

Athletics.

Everyone is talking hockey; everyone is thinking hockey; all the papers are full of hockey. Enter a tonsorial artist's premises and it is the sole topic of conversation. Each artist has his own views on the results of the various matches to be played, and is usually prepared to back them with coin of the realm. Even the hardworking government officials find time to discuss the subject.



One of the features of hockey which seems unaccountable is the fact that a team which made a very poor showing in the previous season will play a remarkably fine game this year — with almost identically the same personnel,—while inversely last year's champions almost unchanged, will be roundly beaten on their own ice this season. The only explanation is, of course, improvement on the one hand and deterioration on the other. Hockey is essentially a game in which "condition" is everything. The tippler and the cigarette fiend cannot stand the pace for more than a brief period.



And this is one of the incidental (if not one of the chief) benefits accruing from athletics, viz., that a condition precedent to success in any line of sport is that its devotees should absolutely abjure loose living. The Spartan method is bound to have a beneficial effect on the rising generation. This is largely the reason why our great universities usually make participation in athletics compulsory in their curricula. It stimulates ambition; creates a power of self restraint; inculcates an aversion to dissipation, and infuses a love of fair play.



That great Empire builder, Cecil Rhodes, had this in his mind's eye,

when in devising and arranging his unprecedentedly great scheme of scholarships throughout the world—to which he devoted his immense fortune—he insisted that the selection of candidates should be governed as much by athletic proficiency as by academic attainments. Hence we find the Oxford University hockey team, all Canadian Rhodes scholars hailing from Newfoundland to British Columbia, touring Europe and "astonishing the natives" by their wonderful work on the ice.



The local professional and amateur hockey teams are certainly making a great showing this winter. The former are bidding strongly for the recapture of the Stanley Cup, while the Allan Trophy, emblematic of amateur championship, also looks destined to come to the Capital from the "Limestone City" where it now reposes in Queen's University. The Ottawas and Cliff-sides are both playing splendid hockey. Last Saturday night's match between Ottawa and the Canadiens of Montreal was a record in attendance and excitement, and constituted the fifth win for the home team without a defeat. The amateur clubs are providing the recruits for the senior leagues, and it appears difficult for the youngsters to resist the "coin" when it is offered. There have been one or two notable instances of late, however, in which members of the amateur league have refused to sacrifice their amateur standing.



Almost every week an advance is chronicled in the progress of the science of aviation, — while, *pari passu*, the inevitable death roll goes up with grim regularity. The latest achievement of note is that of the Californian aviator, Ely, who flew from San Francisco 12 miles to sea, landing on the deck of a U. S. battleship, and then flew back to land. It