

The shower room was not closed and the steam from the shower room in cold weather made the whole gymnasium quarters damp and unhealthy. Therefore, we bricked in the wall, closing off the shower room, and laid tile on the floor and sides of the shower. I am sure that you can imagine what an unhygienic condition we had there before we had the tile. The wet concrete would mould and a fungus growth would develop on the wall, which made it anything but inviting.

The toilets were just at the entrance of the door as you went in. These were moved away and placed in locations that improved conditions immensely. Fans were placed in the swimming pool to draw the steam and moisture to the outside.

Robinson Gymnasium is more quasi-public than any building on the campus. The Oread High School boys use it several hours each week. High school boys and other people not connected with the University are not permitted here, yet unless we exercise eternal vigilance this gymnasium is over-run by itinerants who desire to use some part of it. We encourage our faculty to use it and provide available locker space. On account of the long hours of use it is almost impossible to set up the proper patrol necessary to insure against theft.

You doubtless remember when several prominent Lawrence boys were caught in the meshes of the law when they purloined a great number of watches and money of students of the University who were taking exercise. We have put iron bars over all the windows, because this group would employ a liaison system, one standing in the basement, the other at the head of the stairs, and another one on the outside. When they found that the people were absorbed in a game on the top floor of the gymnasium, the fellow at the top floor would give a signal to the fellow down below. He would walk over to the locker room, pick up some of the garments there, and throw them out the window to the fellow waiting outside. The fellow on the south end of the building would rifle the pockets, then either threw the clothes back or left them there.

I only mention this to show you, Chancellor Lindley, that unless we have permanent construction it is impossible to keep any equipment from the hands of those who desire to appropriate this equipment more than we even desire to keep it. You perhaps will recall that where we now have our basket system the Military Department had their ammunition, guns and revolvers stored. One Christmas week some ten years back thieves got into this room and stole a large number of revolvers, guns and ammunition.

I have never been guilty of recommending any temporary wooden construction, except the large handball courts outside, which you very promptly and appropriately tacked on the name of Mexican box cars. I agree that the description is very appropriate, but so anxious was I to provide play utilities for the students that I thought we might utilize the equipment we had on hand when it was impossible to set them up in concrete. These handball courts, now ten years old, are in a bad state of decay, and I am working on plans with Mr. F. A. Russell to present figures replacing these with concrete construction.