

F. W.

A 5-FOOT SHELF IN ONE VOLUME

Better Basket Ball - By Dr. Forrest C. "Phog" Allen, director of physical education and professor of basketball at the University of Kansas. (McGraw-Hill); \$2.50.

This is the second trade volume to be authored by that charming paragon of versatility, paradox and protracted youth, who during his nearly generation-long labors there has made lovely Mount Oread the fountainhead of the appalling arcana that embroiders his craft.

His maiden opus, the appearance of which several years ago was widely bruited by admiring sports writers, was aptly titled, "My Basket Ball Bible".

Although his latest work represents a flabbergasting advancement in the intricate mysteries of a pastime that appears to the bleacher observer to be so darned simple, though taxing on the cardiac structure, throughout its 482 pages there is discernible the same good old Homer Rodeheaver evangelistic theme, altered slightly to the tempo of a brisk, crowd-yanking dribble, as was the soul and spirit of his literary firstling.

Maybe It's There

This time Dr. Allen tells his customers everything -- except the ingredients and proportions of the pazzaza that has made his Jayhawker teams practical monopolists of conference championships. I must qualify this statement. Perhaps Dr. Allen does reveal absolutely all, but if this be the case, then the revelations are so diffuse and piecemeal and seemingly unrelated that a lay bloke simply is unable to savvy.

If the secret of Dr. Allen's success cannot be written concisely, like a prescription for the relief of cholera morbus; if a heroic attempt at compression cannot reduce the number of pages below 482, plus necessary index, then to master all that is necessary for successful practice of his trade would require more than a Phi Beta Kappa's lifetime, even in this era of compulsory hygiene and mass intravenous injections.

This of necessity must be laymen's review. I can only survey the outer boundaries. I can only nibble timidly at the edges of the expansive crust.

All This -- and More

These things are plain: To get where he has got, Dr. Allen has made himself considerably more than a dilettante at (1) common kitchen cookery, (2) Dietetics, (3) bonesetting, (4) osteopathy, (5) medicine, (6) oratory of the moonlight-and-roses-and-bloody-shirt school, (7) freestyle religion, (8) showmanship, (9) classroom psychology, (10) practical psychology, (11) mechanical drawing, (12) legerdemain, (13) dry nursing, (14) the Roth memory course, famed in yesteryear; (15) the principles of Dale Carnegie's new hypnotism, (16) hymnology, (17) Eddie Guest poetry, (18) surgery, and (19) basket ball. There are more items, but these will give you a feeble notion of the vast requirements.

These things may not be necessary to mere successful basket ball pedagogy, but it must be kept in mind that Dr. Allen has by no means confined himself to that. Unparalleled though his success has been at teaching this sport, the critic does injustice who calls him a specialist--unless the critic means a specialist-at-almost-all-trades.