

**THE HOUSE OF THE HEART,  
AND OTHER PLAYS  
FOR CHILDREN; DESIGNED  
FOR USE IN THE SCHOOLS**

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The house of the heart, and other plays for children; designed for use in the schools by  
Constance D'Arcy Mackay

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PLAYS FOR CHILDREN

*Designed for use in the schools*

BY  
CONSTANCE D'ARCY MACKAY



NEW YORK  
HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY

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May, 1931

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M

TO MY MOTHER

11

THE  
MOTHER  
AND  
THE  
CHILD

Speaking of the dramatic instinct President Eliot of Harvard has lately said:

*Here is this tremendous power over children . . . that ought to be utilized for their good. It is true that the dramatic instinct is very general. . . . So I say that this power . . . is one that ought to be at least in every school in this country, and moreover I believe that it is going to be.*



## PREFACE

THE one-act plays contained in this volume are designed in the hope of filling the needs of public school performances, ethically, dramatically, and educationally. In consequence each play contains a distinct lesson, whether of courage, gentle manners, or contentment. The settings are simple, and the costumes such as are within the compass of the school-room. Full directions for costumes, scene setting, and dramatic action are given with each play. Several of the plays are especially adapted to holiday seasons such as Christmas, Thanksgiving, etc., and all of them have stood the test of actual production—that of “The House of the Heart” was given by the New York Educational Theatre for Children and Young People; those written for the out-of-doors have had production in various parks and playgrounds; and the rest have been acted in the public schools and social settlements of New York and other cities.

Thanks are due to the *St. Nicholas*, *The Woman's Home Companion*, *The Delineator*, *The Housekeeper*, *The Churchman*, *The Normal Instructor*, and *Primary Plans* for their kind permission to reprint these plays.



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