

WOMEN'S SPORTS

[This department is devoted to record of women's sports and athletics throughout Canada. Monthly reports of clubs and games, names of officers, competitions, prize winners and meetings, also items of personal skill, will be published in full. Secretaries are requested to send in such reports before the 15th of each month.]

Few Toronto women are aware of the privileges to be enjoyed by lady associate members of the Toronto Athletic Club. A visit to the club rooms on College street on any morning of the week would be a revelation to them on this respect. The splendidly equipped, airy gymnasium is a place to tempt to all sorts of graceful exercise; and here may be seen ladies of any age from fifteen to fifty, in easy gymnasium costumes, usually the club colors of black and cherry color, running, jumping, swinging, springing, climbing, and enjoying all the exercise of muscle and limb usually denied them. Possibly one of the most significant things is the evident enjoyment they exhibit in this opportunity of abandon to physical freedom.

But of the gymnasium in detail we shall speak in a later issue.

Just now we desire to draw the attention of our women readers to the swimming bath and its luxurious uses.

Our artist gives a sketch taken in the bath chamber, where any morning of the week young ladies may be seen having a good time in the water or learning to swim under the guidance of Mr. Bracewell, the instructor. A chaperon is always present, and not infrequently a group of well-known Toronto society women may be found upon the marble floor watching daughters or friends in the water, and discussing the light gossip of the day.

The swimming bath is well appointed in all its environments; it is eighty by thirty feet, and grades from seven feet eight inches in depth to four feet. It is environed with a broad marble walk, while dressing rooms, shower bath and all accessories are comfortably arranged. The apartment is light and airy, and absolutely dainty.

It is a decidedly pleasant sensation to pass into the warm, moist air of this chamber from the chill winter outside. The water is kept at about seventy degrees in temperature. It is darkling green in the mass of it, and contrasts artistically with the white basin.

There are about 150 lady associate members of the club; but thus far in the present season less than a score have availed themselves of the privileges of the swimming bath.

The swimming instructor is always on duty during the morning, and, whether a woman wishes merely to bathe or take swimming lessons, he is in close attendance to guard against accident, should she go beyond her depth.

While our artist's pencil travels quickly over the paper, Mr. Bracewell chats about women in the water.

"I prefer going in with a new comer to using the rope and pole," he says. "I find they learn to swim more quickly. I simply place my hand under them, and take it away when they have gained confidence. Young girls learn more quickly than adult women, of course; and stout ladies learn before thin ones. They have greater buoyancy and less to support. But it is possible for a woman to be too stout; then she should remain only a short time in the water."

"I always watch the lips and finger tips of my pupils carefully. If either shows the

least tinge of blue, I tell them they have been long enough in the bath. They do not always heed me, though."

"If a woman learned to swim up and down this bath, would it help her in case of a sudden immersion in the lake or sea?" questioned the artist as she caught the poise of a figure ready for a leap from the spring-board.

"Certainly it would," answered the instructor. "Anyone who can swim here, could swim much more easily in the large body of water. It would buoy them up better."

"Women have more confidence than men," he said in response to a further question. "In case of getting beyond depth, I would rather have three women than one man to rescue. They trust one more, and obey directions better. Besides he added thoughtfully, 'it is so easy to tow a woman out by her hair. A man's hair is too short to give one a grip.'"

"No, there have never been any accidents since I've been here," he added, when our laughter subsided. "The nearest approach to it was Christmas Eve, a year ago, when a young fellow got beyond his depth, and I had



to go in with my clothes on to bring him out. He wound himself around me so that I could not move, and I had to strike him to make him let go sufficiently to give my arms and legs freedom."

At this point the sketch was finished, and a young lady stepped into the water, ready for her first lesson.

The Victoria Skating Club held their first assembly at the Victoria Rink on Monday evening, December 9th. The large number of pretty girls on the ice was generally commented upon. Some of the most graceful skaters were the Misses Dawson, Todd and Yarker, Mesdames Ruttan and Sweny.

The dancing was effective. After the skating Mrs. J. D. Hay gave a small but very enjoyable supper. Mrs. MacKelcan songs are much appreciated.

THIN ICE—A LIFE'S INTEREST—THE ICE POLE.

In walking and skating, keep to the good ice. When approaching thin ice, a light pole of birch or tamarac should be carried over the shoulder. This will afford a firm grasp for the hands in case the feet should break through. In holding on to the ice edge, keep very still. A little will support the immersed body. Assistance from the

outside may then be given by means of a hand line; the helper to approach the thin place alone, and by creeping on all fours, if deemed necessary; or the hand line or pole may be thrown or pushed carefully forward to the person immersed. A long ladder is good in the case of large breakages. The thin places should be marked by a warning bush or danger board. By such methods the Royal Humane Society of England save many lives.

The gymnasium in connection with the Y. W. C. G. has been a favorite resort with the girl members during the past month. The two classes, senior and junior, numbers seventy-four.

The most popular game at present is basket-ball.

The instructor of the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium kindly gave the girls a few lessons, and a number of them are growing quite skilful in the game, which affords splendid exercise.

Pedestrianism is growing to be a fad in the Southern States among women. The English fashion of walking parties has found favor among the languid ladies of the South. They rise early and take their five-mile tramp before breakfast, in preference either to horse or wheel.

The old-fashioned "constitutional" is undoubtedly the best method of exercise in the Southern climate, but its present rise into favor is attributable rather to the fact that it is "English." CYCLIST.

DUNLOPS WILL STAND THE TEST.

The American Dunlop Tire Co. have made preparations for an enormous business during the coming season. Already the orders are pouring in, and Manager Garland avers that makers and dealers who neglect to book their supplies now, may find themselves placed to inconvenience when the rush begins. The company's two travelers, Messrs. Brisbin and Shaw, write in to say that the prospects for the bicycle trade were never so bright, and that of the good things going the Dunlop Company will, of course, secure their fair share. Mr. Brisbin, who is now in the Maritime Provinces, states that the "Dunlop" rules the roost down there, the trade on all hands giving it the preference over every other make.

Dunlop tires will never "split the wood"—those days are over with them. The company have just adopted a wooden rim which they guarantee cannot be split. Said Mr. Garland: "I am willing to let any man take a hammer and some big nails and see if he can split our rim. The nail may go through, but the rim will not manifest the slightest inclination to split. Let anyone who doubts this statement make the trial."

It is further pointed out that the rim will come safely through any amount of hard usage without any collapse taking place, as has been the penchant of all other wooden circumferences in the past.

The '96 Dunlop tire is as nearly perfect as is possible to make anything. None but the very best rubber is used in its manufacture, and the factory staff are under the eye of an experienced foreman lately brought out from England.