

up of the world by railway and steamship communication the demand for diamonds has increased marvellously. The world now purchases about five million pounds worth per annum. Twenty years ago it was about half a million sterling.

The visit to our city on Thursday of the Seattle High School pupils and their friends must have convinced many that the residents of our neighboring city need not be ashamed of the rising generation, at least in so far as good looks are concerned. It is seldom a large party of prettier girls and as well-behaved young men can be gathered together, and we congratulate the Seattleites on their offspring. This event gives me an opportunity of introducing a subject which has occurred to me on several occasions. That is the matter of mental over-pressure.

The capacity of the child, the number and nature of the studies, and especially the length of the recitations, are features which ought not to be overlooked or be left to the discretion of educators. That much can be gained by experimental study of over-pressure is shown by a paper read by Dr. Bergenstein, of Vienna, before the Congress of Hygiene in London, upon "The Working Curve of an Hour." The writer had for his object the study of the mental power children, and he arranged his experiments with a view to demonstrating the fluctuations of brain power in children during one hour's occupation with a familiar subject. Simple addition and multiplication sums were given to two classes of girls, of an average age of eleven years and eleven months, and two classes of boys, of the average age of twelve years and two months and thirteen years and one month. After ten minutes' work the sums were taken away from the children; after a pause of ten minutes the work was resumed, the alternation continuing for an hour, so that there were three periods of work.

The results were interesting. During the whole experiment the 162 children worked out 135,010 figures, making 6,504 mistakes. It was found that the number of mistakes increased in the different periods, and that during the third period the quality of work was at the lowest. The general result showed,

according to the investigator, that "children of the ages stated become fatigued in three-quarters of an hour; that the organic material is gradually exhausted; that the power of work gradually diminishes to a certain point during the third quarter of the hour, returning with renewed force at the fourth quarter." The recommendation was made that no school lesson should last longer than three-quarters of an hour, and should be followed by a quarter of an hour's rest. Such a study is of especial benefit at the beginning of the school year. Children are often reprimanded for inattention when they are over-fatigued, and are spurred forward when their minds need rest. Mental over-pressure is the usual result.

Recent developments in connection with the Vancouver-Victoria lacrosse match have not changed the opinions of those most interested as to what should constitute the membership of an amateur club. The knowing ones claim that they have sufficient evidence to justify the action of the executive committee of the Victoria lacrosse club in suspending members of their team in the last match, and I really hope they will have proof sufficient to expel any or all who may be implicated. Certain well-known "sports," who roost not 100 miles from Yates street (north and south), are accused of "putting up the job," and the lacrosse club feel confident that they will be able to locate the guilty parties and expose the whole matter before the season is over.

The club has no sympathy with the men who lost their money on the game, because the rules strictly forbid betting by members; but for the honor and reputation of those who are innocent the club feels itself in duty bound to sift the affair to the bottom. They will leave no stone unturned to accomplish that end. The public should not be too hasty, and expect an immediate verdict, as these things are generally pretty well covered up by the guilty persons, and it is difficult to produce proof. If the club's suspicions are found to be correct, the players who "sold out" will be expelled from the Provincial Association, which will prevent them from playing on any team in Canada.

Are there any flies on Victoria? Not

that anybody knows about, of course. But still there are some kinds of vermin about which could very well be dispensed with. This city has long enjoyed the reputation of cleanliness and decency, and has always been known as a place particularly free from those parasites which live on the natural and vigorous growths of others. No city of the same size on the coast can show as clean a record regarding saloons, despite the fact that a certain "crusading" element has "crusaded" and discovered that, even if the town was not perfect, it was head and shoulders above its neighbors as regards obedience to ordinances and general propriety and decorum. But there are some things here which at any cost should be preserved in oil, or kept in some manner in a state of innocuous desuetude. Gamblers, as gamblers' have to be endured, but they form a class by themselves and can be avoided, for they are known to all, and one does not have to visit their resorts or associate with them unless so inclined. In brief, there are in our midst a class of men who do not belong to the gambling fraternity, but who in a greater degree menace the laws and well-being of the community. I am pleased to hear that an exposure of these men and their tricks will take place before long.

I observe that the Republican Convention at Minneapolis reaffirms its belief in the Monroe doctrine, by which, as the New York Sun would say, "Canadians would possess all the liberties that are the inheritance of the people of the United States." I have often wondered what constitutes the much-talked-of liberty of our neighbors over the way. Is lynch law a part of it? The Toronto Empire inquires: Is it to shoot down helpless negroes at will, and divorce at pleasure and marry as often as we please? The freedom of our constitution and the manner in which the opinions of the people act and re-act upon our legislation is a most wonderful evidence of popular freedom and of the power of the people.

PERE GRINATOR.

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