

men to acquire skills in recreative activities of a nature to be found in military encampments, in order that their lives there may be more varied and tolerable. The college department should also provide opportunities for certain qualified students to acquire skills in the leadership of recreative and athletic activities of a type which are useful in military camps. It is also recommended that as soon as possible the colleges require a four year program of health, physical education and recreation of each student enrolled.

The proposed American Legion program is intended to give leadership, financial support and promotional service to schools and communities in order to elevate the general health and physical welfare of the entire citizenship. This program is organized to operate through a national committee, a national advisory committee and state committees. An advisory committee is to be selected in each state, and in each community, and is to be composed of leaders in the field of health, physical education and recreation, and persons prominent in allied fields of interest, and civic affairs. It is intended that the Legion cooperate with, supplement and provide leadership for already existing programs, lend unified support to tax levies for recreational and health purposes, and otherwise aid in promoting in the community a sound and diversified program.

The American Social Hygiene Association is conducting an intensive and much needed program of activities designed to control social diseases in the vicinity of military encampments. The underworld is already organized to prey upon the newly created citizen army, and every thinking person must be concerned with this problem. The government, as well as local and national welfare organizations, must bend every effort to return these young men to their homes in better health than when they were called to the colors. Through programs of education, enforcement, prophylaxis, recreation, and legislation, the American Social Hygiene Association is assuming this burdensome task. Schools and colleges in the vicinity of military camps can assist by cooperating with local and military authorities in educational and recreational enterprises designed to aid in stamping out social diseases wherever they exist.

In analyzing the provisions of each of the above programs, and in weighing the proposals of other plans under consideration for national preparedness, one is impressed with the eagerness and intelligence with which this problem of health and physical welfare is being attacked. To date, however, the government has shown little interest or encouragement to those engaged in these various important enterprises. If in time to come, the United States succumbs to the attacks of invaders from foreign lands, it will not be because of the failure of educational and civic leaders to foresee the needs of the nation, nor to their failure to propose adequate programs designed to forestall this possibility. Each group, working more or less independently, has arrived at somewhat similar conclusions. If it is possible to state specific trends in general terms, it might be said that these proposed programs agree in the following respects:

The health and physical fitness of men in the present 21 to 35 year age group has probably improved little, if any, over that of a similar group 25 years ago.

An intensified program of physical work and physical education is needed to offset the disadvantages of modern existence.

The amount of time spent in properly organized and conducted programs of school and community health, physical education and recreation should be increased.