

LEARNING TO PLAY.

The value of teaching children that elementary, but necessary lesson, of learning to play, was very evident at the exhibition given by the Montreal Parks and Playgrounds Association on the McGill Campus recently.

Some two hundred children from the five playgrounds under the supervision of the Association took part, and aroused applause by their clever dances, and other forms of supervised play. That the little performers enjoyed their work was very evident, while the ladies of the Committee told how the rosy, bright-faced youngsters were very white and listless at the beginning of the season.

To a critical spectator, there was more than merely the result of being taught to "play the game," and that is a splendid start for life.

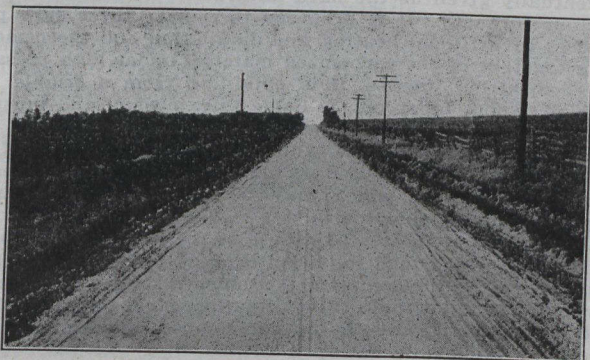
The results were both physical and moral.

That the children must have better health from their out-of-door sports, is certain; and this alone would warrant all the money subscribed and spent on this good work.

But the discipline which the children learn under their instructors is worth much for the future citizens. They are not allowed to come with dirty hands; to use bad language on the playgrounds; or to quarrel and fight. They are taught to play fairly, and to win or to lose like sportsmen. In fact, to "play the game" with all that the phrase means.

Certainly the work means the betterment of a large class of citizens who would not otherwise have any chance of the results, and is a credit to those who undertake it.

Unfortunately the Montreal Association is handicapped this year in its finances.



HOW A CITY LIBRARY, Etc. (Continued).

are sent out to the various school, branch, and deposit libraries. After being sent out, reports are received from principals and teachers as to the suitability for the purpose. Principals and teachers are also asked to send into the library any suggestions as to what they want. This method of securing new books combines co-operatively the labors of both the library and the school people, and draws upon the best information and experience of each.

The library also secures information as to the children's reading in its "Annual Conference on Children's Reading." Both teachers and parents are represented upon the programme, the discussion touching upon the reading tastes of children, reading needs, suitable books, amounts of different types of reading covered by different classes of children, relative values of different types of reading, and the like. To make the discussions concrete and practical, the Conference limits itself each year to a specific portion of the reading field. For example, the Conference this year discussed "Love Stories for Children," and last year, "War Stories for Children." This type of conference brings together all of the people interested in promoting and improving children's reading, and prevents any group from working in isolation from the others.

After school days are over the most important continuing educational influence—for we are learning that education must be a life-long affair—is the reading habit in those who have been so fortunate as to acquire it. Education through library reading, therefore, when full and effective in ways evident in frequent cases in this city, is a type of education that does not therefore lapse when school days are over.

We have but one recommendation to make: Let the work grow and expand and continue along the lines already provided for by the Board of Education, the Board of Library Commissioners, and the professional people within both organizations.

A SUPPLEMENTARY VERSE TO OUR NATIONAL SONG "O CANADA."

The following is an extract from an Ontario journal which may be of interest to all our Municipalities.

Dr. J. M. Harper, the gifted poet, author and historian of Old Quebec, earlier in the war wrote the words:—

Sing we our Empire's might,
Armed to uphold the right,
Under God's grace.
May all the nations feel
'Tis for the common weal
Britain ever makes appeal
In war or peace.

These words were used in many place throughout Canada as a supplementary verse to "God Save the King," and the thought contained in the verse no doubt had a wholesome effect in impressing the true conception of Empire in its better sense.

More recently Dr. Harper has written a verse that may be added to the various versions of "O, Canada," while the war lasts. In Dr. Harper's home province and in many other sections of Canada, "O, Canada," approximates more to the standing of a popular National Song than any other air. Because of this fact, the poet who would add to "O, Canada," the special touch of patriotism that gave it the vital connection with the winning of the war would be doing a noteworthy service to the land. It was another sage philosopher who said that he cared not who made the laws if he could only make the songs of his country. He knew the quiet but powerful growth in sentiment and action that comes indirectly from the songs a people sing.

Speaking of the "War Verse" for "O, Canada," Dr. Harper writes: "A charge of plagiarism has lately been preferred by one of the many versifiers, against another of the same, who have ventured to frame a setting of words to Calixa Lavalee's inspiring national air, which the world is now so familiar with. The first to give a national permanence to the said bit of classical music was Sir Adolphe Routhier, who wrote a set of words for it in French. And it is little short of an anomaly that there have been so many differing sets of words tied on to the striking elocution of the composition, in which it may be said there is no borrowed musical interval discernible. As one of the first to issue a set of words to the tune in English, I may perhaps be allowed to say that, if the charge of plagiarism referred to above were only to eventuate in the using of one set of English words to Lavalee's tune, as has been the case in the one set of French words used it would be somewhat of a convenience to our Canadian patriotism when it seeks an utterance in choral form. In the meantime, I venture to suggest that the following verse may be added to each and all the properly metred versions extant of what has come to be one of the most popular exponents of our blending Canadian patriotism.

"There can hardly be any legitimate umbrage taken at the suggestion, during these war-times at least, unless it be over the inefficacy of the versification itself to parallel with such a soul-inspiring piece of musical composition as is Lavalee's "O, Canada." The supplementary verse is as follows:

O Canada, thy sons and daughters, we
Would join, as one, to rescue liberty,
From the tyrant's sway that dares betray
Thy service blessed of God—
From the rampant Might that fain would blight
The gifts of nationhood!
O realm benign, be it ours and thine
To bless our brave ones of the battlefield,
While we uphold the Right till the foe's forced to yield!

FROM FLIES AND FILTH TO FOOD AND FEVER.

Under the above heading the Health Dept. of St. Louis, Mo., has published some very telling posters showing the results of ignoring the fly danger, one of which contains the following telling sentences:

No sanitary improvement worth the name will be effective, whatever acts you pass or whatever powers you confer on public officers, unless you create an intelligent interest in the public mind.

5,598,720,000,000 is the normal number of flies a single fly will produce in a season of five months, according to the statement of Dr. L. O. Howard, U. S. Government Expert.

If flies were as much feared as bad water there would be less typhoid fever.