

done in the community and having a sincere desire to realize it can formulate a programme of play and recreation, that will contribute greatly to the revolutionizing of neighborhood life in a single decade. And more, the young people of the local community are the best qualified to say what the detailed programme should be. One hesitates therefore to offer any suggestions as to what it might include.

A few hints, however, might not be amiss with the understanding that they will be adapted to the needs of the different types of neighborhood, although for the most part it will be found that the suggestions made may be worked out more easily in the smaller towns and rural communities than in the larger centres.

It may be emphasized just here that in every community, whether town or country, there are two natural play and recreation centres. The one has always been present, although not always utilized. The other is just beginning to exist. The one is the home, the centre of the family life. The other is the community social centre about which revolves the social life of the neighborhood. Both social centres are necessary to the normal community life, and in building up our programme we should have regard for both.

First, as to the home. Each home in the community is a small social centre. (1) for the members of its own family. (2) for various groups of people in the community. A word might be said concerning each.

(1) *The home a centre for the members of its own family.* For father, mother, sons and daughters, older brothers and sisters, younger brothers and sisters or for such of them as go to make up any particular household, for these there might be suggested quite a complete programme for outdoor and indoor recreation. I can do no more than offer a few hints as to what might be done:

(a) *Outdoor.* There may be such things as sliding boards and sand piles for children, running and jumping slips and pits, horizontal and swinging bars, ladders, quoits, croquet, tennis and similar games, tree-planting, flower beds, general lawn-beautification, some simple studies in bird life, trees, astronomy, family strolls and picnics, swimming stunts and fishing expeditions, excursions to model farm, industrial centres, factories and such like.

(b) *Indoor.* The setting apart a playroom for the younger members of the home, parlor games, the fireside circle, telling and reading stories, the spelling and sewing circle, music, special festivities and festivals in all of which the members of the home may have a part.

(2) *The home a centre for various groups in the community.* It is reasonable to say that the Christian homes of a community can counteract and gradually destroy the practice of questionable amusements by themselves throwing open their houses and grounds a number of times during the year to respective groups in the neighborhood to indulge in such play and recreation and social activities as may be in harmony with the principles already indicated. On these occasions the younger folk may play the host to a group of children or a group of older folk and vice versa. The forms of play should be along the lines already suggested, with greater variety and comprehensiveness.

High ideals should always drive out the lower, and if the homes of the community can be permeated with the true spirit of play, the amusements on the lower levels must speedily give way to those forms of wholesome home recreation that stands for the highest community ideals. Every young person has the opportunity to work

out concretely this ideal by seeking to have his own home measure up to the standard as may be practicable, and by carrying on through the local society a campaign of social education as may cause the Christian home to see the splendid challenge that has come to it to redeem the play and recreation life of the neighborhood. Moreover, this should be a problem for every local league or executive to take up during the present year, for its solution is within the reach of all.

Second, as to the community social centre. It is fundamentally true that the normal person demands, as well as family social life, a community social life also. Certainly our recreation programme should have regard for the expanding social visions and needs of youth. It is here we have lamentably failed in the past.

The first question for consideration is where shall this community social centre be? In answer it may be said there are three possible locations: (1) The social centre chosen and equipped by the community itself; (2) The public or consolidated school; (3) The community church, or meanwhile the denominational church that for lack of other social centres must frequently minister to the social life of its own adherents and the non-church members of the neighborhood.

Wherever that centre may be, there should be associated with it a recreation programme which will go to meet the needs of the community and be in accord-

(1) Athletics and field sports.

(2) Social activities.

(3) Aesthetic and literary items, including musical festivals, concerts, lectures, amateur drama, debates, etc.

(4) Practical study classes—cooking, sewing, painting, first aid to the injured, community service home ideals, vocational life, night classes and such like.

Some special features might well be: A community field day, community picnics, banquets of various types, inter-community or inter-church contests in athletics, debates, etc., a community model garden, a general scheme for lawn-beautification, school fairs, excursions to industrial centres or power houses, hikes in the open country, nature study groups, camera club, riding club, camps, summer schools. Many other suggestions will come to the committee when it begins to down-right seriously consider this community recreation problem.

In closing a few suggestions might be given as to what the local young people's society might do at once to begin the formulation and realizing of this programme.

1. Catch the vision of the possibilities of a recreation programme.

2. Carry on a campaign of education apart from or in co-operation with other groups in the community.

3. Arrange for a series of home social evenings and strengthen and make more interesting the play and recreation of every home in the community so far as this be practicable.



ONE SURE SIGN OF SPRING.

Photo by The Editor.

ance with the principles already set forth. This programme might include, as opportunity provided, as follows:

(a) *Recreation grounds.* I put this first because it is most feasible. Communities and even churches are to-day purchasing or leasing and equipping and supervising playgrounds. Its location should be as convenient as possible to a water supply and a picnic grove. Provision should be made for all legitimate kinds of play and satisfactory supervision arranged for.

(b) *A building plant.* This is for the most part in the immediate future, and when it comes should include a general auditorium, reading-room, game-room, committee rooms, library, gymnasium, swimming tanks, and so on.

(c) *A well-prepared season's programme, including—*

4. Organize a young people's recreation committee.

5. Agitate for a community recreation committee on which the local society might have due representation.

6. Be satisfied at first with beginnings. Have an ideal that is practicable from the standpoint of your own community. Then proceed slowly and surely to work it out to its fullest realization.

7. Provide trained leadership and supervision as far as possible for any recreation programme you may adopt.

8. Provide a series of books on play and recreation and games.

The solution of the problem of recreation rests largely with the Christian young people of our land. They only can redeem for Christ and for the people the play and recreation of the entire community and national life.