

for the moment when it is their duty to start after the ball, and never let it rest till they have driven it through the opposite goal; good wind is their most needed quality. Behind the lines, a little nearer to them than to the goals, stand the half-backs of each side, two in number. Theirs it is to follow the forwards and see that the ball is kept within their reach; and, when an opportunity occurs, to dash in through the opposing line and make sudden and fierce assaults on the defences of the enemy. They must be, like the forwards, longwinded, but they need in addition quick eyes and strong wrists. If the players are outsiders, there are none but the half-backs to fend off attacks on the goal; but, in the McGill Hockey Club, it is customary to station one man between the half-backs and goal, who acts like a goal-keeper in football. His duty is to interfere with any enemy, who having passed the half-backs, comes up for a quiet shot at goal; to attack him and spoil his shot, if necessary, by upsetting him, (for charging is allowed in hockey, provided the charge be not made from behind). He must be ready to sacrifice his own equilibrium, and, what is dearer to every player, his own stick, to prevent the shot home on which the fate of the game usually depends, and "dash the beauteous terror," i.e. the hockey ball, any where out of danger. To him the patient and long-suffering goal-keeper looks for aid, when, like the Roman soldier at Pompeii, he watches the terrors gather round the post he may not leave, even to assail the impetuous, or more often insidious, foe. But the goal-keeper has his reward when the bolt that threatens his citadel is gently turned aside, or boldly met and hurled back at the impious invader, and the growls of the foe are lost in the friendly shouts that hail his address,—*"Well played in goal!"*

To describe a game of "hockey," or indeed any game that is so constantly in motion, is a vain task. To the spectators, the fate of the game often seems to hover over the spot in front of the goal, where the forwards of one side and the whole of the other are *"mêlés ensemble."* But the patient goalkeeper dreads the half-back, who, escaping the crowd, comes swiftly yet quietly right before his gates, and, unless upset by the "point," delivers the deadly "sling," or deadlier "scoop," that is so difficult to stop. And while they applaud the player who carries the ball unchallenged up

the ice, to lose it in the crowd at the adversaries' goal! the hard-worked forwards hail with thankfulness the backs, who regularly, as the ball reaches them, send it back to be dashed at the goal, which is usually so stubbornly defended. In talking to the players after our well earned victory last year, we noted that while the spectators spoke of A's splendid dashes and H's ubiquity, the players praised chiefly the steady play of the three T's—one in goal, one half back, and one forward—all three now gone. The success of last year was due to two causes. First, every man knew what he had to do, for our best of captains, tearing himself from the fascinations of law, attended the practices of the club regularly and directed the play; secondly, every man did it in a way that dismayed the under-disciplined enemy.

This season we have but four left who have played on the team, our captain, alas, being among the departed. Now there are many who say the club should be opened to graduates. That the immediate results would be a very strong team is undeniable; but we, for one, think that there are many reasons for keeping it a students' club. In the first place, we believe that in a few years, if not sooner, the best players in town will be graduates, and as such they will continue to constitute the team year by year, till it suits them to leave off playing. In the meantime, mere love of hockey will fail to entice the students to practice when they have little or no chance of a place on the team. And our team, the only one that practices, has hard enough work to get up a match now. What if the hockey players in town, with but few exceptions, belong to our club? We shall have no good matches here and we cannot leave the city to play other clubs. The examples of the Argonaut and Montreal football clubs show us that when a club is supreme it begins to decay. Zeus defend our club from that fate! But suppose the graduates are excluded as now. Some will revive the Montreal Hockey Club, others will join the Britannias and help to organize a strong club among them, and our own club, attracting the students to a noble game by a chance of places on the team, will practice steadily as in past seasons, forming a new and vigorous body, with "old hands" to act as the successive "new heads."

DERJ A.