

Now, Dr. Allen, do you blame me for getting a glow from reading letters like these? To me the zest stimulating these quotations is the best kind of reward for all the time, work and patience that goes into the profession of teaching. But I'm monopolizing all the time. I happen to know that the men's department sent out some majors last year. I've already had a heartwarming conversation with Maurice Cannady about his work in the Junior high school right here in Lawrence. Why don't you give us an idea of Maurice's feeling on the subject of being a physical education teacher?

Dr. Allen

Well, Miss Dunkel, I might say that Maurice Cannady has all of the concomitants of the successful teacher. While Maurice is a very promising athletic coach, yet his paramount interest centers in his young charges. He stresses physical cleanliness to them, emphasizing that the term 'well-groomed' means clean hands, skin, teeth, hair, nails and feet. You know he calls dirty fingernails 'mourning bands' because of the possible infection that they might carry. He also calls the boys' attention to the fact that it was the athlete who taught America to take a bath daily instead of one every Saturday night. He knows that if the memory and imagination are kept clean, morale strikes a new high.

And then there's Forrest "Frosty" Hardacre, last year's varsity football and track star, who is coaching and teaching at Ness City, Kansas. "Frosty" was a physical education major, a hail-fellow-well-met, with enthusiasm, personality and leadership which will carry him a long way. "Frosty" likes his work immensely. He, of course, wants to know all about the football team and about the gang in the Physical Education Department. When a graduate leaves his alma mater he often learns a new meaning of his loyalty for that institution.

Miss Dunkel

Hearing these letters again puts me in that mood of reflection I mentioned when we started talking. I'm impressed with the fact that not one of these tyro teachers mentioned liking her or his job because of the salary check. There were no gibes of resentment, either. I've heard teachers say things like, "Gosh, these brats. I get so sick of herding them that I can't stand the thought of them after the last bell rings." Secondly, there were no complaints about the burdens of extra-curricular duties, but instead an enthusiastic acceptance of every opportunity to be of service to the children, the school and the community. There was no fussing over administration or the local situation. And the next point which I want to bring home is that these young teachers are not only teaching the physical skills and knowledges of physical education, but they are assuming the responsibilities of nurse, health advisor, recreation director, spiritual advisor, club sponsor, entertainment director, and mother confessor.