

The real issue now is whether the colleges will seize this opportunity, the like of which will never come again, to accept frankly and courageously, with all that its obligations imply, the entire task of the physical and moral education of its students, or whether it will by preference choose the easier way, relapse into the old modes of life, and turn over to agencies, at best but partially under its control, the supervision of the more conspicuous part of its games and sports.

Why should the colleges be less intelligent in all this matter than the War Department, that familiar object of popular objurgation? In its effort to build a great modern army, the latter came early to recognize that men must not only be hardened and trained in the ordinary routine of the soldier, but that they must also be given wholesome recreation which should contribute directly to their physical vigor and their *morale*. And so we have had that splendid chapter in the development of man power of which we are hearing something to-day, whose success was so intimately linked with the cultivation of group games and athletic sports of all sorts in the camps. The work has in many instances been successful quite beyond any reasonable expectation, and it will redound to our lasting disgrace if we do not learn many useful lessons from it, both for our collegiate athletics and for our general program of national physical education.

It was something of a shock to our national complacency to learn that upwards of 30 per cent of our young men were physically unfit for service with the army; and although the official figures for the colleges have not yet come to hand, in the instances passing under my personal notice the percentage of rejections was about twenty, indicating that even in this highly selected group, enjoying most of the benefits of good family care and educational supervision, the proportion of physically subnormal was distressingly large. To be sure, an examination of the grounds of rejection makes it obvious that many of the defects are of a kind relatively unimportant in the ordinary pursuits of peace, e.g., slightly defective sight and hearing, bad teeth, and the like. Moreover, the American army standard is in some particulars perhaps more rigid than is justified by the actual conditions in many branches of the service. Nevertheless, if the colleges had really been on the job in the ten years preceding the war, these percentages of rejections would have been greatly reduced, and we shall fall short of our national obligations if we do not promptly set about the rectifying of these conditions.

I should be the last to arrogate to myself any competency to prescribe the particular devices necessary to secure the results which seem to me so essential, nor have I any great faith in the availability of any single mode of procedure. I think the great