

desk bearing notes from mother - "Please excuse Johnny from showers today as he has not been feeling well." In addition to the parade of excuses for showers, my absence list was from 4 to 6 times as long as under ordinary conditions. It had me worried.

Mr. Perry Pardon me, Doctor, what type of class work were you doing at this time? You know that might have had something to do with the situation.

Dr. Lapp Well, Dad, that added to my worry, as we were doing heavy apparatus work at the time, and the students were really getting a workout. It looked to me as though I might be responsible for some of the absences by having these students do hard work and then taking a shower.

Mr. Perry I believe if they wipe dry it won't hurt them.

Dr. Lapp That was my idea, but a group of boys in a hurry often slight the part of the shower about wiping dry and getting the hair wet just before going outside. The situation looked bad, and I made up my mind to see if I was causing the trouble. The principal, D. H. Holloway, gave permission for me to make a study. I wanted to see if the same absence rate prevailed among the boys not taking daily physical education classes. Two lists were made; first, all the boys taking daily gymnasium classes, 307 in number; and second, a list of an equal number of boys not in physical education. The next step was to check the absences from school during the three weeks when the influenza was at its worst. After the absences were recorded, it was a simple thing to add the totals and see which group were absent the most.

Mr. Perry Just a moment, Doc. We have a group of people who are sick or injured and have doctor's excuses from physical education for the entire year. It would not be fair to have this handicapped group included with those not taking physical education.

Dr. Lapp I am glad you suggested that point. It was taken care of by having the school nurse check the second list. All the doctor's excuses were filed in her office and she cut off all the persons excused. We then added more students until the second list equalled the number in the first list. After completing the addition of the absences we found a total of 474 days absent from school for the group taking daily exercise, and 600 days absent from the non-exercise group. A difference of 126 days of extra school work was available for those in the exercise group.

Mr. Perry That all sounds very good, but it seems to me that if you were to try this again you might get a different answer.

Dr. Lapp That is entirely true, but the mathematicians have developed a branch of statistics called methods of samp-