

# **BALANCING COUNTRY LIFE**

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Balancing Country Life by Young Men's Christian Associations

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**YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS**

**BALANCING  
COUNTRY LIFE**



BALANCING COUNTRY LIFE

# Balancing Country Life

*Edited by*

THE COUNTY WORK DEPARTMENT OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE  
OF YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN  
ASSOCIATIONS

UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

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## PREFACE

To make contagious the spiritual motive in the Country Life Movement of North America is one of the tasks to which the Young Men's Christian Association, through its International Committee's County Work Department, addresses itself. The very nation-wide scope of its enterprise reveals continually the need of the various agencies working toward one and the same end, of coming together out of their field of activities to gain a perspective of the whole national movement, and for leaders and workers to get a universal viewpoint and contagious unity of purpose in such a pioneer undertaking as the Country Life Movement of the United States presents.

It is for this reason that the County Work Department of the International Committee, in cooperation with the representatives from Theological Seminaries, Agricultural Colleges, the Religious and Agricultural Press, Federal Council of Churches, the Sunday Schools, the Young Women's Christian Association, National and State Boards of Agriculture and Bureaus of Edu-

cation, and all others which have to do essentially with the human factor of our countryside, undertakes to encourage and foster the conference idea.

This Chicago Country Life Conference held at the La Salle Hotel, Chicago, Ill., October, 25, 1916, was the first of its kind in the North Central Division of the United States. It is the plan of the Committee to continue these conferences as they have been conducted, for the New England and Middle Atlantic Divisions of the United States, for it is only by a sequence of such conferences held annually that real results are achieved toward "organized will and purpose" in the national country life consciousness.

One of the important elements in a constructive program is a careful record of the proceedings and of the various papers presented.

In the discussion of the topic "Balancing Country Life," the contributions under this cover will afford an excellent basis from which to work in the future conferences.

Sincere appreciation is due to those who composed the personnel of the Conference, as well as to the various speakers for their painstaking care to conserve their material and to contribute it to this volume.

*PREFACE*

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We commend the volume to all country life workers, with no idea that this is any conclusive discussion of this important topic, but rather to awaken study and further experimentation with the great host of others in the same field, and in the anticipation of further light which may be brought out in the records of subsequent conferences.