

report is substantially true. In fact those of us who know something about athletics realize further that it is very moderate in its statement. There have been many defences published in various alumni magazines, but none that I have read does more than pick at some petty details without facing the great problem. Let us assume then that it is true and moderate, and that it reveals but a portion of the scandals of our athletic life.

The question before us is what are we going to do about it. Football, of course, is the main concern. Football has grown from simple things into such vast proportions. President Britt in the *Knox Alumnus* quotes from a Knox publication of the eighties: "Last night a football meeting was held in old Main. It was decided to attempt to organize a team. At the close of the meeting a collection was taken up for the purpose of buying a football." From such small beginnings, we have with us now the highly-paid coach, well-trained teams, in many cases partly professional, huge stadia, where on Saturdays of autumn great crowds come for holiday entertainment. Large sums of money are taken at the gate, and a great deal spent upon the training, equipment, and travel of the participating athletes. It has grown like a sapling a man has planted close to his house, which he suddenly finds a huge overshadowing elm, that shuts out the light from his dwelling. He stands looking at the great tree in perplexity. It has a fine strong trunk, great roots, spreading branches, and healthy foliage. But the great tree makes his house both dark and damp. The tree is in itself both good and beautiful. What shall he do about it? Shall he attempt to destroy it root and branch? Or merely prune and lop off some of the branches in the hope that the sun's rays may shine through? He cannot understand how the tree has grown so fast; the sapling was so slender at first. The great tree planted for ornamentation and healthful shade has become a menace to his dwelling place.

We today are in exactly the position of the man standing before the great tree, the tree being, of course, Organized Athletics. For on the whole I believe, as you all do, that athletics are essentially sound, and that they have only darkened and dampened our academic dwellings because we have allowed the tree to grow through the years without the care of the pruning hook. What shall we do with this great tree? Shall we cut it down and burn it? Shall we attempt to lop off branches? Or