

With the colleges honestly committed to ideals of the type we have described, with high-minded, intelligent, and specially trained men at the head of their departments of physical education, one could with good conscience leave to the future the question whether or not intercollegiate athletics can be conducted so as to leave an unequivocal balance of good or evil, or whether we must recognize once and for all that under American conditions we must content ourselves with intramural sports, if we are to escape moral and social disaster, both for our students and for our institutional relations.

I would, then, repeat with all the energy which I can command that the great issue seems to me fundamentally one of principles, that the really basic one is the readiness of the college to accept full responsibility for the entire education of its students, and that only subordinate to this is the importance of its recognition that, as heretofore conducted, many of the features of our athletic system have been not only disastrous for the man who competed, but that their reflex effect on the great mass of the student body has been lamentable to a degree. With the prestige which the American college at the moment enjoys by reason of the remarkable contribution to leadership which its students and faculties have made during the war, the opportunity is presented to start anew upon a far higher level than before in the attainment of ideals which for the most part need, I believe, only to be formulated in order to gain cordial support.