

**THE LITTLE DEMOCRACY,  
A TEXT-BOOK ON  
COMMUNITY  
ORGANIZATION**

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The little democracy, a text-book on community organization by Ida Clyde Clarke & P. P. Claxton

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**IDA CLYDE CLARKE & P. P. CLAXTON**

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# THE LITTLE DEMOCRACY

A TEXT-BOOK ON  
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

BY

IDA CLYDE CLARKE

AUTHOR OF "AMERICAN WOMEN AND THE WORLD WAR," ETC.

WITH INTRODUCTION BY

P. P. CLAXTON

U. S. COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION



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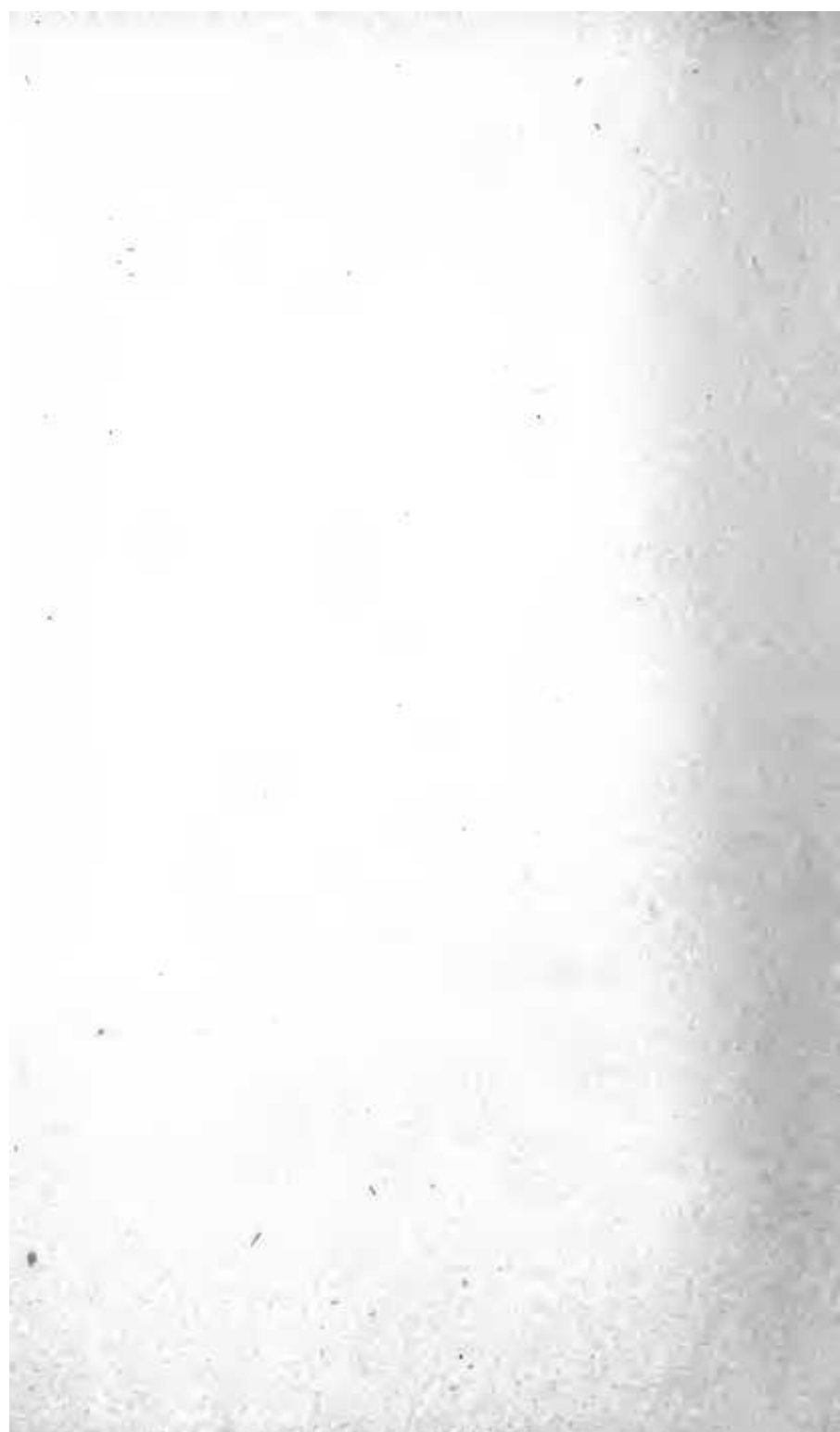
**TO MY FATHER  
CHARLES WILLIAM GALLAGHER**

**WHO ESTABLISHED IN HIS HOME  
THE FIRST "LITTLE DEMOCRACY"**

**I EVER KNEW**

**I INSCRIBE THIS BOOK**

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**“Every school district should be a little democracy,  
and the schoolhouse the Community Capitol.”**

**P. P. CLAXTON,**  
*U. S. Commissioner of Education.*



## AUTHOR'S PREFACE

THE Community Center movement in America has been slowly but steadily gaining momentum for a number of years, but it took a state of war to turn into a single channel the full power of every organized effort in that direction. Very early in the war there came a realization that the 50,000,000 civilian population could render more effective service through group organizations. This became apparent to me through the thousands of letters I received, as Washington Editor of *Pictorial Review*, and in response to a wide demand for information on community organization I wrote for the magazine a series of articles on this subject. I searched the country for concrete examples of successful community organization, as few experiments had been made on a large scale and facts of practical value were difficult to secure. While these articles were running in the magazine a great driving force was injected into the community work; the Government, through the Council of National Defense, the United States Bureau of Education, and the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense, inaugurated a nation-wide campaign in the interest of community organization.