

(3) Collectivistic Complex. The third trend observed is in the direction of impersonalization. In an essentially individualistic society like ours the seeds of collectivism have little chance to germinate and still less chance to grow and flower. Paradoxically, however, democracy has infused into our individualistic beliefs the idea of "general welfare." Gradually and imperceptibly the rugged individual has adopted a new code which insists on fair play, equal opportunities, social responsibilities, common good, cooperative enterprise, etc. Physical education has caught this contagion. Whereas individual exhibitionism, personal skill, private benefits to the performing person were the aim in the past, today a sort of functionalism within the social structure seems to prevail. The ultimate benefits derived are not only for the person who engages in recreational activities, but also for those who come into contact with the performer directly or indirectly. While the individual football player derives personal benefits, the team as a collective unit functions in behalf of a larger collectivity -- the public. Like our economic system, mass recreation has introduced impersonality into human relationships. Individuality is not eliminated, but a new functional relationship between the individual and the group has entered into the situation. The cry is for the college, for the team, for the division, for the country, and not for the individual performer as such. The performer has taken the role of becoming an interpreter for his group. The skills acquired are used as means of interpreting for the public an end which transcends personal aims. Daily practices of a ballet dancer are meaningless unless she interprets a walse, a tango, or a jig through her physical acquisition. A wrestler's ox-like sinews are meaningless unless he grapples with his opponent in accordance with the roles approved by his spectators. It is the public, it is the