

time in the actual teaching of techniques and let our intramural program provide the actual practice. Also from the students came the answer to a number of other questions. The experts say that we develop character, teach boys and girls to be good sports, and so forth. Do we do this? One thousand three hundred eighty-three boys and girls in four different high schools answered many questions of this nature. A questionnaire that was very carefully prepared was given these boys and girls and it was composed of forty reasons for taking gymnasium work. These reasons ranged from "the development of a strong heart and lungs" to "getting out of a study hall".

Perry            Were these questions asked directly, such as - why did you take gym?

Lapp            No, an indirect approach was used and the questions read like this - If you were trying to convince your best friend to take gym, which of the following reasons would you use? Do not check any of the statements that you do not believe. The students were not asked to sign their papers so as to leave them free to express their opinions without the fear of their teachers being able to check up. Additional space was given for any reasons not listed. What do students expect to get out of their gymnasium work? Boys expect some rather different things than do the girls. Supposing we put 70% as a passing grade on this study and discuss the items that have a composite rating of 70% or better by the boys and the girls.

Perry            Do you mean that 7 out of every 10 boys and girls voted for these reasons for taking gymnasium classes?

Lapp            Yes, that is the idea, and we find that the boys give 12 reasons and the girls list only 4 items over 70%. The first reason listed for the girls was "to teach you to be a good sport". This item was also listed in the 70% items for the boys but was rated 5th. The girls second most popular reason was "to develop good posture". This was listed as number 9 for the boys. "To teach cooperation by team work in games" was listed 3rd for both the girls and the boys. The girls 4th and last 70% item was "to give you a strong, well-developed body". To the boys "a strong, well-developed body" was listed in the 2nd position. Dad, this supports your idea about the boys being willing to work to take care of their physical strength. The other 70% reasons for the boys not previously mentioned are: listed first, "to develop a strong heart and good lungs"; listed fourth, "to build up your resistance to disease".

Perry            Your influenza study mentioned in last week's broadcast would bear out this reason.

Lapp            Yes, it looks as if that were true. "To give you muscular coordination" was 6th; 7th was "to help you get in good condition physically"; 8th "to correct some of your physical defects"; 10th "to help you to become healthier"; 11th "to teach you to play the game and thus be better able to stand the gaff of later life"; and 12th "to teach you good physical habits."