

Sheila Stanley.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: A MOVEMENT ORIENTATION.

2nd Edition. Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1977.

385 pp. \$9.95.

The first edition of this book in 1969 was a much-needed addition to the literature on elementary school physical education in general and on Rudolf Laban's theories of movement in particular. Stanley, who studied and worked with Laban in England, is probably Canada's foremost authority on his work.

I have used this book as a course text for several years now, and even though I had a few reservations about the seeming overlap of some of the theoretical chapters, most of the students have reported favourably on it. Students meeting Laban's descriptive analysis of movement for the first time find the detailed application of the analysis to the areas of games, dance and gymnastics helpful. Most of the diagrams are explicit, but the ones used to illustrate the various combinations of two-motion factors are somewhat confusing. Unfortunately, these have not been changed in the new edition (pp. 61-63).

The major changes (apart from the colour of the cover, which is now in eye-catching coral shade) appear from Chapter 8 onwards. This portion of the text has been clarified and extended to help the reader apply the theoretical knowledge obtained from the earlier chapters.

The sample lesson plans found at the end of chapters 8, 9, and 10 include tasks and comments to help the teacher develop the children's response to the various challenges. This kind of material is invaluable to the inexperienced teacher who needs to observe and recognize what is happening.

Stanley helps with the selection of objectives for a series of lessons, suggests how evaluation of different components of the program is possible, and gives examples of the use of demonstrations as a divergent, rather than the usual convergent, teaching technique.

Many additional photographs add considerably to the text. Moreover, it is encouraging to see children's work from seven provinces. This gives an indication that a Movement Education approach to the learning of motor skills is widespread in our country. Maybe the third edition will see the remaining provinces represented. I hope so.

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