

The History of the American Turners: Influences in Preparing Educators

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**First Turner Society
founded in Germany by
Frederick Jahn in 1811**

Promoted physical health
and mental readiness;

Established the first outdoor
gymnasium (turnplatz) for
his club outside Berlin,
Germany;

Invented some of the
gymnastics equipment still
used today: parallel bars,
pommel horse, and the
flying rings.



Frederick Ludwig Jahn, 1778-1852

Jahn Monument

in der Hasenheide outside Berlin



1848-1948 Postage Stamp Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the American Turners



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turners>

Central Turner Hall, Cincinnati, 1848



Gedenktafel aus Cincinnati, 1865

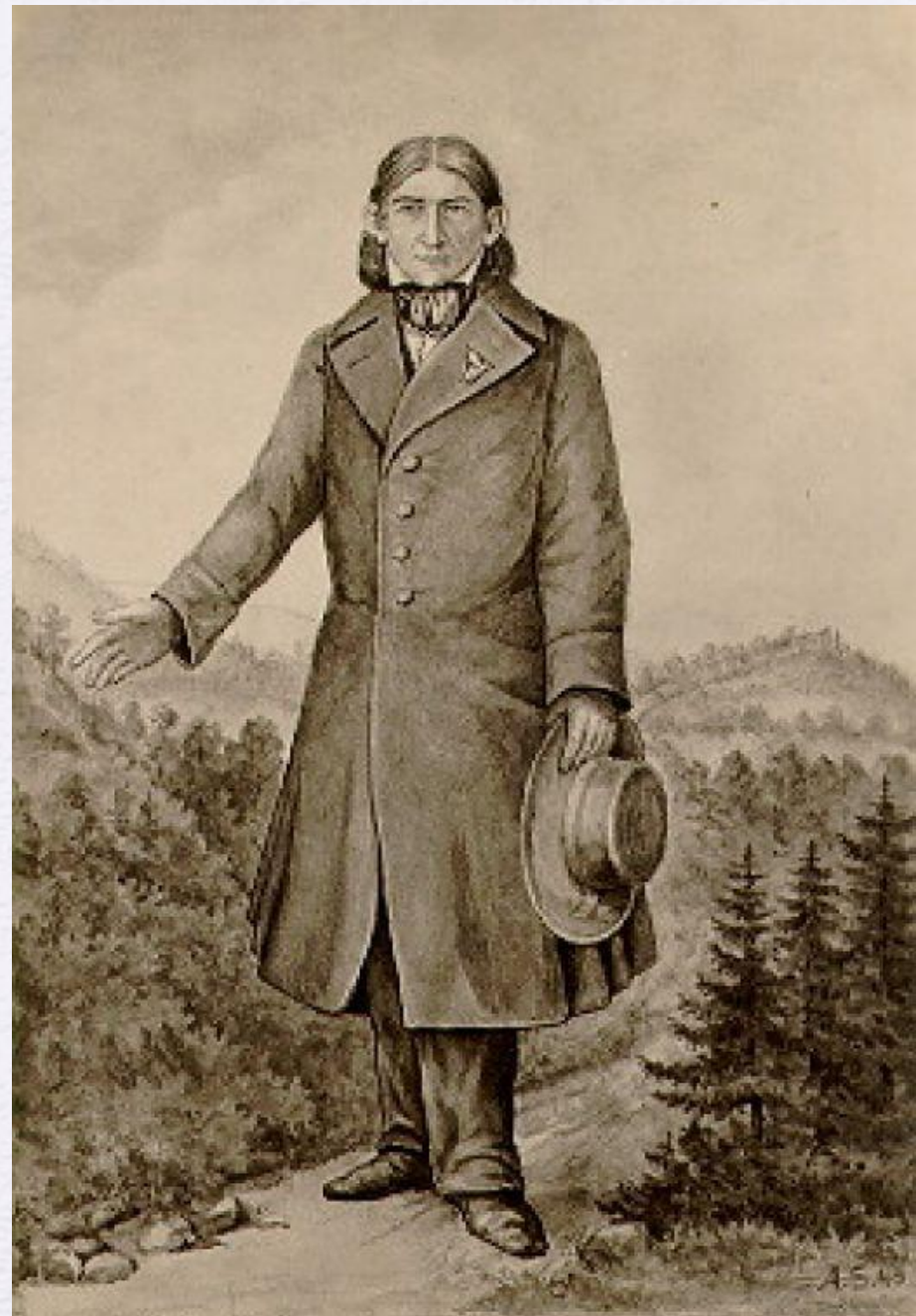


Friedrich Froebel (1782 – 1852)

- 19th century German educator, and founder of Kindergarten, who advocated:
- reverence for the child,
- learning through activity,
- exploration of the environment, and
- acceptance of the gifts of each individual.

