

There are two situations in the life into which the college graduate is to go that justify some of my beliefs as to what a college should do to be athletically effective. And the first of these is the leisure time problem in present day America. With the working day and the working week constantly contracting it becomes more and more evident that the future welfare of America is as much dependent upon our use of leisure hours as our use of working hours. Nations before us have started their downward course when the craze for degenerating amusement led to softness and decay. Only that man is truly equipped for life who has within himself resources for filling his leisure hours with stimulating things; who does not have to have someone to amuse him; who is above the necessity for commercialized recreation. The college which sends the largest proportion of its students out with the desire and the skill to play is doing a real educational job.

Again, the international situation is increasingly critical. Peace will only be maintained by friendships, by mingling of men of different nations in mutually interesting things. Sport is one of the great common meeting grounds. The Olympics have far more significance than mere athletic competition. Many international misunderstandings have been smoothed out on the Saint Andrews Links. True sportsmen of whatever nation understand each other, and in politics as on the field, will play the game fairly. The American College does not need less athletics but more; more from the standpoint of general participation, of high sportsmanship, of real courage. And she needs this because the future welfare of our nation rests so largely on her use of leisure time and on her wise and sympathetic handling of international affairs.

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