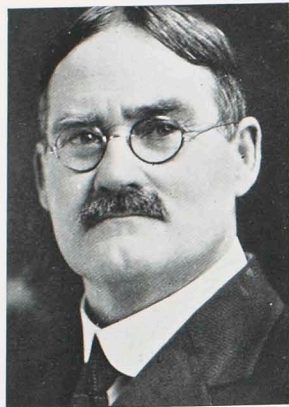


EN GARDE!



Dr. Naismith

THE clash of steel against steel, sounds of quick footwork, cries of triumph, sudden, startled grunts are the varied noises that greets one as he steps into the Robinson gymnasium during the afternoon. He sees a number of people whose faces are covered with black screen masks dancing wildly about attempting to poke swords into each

other's bodies. However, a closer inspection reveals that all is not such a senseless bedlam. He observes that they are divided into pairs and are fighting it out with each other. He watches the lightning-like movement of their swords, and marvels at the speed. He sees one man lunge forward in a sudden attempt to stick his opponent in the chest. But his opponent is too quick for him, and with a deft turn of the wrist wards off the blade so that it passes harmlessly by his shoulder. He wonders if the blade would pierce hide. Then he notes that each point is wrapped with tape, making it blunt. There must be a world of fun in this game, he thinks.

The colorful sport of fencing was introduced into the University by Doctor Naismith in 1898. He came here at that date from Springfield, Illinois, where he had become proficient in swordsmanship. With him he brought foils, masks, chest guards, and other necessary equipment in the hope that fencing would be received with interest on the campus. The sport found a ready interest here. It was given brisk attention for several months and many students engaged in it. Finally, the novelty wore off and enthusiasm slowly began to wane. The majority of those who had shown promise with the foil chose other means of recreation. Several years elapsed with little or no interest in the pastime.

Shortly after the turn of the century Major Bordeck came to the University and was placed in command of the R.O.T.C. He had spent many years at Annapolis and there had mastered the sport while on the fencing team. Working with Dr. Naismith, he inspired interest among those engaged in the R.O.T.C. work. However, zeal for the sport failed to spread throughout the University, and eventually interest again declined. After Major Bordeck's departure fencing saw very little activity, although at intermittent periods it was partially revived.

Through Dr. Naismith's influence, a fencing club was started in 1928 with the idea of attracting more

Fencing is gaining wide popularity here after a lapse following its introduction by Dr. Naismith in 1898.

By BILL GRANT

students to this amusement. The idea failed to gather momentum and the club received only meager attention until Melvin Douglass came and reanimated the sport from its long period of languor. He was a student on the Hill, and well informed on all phases of fencing. With Dr. Naismith, he instituted a new system in the fencing club that is still in effect. The club was divided into three classes: the page, the squire, and the knight. The students were required to show some ability before being admitted to the club. Then from stage to stage — from page to squire, and eventually to knight — they advanced in accordance with their increasing aptitude. Advancement to a higher class was attained through a rather rigorous examination conducted by Dr. Naismith, one of his assistants, and several of the club members whose skill was regarded highly among the fencers. When a club member graduated from page to squire he was recognized by being awarded an emblem which he could wear on his sweater if he chose. If a squire passed the examinations entitling him to be a knight, he received a small gold pin in addition to the prestige that this class would always offer.

A year after Melvin Douglass left, a new fencer appeared on the scene. His name was Paul Raport and working together he and Dr. Naismith kept enthusiasm for the sport alive. Rapoport worked effectively in the fencing club and contributed much to the organization. At that time, because of the more than ordinary attention given to fencing, the sport was added to the gymnastic curriculum. Paul's brother, Jim Raport, came replacing him. Jim Raport had energetic and aggressive characteristics, and because of these qualities he aroused even more interest in this recreation. Acting as Dr. Naismith's lieutenant, he divided the enrollment and began instructing in the sport. Under a new plan when a student had completed a semester of this work under one or the other of the two teachers, he would, if he had exhibited sufficient promise, be recommended by either Dr. Naismith or Raport for admittance in the fencing club. Then, if he passed successfully the examination conducted by several of the squires and knights, he would become a full-fledged member.