Froebel's Influence

- Contemporary cross over into Turner historical documents
- US cities in the Midwest tend to have both Turner Halls and a history of early Kindergartens:
 - Indianapolis, IN
 - Cincinnati, OH
 - Cleveland, OH
 - Dayton, OH
 - St. Louis, MO



Friedrich Froebel auf dem Wege nach Keilhau.

Originalzeichnung von Albert Schwanitzkardt.

William Patterson

President of the National Cash Register Foundry in late 1800's in Dayton, OH.

Worked on the floor with his workers and made progressive changes in his company;

Supported the implementation of a kindergarten on his NCR campus.



Dayton, Ohio

Boy's Garden



Girl's Garden



Photography purchased from the Dayton Historical Society

More Kinder “Gardening”



Classroom Academics



Sporting Venues

Gymnastics

Track and Field

Fencing

Bowling

Swimming

Rifle & Pistol Shooting

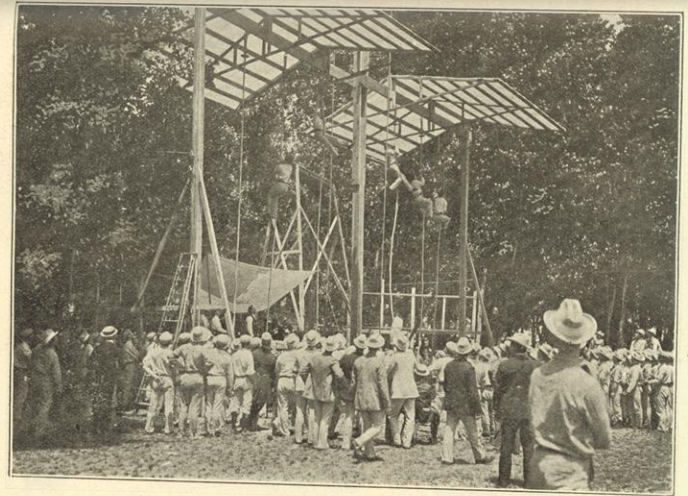
By the 1950's, organized sports were popular:

Baseball

Volleyball

Basketball

Golf



Did you know?

(Woellert, 2012, p.150)

- Cincinnati Turnverein introduced physical education into the public schools.
- In 1857, the Cincinnati Turners funded the installation of gym equipment – parallel bars, horizontal ladders, and circular swings – into four schools in the German Districts of Cincinnati: 1st, 6th, 11th, & 13th.
- Woodward High School also had gymnastics equipment installed.

Did you know?

(Woellert, 2012, p.151)

- In 1860, Cincinnati Turner instructor Louis Graeser was appointed superintendent of gymnastics for the Cincinnati Board of Education... which he held for 13 years until 1873 when there was a financial panic and his forced retirement. He then organized Graeser Dancing Academy.
- The schools still had the rule for the practice of gymnastics but it was neglected without a superintendent to oversee the subject.
- Two men from the Normal School of Gymnastics and Turner instructors (Wm Stecher & Oscar Sputh) taught without pay... then by May 31, 1887, the Cincinnati Board of Education adopted the rule that allowed students five minutes for calisthenics and physical exercise at the end of each class.

Turners & Teacher Preparation

- Oscar Sputh was Turner instructor for the Cumminsville Turners and North Cincinnati Turners in the 1880's. He later went on to be an instructor for Indianapolis Turners and Chicago Turners.
- His brother, Christian Sputh was an active member of the Dayton Turners.
- Christian's son, Carl Sputh, Sr. was a longtime president of the Turner Normal College, now part of Indiana University's College of Physical Education and Tourism. Carl also was a longtime president of the Indianapolis Turners.

Did you know?

- By 1875, Cincinnati Turners (in their own organizations) had 340 members who were gymnasts, divided into three divisions:
- 50 adults over 18 years;
- 70 youth between 14-18 years; and
- 220 children under 14 years.
- Note: The Cincinnati Turners had already started classes for young boys AND girls in 1855, preceding the national Turner resolution requiring it in 1856.

