GARDENS AND THEIR MEANING

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Gardens and their meaning by Dora Williams

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DORA WILLIAMS

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PREFACE

The aim of this book is twofold: to show the importance of science in the use of spade and hoe; and to urge that a garden for education may be, not merely in substance but in spirit, a corner of the great world. Protected it certainly should be, but not walled in. Outside and within the garden precincts are at work nearly identical social forces, and the same joys and sorrows. The interchange not only of sympathy but of plans and projects will be frequent. Thus the path between the big and the little world must be free and unrestricted. It will not be a "one-way road"; the gate swings easily in both directions.

It is not to be expected that these suggestions will appeal equally to everybody. There are, in fact, many persons who are satisfied with the schooling that deliberately takes young folks out of real life for a time and then puts them back again. It is hoped, however, that this little volume will make friends among the hosts of parents, teachers, and social workers who are trying to increase community efficiency by giving opportunity for richer life during school years. I shall indeed be content if through words of mine their happy task shall in any way be lightened.

Many have helped, both consciously and unconsciously, in the making of this book. They are indeed so many that, to my regret, in expressing here my gratitude I cannot call each friendly contributor by name.

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There are some, however, to whom I am peculiarly indebted. First among these is Dr. Colin A. Scott, to whom I owe the Social Education note in the book and whose criticisms have been of the greatest value. Dr. David F. Lincoln and Dr. George W. Field have put their time and experience at my service and have generously reviewed the manuscript. Professor Thomas N. Carver of Harvard University, Edward M. Forbush, Massachusetts Board of Agriculture, Loring Underwood, and John Graham Brooks have been so kind as to read critically certain chapters. To Miss Elizabeth Mailman, of the Rice School, Boston, I am deeply grateful for her constant coöperation in the practical work with children.

My acknowledgments would be incomplete without mention of the Education Committee of the Twentieth Century Club, under whose auspices, friendly and financial, probably the first real city garden on this side of the water was started, and of the Boston School Garden Committee, by means of whose stanch support further pioneer work, under the devoted leadership of Miss Anne Withington, was made possible.

My own collection of photographs has been substantially increased through the interest of friends. Among those who have contributed with great generosity, and whom I wish especially to thank, are Miss Elizabeth Hill of Groton, and my friends Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Fullerton of Medford, Long Island.

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