

and their presidents have either yielded acquiescence, or voiced mild and generally ineffective protest.

Now that the war has wiped the slate clean, for a year or two we have had only a shadow of the former conditions. No one has particularly cared who won a football game, if, indeed, it were played, and only a handful have turned out to watch it. It will be a grisly shame if with the close of the war we allow ourselves to relapse into the old conditions without an honest attempt to take stock, and a sincere effort to delete whatever was dominantly evil in the old system, while we develop energetically whatever was good and add thereto advantages that the old system never did contain. Let us first, then, hazard a few estimates of the good and bad features of the old times. This will carry us over familiar ground, but it will at least refresh our minds with some of the important issues. It will, of course, be understood that no such estimate can be equally applicable to all institutions, or even to all sections of the country. But certain familiar phases of the situation as a whole are capable of characterization, and first let us speak of the good.

Undoubtedly many men gained a wholesome discipline from the training. A yellow streak was sometimes erased and physical courage was often developed in high degree. Certain forms of self-restraint were commonly imposed, and in many instances there was developed a fine sense of self-sacrifice for the college and the team which registered a real moral development in the men. The taboo upon overt dissipation during the training season is often dwelt upon as an unequivocal asset. Presumably it is so during the season, but conditions at the close of the season and thereafter have often left much to be desired, so that this benefit can hardly be entered without qualification. The evidence that these habits of restraint necessarily pass over into permanent moral attitudes is unhappily very dubious.

Unquestionably a good many men received direct physical benefit from the training, although for the most part our college teams have been selected from men who needed very little training.

Athletics have in many of the large universities served to create and foster an institutional solidarity afforded in like degree by no other agency. To some it may seem a humiliating admission, but it is certainly the fact that athletics have in many institutions constituted practically the only bond of common interest. Similarly, they have served to develop alumni interest and loyalty out of all proportion to any or all other means. Nor have college presidents and trustees been hesitant to exploit this fact. Even state universities have found a successful football team an admirable argument in the state legislature. *En passant* it may be repeated that the common belief that successful teams mean large increases of student enrolment finds no substantial