

Allphin

Yes, I am, Mr. Boyce. There seems to be a difference of opinion as to which type of instruction is the better to give, the private or the group. Individual differences should be taken into consideration. Some children will respond better to the private lessons. The adult usually desires private instruction, because he has a certain amount of embarrassment in letting his friends know that he has not learned earlier in life. I have been asked to speak on group instruction for children and have the following points to present, which I believe have significance: First, Self Testing-- It is always interesting to the novice to see if he can master certain fundamental skills, also if he can perform them a little better next time. If he is able to stay under water for five counts, to find out if he can stay under for ten counts the next swimming lesson. Second, Competition with his neighbor. We all like to excell and beat our competitor. Who doesn't like to win. The Group Instruction offers a great opportunity for competition. Third, Promotes courage. In any group of children we will find a few that will excell; a great number that will be average, and a few that will be backward. This is according to the curve of distribution. This group instruction is especially beneficial for the backward child. To illustrate, let us take "Breath Holding". We have 25 pupils lined up and the instructor gives the command to "~~duck~~" under water. Very few will fail in this fundamental because they do not wish to be singled out by the rest of the group as not having done this particular exercise. Therefore this psychological urge teaches courage. Fourth, Cooperation with the group. This method teaches children to have the desire to help each other in learning some of the fundamental skills of beginning swimming. "Partner Stunts" are included in lessons which have a lasting effect in teaching cooperation. When a backward individual has mastered a certain fundamental, he wins social approval from the rest of the group in the way of applause. Fifth, Friendly associations. Children form friendships in group swimming that last through life. This type of instruction offers a very satisfying companionship, especially to an only child or to children of a family who live in urban homes and who have not had the privilege to mingle with their own age level, except possibly at school. I notice that on Saturday morning you will have a talk on the civic value of community recreation by Mr. Barnard Goodrum, who is recreation supervisor for the Park Board of Wichita. Just what did you have in mind in including this paper on the swimming pool conference program?

Boyce

A great many cities in Kansas fail to realize the civic responsibility and value of planning for the recreational life of the community. We believe that the Park Board of Wichita has done a very constructive piece of work in making definite plans for community recreation. I am sure that Mr. Goodrum's talk will be of interest to many. In our opinion, Mr. Allphin, if it were not for the facilities provided in Lawrence by the University, Lawrence people would probably realize the inadequacy of the play facilities of this city. As fine as our