

**SAFEGUARDS FOR
CITY YOUTH AT
WORK AND AT PLAY**

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Safeguards for city youth at work and at play by Louise de Koven Bowen

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LOUISE DE KOVEN BOWEN

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YOUTH

AT WORK AND AT PLAY

BY
LOUISE DE KOVEN BOWEN

WITH A PREFACE
BY
JANE ADDAMS

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TO THE DIRECTORS,
THE SUPERINTENDENT,
THE ATTORNEY AND THE OFFICERS
OF THE JUVENILE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
OF CHICAGO WHO HAVE WORKED SO
UNTIRINGLY FOR THE PROTECTION OF
YOUNG PEOPLE AND WHO HAVE SO LOYALLY
SUPPORTED EVERY EFFORT OF
THEIR PRESIDENT

PREFACE

THE following pages give a graphic description of the sordid and careless conditions under which thousands of young people habitually live, and of the valiant efforts of a small group of citizens to enlist public agencies, state, county and city, to provide at least a minimum of protection.

Although the observations and experiences here recorded are confined to Chicago, the book is perhaps chiefly valuable because of the unforgettable impression it makes upon the mind of the reader that the huge commercial cities of our day exhibit so little concern for the morale of the next generation.

This is perhaps not surprising, when we realize that cities containing millions of people are, after all, so new a thing upon the face of the earth that they are not yet equipped with such fundamentals as park spaces and efficient transportation.

Conscious of this, groups of public-spirited citizens in Chicago and elsewhere have organized City Planning Committees to consider the development of the modern city upon a large scale. They have become convinced that the undirected self-interest of the in-

dividual citizen cannot be counted upon to bring order and beauty out of the mass of hastily planned buildings and haphazard streets. In the same spirit other groups have come to feel the need of a wide-spread agency which should survey the city as a whole in order to study conditions as they affect the morals of the young and to provide adequate public safeguards for the children and youth—in Chicago they number 882,000, a huge city in themselves—whose protection has not yet been considered a matter of civic obligation.

The present disordered situation demonstrates that adequate protection is not secured through the solicitude of parents, the sectional activity of educators, the self-interest of employers nor through the profit-seeking of pleasure purveyors. To consider moral needs from a city wide point of view the Juvenile Protective Association was organized in Chicago. Its prosaic beginnings are somewhat analogous to the City Planning movement which while it does not consist in the regulation of tenement houses and the provisions for sanitary alleys cannot succeed in a city where these have not been obtained nor can it spring out of a public opinion unmindful of them. Although Beauty expressed in architectural order, wide green spaces and gracious water fronts was the final outcome of the City Planning movement, the first appeal