

## PLAYGROUND

### Their Importance to Our Social Fabric.

That Playgrounds form an important factor in the upbuilding of our social fabric may be readily seen from the consideration of the following facts :

FIRST—For **physical** reasons. We are all aware of the value placed upon open-air treatment by prominent medical men of the day. The value of fresh air and sunshine can hardly be over-estimated. The value of physical exercise for growing boys and girls is almost too obvious to need emphasizing. For instance, the country boy on coming to the city, other things being equal, in many cases soon out-distances his city-bred brother. The reason is not hard to seek. Reared amid the pure air and sunshine of the country he generally has a robust and vigorous constitution, and possesses an amount of vitality and endurance which stands him in good stead in the wear and tear of city life.

SECOND—For **moral** reasons. When all is said and done, the thing that counts most in any man's life cannot be measured by the extent of his bank account but by what he is, that is, his own personal character. There is perhaps no better school for laying the foundation of a good character than the playground. Here the child learns self-restraint, self-control, self-sacrifice, loyalty to his team or club, the value of organization, self-respect, truthfulness and obedience in a manner in which he will never have a chance to learn again at any other period of his existence. In a cosmopolitan city such as our own, playgrounds would form an important factor in welding together the different nationalities and spreading the knowledge of the English language.

Not having playgrounds such as mooted, the majority of our city children have no alternative other than playing in the streets. The effect of this on their morals is, in most cases, deplorable. There, what can they learn? Drunkenness, bad language, disobedience and general lawlessness. It is not to be wondered at that many parents find their children hard to manage after a few years of playing in such an environment. Many a child has in this way picked up evil habits which ever after warped and distorted its moral character.

The general consensus of opinion indicates that where playgrounds have been established, there has been a decrease in the number of troublesome children. Police Officers. Probation