

sports. Let us suppose a case. A boy full of animal life and spirits, who has been accustomed to plenty of healthful exercise, comes to a school at which the pupils are not encouraged to indulge in athletic sports, but have their time and attention wholly taken up with their studies. What is the result? He becomes disgusted with the school—thinks it is a tiresome institution—regards it somewhat in the light of a prison-house. His disgust for the school passes by an easy and natural transition into a disgust for everything associated with it, whether studies or teachers. His mental training becomes almost a hopeless task. Suppose, however, this boy had been sent to a school the pupils of which, after the day's work was done, regularly played cricket, base-ball, foot-ball, lacrosse, or some other equally enjoyable game. Now, on account of the pleasant associations, there is gradually developed in this boy a love for the school and all its belongings at which the old motto, "All work and no play" has been entirely discarded and replaced by "Work first and then play."

What are the effects of out-door sports upon the character? Generally speaking, I believe they are beneficial. A self-reliant manliness is the natural outcome of such games as those to which I have already referred. Each player desires the victory of his own side. In order to this it is necessary that he exert himself to the best of his powers, that he does not allow an opponent, although physically stronger than himself, to gain an advantage without a struggle. In such games it frequently happens that there arises a crisis when a lad feels that the whole honour of his side depends upon his individual exertion. He nerves himself for the effort and faces the difficulty with a determination strongly characteristic of the Briton, and which has led him in all quarters of the

world to victory, conquest and fame. Here I may remark that in no country in modern times are athletic sports so universally practised and held in such high esteem as in Britain. I will not affirm that the indomitable perseverance and "pluck" of the Briton are to be attributed solely to the influence of athletic sports, but I will say that such sports have been very potent factors in developing these phases of the British character. Besides tending to make our lads self-reliant, manly and bold, I believe that out-door sports tend to develop the generous side of a boy's nature. As he desires the victory, so he desires to win it honourably. A victory won from an opponent who was labouring under a disadvantage would, to the average schoolboy, be productive of but little pleasure. That his laurels may be an honour to himself he will be careful that he takes no unfair advantage of his rival. When there is a manifest inequality in the sides, as frequently happens, I know from my own experience that a proposal for an equalization will, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, come from the captain of the stronger side. Frequently it happens that there is great disparity in the ages and physical strength of the pupils attending the same school. Usually the older and stronger will treat the younger and weaker with considerate tenderness, which they would not shew to their equals. A big, strong lad will, as a rule, consider a small, weak one as a special object of his protection and patronage. There are, no doubt, many bullies; but they are not respected even by those boys who need not, and do not fear them. The general bent of schoolboys' minds is opposed to oppression and inclined to generosity. Out-door sports give many opportunities of shewing this. Hence these sports should be encouraged. Again in such games as are usually played