Did you know?

(Woellert, 2012, p.151)

- In 1880 in Indianapolis at the Turner National Convention, Dr. H.M. Starkloff of St. Louis, MO proposed a question:

“How would it be if we would work with all our might to introduce physical training into the public schools of this country? We could not conceive a more beautiful gift than this to bestow upon the American people. This should prove a worthy enterprise, for whosoever had conquered the youth has gained the future.”

- A resolution was passed calling on Turner members to work for the introduction of physical education into the curriculum of the nation’s public school systems.

Did you know?

(Woellert, 2012, p.151)

- Turner lobbying helped to convince school boards to add physical education classes into Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Milwaukee, St. Louis, and Cincinnati.
- During 1891-92, four Cincinnati Turner organizations (Central, West, North, and Cumminsville) with more than 1000 members elected a joint committee to bring physical education back to Cincinnati Schools.
- The Turner organization offered their three physical instructors to the public schools free of charge... and 3 months later physical education was accepted as part of the regular schoolwork of children.

Gymnastics with Special Apparatus

Mind and Body, Vol 10: 129-135

1903

-129-

GYMNASTICS WITH SPECIAL APPARATUS.*)

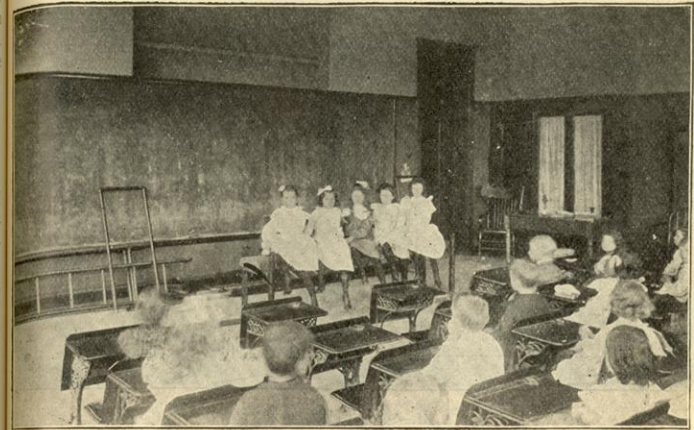


PLATE IX.—CROSS-SEAT.

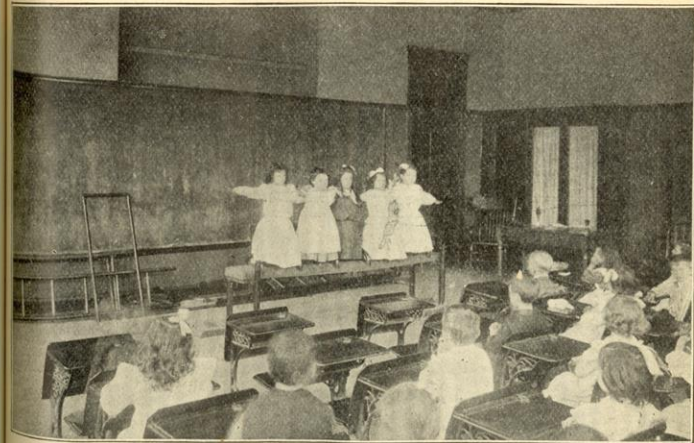


PLATE X.—KNEELING, ARMS PLACED ON NEIGHBOR'S SHOULDERS.

* From Manual of Gymnastics on the "Combination Apparatus" for Elementary Schools. By HENRY BUDER, Supervisor of Physical Culture, Public Schools, Chicago, Ill., 1902. (Plates continued from June 1902.)

