

## INTRODUCTION.

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**M**AN doth not live by bread alone but by all things gracious and comely within the circumference of God's world, and Education marcheth not only along the line of direct and strenuous work but lives even in play and the lilt of joyous game.

To minister to a felt need and to help those who would follow a wise suggestion of the Board of Education in the matter, this book of Singing Games has been compiled.

Among its contents will be found things useful, not only for tinies, infants, and juniors, but even for upstanding youths and maidens, not only, it may be, for Schools, but for Guilds of Play, Girls' Friendly Societies, Open Air Fêtes, and for all home and social gatherings where the world-shaking question may arise, "What shall we do next?" Among the collection are many old favourites, as well as others, both home and foreign, that appear for the first time. Some have been written for the present collection, and others, of which only obvious fragments could be remembered, have been completed in words or music on the pleasant lines of the old and time-tried favourites. In the case of children's games from other lands, the chief aim has been to preserve the spirit of the game even at some sacrifice of the letter. Hence, the translations are for the most part distinctly "free."

In games, where it is necessary for some one to be in the centre—to be "It"—there is often some slight difficulty in the selection. The difficulty is settled by the use of counting rhymes, of which "O.U.T. out goes she" is a modern and very pallid example. Some of the older and still surviving examples seem to partake of the nature of incantation, as though the game itself had once been some solemn and possibly fearsome rite, and "It" must therefore have special and magical sanction, and as holding for the nonce, an onerous and perhaps dangerous position requiring peculiar and supernormal protection. Space has been left for recording other games that the reader may come across in his own district, and some notes for use of collectors have been briefly set down. The pianoforte accompaniments have been kept in touch with the feeling of the melody as closely as may be. They are, however, intended mainly for teaching purposes, for resting the voice, and possibly for concert purposes. The ideal is being approached when the children pitch and play the games without any outside suggestion whatever.

The writer would wish to take this opportunity of thanking Miss Lucy Lund, of Ilkley, Miss Smith, of New Earswick, York, Mrs. Stubbs, of London, Miss Mary Champness, of King's Norton, Miss Hilda Hearn, of Bromley, Kent, Miss Blok, Miss Andersen, Miss Garbutt, Miss Winifred Helm, and Mrs. Harold Wager, of Leeds, Mr. H. Holman, of London, and Mr. Ibberson, of Ilkley, and all friends both at home and abroad, who, by contribution or suggestion, have helped to make this book, what the compiler hopes it will be—a real help and friend to all who are themselves friends of the bright eyes, the rosy cheeks, and the green fields of that Merrie England that has been and is yet to be.

Now the collecting of a book of Singing Games is not the effort of a day, nor is it, as a rule, the unaided work of one shepherd. The in-gathering of the present collection has been no exception to this rule, for the net has been cast widely, in many places, and by many hands. Many of the English games herein set down were played by the writer in his own boyhood in the farmhouses of quiet Yorkshire dales. These have been revived and augmented by the