Frosh Relieved Of Physical Exam

BY RICHARD DARILEK

No longer will knees be hammered, stomachs prodded, ears stabbed, or toes tickled. No longer will the huddled clumps of shivering humanity await their individual classifications. No more!

The entering physical examination, an experience common to all past graduates of freshmen orientation week, and, for over thirty years, a traditional feature of Rice's annual indoctrination program, has been discontinued. Why this sudden change in a time-honored Rice policy? There are two general reasons.

DEAN HIGGINBOTHAM viewed the system as an increasingly unnecessary inconvenience which caused a heightening resentment among the freshmen, particularly the female freshmen, who objected to it on the grounds that it simply meant resubjecting them to a scrutiny they had already undergone in filling out their physical form for admission to Rice.

To supplant the exam this year two physical forms were required of entering freshmen. One, a general form as in the past, was filled out by the student and accompanied his application for ad-

(Continued on Page 6)
PHYSICALS--

(Continued from Page 1) mission; the other, a complete physical examination by the student’s family physician, was required only of those who were accepted by Rice.

IN THIS SAME area, Dean Higgenbotham also resolved a related question about Freshman Week by stipulating that the required fifteen dollar fee included funds for the Health Service, never the physical exams, and thus needed no reduction.

The second general reason for this change was given a broader scope by Dr. Arthur Weston, presently the Chairman of the Health and Physical Education department and, for two years’ prior to this fall, the Chairman of the Health Service.

Dr. Weston attributes the elimination of this exam to the policies of the new Rice Medical Director, Dr. Ray Skaggs. He followed by saying that the recent influx of out-of-Houston students, the building of Jones College and the increasing awareness that a personal physician would be more thoroughly familiar with individual needs, contributed a great deal toward this change of policy.

THIS STEP, according to Dr. Weston, is but one of many designed to boost Rice’s health facilities. The physical reports now submitted by the freshmen in completing their registration are now reviewed with specific problems considered.

“This is all part of the big step which began two years ago and is now moving toward a climax,” said Dr. Weston. “We are working on the health service through these various innovations and programs to transform it from a first aid station into an agency whose prime purpose is to provide good, safe attention for the medical needs of the student.”