

youth, who have acquired some of the best qualities that mark the active citizen, the faithful public servant, or the armed defender of one's country. For instance, in the late war waged to the south of us, it was remarkable how many men, who had been college athletes, distinguished themselves by deeds of the highest daring and self-devotion. The heroic death in Cuba of young Osgood, the great Rugby half-back and champion college-athlete of the United States, awakened a spirit of emulation among all the college men of the country, before the outbreak of the war.

Student life, as a whole, is wonderfully affected by the temper and spirit thus engendered. The phenomenon ceases to be a mystery when we consider what young men actually and potentially are, how they learn to cherish worthy resolves and ideals by the practice of what is high, difficult and chivalrous. It has happened very often that one's inherent nobleness of soul is aroused by the sense of comradeship and the demand for exertion on behalf of one's clan or country or community.

And thus a college spirit is developed which is often deep, fervent and lasting. For the college is the student's community, and during his term of residence his aspirations and endeavors do not go beyond its limits. Inasmuch as each series of matches usually run up to an inter-collegiate contest, it is difficult to conceive of any ordinary set of conditions which can so evoke and maintain a feeling of interest and pride in the reputation and achievements of one's college. And as a matter of fact all progressive English-speaking colleges are in sympathy with the forward movement in athletics, and many of them, under vastly different conditions to be sure, are upon the same level in regard to this department of education as that traditionally occupied by Oxford and Cambridge.

That this form of college activity has been, on the whole, a benefit, few will be found to deny, at least among those who understand anything of young men, or of human nature as shown in the tendencies of corporate life. Specific instances bear out this contention. The subject has been discussed most fully in the magazines and college papers of the United States, where development along this line has been most marked and universal. Yale, Princeton and Pennsylvania have lost nothing in the long run as universities, by reason of their prominence on the inter-collegiate field. Yale, especially, has been the subject of inquiry and criticism, but abundant testimony absolutely conclusive has been given that the whole institution, faculty, students and patrons, is satisfied with the intelligent and systematic cultivation of athletics within the university.

Of course, incidental evils are of frequent occurrence, and dangers abound on every hand. There is the risk of painful and serious accident, not simply upon the football or lacrosse field, but also upon the baseball and even upon the tennis ground. There is the danger lest the votary of athletic sports generally may become so absorbed or pre-occupied as to neglect the main business of his academic life, and become only a student by courtesy. There is the liability to one-sided views of what that life really is or ought to be. Of all things, the undergraduate should have a horror of becoming what is colloquially termed a "sport." The associations of sporting circles, especially outside of college, are not always the most improving. There is the temptation—lest us trust a rare one—to gamble on the results of games. This is the most hideous spectre that rises up before the truest friends of athletics and

athletes; for there is nothing more insidious and malignant than even the slightest indulgence in this pernicious habit, which has been so peculiarly the vice of sporting life in ancient and modern times, as the very terms *gaming* and *gambling*, or their equivalents, so eloquently attest.

But these dangers and temptations have to be reckoned with and overcome; for college athletics have come to stay. They are part of the moral environment and atmosphere, and like other elements of student life they may help to make or mar the man, according as they are used or abused. In this connection it is not out of place to observe that the athletic era has been coincident with what one may call the era of aggressive religion in colleges. The forces that make for physical, moral, and religious development have gone hand in hand. Thirty years ago football and the Y.M.C.A. were both unknown or just beginning to appear in the colleges of America, and both have since played a large part in the making of worthy men. The cordial co-operation and sympathy between the religious and the athletic agencies of our colleges is one of the most promising and interesting features of the educational world.

The present seems a good time to take stock of our athletic business, and therefore the general aspects of the subject have been considered here at some length. In the remainder of the article several points of importance will be merely touched upon, though each of them might well be dealt with in a separate paper.

The present season is a critical one in the history of college athletics. Probably the interest shown in field contests, of any sort, was never so great as it is just now. But what is of most significance is the new and decisive movement in Rugby football—the most spectacular and popular of all out-door sports—I should like to bracket with it the grand old Association game, but the absurd system of scoring, which seems to make it a game of waiting on Providence, gives it a second place. The Inter-collegiate Rugby Union is bound to be a success, and will, in all likelihood, supersede all other unions in public patronage. As standing at the head of college games, we may take it as typical of the rest, as we endeavor to justify, in a few words, the superiority of college athletics, at least in all games of team or combination play.

In all contests that are purely representative and selective, college men are bound to come out ahead in the long run. In competitions of individuals, as in track athletics generally, in running, jumping, wrestling, boxing, and cycling, they simply stand their chance with the multitude, and may or may not take the foremost place. But in football, cricket, baseball, and lacrosse, they are likely, in this part of the world at least, to have the final supremacy. The main reasons seem to be as follows:

- i. No community, which such a team represents, has such deep and sustained interest in the success of its delegates as has the college. Towns and cities do not make such sports a matter of civic existence, while college men regard them as part of their very life. Hence, casual athletes outside of college stand for little except individual love of sport or ambition. If their devotion to their city equalled the devotion of college men to their college, they would have an equally strong motive; but in the present stage of the world, residence in a town is much more of a mere accident than residence in a college, and the latter holds one's affection with a stronger grip.