

## CO-EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Co-Educational sports fit readily into much of the recreational program. They are excellent for social training. They can be very popular. They should be more widely used.

In most schools, the boys and girls play together and recite together up to and including the sixth grade; thereafter, they recite together. There are many good reasons why boys and girls should have separate physical education classes and separate parts of the playground, but there is no reason why they should not play together occasionally under school supervision. Social ease is important and promoted by acquaintance. The boys can learn consideration in their attitudes toward girls, and the girls can learn sportsmanship in their play relationships with the boys. Many activities lend themselves to joint participation. Points may be given, if desired, in the intramural setup to those who take part. Play days or sports days seem to be the usual method for handling co-education as part of the intramural sports program. Social dancing has played a large role in co-education and, at the present time, it is being accepted as a legitimate activity for the school to sponsor.

Whenever anyone suggests co-educational activities, social dancing is thought of first. This activity is excellent if it is handled properly. In some sections social dancing is a moral issue in the minds of many people, and for that reason the heads of school systems must know their community before introducing social dancing as a curricular activity or even as an extra-curricular activity. About two years ago the newspapers carried accounts of local school turmoil in a fairly large city in the middle west. A woman teacher of physical education was giving free lessons in dancing after school to a group of voluntary pupils. It was necessary to stop the lessons, and dancing became a major issue in the school election.

In the winter of 1936 the physical education teachers of a large high school with an enrollment of 2000 students decided to put the boys' and girls' physical education classes together for social dancing lessons each Friday for a ten-week period during the winter season. The classes were combined and lessons in social dancing were given. From the standpoint of the teachers, the lessons progressed very nicely and the pupils were apparently enthusiastic. But on Monday morning the Superintendent's office called and said, "No more dancing". However, the principal asked the teachers to give lessons after school. This was done and 300 boys and girls were given lessons in the girls' gymnasium. These lessons were considered an intramural activity and each student was credited with participation in social dancing in the spring intramural reports.

At the Oread Training School, University of Kansas, co-educational activities, including folk dancing, have been provided on Fridays during the winter months. Two Fridays were spent in a recreational sports day in which badminton, deck tennis, tether ball, ping pong and free throwing were the activities. Social dancing came in for several lessons and the activities were finished by a reception and tea, at which dancing had a part. Here the students manage the activities and display their abilities to act correctly at social functions.

The University of Kansas has its department of physical education for both men and women in the same building, and co-educational activities have been run in the regular physical education classes for several years. A similar arrangement is found at Springfield, Missouri State Teachers and a number of other