Classroom Gymnastics - 2

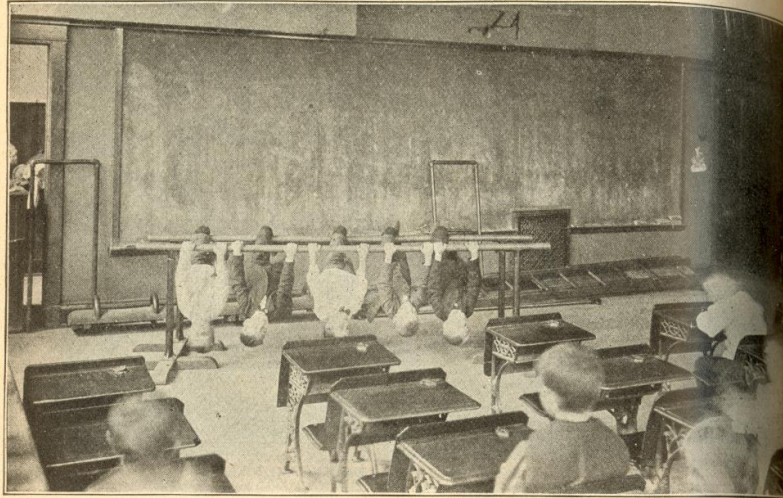


PLATE V.—KNEE HAND-HANG, LEFT.

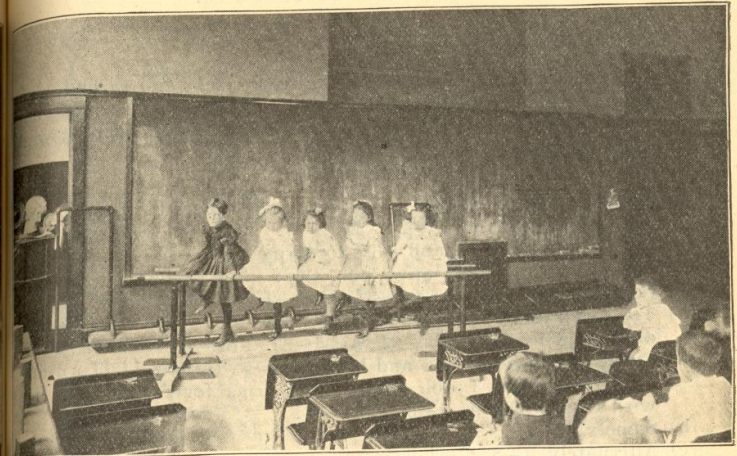


PLATE VII.—INNER CROSS-SEAT.

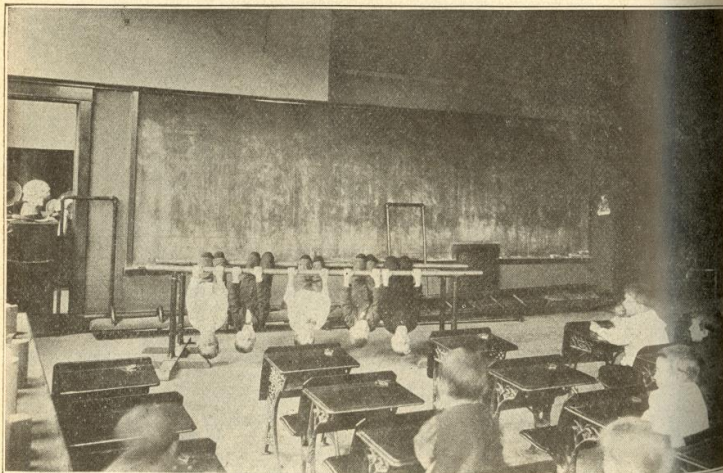


PLATE VI.—KNEE HAND-HANG ON BOTH KNEES.

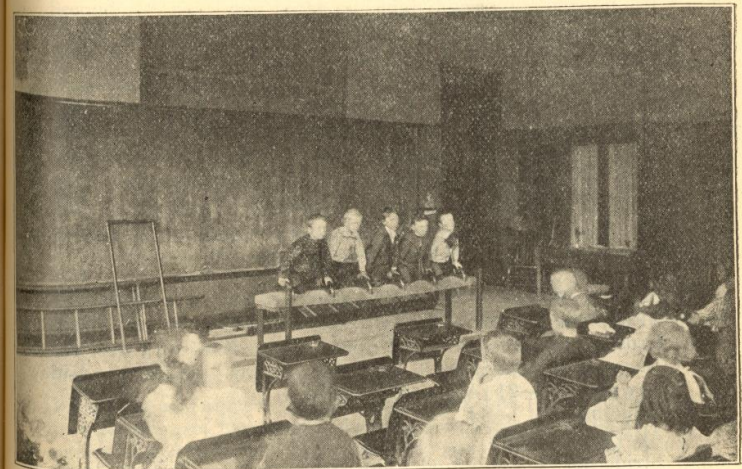


PLATE VIII.—KNEELING RIGHT, LEFT LEG BACKWARD.

