

difficulties, too. The long strips of wood are very clumsy things to handle at first, and then they are so slippery on the under surface that one experiences considerable difficulty in maintaining his equilibrium. With constant practice the skis become more manageable, and soon places that at first seemed far too rough and steep to go down can be "taken" with ease. According as the beginner becomes more adept at the game, the more he ventures, until at last the artificial slide with its great jump is tried, and he is fortunate indeed if he can go down this the first time successfully and not have to be sent back again to practise on smaller and less dangerous slides. Skiing has become so popular that leagues are formed among towns and cities by the followers of the sport, and meets are held to decide the championship of the country. These take place generally in the larger cities on the artificial slides, constructed in such a way that the feat of successfully going down one of them time after time without falling or meeting with other accidents is the supreme test of a skier's ability.

The slide is a couple of hundred yards in length and is built on the side of a hill, so that it will be inclined at such an angle that the slope will be very steep. About two-thirds of the way down the slope there is an abrupt curve in the slope, so that when the skier after having attained a great speed reaches this, instead of following the slope, he is sent far out into the air by the velocity of his forward motion and has to keep his balance there, at the same time holding himself in such a way that when he comes back to the earth at a distance of thirty or forty yards down the slide he will not fall or trip himself with his skis. If he has the misfortune to do so his journey from there to the foot of the slope will be a very unpleasant one. Whoever has not seen a skier rush down a slide and make his spectacular leap has yet to see one of the most thrilling sights that the world of sport provides.

Many things in late years have helped to raise this sport to a very important position among our winter amusements. Probably the most effective, but at the same time the latest of these, is the organization of clubs whose members take part in cross-country skiing contests.

Tobogganing is a pastime that gives much amusement to its followers, and sufficient excitement to please even the strong and sturdy who always desire that that element of sport predominate. Its best feature is that both young and old can enjoy it, but it is to the former that it is particularly welcome. In the rural districts where the task of keeping the snow off the ice is often too difficult, tobogganing takes the place of skating. Every hillside is taken