

**EVERYCHILD'S
SERIES. THE
BUILDING OF CITIES**

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Everychild's Series. The Building of Cities by Harlean James

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HARLEAN JAMES

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THE BUILDING OF CITIES



CIVIC CENTER, SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

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THE
BUILDING OF CITIES

BY

HARLEAN JAMES, A.B.

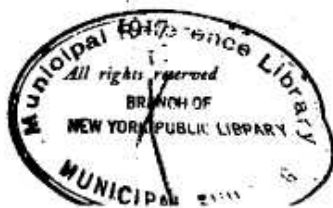
FORMERLY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF WOMEN'S CIVIC
LEAGUE, BALTIMORE

ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHARLES K. STEVENS

City planning

New York

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY



TO EVERY CHILD
KNOW YOUR CITY
AND TRY TO
HELP YOUR CITY

PREFACE

A FEW years ago an ardent civic worker was explaining some local city problem to Miss Zona Gale, the author of the *Friendship Village Stories*. Miss Gale "took up the tale" and told what had really happened.

"Why, how did you know that?" exclaimed the surprised local inhabitant.

"I live in the world," replied Miss Gale. "These things happen in many cities."

The excuse for presenting these conversations about city building is that, under different names and dates, hundreds of cities in the United States must face exactly the same problems. The citizens of St. Paul, Minnesota, need not suffer from the mistakes of the citizens of New York; and the citizens of Baltimore, Maryland, may profit by the achievements of the citizens of Los

Angeles, California. It is not necessary for each city to make its own mistakes in its own way.

There is a tendency for each community to believe that its problems are absolutely local. The footways of Main Street must be widened to accommodate its special shopping crowds; the footways of Canal Street must be narrowed to make room for its special van traffic to railway terminals or shipping wharves. It is not always recognized that every city has a Main Street problem and a Canal Street problem.

When all the boys and girls of our public schools realize that some forty or fifty million people in the United States are facing city problems and that every local problem which may arise has probably been solved in *some* city, we may hope to avoid the deplorable spectacle of seeing a new industrial city repeat mistakes which our older cities made a hundred years ago and, perhaps, rectified twenty-five years ago.