Classroom Gymnastics - 3

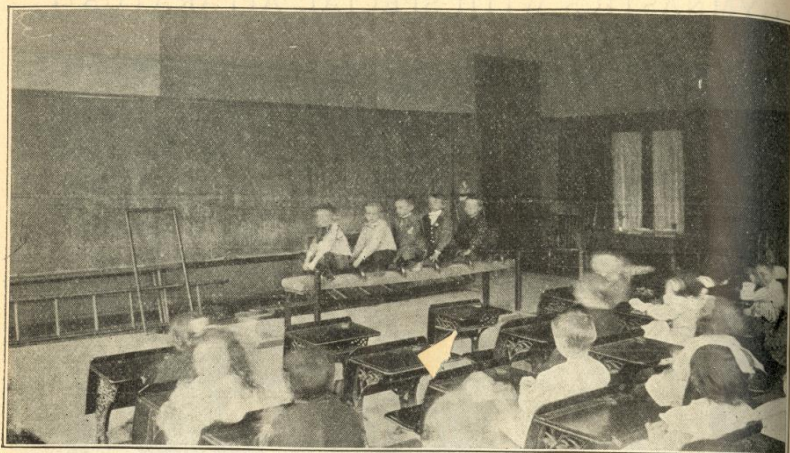


PLATE XI.—SQUATTING POSITION.



PLATE XIII.—HAND-HANG IN STRADDLE POSITION.

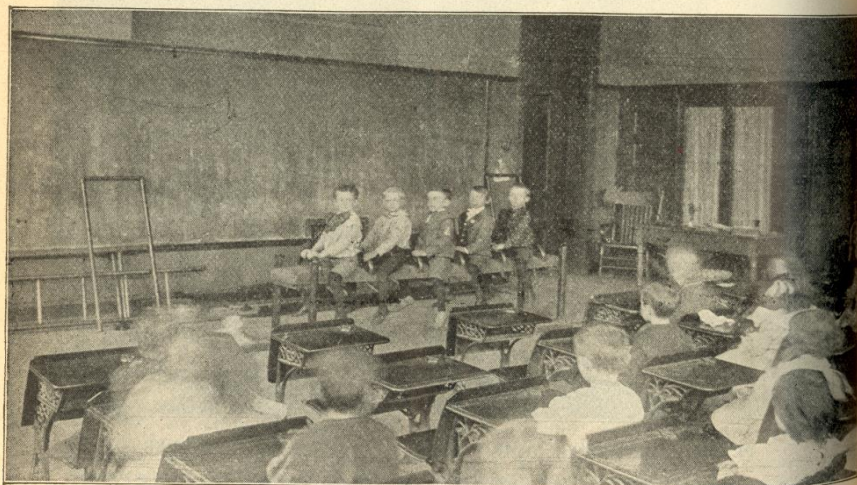


PLATE XII.—RIDING-SEAT.

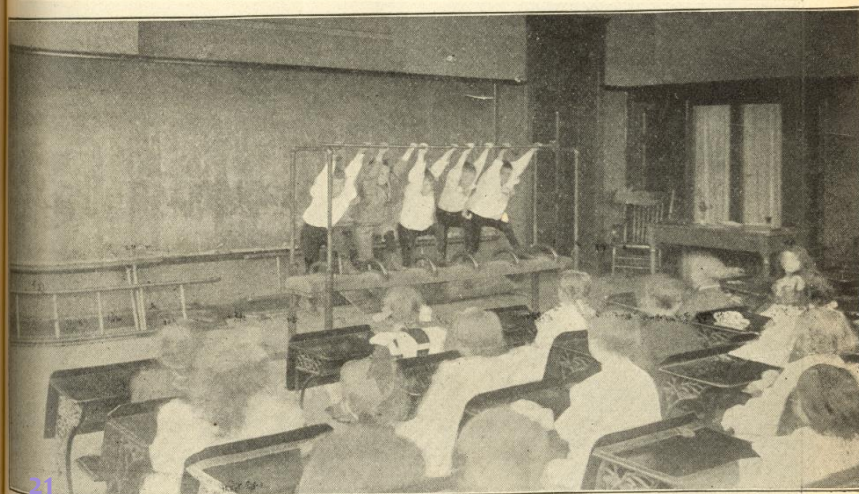


PLATE XIV.—HANG-STAND, LEFT KNEE BENT, RIGHT LEG PACKWARD.

