

My Task

Well ,I am looking back over almost eight years in the physical education department at the University and I must ask you to take it from me that my greatest compensations and biggest interests have not been visible ones. Of course to me no field offers richer, broader returns than that of physical education. In fact I shudder and draw a deep breath when I think of the responsibility of my job. To translate the aims of my department into concrete terms is in itself a big and fascinating job. But for my larger interests, look with me beyond these elements and see the shadows and brilliancies of hundreds of personalities. See their ambitions, their human strivings, their willingness to see the inconsistencies of their behavior and to be guided by a friendly hand. To have a small part in this, to be loyal to the intimate contacts with my boys, their friendliness and their confidences; to understand their outbursts of temper over an official's decision and be patient while out of his own judgment he uses that experience to build a philosophy which will help him "stand the gaff" out in the world. To have a letter after the years have passed, from one telling of his job and successful life, from one telling of his failure to be true to the ideals he should have followed; to offer a word of praise to the former, and a word of encouragement to the latter. To have a mother come and say "My boy is doing so well and he wanted you to know" --- These are the greater interests of my job. These are the things that give me a thrill of happiness, that cause a beat in my heart, a smile, a tear for the opportunities I may have missed and a prayer that I may be worthy of my great task.

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