

PREFACE

THE phenomenal development of the Boy Scouts of America has revealed two significant facts:

First: Though no specific attempt has been made to promote scouting as a suitable form of recreation for use by the church, over eighty per cent of the entire movement is vitally related to local churches. The men who, for the most part, have taken advantage of it and have used it to conserve what is best in boy life have come from the church. Scouting has met with intelligent appreciation on the part of men whose motives are religious.

Second: The movement is yet in its infancy. Being in a formative period of development, it is yet plastic. Its policies thus far have been so broad that contributions are being made to it from a large number of sources. An increasingly valuable body of literature is being created, and scouting is receiving increasingly serious consideration on the part of leading educators, social workers, and churchmen. As time goes on it is sure to develop into the most popular and successful movement in existence for boys.

The material is an exposition of the Boy Scout movement and its application to the needs among boys of every race and condition. Special care has been taken to represent accurately the responsibilities and opportunities of leadership.