

At the present time this class has 24 members and is in charge of two instructors, which meet the class 5 times per week.

Intramural athletics play a big part in our program. Every boy is given encour-

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Problems of the First Year Teacher
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When I was asked to speak I was given much leeway as to topics about which I might talk--problems which I have encountered and how I met them, how well qualified I felt and other courses I should like to have had. So I have chosen quite an informal combination of all of these.

I understand the desire is to discover what teachers just out in the field feel they lack and how colleges might better prepare them for teaching. My material necessarily is born from my experiences in my teaching situation, but I think is not confined to this situation alone. I have talked with others just out teaching, graduates of various colleges, and find we have many problems in common.

One of our larger handicaps, found predominantly in smaller schools, is the helter-skelter method of choosing the physical education instructor. The job is so often thrust upon any teacher who will accept it and who is not only unqualified to teach physical education, but who definitely considers it a nuisance to handle. Perhaps the teacher has four or more other subjects to teach and actually has not the time to handle physical education efficiently. This unhappy situation is not so much the teacher's fault as that of the administration which allows it to exist. Or, perhaps it is an even larger problem linked with the slow acceptance of physical education as an integral part of the regular curriculum.

One of my largest bones of contention is the near-racket of health certification for participation in gym work.

The health examination primarily consists of a casual stethoscopic examination of the chest to determine any heart or lung disturbances and takes at the best, about three minutes to complete. Then if the girl happens not to want to take gym, because it is too much trouble to shower after participation, or any other such invalid excuse, she can complain of a pain in her right side and receive an excuse from gym work. Many girls have told me how

agoment to participate. An intramural award is given on a point basis. Points are given for competition on teams as well as individual events.

how easy it is to obtain excuses from physical education on the most flimsy of bases.

The girls are not so stupid that they cannot realize how incomplete are the examinations they receive, which leads them to question the necessity of having them at all.

In my school system the situation seems so undesirable that we are planning to form a committee, consisting of the girls' and boys' physical education instructors and the school nurse, to attempt to devise a possible solution to be presented to the administrators.

I wonder how we can inculcate the conception that knowledge of one's physical condition is worthwhile in itself, and leave the question of its being an entrance examination to gym participation out of it entirely?

Since this is one of my more pressing problems I have given it most of my time, but there are a few others I should like to mention. These have to do with phases of my work in which I felt I should like to have had more training.

One of these is some advanced tumbling. Another is a lengthier exposure to G.A.A. activities, perhaps most effectively given in the senior year in college. I feel exceedingly fortunate in having for sports manager of our G.A.A. an unusually competent, dependable girl. I mention sports manager, for I believe the bulk of the work and responsibility of the organization rest upon her.

In closing I make this suggestion to students. We would save ourselves much time and effort if we would absorb a bit more of those correlative things to which we are exposed as students. I give as example, the importance of a thorough understanding of music construction upon which rhythm work is based.

Above talk given at K.H. & P.E.A. Convention at McPherson, March 1939.