

**PLAYGROUND TECHNIQUE AND
PLAYCRAFT. VOLUME ONE: A POPULAR
TEXT-BOOK OF PLAYGROUND
PHILOSOPHY, ARCHITECTURE,
CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT**

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Playground Technique and Playcraft. Volume One: A Popular Text-Book of Playground Philosophy, Architecture, Construction and Equipment by Arthur Leland & Lorna Higbee Leland

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ARTHUR LELAND & LORNA HIGBEE LELAND

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Courtesy of Miss Bessie D. Stoddart.

"NATURE STUDY"
AROUND THE FISH POND
Los Angeles

"Important as it is to direct the industries of the world, it is not so important as to wisely direct the leisure (the relaxation) of the world."—*George Eliot.*

PLAYGROUND TECHNIQUE
AND
PLAYCRAFT

VOLUME ONE

A Popular Text-book of Playground Philosophy, Architecture,
Construction and Equipment

Edited by

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TO VISIT
AMPHIBIAN

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

PREFACE

IT has fallen to our lot to act as guide for the infant steps of several playground movements. In the early days many problems confronted the playground worker. The woods were full of philosophies but the practical application had to be worked out by hard knocks. During the past years, we have been the recipients of many of these; making many mistakes, we have acquired some practical knowledge and perhaps chanced upon the proper solution of some problems.

In presenting this book, we hope that as a result some may be spared many of the commonest mistakes and may profit by the things which have been found essential, when judged by our own experience and the experience of other pioneer workers in the play movement, whose work has assisted in the preparation of this book.

The attempt will be made in this series to correlate the work of the various playground interests throughout the country. The salient features in a number of typical playground movements will be described. As the ground to be covered is so extensive, only those which have made unusual, unique and historical contributions to playground knowledge can be given place in the discussion.

Necessarily this series could be prepared only through the combined experience and coöperation of the many workers who have contributed to the play movement.

The editors extend thanks and acknowledgment of assistance to these workers for permission to use extracts from their writings and to the members of the Advisory Committee for suggestions, assistance and special articles.

To the various magazines and publishers, who have given permission for reprinting the articles so credited in the book.

To Dr. William W. Hastings for reading manuscript and making suggestions thereon.

To Olmsted Bros., John Bacon Hutchings, Hunt, Eager and Burns, and others for plans of playgrounds and buildings which are incorporated in the book.

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To Miss Bessie D. Stoddart and C. B. Raitt for photographs, plans, descriptions and estimates of Los Angeles playgrounds.

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To the officers and committees of The Playground Association of America and the American Civic Association for permission to reprint extracts from publications, committee reports and other assistance.

To William A. Stecher for photographs of Philadelphia playgrounds and other assistance.

To Dr. Chas. A. Eastman for permission to reprint parts of "Indian Boyhood."

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To Mrs. Charles F. Weller, Madeline McDowell Breckenridge, Dr. Henry S. Curtis, Harry W. Leland and Myron T. Scudder for preparing special articles.

To all of those who have given permission to reprint articles and extracts further acknowledgment of which is made in connection with the articles printed.

On account of the size of the field to be covered we have been obliged to produce this work in two volumes. Volume one will treat of the general philosophy of play and the technique of playground construction, beautification and equipment.

It will also discuss the philosophy and technique of constructive play, or the relation of the child through play to the world of nature and material things. It introduces "Playcraft," the Educational Method of Building Playgrounds.

This system of manual training, in which the children make the things with which they play, will be further developed in a second volume, especially with relation to its practical application to minor play materials. Volume two will also contain a discussion of Playground Administration, Supervision and Operation, including a course in athletic and social activities adapted for playground use.

The authors would appreciate correspondence regarding any points not made clear in this book. Any suggestions or criticisms will be gratefully received.

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