Classroom Gymnastics - 4

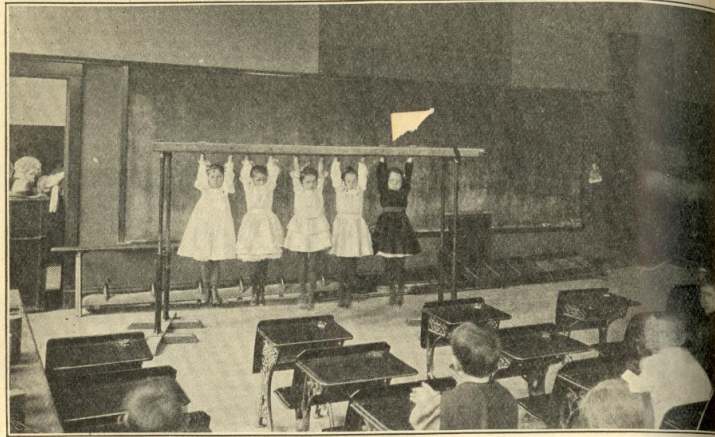


PLATE XV.—HAND-HANG ON BEAMS.

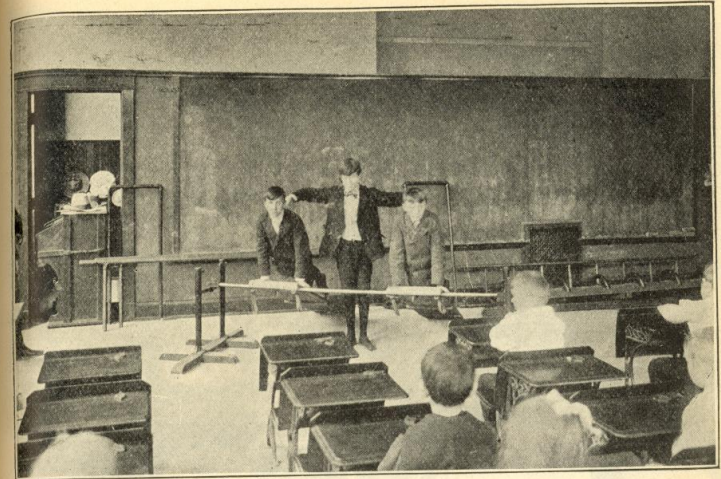


PLATE XVII.—FRONT LEANING SUPPORT.

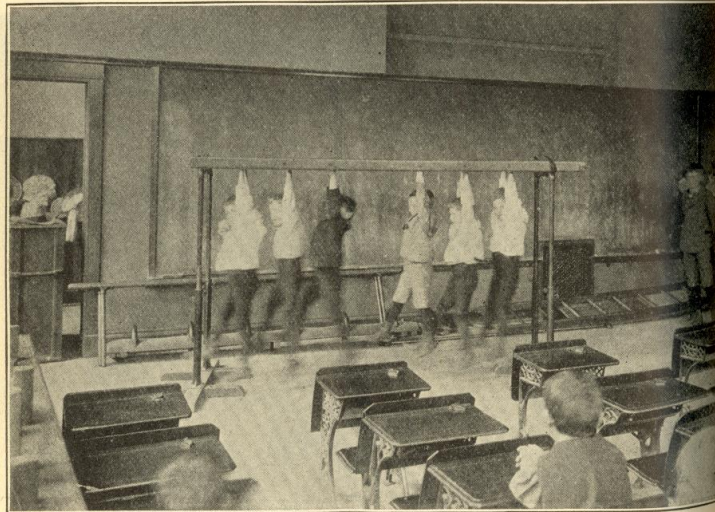


PLATE XVI.—HAND-HANG WITH STRADDLING OF LEGS.

