

#### RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EDUCATOR:

What, then, shall we say is the part played by athletics in education? It is exactly the part played by athletics in the boy's life. And here is it true that as one thinketh in his heart, so is he and so even stronger does he become? Do those who have to do with athletics use athletics to help the boys think, ever better and more defensibly about life and athletics and the part of athletics in life? If not, they are failing in their moral duty as educators and are likely miseducating these boys. Do they say in defense that they are coaches and as such have to teach boys and girls how to play the game that morals and life and thinking lie outside of their jobs? If so, they are like the man told of recently in the papers who practised shooting his rifle at a target hung in his New York apartment house window. He was practising shooting; it was nothing to him that the bullets shot up the people in the apartment across the court. But the law holds each one responsible for all the foreseeable consequences of his acts. This man should have thought, if coaches can reasonably foresee consequences to morals - and they can - then they are as morally responsible for all these consequences as was this man for his bullets. They can no more shut their eyes to these moral results than could this man ignore what his bullets did.

This is the essence of education, that the whole personality is affected by all that one does. And education is responsible for all the effects so far as they can be discovered and controlled. The obligation, too, is on all concerned: On the superintendent of schools and on the principal of the school as to how they see athletics. On the citizens and newspapermen and how they use their influence. On the principal and teachers as to what kind of school spirit they try to build. On the coaches and on those who train coaches as to what ideals they actually uphold and what practices they advocate. On the boys and girls as whether they think and do the best they can.

#### SOME PERTINENT QUESTIONS:

What now about health, and integration of personality, and the better thinking? Keep in mind that all these are for making life better to life as we face the ever new and shifting scene that life presents. All who are concerned with directing education - principal, coach and all - should ask themselves: Are we considering all the children under our care as we provide and encourage athletics, or are we concerned only with a few? As we provide public contests, are we really seeking defensible educational effects or are we simply putting on a popular show irrespective of educative effects? When ~~we~~ we do have contests, do we put all the responsibility on the boys that they can educatively carry, or do the coaches take so much on themselves that the boys' education is sacrificed to victory and to the reputation of the coach? Do we remember that always the whole child, the whole boy, is involved and that always we are building not only body but mind and morals as well? Do we in season and out, work always for the fullest, feasible consideration by the boys and girls of what they are about, that they may choose wisely what they will play and when and how, so that they ever grow in seeking and obeying the best insight they can get?

If we can answer these questions satisfactorily we are - in my judgment - giving athletics their proper place in modern education.