

EDUCATION FOR LIFE

A DANISH PIONEER

by

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TO MY MOTHER

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

"It cannot be explained; it must be experienced," wrote an old student of the Danish Folk High-School; and I realize only too keenly how far my "explanation" falls short even of my own experience of High-School life. Still, I am glad to have this opportunity of recording my gratitude to all the Danish friends who made that experience possible for me—more especially to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Manniche, of the International People's College, Elsinore, and to my kind hosts and hostesses at the Folk High-Schools of Vestbirk and Askov and the Gymnastic High-School of Ollerup. And if my book succeeds in encouraging others to visit the High-Schools for themselves, and thus obtain a better understanding of Grundtvig's ideas and their influence in practical life than they could ever get through books, I shall be satisfied.

It would be impossible to mention here all those in Scandinavia and elsewhere who have helped me with information and advice in the preparation of this book. I must, however, make a special acknowledgment of my indebtedness to the Royal Library of Copenhagen and to Sir John Ballinger and the National Library of Wales for their co-operation in arranging the loan of the Danish books which I required, and also to those whose support has made the publication of the book financially possible—to individual members of my family, and to Mrs. McClenaghan and Dr. Thomas Jones, Mr. Peter Manniche and Mr. Lars Baekhöj, and the World Association for Adult Education. I am also indebted to my husband for his interest, encouragement, and help at almost every stage of the work.

Indirectly, but none the less fundamentally, this book owes much to my countryman, the late Patrick Pearse, whose writings first made vivid for me the ideal of "the school for life," and made me wish to visit Denmark so as to see for myself how the educational principles that inspired St. Enda's had been applied on a national scale in a little country like my own.

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