Guillaume

(1830 - 1895)

C7-L9-T5+6

A Lieutenant Colonel in the Belgian army, Guillaume Docx believed that military training helped to develop physical strength, dexterity, precision of movement and the habit of performing manoeuvres together, and also corrects bad attitudes acquired in the classroom. He suggested improvements to the way physical education classes were organised in schools.

He participated in the competition launched by King Leopold II, with the aim of training a population capable of defending the country, winning the prize for his work "La gymnastique rationnelle appliquée au développement des forces viriles et de l'éducation civique des populations" ("Rational physical education for the development of manly strength and civil education for the people"). He became a school inspector in 1878. He drafted the first syllabus (official guide) for teaching physical education in state primary schools.

A prize-winning author of more than 30 works, mainly on the subject of physical education, he was made a Knight of the Order of Leopold and an Officer of the Académie Française.



