

and Life Saving of New York City. I recall the old program of passing numerous persons in the beginners and swimmers test, but this new work you are talking about seems to be much more complete. Go ahead and tell us more of the new set up.

Schlotterbeck        Out of this vast amount of informational material the Red Cross has developed six courses of training for all grades of aquatic skill - beginners swimmers course, intermediate swimmers course, swimmers course, advanced swimmers course, and junior and senior life saving and water safety courses. In this series of courses every man, woman, boy or girl will find something suited to his or her ability and skill that will more adequately train them in coping with experiences arising out of their aquatic activity.

Allphin                But, Mr. Schlotterbeck, why all of this about an activity in which there are only about 7,500 fatalities a year?

Schlotterbeck        That is true, Mr. Allphin, there are only about 7,500 drownings a year. You might be interested to know that since 1914 there has been an almost steady decline in the accidental drowning rate from 10,000 per year to the figure we mentioned. This has come about in spite of the tremendous increase in swimming, boating, fishing and ice skating as recreational pastimes by the people of America. This remarkable record has been made possible only thru the constant efforts of all organizations interested in this field, such as the Red Cross, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Y.M. and Y.W.C.A., and all educational institutions. It has been estimated that 88 million people take part in some form of aquatic sport each year. If we are to continue this fine record and keep down the loss of life and accompanying heartache and financial loss, we must continue to educate these 88 million in how to safely participate in this activity. Education is a slow process and one in which there can be no let up if desired ends are to be achieved. A new slogan of the Red Cross is "Health, Safety and Happiness in Aquatics thru knowledge and skill". Thru its six educational courses the Red Cross hopes to bring to the 88 million people participating in aquatics the knowledge and skill necessary to attain health, safety and happiness.

Allphin                I am attracted by your statement about "knowledge and skill in aquatics". What do you mean by knowledge and skill necessary for safety in swimming?

Schlotterbeck        The knowledge necessary for safety in bathing consists largely in knowing when, where, and how much to swim. Skill for safety is made up of abilities to meet common hazardous conditions which beset the swimmer from time to time. This is the sum and substance of personal safety in the water.

Allphin                Where would you consider to be the safest place for persons to swim?

Schlotterbeck        It can be pointed out that persons should always swim under the watchful eye of a trained and experienced life guard and at places where activity is supervised. This fact is definitely brought out