

play for children in Institutions.

FOREWORD

DURING the past two years it has been my privilege to visit a large number of institutions for the purpose of studying and evaluating the use made in them of play and recreation. This study has taken me into nine states and has included visits to nearly thirty typical children's institutions which provide either custodial or correctional care. In every instance I found that play was being recognized as a valuable aid in understanding the children and in giving them such training as would fit them for the enjoyment of life and for the best contribution they may make to society.

Recently I was asked by the secretary of the State Board of Charities of New York to present the subject of play for children in institutions at a series of five district conferences held in different sections of the state. They were attended by superintendents, officers, staff workers, and board members from 125 institutions that care for a total number of 25,000 children. The material here presented is the result of these conferences and of the discussions and correspondence growing out of them.