

COLLEGE SPORTS.

The order of the events to take place next Friday afternoon is as follows:—1, half-mile race; 2, flat race, 100 yards; 3, graduates' race, quarter-mile; 4, mile race; 5, hurdle race, 220 yards; 6, strangers' race (open to amateurs), quarter mile; 7, three-legged race, 100 yards; 8, half-mile race, open to undergraduates of all Canadian universities; 9, championship race, quarter-mile; 10, consolation race, 220 yards.

A MEETING of undergraduates took place on Wednesday, at which a committee of management for the annual sports was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Shortt (president), Armour (secretary), McDougall, Hague, Loudon, Gwynne, Milligan, Laidlaw, Bristol, Woodruff, Campbell, Cameron, Wright, and Boultebe. The minor events were to begin at 9.30 this morning, the major take place on Friday afternoon, October 17th. It is expected that the games will be under the patronage of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor. One race (half-mile) is open to undergraduates of all Canadian universities.

FOOTBALL.—The University College Football Club is actively engaged in practice already, and matches are proposed with Trinity College, Hamilton, Upper Canada College, Toronto, Feterboro' Trinity College School, etc. The financial condition of the club is satisfactory, and though several of the most efficient players of last year have ceased to belong to the team, the large first year promises plenty of material to fill their places. The following are the officers of the club for the season:—Messrs. W. D. Gwynne (captain), C. Campbell (secretary-treasurer), Fairbank, Shortt, McAndrew, Blake, McDougall, Woodruff, George, and Wright.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.—A general meeting was held yesterday to choose men for vacant positions. The constitution was changed so as to provide for a corresponding secretary, to which office Mr. James McDougall was elected. Members of the committee were selected from the first year, Messrs. Hagarty and George. The annual meeting of the Dominion Association took place last night at Thomas' Chop House. Fifteen clubs were represented, most of which have signified their intention of competing for the Challenge Cup. The following officers were elected:—President, His Excellency the Marquis of Lorne; secretary-treasurer, W. Lowrey, Esq. Mr. J. McDougall represents the University College Association and Mr. A. B. Dobson Knox College. Some discussion took place over a change in the Scottish Association. The Knox College Club received their badges as being the champions of last year. The University College Association have made arrangements to attend the tournament at Colborne at the end of the month.

GOOD TALKING.

There is an impression among people who talk and write that the art of conversation has died, or is dying out; and there are not as many remarkable talkers in the world as there were, and that the present generation will leave no such records of brilliant conversation as some of its predecessors have done. We suspect that the impression is a sound one, and that for some reason, not apparent on the surface, less attention has been bestowed upon the art of talking than formerly. It may be that the remarkable development of the press, which has given opportunity for expression to everybody, with a great audience to tempt the writer, has drawn attention from an art demanding fine skill, with only the reward of an audience always limited in numbers, and an influence quite incommensurate with the amount of vitality expended.

Still, there are doubtless many who would like to be good talkers. Social importance and consideration are perhaps more easily won by the

power of good talking than by any other means, wealth and the ability to keep a hospitable house not excepted. A really good talker is always at a social premium, so that a knowledge of the requisites of good talking will be of interest to a great many bright people. For it must be confessed that men's ideas of the art are very crude and confused. When we talk of 'the art of conversation' people really do not know what we mean. They do not know what the art is, or how it may be cultivated; or, indeed, that it is anything more than a natural knack.

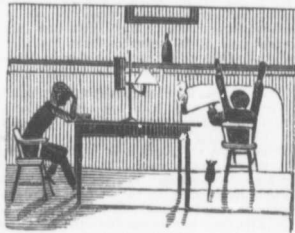
The first requisite of a good talker is genuine social sympathy. A man may not say, out of some selfish motive, or some motive of personal policy, 'Go to! I will become a good talker.' He must enjoy society, and have a genuine desire to serve and please. We have all seen the talker who talks for his own purposes, or talks to please himself. He is the well-known character—the talking bore. The talker who gets himself up for show, who plans his conversations for an evening, and crams for them, becomes intolerable. He lectures; he does not converse; for there is no power of a talker so delightful as that of exciting others to talk, and listening to what his own inspiring and suggestive utterances have called forth. Genuine social sympathy and a hearty desire to please others are necessary to produce such a talker as this, and no other is tolerable. Social sympathy is a natural gift, and there is a combination of other gifts which constitute what may be called *esprit*, that are very essential to a good talker. This combination includes individuality, tact and wit—the talents, aptitudes and peculiar characteristic charm which enable a man to use the materials of conversation in an engaging way, entirely his own; for every good talker has his own way of saying good things, as well as of managing conversation based on his *esprit*.

Yet it is true that there are no good talkers who depend upon their natural gifts and such material as they get in the usual interchanges of society. For the materials of conversation we must draw upon knowledge. No man can be a thoroughly good talker who does not know a great deal. Social sympathy and 'the gift of gab' go but a short way toward producing good conversation, though we hear a great deal of this kind of talk among the young. Sound and exact knowledge is the very basis of good conversation. To know a great many things well is to have in hand the best and most reliable materials of good conversation. There is nothing like abundance and exactness of knowledge with which to furnish a talker. Next to this, perhaps, is familiarity with polite literature. The faculty of quoting from the best authors is a very desirable one. Facts are valuable, and thoughts perhaps are quite as valuable, especially as they are more stimulating to the conversation of a group. The talker who deals alone in facts is quite likely to have the talk all to himself, while the man who is familiar with thoughts and ideas, as he has found them embodied in literature, becomes a stimulator of thought and conversation in those around him. Familiarity with knowledge and with the products of literary art cannot be too much insisted on as the furniture of good conversation.

Beyond this, the good talker must be familiar with current thought and events of his time. There should be no movement in politics, religion and society, that the good talker is not familiar with. Indeed, the man who undertakes to talk at all must know what is uppermost in men's minds, and be able to add to the general fund of thought and knowledge, and respond to the popular inquiry and the popular disposition for discussion. The man who undertakes to be a good talker should never be caught napping concerning any current topic of immediate public interest.

How to carry and convey superiority of knowledge and culture without appearing to be pedantic, how to talk out of abundant stores of information and familiarity with opinion without seeming to preach, as Coleridge was accused of doing, belongs, with the ability to talk well, to 'the art of conversation.' It has seemed to us that if young people

could only see how shallow and silly very much of their talk is, and must necessarily be, so long as they lack the materials of conversation, they would take more pains with their study, would devote themselves more to the best books, and that, at least, they would acquire and maintain more familiarity with important current events. To know something is the best cure for neighborhood gossip, for talk about dress, and for ten thousand frivolities and silliness of society. Besides, a good talker needs an audience to understand and respond to him, and where is he to find one if there is not abundant culture around him?—*Scribner's Monthly*.



Smith—This 'Troïades' of Euripides is just one long wail.

Brown—Whale? About fifty feet?

Smith—Yes; lots of blubber in it.

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