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plentiful meal by taking a walk and we went up to the Punchbowl waterfall — maybe a bit tough going for some, but very rewarding at the top.

About 4 p.m. we sat in our cars again and started for home, some making a halt at Lake Pearson and Lake Lyndon. A very enjoyable day indeed; one could only feel sorry for those who couldn't or wouldn't take part! —A.M.

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## **HEDY'S CORNER:**

Last month there was a report on how to start a Play Centre and this time a guideline for forming a Kindergarten is given. Kindergarten projects are nowhere as easy to organise as Play Centres as you will presently see.

### **THE FREE KINDERGARTEN**

A list of at least sixty children's names who would attend has to be compiled. Furthermore there must be public support by prominent citizens and the mayor's co-operation. The Kindergarten Union which is run by the State Department of Education requires that \$4000 be raised by the public to meet the cost of a standard building and initial equipment. A suitable section must also be provided. The Education Department will, however, pay a subsidy of \$2 for each \$1 raised. The maintenance costs are the full responsibility of the Kindergarten Association.

Supervising the children during sessions is a qualified Kindergarten teacher and other helpers approved by the Education Board. Staff consists of two adults for 40 children and three adults for 60 children. Play is organised and children do the same work or play together at set times.

Kindergartens are free but donations are occasionally asked for. Children may enrol between the ages of 3 - 5 years. Free Kindergartens are open five days a week for morning sessions of three hours. They are also open for two afternoons, but do not cater for the same children both morning and afternoon.

From the above you can see that to start a free Kindergarten needs a large number of people, particularly some who are sufficiently in the public eye to be known by other prominent citizens. The money angle is also a hurdle.

In conclusion it seems that Play Centres would be ideal for more sparsely settled rural areas and Kindergarten projects are more likely to succeed in urban districts. In every case it means a worthwhile effort. By the way, you who are second generation settlers in New Zealand might not be aware that the word 'Kindergarten' is bodily lifted from the German language, spelling and all, meaning "children's garden". —R.B.