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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1892.

DOTS AND DASHES.

It might interest Victoria lovers of the game of football, now that the season is on, to learn that they owe the game to the Romans. There is no doubt that it "came over" to England with Julius Cæsar. It was played, too, by the Greeks, and, in all likelihood, by more ancient peoples before them. But the actual origin of the game is lost in the mists of time. Fierce wordy warfare has been waged about the invention of printing, of gunpowder, of the mariner's compass and so on; but these mysteries would be trifles light as air compared with the serious effort, if any man were sane enough to make it, to discover the inventor of football. Depend upon it, the simpler ball games are as old as the human race, and the man, woman or child who first kicked something round, or threw it about sportively, gave rise to a rough and ready pastime out of which football and a host of other games grew during the centuries. Do not, however, run away with the notion that when the astonished Britons saw the Romans at their game they saw football played as it is played to day in London or Glasgow. Their pastime was of a much simpler sort than ours, though, curiously enough, the Greeks seem, in some forms of the game, to have handled the ball in a way that suggests at least the crude idea of the Rugby style. From the Romans, the natives soon learned the game, and it got that firm foothold in the old country which it has ever since retained. It is strange that football took root in the northern parts of England before the Southerners adopted it; and it is recorded of the colliers of the North that they used to lie in wait for the bridegroom as he left the church after the wedding ceremony and demand money from him for the game.

The meeting which was held Thursday evening at the City Hall, under the presidency of Mr. R. P. Rithet, augurs well for a thoroughly healthy and active turf club in Victoria. There was a large attendance, and the purpose for which the meeting was held was to discuss the offer of the Mount Tolmie Turf Club, which is in effect to assume the assets, liabilities and good will of the Victoria Jockey Club, in return for stock taken by the members of the latter in the new club to the amount of about \$8,000. With the cash and backing of the new club added to this sum, the amalgamated institution would have its own track, grounds and buildings. It is owing to the absence of such ownership, principally, that the Victoria Jockey Club

has not flourished as it should have done. This whole question was discussed in all its bearings at the meeting in question, and those present were to a unit in favor of amalgamation. The only point not decided was the basis of union, but this was surmounted by the appointment of a committee to confer with the promoters of the new club with a view to better terms, the assets of the Victoria Jockey Club being stated to be greater than were estimated. It was also proposed and generally agreed upon that the name of the new institution should be the Victoria Turf Club.

The doctors are coming to believe that the bald head can be made to blossom—if not like the rose at least like the hair mattress. This statement is made on the authority of the New York *Medical Record*, which says that great hope is entertained for neurotrophic and parasite baldness. Senile baldness is, however, acknowledged to be incurable. The formulæ for bristle culture are very simple. For the neurotrophic condition of the human north pole, Dr. H. H. Ohmann-Dumesnil (and a doctor with a name like that can cure anything) recommends a pill twice daily made up of R. Strychnia sulph., gr. 1-60; ferri redacti, gr. j.; quinae bisulph., gr. j. To this he adds: hypophosphites and gr. $\frac{1}{2}$ to gr. 1-6 of pilocarpine hydrochlorate at bed time. For parasitic forms of alopecia areata Dr. Dumesnil advises a three per cent solution of creolin for the entire scalp and locally an ointment composed of hydrarg., perchlorid., corrosivi, gr. j.; lanolini, drachm j. A more drastic measure consists in painting the affected area with pure carbolic acid. If this doesn't make the recalcitrant scalp hump itself, the bald headed gentlemen at least has the satisfaction of knowing that he has been treated by the faculty and can pay his bill with gladness and singleness of heart. But why attempt the culture of a hirsute covering for the brain box when its absence has long been associated with professional dignity and a fine taste in the dramatic art? A young doctor would be willing to give a week's practice to accumulate a fine case of alopecia areata on his zenith. And a formula for causing baldness of any kind except the senile would be welcomed with effusion. Nature is not prodigal of her favors. Let the bald headed rejoice and carry their brain boxes proudly unornamented. You never saw any bald headed fools—at least not many.

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—THE—

Paper of the People

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SOUNDS AND ECHOES.

HORSES are so plentiful in Buenos Ayres that beggars ride on horseback. Beggars who ride on horseback are said to go to a very hot place.

The list of the *respectable gentlemen* who attended the Swan Lake reception was received too late for publication in this issue. Look out for THE HOME JOURNAL next week.

A BLIND man, playing a hand organ, is often seen on the streets of Toronto. He strives to arouse the pity of pedestrians by displaying on his breast a card bearing these touching words: "I am blind and the father of eight children by a horrible accident."

THE clergyman who has continuously occupied one pulpit longer than any other divine in the United States, is the Rev. Dr. Furness, of Philadelphia. His age is 90, and for 68 years he has been pastor of one church. The attention of the members of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is directed to this "statement of fact."