

was ample amusement in the College, in the time of the writer of this article. Certainly one who found winter in Ottawa University a gloomy season was hard to please, to be sure.

Outdoor sports usually opened with indiscriminate snow-balling, which was always, however, successfully discouraged by the authorities. Then followed the "raid" of the Juniors. I do not know whether this custom yet holds out in the College; if it do not, perhaps I do wrong to recall it. A gang of the "small boys," headed by one of the most daring denizens of the "little yard," would invade the senior territory, and suddenly mobbing a "potent, grave and reverend" and perhaps six-foot senior, drag him out into the deep snow, and ignominiously "duck" him. This was sport, for the Juniors at least; and it was generally taken in good part by their elders too.

Nothing could be more pleasant than the exhilarating walk of a congé afternoon in winter; and it was quite common to start from the College, cross the Ottawa at the foot of the locks, parade through Hull, cross back by the Chaudiere, and thence return to the College.

But though a mere walk on a winter's day was enjoyable, it was still more pleasant if it took the form of a snow-shoe tramp. This is a sport that can be appreciated only by those who have taken part in it. What citizen of a warmer clime would ever imagine that we actually find pleasure in the cold and the snow; and that, for this sport, at least, the keener the frost and the deeper the snow, the greater the delight of the *raquetteurs*? Nevertheless the writer's last year at College was the first year, if he remember rightly, of the snow-shoe club. Everything had been prepared once that year for a grand tramp to Aylmer, when a grand thaw came and spoiled the fun.

The skating rink and coasting slide were both great attractions, at least in the beginning of the winter. Erecting the slide, constructing the rink, and flooding both were operations in which the students took great interest. Soon they would be seen careering down the one and around the other in high glee. Many were the collisions on the slide, but necks were never broken; many the falls on the rink, but no one ever seemed the worse of them.

As to inside amusements, there was no end to them. The smoking-room had more attractions than ever; the patrons of the reading-room were never so numerous. Club swinging, trapeze and bar performances, etc., were going on at every recreation, and all day on congés. When tired of these muscle-grinding amusements, one could sit down and take a hand at poker, or euchre, or seven up, or catch-the-ten, which were the favorite card games, or, if so disposed, meet a friendly adversary at checkers, chess or dominoes.

Winter was also the signal for the organization of the O. M. I. Cadets. It did not take long to elect officers, and "mobilize" the troops. Soon the awkward squad fell in on the floor of the recreation hall, to learn the difference between their right hands or feet and their sinister mates. Before long, the "Order Arms" was responded to with a grand harmonious thud, as the rifles came to the floor in concert, and the walls of the hall re-echoed the tramp of the collegian soldiers as they marched round them with military precision. However, in the writer's opinion, the students did not manifest sufficient enthusiasm for their drill. Ottawa College can boast of having the Champion Foot-ball Fifteen of the Dominion; in like manner, she ought to be able to have within her walls, the crack military corps of the country. Certainly if the "boys" gave to their drill the attention that they *can* give, the Cadets would be unequalled even by the regularly organized bodies of militia outside of the College.

The number of sports and the ardour for them increased when Christmas came. Large packets, which told of scented Christmas cards, registered letters betraying more substantial tokens of holiday greeting, and "boxes" filled with fowl, jellies, cakes, pies and the manifold other factors of a Christmas dinner, all these were the close harbingers of the happy season. Sometimes a number of students wished to spend Christmas at home, and now and then the permission was granted; but, in general, this practice was discountenanced by the faculty for the general happiness of the students. The boys felt better to be all together; and it was, to say the least, doubtful if they could spend Christmas more pleasantly at home. Congés were