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Editorial Comments.



HARVARD, Yale, Princeton and Columbia Colleges possess gymnasiums erected at a cost of thousands of dollars and maintained at an annual expense of thousands of dollars, yet withal the treasury is full and flourishing.

The athletic spirit of these, the largest and most prominent universities in America, is a marked feature pervading every department of college life, and it is the activity of this spirit which makes them so famous the world over. The gymnasium, the material expression of this spirit, is the nursery of all branches of athletics, from the hard, rough, struggling game of football to the quick activity of a forty-yard dash.

In Harvard, to-day, there are no less than 200 in training for positions on the athletic team. The candidates for baseball and rowing, though not so numerous, have already been at work some weeks. By spring they will have laid a foundation upon which to build and possess a constitution that will be able to stand the extra demands on their energy in the final struggle for honors. The training of the candidates in each department of athletics is under the guidance of an experienced coach and trainer. The exercise is of a judicious character, each weakness and excellency being noted and each athletic quality improved where necessary with the greatest care.

The spring inter-collegiate games, at which a cup is awarded to the college obtaining the highest number of points, generates and fosters a spirit of keen rivalry and develops athletes who have become the most prominent in the world. The captain of each team takes a personal interest in each competitor, eagerly studying out his forte and training him for that distance at which he is best suited. This care and handling of promising material by competent trainers has brought to the front some of the best men on the track to-day. H. L. Williams, of Yale, holds the world's record for the 120 yards hurdle race. Luther H. Cary budded into prominence at the inter-collegiate games, and now holds the proud title of the world's champion sprinter, covering the 220 yards in 21½ seconds.

M. Remington, also of Princeton, though able to run the 100 yards in fast time, was found to excel at the longer sprints. He was trained for these, and to-day has few equals at the 440 yards, and is invincible at the 300 limit.

Bloss, of Harvard, specializes in the hop, step and jump, and recently broke the record for the 40-yard dash.

We might mention a score of others, as Harding, Baker, Shirrell, Ryder, Swain and Lee, who are the life and material of the great Manhattan and New York Athletic Clubs.

Looking at our own university we feel that, while she

is keeping abreast of the times in science, medicine, political economy, and the other branches of education, in regard to athletics she is far from being in line. The High Schools and Collegiate Institutes boast that which we do not possess—a gymnasium. The work of the gymnasium, which is considered so fundamental and important in training, is unknown to the undergraduate here. The lack of this should not be underestimated, and is a handicap which cannot be overcome even by any excellence which we might naturally possess.

True the baseball team defeated the well-trained men of Cornell, a leading club in the American Inter-Collegiate League, and let Harvard know that the game was played here. True Orton, with only a few weeks of judicious training, to whom spiked shoes were a novelty, ran a mile faster than any American student who ever saw a cinder track. True, again, Agnew, without any preliminary practice, put the shot farther than Queckberner, the giant of the Manhattans.

If we possess teams and men who, in spite of disadvantages, are able to come to the front, we feel sure that, with facilities for practice and training, there are many athletes in our Canadian universities who have talent that lacks only development. This is impossible without a gymnasium and a cinder track. The former is absolutely necessary, and records and successful games do not exist without the latter.

Looking at the need of a gymnasium from a more practical standpoint, in which we do not wish so much to excel in athletics, we do wish to strengthen our constitutions with healthful physical recreation, and store up that energy which is called for in the trying hours of May. The change from the recreation of the fall term to the diminished opportunities for exercise and increased mental strain of the spring term is most pronounced and unfavorable. If we are to have a gymnasium, why not at once? We hear that the Senate has \$20,000 for something, may be it is to be devoted for this cause.

We will never grow strong on our present prospects; never find recreation in the promises that have been made. All, from the President to the least athletic member of '95, feel the need, and hope that the need may be supplied.

We do not know where the committee that was formed three years ago to collect money—even did collect a few thousand—has gone.

But now, right at once, without losing any more time, with the hearty co-operation of the whole student body and the hundreds of graduates devoted to their Alma Mater, the erection of a gymnasium is possible, and could be easily maintained by that fee which was formerly imposed on Moss Hall.

The Italian Government has ordered English to be added to the courses of all its colleges.