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Physical Education in Russian Schools in the End of the 19th – Beginning of the 20th Century

Abstract

The article assesses physical education in Russia in the end of the 19th – beginning of the 20th century. The author describes a gradual introduction of gymnastics in educational institutions, growing attention to physical education in extracurricular time, the role of the ministries in the state policy on physical education in Russian schools. Gymnastic and sport organizations sprung up everywhere, especially the Sokol clubs. The ministry promoted the Sokol movement: held fests, provided financial support, brought skilled instructors from Czechia. Overall, the Russian government and the Ministry of Public Instruction for a long while were paying little attention to physical education. The initiative came from the military departments, as physical education was a basis for preservice training. The beginning of the 20th century saw a growing public interest in the problems of physical education of the youth. Educational institutions now paid more attention to physical education. Various forms of out-of-school work cropped up and were actively developing. More and more pupils became actively involved in sports and physical exercises. Advanced schools, where problems of correct physical development of youth were given considerable attention, appeared. On the state level, institutionalisation of a unified management system of physical education was deemed necessary.

Written by Belyukov D.A.

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Keywords

Physical education, Ministry of Public Instruction, Ministry of War, educational institutions, gymnastic, drill training, the Sokol movement, poteshnye.

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