

FOREWORD

The following pages contain articles and statistics written and compiled by me from time to time, for the public press on the subject of Public Playgrounds. Lately I have received so many requests for information on the points these articles cover that I decided the best thing to do would be to have this information collected in one pamphlet and distributed to all interested in the subject.

Personally, I believe that this matter of inaugurating a playground system should be dealt with by a Commission appointed by the civic authorities. This Commission should take up the whole subject, outline a definite scheme and lay it before the City Council.

I most strongly object to this matter of playgrounds being taken up as a charitable undertaking. It is no more a subject for charity than the cleaning of our streets or the providing of our schools. These playgrounds should be maintained and operated at public expense, in the same manner as any other public utility.

At the present time we have made provision but for half a child, that is the mental half; we have entirely neglected to make provision for the physical half on which so much depends.

I desire to take this opportunity of thanking all who have so kindly responded to my letters and thus materially helped the project along.

F. J. BILLIARDÉ.

Parliament Building .

January 8th, 1909.