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PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR HEALTH

"THE ELIXIR OF HOMECOMING"
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Homecoming --- coming home, with all of its fulsome expectancies and durable satisfactions, is flush upon us. Our forefathers enjoyed turkey and cranberries in Puritanical ovens, but in this region our native American offspring prefer Jayhawks and Tigers served on an outdoor gridiron on this great ingathering day. The great maternal heart of alma mater annually welcomes her children back to the scenes of the best four years of their lives. True, she has temporarily banished from her academic Garden of Eden atop of Mt. Oread these graduate youngsters whom she forced out into the world to develop themselves. But they always want to come back, armoured with eternal youth, protesting "the fallacy that the world is old". Their everlasting dream is to secure a competence that will enable them to return to Lawrence in the foothills of Mt. Oread and there spend the rest of their existence.

Ye oldtimers returning for this festive Homecoming are desirous of feeling again the old thrill, or at least catching a glimpse of that fading glory and enthusiasm that was once yours when you trod the paths of the campus which you regard with particular affection.

This Homecoming is always a mental elixir. It is indelibly hooked up with those four years of undergraduate study. The late President Hyde, of Bowdoin College, once outlined for us the aims of the American arts college. May I repeat them for you:

"To be at home in all lands and ages, to count Nature a familiar acquaintance, and Art an intimate friend; to gain a standard for the appreciation of other men's work and the criticism of your own; to carry the keys of the world's library in your pocket, and feel its resources behind you in whatever task you undertake; to make hosts of friends among the men of your own age who are to be leaders in all walks of life; to lose yourself in generous enthusiasms and cooperate with others for common ends; to learn manners from students who are gentlemen, and form character under professors who are Christians, this is the offer of the college for the best four years of your life."

Just ten years ago Augustus C. Thomas, president of the World Federation of the Education Association, saw in the development of the sporting bloods of people the element of breaking down of national jealousies and racial hatreds. He said, in part:

"Sporting blood is the most common blood of the human race and should be utilized in bringing about international understandings and in relieving national jealousies and race hatreds. . . We seldom have trouble with a good sportsman. It is a trait worth cultivating. The sporting element is closely allied to the social side of life. We need to cultivate each other in clearing away misunderstandings. Misunderstandings cause hatreds and hatreds cause war. War, therefore, becomes an intellectual problem. Our schools can do more than any other influence to break down the wall of prejudice. The sporting sense should be developed. It is the wooden horse by means of which we can break into the walled city of human hatreds. It will strip the mask of deceit from the face of racial and national jealousies."