

IS THERE A PLACE FOR ATHLETICS AT THE ARMOUR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY?

In a certain technical college the story is told that an athlete went to one of his Professors and asked for an extension of time for some reports in a particular course. The student in question had just returned from a trip on which he had played in several games. Previous to this trip he had been handicapped on account of injuries. The student did not ask that his reports be less in number than any one else. He simply requested more time. The Professor refused the request and to give the student his "money's worth" added "that athletics had no place in a Technical College."

I have been asked to give my views on this particular subject. Let me say at the beginning that I am for athletics in any college, and more especially technical colleges, without any reservations. There is no body of undergraduate students "harder worked" than those in a technical school. If a young man is to absorb what he is being taught, it is only through the medium of a sound and healthy body. I have students in my classes every day who are stale from work and who take no exercise either because they take no interest in athletics, or more often because of lack of time or incentive. Give a boy or a man a good daily workout in some form of exercise, suited to his age and condition, and he will accomplish more in one hour of intensive study with a clear head than he would in three hours without the exercise.

Again, is it not the ambition of most red-blooded American boys to be a member of one of his college teams, to uphold its honor, and help make its athletic history? For say what you will, the college traditions center very largely around its athletic activities. Strange as it may seem, an educational institution is just as often known by its athletics as by its educational standards. It is surely a false standard, when our best American Universities and Colleges are measured by their athletic prowess, but such a condition exists and must be faced. If people can not hear us in terms of scholarship and educational standards alone, then let us call their attention to us in athletics as well.

I firmly believe that every faculty member has the students' interests at heart. He is constantly finding things that he wishes he had been taught as a student. He makes up his mind that his students must not be handicapped as he was, and soon he has prescribed so much work that there is no time left for athletics. He is sincere in his efforts to give his classes the best. But there is a human limit surely. Give the students healthy bodies and active minds by allowing recreations in the various forms, such as participation in games, or as a cheering spectator, etc., along with the maximum amount of work that he can absorb. Then when these men leave us to take an active part in the every-day problems of life, they have the very best equipment that he can possibly give them.

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INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY? YES.

BY PROF. CHARLES W. LEIGH