

## FEWER "LITTLE SAVAGES."

**Dr. Gulick Would Not Kill Them Off,  
but Give More Play Space.**

*To the Editor of The New York Times:*

Under the heading of "Parents Really to Blame," complaint is made in THE TIMES that children become little savages through continually playing on the street.

Being a parent, I am much interested in both aspects of the subject. The immediate question in my mind is that regarding the rights of children, particularly the rights children have on the streets, their rights in the community which the community is bound to respect. Children have played in streets and lanes since there were streets and lanes. The vacant places in cities and towns have always been appropriated by children for this purpose. Play is as essential to childhood as bread. In our great cities we are appropriating all the vacant places for buildings and traffic. Private grounds are rare, therefore all that is left for the children is the street.

Do you know that last year over 400 children were killed while playing in the streets of New York City?

What are the children to do? Is it a matter of charity or philanthropy, or a question that concerns the city to have 400 children killed in its streets, and innumerable ones, both boys and girls, turned into little savages because they are following the fundamental instinct of their nature by getting active physical exercise out of doors?

Have not the children the fundamental American rights--rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?" If so we have no right to take away their age-long use of the most available out of door place to play--in this case the street--without giving them something equivalent. It is not the fault of the parents that children use the street as a playground. Children cannot play in the average home in New York City; there is no adequate space.

If we allow each child three square yards the small parks and playground space available for children below Fourteenth Street will accommodate at one time just seven per cent. of them. When playgrounds for children are as convenient as saloons for men, perhaps when these same children grow up there will be less need of saloons, and more children will grow up escaping the increasing dangers of traffic and fewer "little savages" will be found.

LUTHER H. GULICK,  
Director Russell Sage Foundation, De-  
partment of Child Hygiene.  
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