
MISTAKES OF THE PAST.

VERY LITTLE PROVISION MADE FOR PLAYGROUNDS BY TOWN COUNCILS.

In the rapid development of Canadian cities and the eagerness of its citizenship for wealth and commercial success, little thought has been given to the city beautiful. Few realized that the vacant lots on which their boyish pastimes were held would disappear so rapidly. Thoughtful men now see the mistake that has been made and are earnestly striving to restore the children's heritage. Much remains to be done, but public sentiment is sound on this question and will endorse the necessary expenditure.

Four or five district playgrounds will not by any means meet the need. Better three small playgrounds than one large one. The tendency is to establish playgrounds in the suburbs where land is cheap, but they should be just as numerous in the heart of the city where congestion of population breeds moral and physical degeneracy. A playground should be within five minutes' walk of every child, and if we allow a playground for each twenty thousand of a city's population we can see how far behind this standard most of our cities are at the present time.

SUPERVISION.

Equipment is essential, but far more important even than that is the supervision given to the children in their play. If enthusiastic directors with the proper moral viewpoint are given charge of these playgrounds they can do a truly national work in the development of a sound physique and high character. As much, if not more, can be learned from play than from books, though there need be no rivalry, and it is undoubtedly true that play diverts from crime and low pursuits; creating contentment and cheerfulness and inspiring youth with noble ideals.

PULL DOWN ROOKERIES.

If here and there a few old rookeries were torn down and the land devoted to play space more than one useful purpose would be served. Two hundred feet frontage with the ordinary depth of one hundred and fifty