Proceeding on an excellent idea, Raport began the development of a fencing team. Acting as coach, he selected men for his team from the fencing club.

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OUTSTANDING TEACHERS

who have helped make Kansas famous

By FRED LITTOOY

ments was the reorganization of the *Kansan* as a regular news weekly on the same general principles followed at the present.

Born at Kent, New York, on September 16, 1862, he received his A. B. degree from Princeton in 1888 and held a fellowship in 1889. The enterprising Princetonian then came to Kansas University, working his way as an organist while further pursuing his studies. He was awarded his A. M. degree here in 1890 and his Ph. D. in 1894.

One of a group which met in Chicago in 1911 and founded the National Council of Teachers of English and the *English Journal*, he returned to Kansas and organized the Kansas Association of Teachers of English of which he was the first president. Further, he instigated the publication of the *Kansas English Bulletin*. Never content to remain inactive, he originated the Quill Club, which, in 1911, was nationalized and now exists as the American College Quill Club.

As regards his feelings on completing a teaching career of 47 years duration, Professor Hopkins said, "If after all these years I dared call myself a teacher, I should feel that I had reached the end of my highest ambition. I have enough unfinished work on hand to keep me busy another lifetime." It is because of such men as this that progress has been so evident in the University's history.

* * *

"I want to leave the world a better place than I found it." This, in essence, is the motto adopted by Dr. James Naismith at the beginning of his teaching career, and is typical of the man who is probably the most widely-known character Kansas University has ever possessed. In October, 1891, while an instructor of physical education at Springfield College, he invented a sporting classic . . . basketball.

Since that time, Dr. Naismith has grown to enjoy a universal prominence, not only because he is the father of one of our most popular sports, but also because of his admirable personal characteristics.

A foreigner by birth, he was born in Almont, Canada, in 1861. From 1887-1890, he attended the Presbyterian College Seminary at Montreal, Canada. Moving next to Springfield College, he left there in 1891 in favor of the medical school at Denver, Colorado. While there, he was awarded his Doctor's and Master's degrees. He came to Kansas in 1898 as a professor of physical education.

Married in 1894, he is the father of five children and twelve grandchildren. On the fourth day of last March,

he was bereft of his wife, who died after a critical illness.

During the World War, Dr. Naismith served as a Y.M.C.A. physical education worker in social hygiene in France. An ordained member of the Presbyterian church, he said, "The reason I left the ministry was that I felt that there was an opportunity to use athletics for the betterment of humanity."

Perhaps the highlight of his brilliant career came when he and his wife were sent to the Olympic games last summer through collections donated by American basketball fans in appreciation of the sport he fathered. While in Berlin, he was elected honorary president of the International Federation of Basketball Leagues; a fitting tribute to a worthy recipient.

* * *

In Dr. William L. Burdick, the University loses not only a professor of law, but also the Dean of the School of Law and the vice-president of the University. His public activities and editing of books have made him invaluable in practice as well as theory.

Dean Burdick was born in East Greenwich, Rhode Island, March 22, 1860, and educated in the public schools of that city.

After receiving his A. B. and M. A. degrees from Wesleyan University in Connecticut, he gained his Ph. D. from Chattanooga in 1884. It was in 1898 from Yale University that he obtained his LL. B. Prior to this time, he had served as principal of Fargo College in North Dakota and as an instructor at the University of Colorado.

In 1898 he came to Kansas, where he has served as professor of law and as vice-president of the University since 1916. Appointed acting Dean of the Law School in September, 1934, he became the head on May 6, 1935.

The public offices he has at some time or other occupied are many. Commissioner of Uniform State Laws, Civil Service Commissioner of Kansas, reviser of United States Statutes, a duty which he performs annually, are only a few of the more important services he has rendered to his state and country. He has also published several books on such legal subjects as real property, domestic relations, and sales.

In June, 1932, Dr. Burdick and his wife started on a trip around the world, in the course of which he visited law schools and courts of twenty foreign countries in a year's time. Truly, a man of the world!

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A mere youngster of twenty-seven year's acquaintance with the school as a teacher is Victor E.

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