

to point to the necessity for a really creative hobby.

« We did learn French from one who had never been in France and his ability to teach was discounted by a lack of ability to pronounce. I did not find this out, however, until overseas service gave me an opportunity of attempting to use my schoolboy qualifications.

« Culture and art were stifled by convention and lack of imag-



ination. One spent hours sketching such uninteresting objects as pots and pans when the class was full of interesting human subjects simply begging to be recorded. We sang with broken voices songs which I have since learned to love but which in those days were completely meaningless in word and consistently murdered in tune. Musical appreciation was unknown.

« Sport was a fetish and produced the right reaction in most of us. It taught control and perseverance and showed the desirability for a certain amount of physical fitness. The wretchedly equipped gymnasium, however, gave little encouragement to the desirable study of physiology and fitness so necessary and so well catered for by private gymnasiums one joined later in life.

« I learned nothing of sex, except from the inaccurate and morbid mutterings of the older students which bore no relation whatsoever to the true facts of life. Some would say it was the parents' place to give the necessary instruction. So they did in due course, but fascinating though the subject was, it could hardly be dealt with as efficiently by a fatherly talk as it could have been in a series of carefully-planned classroom lectures.

« Will today's curriculum cater for the boy in a more practical manner, or is the new legislation just another ineffectual example of State parental doting based on a wrong appreciation of what a young man is interested in and needs to know? »

The Fastest Swimmer in the World



THE accuracy of the denial that any swimmer has yet broken 50sec for 100yds, as published recently in Cue's quiz series, has been questioned by a member of 2 NZ Div. No such record has been officially recognised to date, but the feat of a new American champion, Alan Ford, who is claimed to have set a mark of 49 7-10sec, has been given some Press prominence.

The New York Times' sports writer, Arthur Daley, unhesitatingly names Ford as the fastest swimmer the world has ever known. Ford hails from the Panama Canal Zone and visited Ecuador on three competitive swimming jaunts. On one of these trips to Puayaquil he met

Adolph Kiefer and since Alan fancied himself a back-stroke performer at that time he learned much from the greatest dorsal artist the sport has ever known. Still on his South American detour, Ford's path crossed that of John Miller, coach at Mercersburg and the best school boy aquatic developer of them all.