

## SPORTS.

## FOOTBALL.

At the close of the inter-year football series, a game was played between the class of '97 and a team chosen from the rest of the College. It resulted in a win for the College by the score of 16 to 5. '97 was deprived of the use of two of its best men, while the College was strengthened by the presence in its ranks of Messrs. White, Bedford-Jones, and Cayley, these last three taking the places of Cooper, Heaven, and McCallum. At the end of the first half the score stood 7 to 5 in favour of the College, a score which they increased by eight points in the second thirty minutes. '97 did not put up its usual game at any period of the contest. Parmenter, Mr. White, Griffith, Bushell and Mr. Bedford-Jones all did good work for their team. We should have liked to see another contest, but the fates decided otherwise.

Football is now put aside until the fall of '97, and we congratulate Toronto University most heartily on again winning the Ontario Championship. Our congratulations are also due to Ottawa College, who proved themselves to be head and shoulders above any other team in the Dominion. The game between the representatives of these two institutions at Rosedale, on Nov. 21st, was worth travelling a long way to see. In our opinion the slippery condition of the grounds favoured the Toronto men. Ottawa has a very strong running half-back line and, had the ground been hard and dry so that these men might have shown their speed, we think the score would have been somewhat different. The Easterners completely outclassed their opponents in the line, the wings holding well and the scrimmage almost invariably getting the ball out to Smith, who took his time in passing, so admirable was his protection. Gleason is the coolest and best centre half we have ever seen. His punting, while not being particularly strong, was sure and well placed. Morrison, at back for 'Varsity, is a better man than Belanger and did good work for his team. All things being equal, we should say that Ottawa College is twelve or fifteen points better than 'Varsity, but that they would have to play ball from start to finish to win by that margin.

We have heard a good many advocating lately the reduction the number of players in football from fifteen to eleven men a side. If such a change were made, there would be a great difference in the style of play. There would be a far greater portion of the work placed upon the shoulders of the half-back line than there is at present. This would mean a much more open game than that which is now played, but we are inclined to think that the work would be far too hard for the men behind the line, and, consequently, there would be periods in the game when the main object would be to keep the ball in scrimmage in order to rest the halves.

Across the line our American cousins play with what is known as the still scrimmage, and the ball is not in play until in the hands of the quarter back. This gives the captain of a team an opportunity to signal to his men exactly what play he wishes to be performed. This we believe to be an advantage to the game, and, inasmuch as it eliminates to a great extent the element of chance, every man understands what the play is and acts accordingly. Possession of the ball is, of course, highly important in this game, and there is, therefore, very little kicking done. This we believe to be a great drawback. If some rule were made in the American game to the effect that if the team did not advance the ball at least fifteen yards in every three plays instead of five yards as it is at present, the ball would change hands more often, more kicking would be indulged in, possession of the ball would be a matter of less vital importance, and the game, on the whole, would be better than ours.

Interference, we think, would be an improvement to our game as it permits of more team-play, since every man has

his work to do whether he is the one who has the ball or not. The rules of interference are misunderstood by many, who imagine that it permits a man to obstruct an opponent in any way, as by grasping hold of him, tripping him, etc. This is not the case. It simply allows a man to hinder his opponent from tackling, in the same way as our wings block their opposing wings during a scrimmage. There is a little inconsistency in our rules which permit blocking during a close formation, like a scrimmage, but do not allow it in an open play.

Space will not permit of our going into a lengthy comparison of the two games, but, as they stand now, we consider the Canadian to be the better; but that, if rules could be formulated, which would take in some of the principal points of the American game, we should have football which would be ideal, both from a player's and a spectator's point of view.

## HOCKEY.

Mr. C. S. Wilkie has been chosen captain of the hockey team. The appointment is a good one and we feel sure that, if a captain's efforts will do anything, the hockey team of '97 will have a record of success.

The history of last season's hockey at Trinity proves to us that it is very difficult to gauge a team's worth at the beginning of the season. On paper, the team we put on the ice seemed the best one Trinity had ever had; and, as a much lighter and inexperienced team had managed to enter the O. H. A. finals in the previous year, we had reason for hoping for great things from last year's team. Everyone of us knows how disappointed we were, and how, after one or two defeats, the men we had secured from outside the college walls dropped all interest in us. There is no doubt that it would have been better if they had declined to play with us in the first place. What a team wants is regular practice together, and this can only be got when the players are picked from within the University walls.

No matter how good individually those members of former teams are who are kind enough to play for us again, unless they can practise with us systematically and learn our combination, they do more harm than good, except, of course, in the case of a goal-keeper.

Last year the procuring of ice at a city rink was advocated, and, no doubt, if such had been obtained, our tale of woe might have been different. This year, thanks to the untiring zeal of our captain, Mr. Wilkie, and of Mr. Bradburn, we have secured practice hours twice a week at the Caledonia Rink. At the same time we must keep our own rink in good shape, and so have the advantages, and they are many, of playing on the big sheet of ice on Mutual street, and also of knowing what to do on a rink the size of the Victoria.

As to the *personnel* of the team we shall not say, as the worthy writer on this subject did last year, that "it will be much the same as last year," whereas it was almost totally different; but we shall say that we have several of last year's team still with us, namely, Senkler, Temple, Macdonald, and Wilkie; and with the addition of Parmenter, Curran, and Kerwyn, the two latter being Meds., and Broughall, Heaven, and Canfield, we should be able to pick a first-class VII. The fact that practice will commence as soon as the weather permits and continue all through the vacation means that we shall be in good trim when called on to play our first O.H.A. match, which, in former years, has always been played while we were still in poor training and quite out of practice. As to the Second VII, which plays an important part in keeping alive the interest in the game and in bringing out new talent, we have reason to hope that it will give a good account of itself in the Junior O.H.A.

## THE STEEPLECHASE.

On Saturday, November 14th, the most successful steeplechase we have ever had was brought off. In former years the course has been but a little over a mile