

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.)

When a woman wills to learn anything, she goes at it with an enthusiasm and intensity of purpose that no number of failures can weaken. Her eyes shine, her face flushes, her hair tosses, every nerve is tensioned up; she is going to succeed or die in the attempt. She generally succeeds—but at the expense of nerve force sufficient to carry her through a dozen crises, mental and physical.

That is one thing women never learn until too late—to conserve their strength.

Now, the average man takes things very differently. He uses just the amount of intensity necessary for the carrying out of his purpose—or less; if he can secure someone else to contribute the enthusiasm and nerve force, so much the better. A man will always learn his lesson by proxy if he can.

Nothing shows the truth of the above remarks more than to note the difference between the sexes in learning any sport. Men take it easy—rather indifferently; women go at it as a matter of life and death. Men stop when they are tired; women are wrought up to such a pitch that they are unconscious of fatigue, until it betrays itself in the after reaction of a good cry, if nothing worse.

One sees it in the tennis or golf game, in the bicycle school or gymnasium.

Women simply do not know how to conserve their strength or when to stop.

We are not speaking now of girls who are brought up to athletic sports from childhood; but of the more mature woman who takes hold of things in rushing, impetuous fashion, and never hears, or hearing fails to heed, the still inner voice that bids her to greater control and calmness.

The top flat of the Comet bicycle warehouse has been reserved for a school for ladies. It is a great bare place, with numerous supporting posts, and a neat little adjoining dressing-room; and here, at any hour of the day, Toronto ladies may be seen taking their first lessons on the uncertain wheel.

It is warm work for the pupils—it is warmer work for the sturdy boys whose business it is to steady and support the wabbling wheels. The only cool people are the occasional onlookers.

The pupils are not all young ladies, by any means. Not a few are white-haired, slender women, who look decidedly graceful when fear has left them and they feel secure.

Some are plump—we might say fat—and some are lean; some are fearless young girls, others are elderly dames; but neither age nor proportion seems to make much difference in the skill of the pupils.

"It ain't size as makes the difference," remarked one experienced teacher, mopping his brow. "Some fat ones learn quick. It's steadiness. Them that rushes ahead takes longer to learn than them that goes slow. It's nerve and holdin' themselves in that wins every time."

There is a marked difference in the time which women take to become independent of help. Some are comparatively mistresses of their wheel after one hour's help and practice. Others are helpless after six times that amount.

Yet even the slowest learn with perseverance.

The Comet Company provide wheels for practising purposes.

When a woman can ride in and out among those troublesome posts, and steer herself where she will about the great flat, she is quite ready for the street.

Numbers of ladies purpose practising here through the winter months; and in the spring they will surprise their friends by coming out as adepts upon their wheels.

The Victoria Skating Club, limited to 300 members, is nearly complete in number. Two hundred associate members, relatives of active members, are to be admitted at a subscription fee of one dollar each. The covered part of the rink is to be reserved exclusively for members of the club on Monday evening and Thursday afternoon throughout the season.

Skate-dancing will be one of the chief



features of the club's amusements; quadrilles, lancers and waltzes upon the ice are anticipated, and it is proposed to secure an able instructor.

Those who were fortunate enough to see the skating dances on the ice at the Quebec carnival of two seasons ago, will welcome the prospect of such graceful and glittering spectacles at the Victoria rink during the coming season.

Hockey has been vetoed as too rough a game.

It is reported that a similar club is being organized for the Granite rink.

If the season prove favorable, skating will be revived as the fashionable amusement.

Canon DuMoulin's diatribe against the advance of betting in our midst is timely and needful. The evil is spreading, not among our men only, but among our women also.

At the spring and fall Woodbine races, among much that was pretty and harmless in society gayety, the sorry feature might be observed of ladies of good social standing betting on the various horses, and publicly passing money over to each other, at the close of each race.

Quite apart from the evil principle, and the

moral deterioration existing in such transactions, fine womanly perception would avoid the offence to good taste involved in betting in public places.

A word might also be spoken here about poker playing. During the past two or three seasons, poker parties have become popular in certain fashionable circles—not in Toronto alone, but other Canadian cities.

Poker is essentially the game of professional gamblers—a game not permitted within any respectable club-rooms, and certainly not one to introduce into the social circles of home life.

It may be fashionable for ladies to give poker parties and place their guests in positions where they must perforce seem discourteous or gamble—it will never be respectable. To transplant the evils of an older and waning social order into a new and healthy colonial life, is not wise.

The Rosedale Golf club laid out a good program for Thanksgiving Day, as follows: At 9.30 a.m., the president, Mr. McLaughlin; and captain, Mr. Kirk, chos sides and played over the full course. The losers paid for luncheon, which was ordered at the clubhouse for 12.30 o'clock. In the afternoon foursome was played by ladies and gentlemen; the best score (lady and gentleman) received a handsome present each. Miss Scott won the ladies' handicap, and is the possessor of the handsome

golf bag given by the Harold Wilson Company.

The Baptist Bicycle and Social Union is composed of the bicycle riders from various Baptist churches in Toronto, and numbers over one hundred members. The Union is the source of many enjoyable evenings.

The women's gymnasiums, both at the Y. W. C. G. and Athletic Club, are being largely patronized during the present season. Some very skilful gymnasts may be found at the latter—among them being leading society ladies.

The Vassar girls had a field day on Nov. 11th, when jumping, running, hurdle races and basket-ball contests were the order of the day. The idea of having a field day originated with the members of the Athletic Association. It grew out of a desire to determine which class excelled in athletics.

CYCLIST.

In buying a bicycle, purchasers are apt to overlook the necessity of securing the best tire possible. Bicycle firms will often urge a cheaper tire in order to sell their wheels. But buyers should make a careful inspection of various tires, and assure themselves that they secure the best.

A visit to the Dunlop Tire Co., Lombard street, will repay any intending purchaser. These tires are self-adjusting; the air tube is beneath the rim and when the tire becomes punctured, the tube can be taken out patched and readjusted by the owner of the wheel.

In other tires it is impossible to get at the tube, which is cemented on to the rim.

Bicycle riders, once using a wheel with this tire, will refuse to purchase any other. The rim itself is of wood, cut in such fashion that even when cut, split or strained, it is still unbreakable and holds firmly together. Only the best rubber is used in manufacture.

This company are filling orders for tires for the city ambulances.