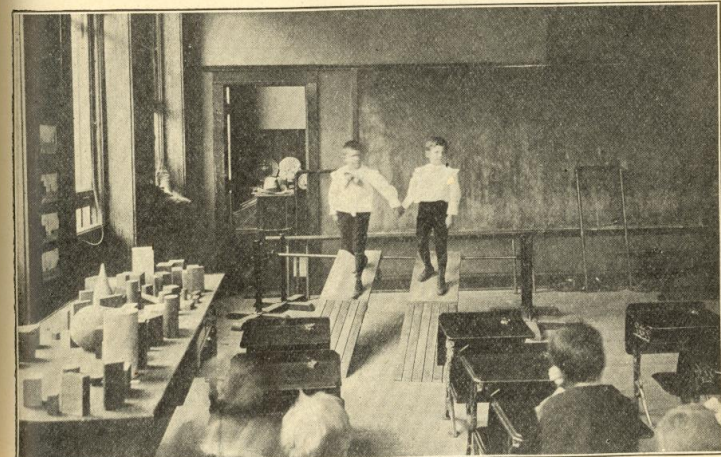


PLATE XVIII.—RUNNING DOWN.

Classroom Gymnastics - 5

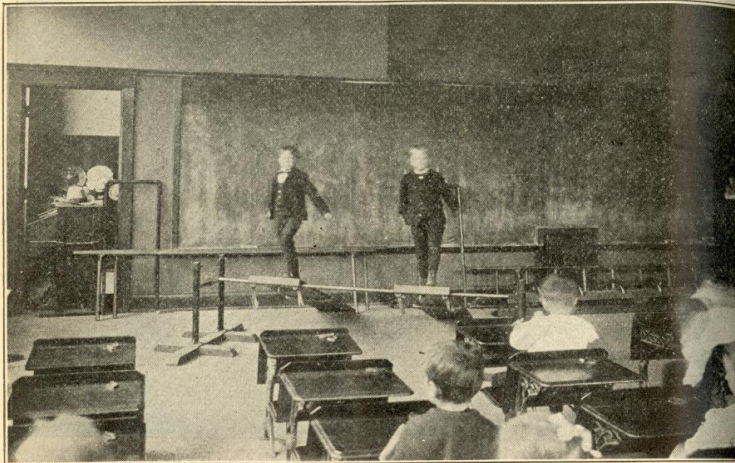


PLATE XIX.—JUMPING DOWN.

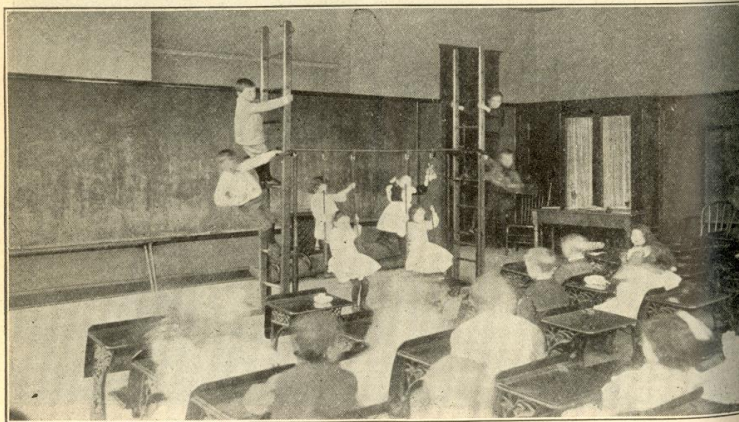


PLATE XX.—FRONT SIDE-STAND SWINGING.

