

ATHLETIC NOTES.

RUGBY PROSPECTS.

Another summer has spread its radiance over the College Lawn and left it in the best of condition for this year's campaign of autumn football. Before the lapse of another week, where peace and solitude have reigned for several months, commotion and strife over the deceptive pigskin will have returned, and the blue and white of our college kickers will have again started on the paths which lead to glory.

Enthusiasm, which is the soul of success, never ran so high among the votaries of Rugby as it does this year. Whether it is a desire to retrieve the lost honors of last year's first fifteen or simply a wholesome craving for distinction which inspires the Rugby cranks, it is certain that the feeling does exist, and it is to be hoped it will last. Those who have had the opportunity to do so, have been practicing for the past few weeks, and limbering up for a season of good hard work. Owing to the fact that a large proportion of last year's stars have fallen from the Collegiate planetary system, hard and regular practice will be more necessary than ever, and the sooner this fact is realized the easier will success be won. The opinion of old Nestor—

It is not strength, but art, obtained the prize.
And to be swift is less than to be wise—

is as true of football as of the more time-honored pastime of chariot racing, to which the old Greek referred. So, stir yourselves, ye hustlers after the deceptive oval; combinations are the order of the day, and the individual who plays for himself is a damning excrescence on any well-ordered fifteen. Always step together, and never wait for the bounce and the mug is yours, and "Varsity, Champions of '91" will not be a feeble fancy, but a thrilling and glorious fact.

More than half of last year's first are no longer with us, but all of those who remain have signified their intention of again serving for another season. In addition to these all of last year's distinguished second are again looking for glory, and will be a strong re-enforcement for this year's first. The choice of captain has not yet been made, but whoever has the honor of filling that office will have good material to handle.

The tie fixtures have been so arranged that Varsity opens the season with the kickers of Trinity on the 15th inst. Another match follows on the 25th, also with Trinity, and, should Varsity win, Queen's will probably be met here on the 31st. Varsity therefore has only three matches to win in order to be in the final. Surely this is an easy task. We have an unbroken record of victories over Trinity, and have the advantage of meeting Queen's on our own grounds.

The second fifteen, the strength of which it is as yet very difficult to ascertain, will have by no means an easy task in repeating the successes of last year. There is, however, abundance of enthusiastic material from which to choose a team. The first tie match will be played against the Canadians on the 17th.

The revision and improvement of the rules, which was effected at the annual meeting of the O. R. F. U. last spring, will necessitate a change in the methods of play which were resorted to last year, and, by the imposition of severe penalties, will prevent a recurrence of the disagreeable practices which last year brought discredit to Rugby football. Throughout the Province, and more especially in Toronto, the coming season promises to be the liveliest on record. Our concern, however, is not with the city and Province, but with the dwellers on the hallowed shrine of learning, which is an ornament to both, and whose colors should this year fly triumphantly over the tattered fragments of their defeated foes.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

It is to be hoped that a vigorous effort will be made by the Varsity men to maintain the high position they have won in Association football. True, the prospects are not,

at first glance, the brightest; four of the best England. Dave Duncan has, we understand, for the year. Senkler probably, and Edgar can be out of it. It is of course impossible to fill the most of these with men of equal calibre, but (we consider how easily the senior team won its victory goals to one was the usual record) and what material the second team contained we see no reason an eleven worthy and able to maintain the reputation Varsity may not be put in the field. Some good men who were out last year have returned, and some may be found in the Class of '95.

McLay will be on hand for the first match and, with Wood, the left wing, will be as effective as before. Hooper and Norman will doubtless be considered when the selection of forwards is made. They are both fine players. McDonald is here but does not seem inclined to play this season. Probably one or two may be taken from the forward line of last year's second team. Of these Govanlock has played good ball for two seasons, while Moore and Orton have shown themselves exceptionally speedy. The half-back line has lost the two stars, Forrester and Warbrick, but Goldie will replace one of them. Merrill played half-back in one or two matches last fall and will probably be retained, while the third man is, as yet, an unknown quantity. There will be some difficulty in finding two reliable full-backs, although there is no lack of men who have filled the position creditably. Wright, Graham, Breckenridge, McCallum and Dill play good ball but (the first excepted) are hardly up to championship form. If Senkler does not play Porter may be put between the posts or "Stonewall" Jackson given a chance to distinguish himself.

Last Saturday the first game of the League series came off, when the Scots and Marlboroughs met at Island Park. An account of the match is given elsewhere. Varsity meets the defeated Marlboroughs Saturday next on the lawn, and every effort should be put forth by the management to score a victory. Unless the Scots and Marlboroughs play much better ball than that of Saturday last, it is safe to conclude that our boys will most decidedly be "in it" with either team.

Of course in the first match of the season one cannot expect to find the players in condition, and it may be to this that the lack of combination is to be ascribed, but we are quite certain that in this particular, at least, the Varsity team will show to advantage on Oct. 10.

It is rather unfortunate that Varsity's first match comes so early in the term, as should the weather be unfavorable this week they will have to play almost without practice while their adversaries have doubtless been hard at it for two or three weeks, and even with a continuance of the present fine weather they will be unable to get into good form. However, the boys in white and blue can be depended on to do their best, and we expect to see the championship banner in their hands at the close of the season.

SCOTS VS. MARLBOROUGHS.

The first match of the League series came off at Island Park on Saturday when the Scots and Marlboroughs met. Alex. Goldie was selected as referee and placed McCallum and Orton at the goals.

In the first half the Marlboroughs had a slight advantage in the wind, and the ball, when it happened to be in play, was generally in the vicinity of the Scots' goal, but the attack of the Marlboroughs' forwards was hardly ever dangerous, and half time was called without a goal. The advantage was reversed in the second half; the Scots' forwards played up well, but without much combination, and finally scored.

The playing without was loose, and not once was either goal endangered by a brisk well-concerted attack. There is no doubt, however, that, when in practice and condition, either team can put up a good game of football.

Saturday's match, Varsity vs. Marlboroughs, should go to our boys if they can get into good form.