

SPORTS AND PASTIMES

Among those at all acquainted with the art there seems nothing in the way of athletic exercise to at all compare with fencing. It has not the fierce antagonism of football or lacrosse or the insipidity and languor of croquet; but it is a pastime at which ladies and gentlemen may alike take part with benefit as regards gracefulness, quickness of eye and hand, and a development of all the important muscles, not to speak of the training one's good temper gets; for the fencer who loses his temper when the foil is in his hand—either when playing with the chalked button or in the more serious business that might occasionally arise if one lived in France—is almost completely at his opponent's mercy. Unfortunately this grand exercise is as yet not appreciated to any great extent in this country. Of course there are a few who struggle to keep up the art, but they are as a drop in the proverbial bucket, and when the discouraging circumstances which have had to be overcome are taken into consideration, the wonder is that there are any at all left. The Toronto Fencing Club is pre-eminently entitled to first rank, and judging from the way things are at present running better times may be looked for in the near future. Montreal is doing its share in its own quiet way, and there are a score or so who use the Solingen blade who would be able to hold their own in fairly good company. A few evenings ago I had the pleasure of being present on a class night at Prof. Conte's academy, and was surprised at the advanced stage of many of the gentlemen. In the assaults which invariably conclude the meetings I had an opportunity of studying the methods of the two gentlemen who have made known their desire of meeting Mr. Currie, if there was a possibility of arranging a suitable place of meeting. Perhaps the event which more than any other brought the Toronto Fencing Club prominently before the public in later days was the magnificent display made by Messrs. Currie and Bevington, when they fenced for the championship of Canada some little time ago. It will be remembered that on that occasion Mr. Currie was the winner, and the form displayed by him warranted his friends in presuming that he could equal, if not surpass, the famous Dr. Hammond, of New York. But it turned out that Dr. Hammond could not lay claim to the title of champion of the United States until after the competitions which take place this month in New York are finished. As Mr. Currie wished to meet the American champion he was also desirous of being himself the champion of Canada, a title which, by the way, nobody now disputes. But in order to make sure doubly sure he invited any amateur fencer in Canada to meet him, and if he were beaten he would no longer pose as the champion. It was this invitation, which was made through the press, that Mr. Freeman and Mr. Lapallieur were desirous of accepting; but what seemed to be an insuperable difficulty lay in the way. Neither of these gentlemen could possibly go to Toronto, and very likely it would not be at all convenient for Mr. Currie to come to Montreal. At all events it is not usually expected that a recognized champion should travel about the country at the behest of anybody who desires to challenge him; but this case scarcely comes under that heading. I have seen both these gentlemen fence and I think they would stand very little chance of equalling Mr. Currie in points, especially if a target were used. But still, as they are the only two who have so far responded to Mr. Currie's invitation, if the latter gentleman could stretch a point and come to Montreal it would seem, in my mind, to clinch his title of champion, and there would be no possible cavil at his representing Canada when pitted against the American champion. It would give a great impetus to fencing, too, and would, perhaps, go a long way towards establishing yearly competitions for a Canadian championship. The opinions of other fencers would be gladly received by THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED, for it is one of the arts that the country can well afford to patronize.

At the annual meeting of the New York Yacht Club, the regatta committee made some suggestions, which, coming from such a source, are worthy of consideration by other yacht clubs, but hardly practicable on this side of the line. As a remedy for the noticeably smaller number of entries,

the following suggestions were made:—First, a time allowance based on performance. Second, an allowance based on date of construction, through which time could be given to vessels that had been out-built. The first suggestion seems good enough on paper, and would be easy enough of accomplishment if the performances of a boat were uniform; but with the unavoidable variations in performance under different influencing conditions of wind and weather, the work of the handicapper would be unsatisfactory all round. The second suggestion would do more harm than good. The owner who had been out built would calculate on getting a time allowance for age, and instead of keeping up with the modern procession would keep his old boat and say "let well alone." To the more energetic, with newer and better models, it would be discouraging to be handicapped out of sight. As we are all looking for improvements, both as to speed and stability, the suggestions of the N.Y.Y.C. regatta committee, if followed, would seem to be a step in the wrong direction.

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There is some talk of making the Montreal Curling Club an all-the-year-round affair, and before long spacious club and reading rooms will be added to the already spacious rink. This will certainly increase the membership of the club, as there are a great many people who like to watch the roarin' game but who never take a hand in it. A reading room and other attractions would soon convert these passive members into active ones, and all well-wishers of curling will hope that the club may see its way to these improvements in the near future.

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The wrestling match for the collar-and-elbow championship of America, which took place at the Queen's Hall on Monday night, was as good an exhibition as could be wished for, and McMahon has added another honour to his already long list. He is getting to be a pretty old man now, but there is lot of life in the old dog yet. He was overmatched in height, weight and strength when he met Cowley, but superior science told the tale, and the required two falls out of three were won by the Montreal man.

