

Too Much Attention on Athletics

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One of the greatest problems confronting parents of school children today is that too much attention is given to athletics and other tomfoolery in our schools and not enough to the educational training of the child. Whether these have substantial foundation or not, they do merit our consideration.

There are individual instances where the "Athletic Coach" receives a salary almost equal to that of the superintendent of schools and where he is regarded almost as an important personage. Parents ought to awaken and realize we are paying out money for the educational part of our children and in turn they are receiving things not necessary to that advantage at all. Things seem to be drifting away from a good, sound education. For instance, the school books of today lack the real educational training they had ten or twenty years ago, drifting little by little to less importance on education. Education is what we send our child to school for and it should receive first place.

Then if he or she needs to perform in an athletic culture, or needs a little recreation, let it be before and after the hours of school. Those who walk to and from school get plenty and those that don't walk, could find time for exercise, providing they want it, by performing different kinds of labor home before and after school, such as sweeping, dusting, washing dishes, making beds, milking cows, doing out of door chores, etc. There are hundreds of ways of obtaining it if necessarily needed. We want our present generation to assume a good education, not athletics, for they will be responsible for the coming generation and we are constantly being reminded that the work of

the future will be more exacting in its demands, than is that of our day, and that the necessity for better education will increase with each generation and how are these demands going to be met if the schools give more attention to athletics than education? It is not only the city schools in which these complaints are made, but the country and village schools are also coming in for their share of criticism.

In lots of instances a scholar will shrink in the class room, but if he or she is skilled in athletics, they will be given grades which they never earned, just in order to keep the athletic side in maximum strength.

This is an abuse of the legitimate department of the school activities, which should not be tolerated under any circumstances, and should be given a careful and conscientious attention on the part of the educators. This revolves itself into the question, "whether the things of first importance in school work, shall be given first place, or be superseded by those of minor importance." This fact is required for parents to look into, and see that first things are given first place.

The fact is parents take too little, interest, in what the school is doing for their children.

This article was written anonymously to the Continental News Review in 1927. Isn't it amazing that so many of the concerns listed by this author are still concerns today?