. and Ethel P. Young.

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