



A Petition to Play

by Ruth Sawin

WITH the burning of Margaret Hall on April 9, Iowa State College lost in addition to a dormitory and a historical landmark, the home of the Women's Physical Education Department. In the division of Home Economics, the Physical Education Department is organized not only to teach women skills in the various sports, but to help them enjoy recreation which can be carried over into their lives after college.

Miss Winifred Tilden, head of the department since its beginning, believes that the function of her department should be to enable women who are technically trained and who will in all probability be in technical jobs, to learn to enjoy their spare time through wholesome recreation and in the development of strong healthy bodies.

The Physical Education Department has never had a home all its own. In 1904, Miss Tilden taught classes in a small recreation room on the third

floor of Margaret Hall. A few years later, when the dining hall of the building was vacated, women were given that portion of the dormitory for a gymnasium.

Later a basement was dug under the dining room and lockers were placed in the west end. A small swimming pool was constructed in the east end.

The department has had these same facilities in Margaret Hall up to the present time. It was given the first floor of Botany Hall a few years ago which space has been utilized for a corrective gymnasium and a dance studio. The basement of the building has been used for lockers and showers. A field house was placed close to the tennis courts on the east side of the campus after the Institution Management Department had out-grown the building as a tea room. The tennis courts were located on their present site after having been moved four times.

Even in such small quarters the work

of the department has been widespread among the women on the campus. Every woman in school takes physical education training the first 2 years that she is in school. In addition, an extensive intramural program is carried on between organized women's houses and the Town Girls Club. The Women's Athletic Association, comprised of several activity clubs, offers extra activity to interested women.

Intramural competition is sponsored by the Women's Intramural Board, composed of a representative from each group. Volleyball, tennis, basketball, swimming, table tennis, badminton, and baseball are the sports usually included in the program. Of particular importance is that a large number of women take part in the individual sports, which will be of value to them after graduation when they will be unable to enjoy team sports. Approximately 1200 women participate in this program yearly. Added zest is given to the competition by the points awarded toward the intramural cup. Points are based on percentage participation of house members and the number of events won. Each quarter, the traveling trophy is presented to the group with the largest number of points the preceding quarter.

The Women's Athletic Association through its clubs, gives opportunity for more skilled participation. Naiad, women's honorary swimming society, gives membership to women who pass a skill test. Its main activity is the presentation of a pageant each year. This year plans have been cancelled because of the loss of the swimming pool.

The Dance Club, whose members are also selected on a skill basis, annually presents the Spring Concert with the Women's Glee Club. This year the concert will be one of the main Vesishea attractions. In addition the Club has presented programs for Farm and Home Week, the sectional convention of the Athletic Federation of College Women held on the campus April 21-23, and the Faculty Women's Club. Creative work on the part of the members is encouraged and in each Spring Concert the women have originated many of the dances.

The other clubs, while not of the kind that gives opportunity for performing before the public, offer participation between skilled groups, which is not always found in the intramurals.

"I" awards are given after 6 quarters of participation in at least two clubs, with loyalty and service considered.

It is the hope of women students at Iowa State, that the loss of Margaret Hall Gymnasium will hasten the building of a new gymnasium with greatly increased facilities. The Physical Education Department will then be able to extend more services and better aid in the development of well rounded lives for some 1500 women students at Iowa State College.