NAME THIS WHAT YOU WILL

By W. T. Betts

One time, not long ago, a town about the size of Marlin began to realize that it needed greater building facilities for its schools, and the members of the school board began thinking about what they should do to meet the demand and solve the problem. This school was badly in need of an adequate place in which it could have a general assembly for all of its pupils, and some of the board members began to discuss the plan of erecting a spacious auditorium or assembly hall that would care for such a need. The superintendent was a man of foresight and vision and looked beyond the idea of a mere assembly hall. He dreamed of a magnificent building that would serve as an auditorium and also as a place in which his boys and girls could receive proper physical training and thereby develop their bodies along with the development of their minds. Such a structure is called a double gymnasium.

When the meeting of the school board took place, some of the members were with the superintendent, some were for the assembly hall idea, and some were undecided, ready to be convinced one way or the other. The assembly hall would not cost as much as the double gymnasium, and the advocates of that plan based their arguments on the plea that they could not afford the additional expense necessary to erect the double gymnasium. The superintendent put forth an eloquent plea for his plan, but times were hard, finances tight, and the assembly hall men began to win out. The superintendent showed tact and rare good judgment when, seeing that his proposals were losing ground, he caused final action to be postponed until a later meeting. This gave him an opportunity to post himself more thoroughly with arguments from every angle, and from various authorities, to counterbalance the opposition to his plan. He used his time to create a sentiment in favor of the double gymnasium, to show the citizens of the town its greater benefits to the school and city; he had a good, heart-to-heart talk with every member of the school board privately, and explained his vision of a broader education for the children of that city. The superintendent's plan was finally adopted, and that city now has a beautiful, well equipped double gymnasium that is a joy and a benefit to its children and the pride of the school and community.

Suppose we should be confronted with a similar condition in Marlin. Which side would we champion? One will not have to guess twice. Let us see what we should say in favor of our plan. Our argument to win the decision in favor of the double gymnasium will be based largely upon the fundamental importance of adequate physical education for our younger generation, to properly equip them for their place in the present complex state of society and the coming highly developed state of civilization. Therapeutic value of gymnastics was recognized by the medical profession before the end of the nineteenth century. Some of the apparatus of the gymnasium is especially designed for treatment of physical defects and