R. O. X.



2nd Batt. Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment.

The 76th Regiment was raised for service in India in the year 1787. During the years 1803 to 1805 the regiment formed part of the force under Lord Lake, which subjugated great provinces that in later years were comprised in the British Dominions of India. During this four years' campaign Lord Lake's army marched 3,500 miles and fought many decisive actions, the principal ones being at Deig, Ally Ghur, Delhi and Laswaree. At Ally Ghur the regiment lost five officers killed and a great many men. Lord Lake led the regiment into action in person at Laswaree and it was mainly owing to their exertions that the enemy who were in immensely superior numbers, were defeated. For these services in India, the King was graciously pleased to confer on the 76th the word "Hindustan," to be worn on their colours and appointments, also the East India Company presented the regiment with a stand of embroidered colours, these colours have been renewed from time to time by the Secretary of State for War and the regiment has the proud distinction of being able to carry four colours on parade.

In 1806 the regiment returned home and were sent to garrison Jersey.

In 1808 they were moved to the North of Spain and were engaged in the campaign under Sir John Moore; were present at Corunna and suffered severely.

In 1809 they were sent to Holland and remained there until 1813, when they returned to Spain and were particularly distinguished at the Battle of Nive, which name they bear on their colours to-day. At the close of the Peninsular

War the regiment went to North America and operated with the force north of New York and remained in Canada until 1827. The regiment was stationed at Kingston and Quebec from 1819 to 1821 and were at Montreal in 1826 and embarked for home in 1827 after an almost continuous course of active service abroad for 40 years.

In 1835 the regiment was sent to St. Lucia, and remained in the West India Islands until 1840; they were then moved on to Bermuda and up to Halifax in 1842, and then returned home. The regiment remained in the United Kingdom till 1850 and was then sent to Malta and was again sent to Halifax in 1853. They were quartered in various places in Canada, St. John, N.B., Fredericton and Prince Edward's Island being among others. They returned to England in 1857. The records show that the regiment received farewell addresses from the citizens of nearly every town in Canada in which they were stationed. They went to India in 1863 and remained until 1876.

On the 1st July, 1881, the late 76th was named the 2nd Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment and linked to the 33rd.

The present colonial tour commenced on the 6th of October, 1886, and after the present stay of 2½ years in Halifax it is expected that the regiment will sail for the West Indies about the 7th of March. The records show that since the regiment was raised in 1787, 20½ years have been spent in Canada. The whole regiment will sincerely regret to leave Halifax, which is always a most popular station. Halifax and Canada are equally sorry to part with so gallant a corps as the old 76th, and we sincerely regret that their garrison duty is not up with us in Montreal, thanks to the short-sighted and blundering policy of 21 years ago.

The Mashed Medico.

BY F. BLAKE CROFTON.

Her eyes flash like two diamond rings,
Her neck is alabaster,
Her soft voice to the memory clings
As fast as sticking plaster!

Like beam of sunshine is her smile,
Her blush like a fresh rose is,
Their charm so brief and volatile
Defying diagnosis!

Her sparkling wit around she rains
And dazzles the spectator,
Pleases, in turn, and piques and pains,
Like Smith's Scalp Renovator.

She charmed me by her pensive air,
And by her sylph-like action;
She drew me by her golden hair—
By capillary attraction.

Ah, mirth and laughter may bring on
The sharp pangs of neurosis!
Ah! for the glad, fond simpleton
When flirt as lover poses!

Yet for the syren's songs I yearned,
Blind to the coming crisis,
Till on my cheeks the bright signs burned
Of pulmonary phthisis!

I felt each ache sketched in Part Three
Of Burton's learned folly,
Which treats of "The Anatomy
Of Lovers' Melancholy."

At last before my eyes one night
That dude Tom Simpson kissed her,
And on my young love set a blight
And on my heart a blister!

When she said "Yes" she lightly laughed,
Nor looked the least bit shaken;
But Simpson, like a compound draught,
Was stirred when he was taken.

The torturing sight induced a fit
Of dangerous insania,
And my poor aching brain was split
With homicidal mania!

I strode up to the amorous fool
And bled his big proboscis
According to the ancient school
Of phlebotomical bosses.

But fevers do not last for aye,
And chills are evanescent;
And, thanks to her sweet sister May,
I'm getting convalescent.

And now the love of no false nymph
To blanch my cheeks is able,
For I've a phial of that lymph,
With Dr. Koch's own label.

Which knocks bacilli on the head
By nauseous changes in their rations,
For microbes sicken when they're fed
On fluids flavoured with relations.

Halifax, N.S.