

April 27, 1939.

Mr. W. H. Browne,  
Asst. Director of Athletics,  
University of Nebraska,  
Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dear Brownie:

Your circular letter of April 17 addressed to me and our colleagues in the Big Six has received my attention.

May I state that six years ago the University of Kansas went on an optional basis so far as physical education was concerned. Credit is given for physical education in this way. Instead of 120 hours being required for graduation, 124 hours are required, 4 of which may be physical education. One semester of gym or athletic work gives one hour of credit. It is possible, however, for a student to graduate without taking any physical education, but they are required to take four hours additional of academic subjects over the 120 hours.

So long as we had a required physical education program our remedial work naturally received much impetus; but the crippled or the persons needing physical education now are the very persons who neglect it, and only those who have some development of physical skills will elect the physical education courses.

The answers to your questions 1-6 have already been covered by this last statement. I might say, Harold, that our program was very effective so long as we had compulsory physical education.

We have a department of hospitalization and health here that is very efficient. We have a new quarter-million dollar hospital, the gift of one of our local benefactors, and we have a very fine medical set up. But the students are examined only during their freshman year. There is very close cooperation between our Department of Physical Education and our department of health. For a time it was felt by some administrators that the hospital physician should prescribe treatment in a physical way, but this is impractical. The physician in the hospital is interested in finding difficulties and remedial treatment only for the sick. When it comes to postural defects, it is up to the specialist in physical education to remedy those. The matter of maintaining health should be up to the specialist in physical education.