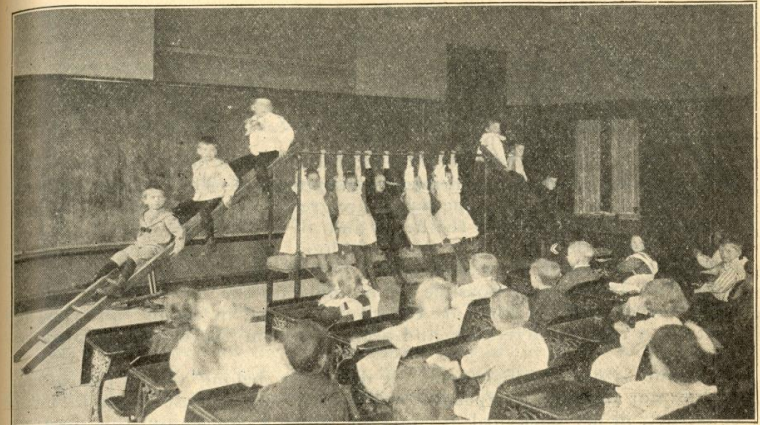


PLATE XXI.—SIDE HAND-HANG AND STRADDLE SEAT SLIDING FORWARD DOWNWARD

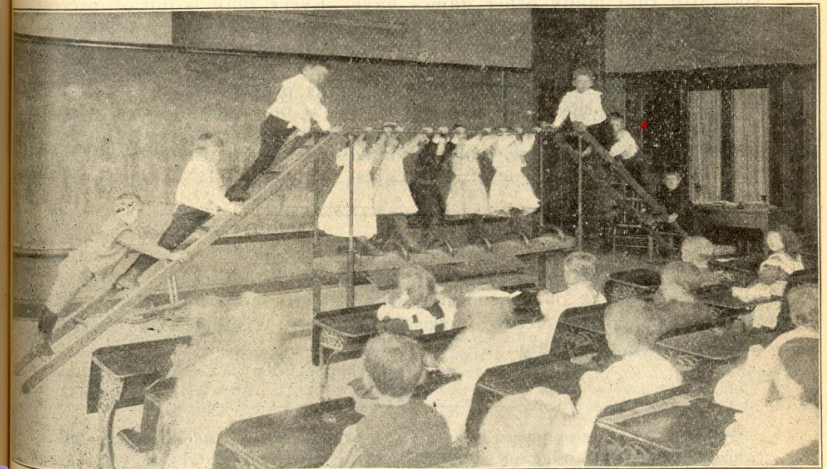


PLATE XXII.—HANG-STAND RIGHT, LEFT LEG BACKWARD AND FRONT STAND WALKING DOWN

Teacher Preparation

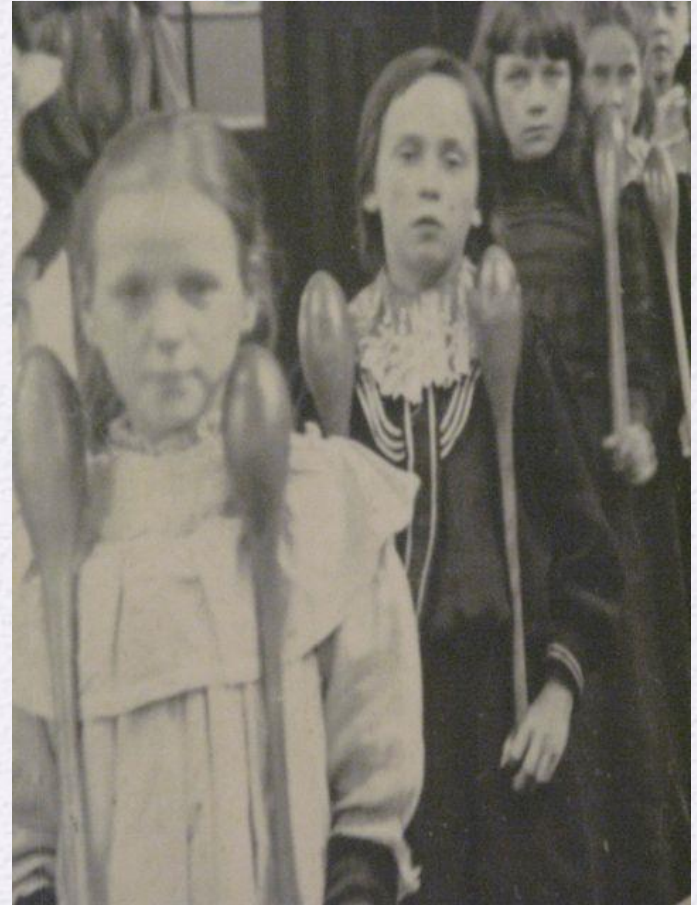


PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLUB OF THE CHICAGO NORMAL SCHOOL.

Classroom Activity



Indian Clubs



Dumb bells

Dumb bells

Dumb bells and Indian clubs were often included in structured exercise. Dumb bells can be seen being used by boys in the school yard, and also in the photograph of a Domestic Economy lesson at Somerville Road Board School where they are stored at the front of the school hall.

Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery, 1983F149.1-2



These images show boys exercising with dumb bells and girls using Indian clubs. A growing concern for the health and welfare of school children led to physical drill and exercises being introduced into the curriculum. Such activities helped to discipline children. For boys drill was often seen as providing an early introduction to military training. The adoption of the smock dress for girls at the end of the 19th century was in part linked to the demands of rigorous exercise.