

Allen: Well, Dean Lawson, I should say that the new education recognizes physical education and undertakes to educate the whole-child-in-his-environment by turning to physical education with the recognition that it has great opportunities to be educationally superior to the old traditional academic curriculum. Whether it is or not depends on the insight and understanding of our profession in seeing the areas of educational superiority in our program. Physical education is an activity program. It is made of the stuff of child interests and purposes: play, rhythm, individual stunts, camping, canoeing, dramatic play and pageants. The leaders can see and answer the child's perplexities and fears about himself: how to be attractive, how to make friends, how to dance, how to act at parties, how to have a good complexion, how to gain and to lose weight -- these are all problems that are answered by an efficient recreation engineer. Further, I might add that it recognizes the whole child and his environment as a unit in behavior (feeling, physiology, motor skills, values) - is in a game reacting to others in that game and the pattern of the game itself.

Lawson: Then your idea of this type of program is that the emphasis is placed on being happy and enjoying one's self and in developing not only powers, but in enlarging the areas of individual and social enjoyment. In short, do you feel that modern physical education will make not only better bodies, but happier and better lives which will be enriched in personal living and fit more efficiently and happily into everyday life?

Allen: Yes, that is true, Dean Lawson. Physical education is, in the main, led by young, vigorous, attractive people who are themselves active and happy individuals. It has large units of experience to offer the child, such as play days, pageants, dance dramas, winter sports, carnivals, May days, camping and outing trips, in which much more than a skill is involved as an outcome. It is related to a growing social philosophy that play is part of the good life and should be made available for all people.

Lawson: But, Dr. Allen, are coaches or those in charge of physical education in high schools and colleges really concerned about a physical education program in which students participate because they like to play for the fun of it or for the physical gains involved, or are they thinking solely about building winning teams or teams which show up well in competition? Are they concerned with or interested in the all-round education of students?

Allen: Look at the trend during the past 25 years. Now the coaches are getting into the spirit of teaching, and all coaches will soon be teachers and we shall not have just the highly specialized coach (unless it would be in the universities), but in the high school the coaches will take part in academics because they will be educators. They will be teachers utilizing their personality and prowess in teaching youth, rather than thinking only in terms of coaching competitive teams.