

HOCKEY AT MCGILL. -The University which encourages study to the exclusion of all physical exercise is not fulfilling in the best and most complete manner the primary object for which it is founded. The really successful student, or at least the man who has the best chance to become such a one, is not he who remains glued to his reading-table, but he who diversifies his studies with a judicious and reasonable exercise, thereby creating within himself a greater zest for future application. It used to be said of this great University that there was too little encouragement given to sports, and this was considered as one of the principal causes of her early backwardness. But this has been changed to a certain extent, and though this volte-face is slow, yet it has had sufficient time to show that one branch of athletics is favored to the detriment of another far more popular and far more beneficial. We refer in the first case to Football, in the second case to Hockey.

We have heard a great deal lately of the lack of University spirit in this University; but the efforts which are at present being made to establish and foster it would succeed in a much more permanent and decisive way if directed towards creating unity in athletics. Common interest in sports will create a common interest in the University, as has been proved in innumerable instances in England and the United States.

But in McGill, this is impossible under the present unfair conditions. Hockey, the premier Canadian sport, and one in which more interest is evinced than in any other, has been subjected to the irresponsible whims and fancies of the Football Club. This last-named Club never allows a session to pass without sending the hat around in the different faculties for charitable contributions. The Hockey Club, on the other hand, can truly say it has always been independent of any alms, and what tickets are so sold are bought by Undergraduates of their own free will, men who take a personal interest in the game, and who know that merit in the game will win the day and not the influence of a clique.

The Hockey Club has heavy expenses (of course by the Hockey Club I mean the Skating Club too), expenses for heating, lighting and wages, and yet it manages to struggle along on voluntary contributions, \$150 from the Grounds

Committee and the good-will of the Undergraduates.

But independent and practically self-supporting as it is, the Hockey Club has lately fallen into unfortunate circumstances, and McGill, instead of being represented on the ice by possibly the strongest hockey team in the world, is reduced to Inter-Faculty and Inter-Class matches. Efforts, repeated efforts, have been made by the Hockey Club to remedy its misfortune, and for this end its attempts to form an Inter-Collegiate Canadian Hockey League have met with failure, and why? Because, instead of sending separate delegates to Kingston on November 24th last, it allowed itself to be corralled by the Football Club representatives, who, entrusted by the Hockey Club to introduce the subject of Inter-Collegiate Hockey, were so overcome by their success in forming an All Canada Inter-Collegiate Football Club with one other Club that they saw nothing but visions of big, fat Football gates to the great detriment of the Hockey Club.

I may venture the statement that such a Football League cannot exist in Canada with any hopes of success when two such Leagues as those of Ontario and Quebec have shown themselves so signally capable up to the present moment. But I am equally certain that a Hockey team such as McGill can turn out, a Hockey team without a peer would do more for McGill in one season than her precious Football Club has ever done during the long years of its half-hearted existence.

The great majority of the Undergraduates prefer Hockey to Football, not only because, first, in Hockey merit wins the place, but more especially for the total absence of those dangerous and disagreeable features which are already commencing to bring Football into discredit.

Let McGill prefer the Football Club; if she likes an empty trophy case her preference will make her one with a vengeance. But if, on the other hand, she would foster a game healthier far than any other, if she would encourage that *esprit-de-corps*, the absence of which she laments so much, let her turn her efforts to support and back up Hockey, the game which is the most popular with the Undergraduates, the game which is the most truly aboriginal, patriotic and Canadian.