

WARNE'S

LA CROSSE



W.H. ROBINSON

BIJOU BOOKS

WARNE'S BIJOU BOOKS.

LA CROSSE.

(THE NATIONAL GAME OF CANADA.)

PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE
LA CROSSE ASSOCIATION.

BY MARK H. ROBINSON,
OF THE CIVIL SERVICE LA CROSSE CLUB.



LONDON :
FREDERICK WARNE AND CO.
BEDFORD STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

1863.

LONDON:
SAVILL, EDWARDS AND CO., CHANDOS STREET,
COVENT GARDEN.

P R E F A C E.

No apology is needed for introducing La Crosse to the sport-loving British public. The devotion of our kinsfolk, the Canadians, to this charming game is introduction enough for it; while no one can doubt that we have room for another good game.

It is to be observed that the rules of the game, as settled by the La Crosse Association, are now published *for the first time*. While still incomplete they appeared in some of the sporting newspapers, but in a form differing greatly from that finally adopted. One or more sets of Canadian rules have been sold in this

country, but they have been unanimously abandoned by the clubs in favour of the Association rules here given. It cannot be doubted that these rules are greatly superior to the Canadian (at least for use in this country), and that they are the best which English experience has yet been able to devise.

It is hoped that the comparatively limited number to whom La Crosse is yet known, will use their utmost endeavours to circulate this little work amongst their friends in all parts of the country, during the summer season of 1868. In this way only can they expect to popularize the game by the ensuing winter season. If our numberless cricket clubs will give attention to the matter, many of them may be inclined to form La Crosse clubs for the winter, for cricketers often complain that there is no winter game requiring

skill enough to be worthy their attention. In La Crosse they will find what they seek.

To Mr. W. H. Bosanquet, the president, and Mr. E. Cobham, the first secretary of the La Crosse Association, my best thanks are due for their valuable assistance in the compilation of this work, as well as to the Committee generally for their warm approval of it. If it contributes to the addition of another out-door pleasure to our list (in other words another source of health), I shall not deem my labour wasted, nor bestowed upon a trivial object.

M. H. R.

CONTENTS.

CHAP.	PAGE
I. INTRODUCTION	7
II. ORIGIN AND NATURE OF THE GAME	12
III. THE RULES OF THE GAME	25
IV. THE CROSSE	30
V. THE BALL AND THE GOALS	38
VI. THE GROUND AND THE PLAYERS	41
VII. STOPPING THE BALL.—UNFAIR PLAY	53
VIII. PICKING UP AND CATCHING THE BALL	63
IX. RUNNING WITH THE BALL	68
X. THROWING THE BALL	76
CONCLUSION	85
APPENDIX I.—THE LA CROSSE ASSOCIA- TION	87
APPENDIX II.—THE CANADIAN LA CROSSE ASSOCIATION	91

LA CROSSE.

CHAPTER I.

Introduction.

It seems strange that England should sit at the feet of the foreigner for instruction in manly sports. The ancient home of cricket, football, and a host of minor games—the natural abode of all sport—she is accustomed to teach rather than to learn. Has not *le sport* become a French phrase, in the utter absence of a native word for such a purely English notion? And can any good thing come out of foreign parts? In matters of sport is not the world divided into two parties?—the one

Greeks, the other barbarians; we being the Greeks, and all other nations whatsoever the barbarians.

Yet, doubters notwithstanding, there seems a good prospect of a beautiful foreign game becoming thoroughly at home among us. Like other importations, *La Crosse*, the illustrious stranger, has more grace and elegance about it than similar articles of home manufacture. There is nothing very graceful in football, thoroughly English game though it be. A "maul," with half a dozen Britons kicking each other's shins, is perhaps amusing as a spectacle, and is certainly evidence of national pluck and good temper, but a foreigner may be excused for holding it in some contempt. Then again, too many of our games are dangerous. Certainly we have no maudlin horror of a spice of danger, for we remember that

those who led the six hundred over Russian guns at Balaclava, had learnt the trick from five-barred gates at home. We even think that square leg to a hard hitter is in no bad training for coolness at the "cannon's mouth." But while many bold spirits will always love the rough games for their roughness, many will welcome a safe game, second to none in excitement, as a boon of no small value. Plenty of men—especially under certain conditions of shins and knee caps—curse the "Rugby rules" they are obliged to play.

La Crosse, besides being safe, and yet exciting to the players, is beautiful and interesting to lookers-on, as we think all will admit who saw it played by the Indians at the Crystal Palace. This alone is high recommendation; but its chief merit lies not so much in the quantity as

in the quality of the *exercise* involved. It gives as much running as cricket or football, if not a great deal more, and requires a quicker eye than any other field game besides cricket; but its *spécialité* is that the running must be of *the best*. To succeed, a man *must* run steadily and in good form, since the ball is only allowed to be carried while resting on the crosse, a state of things it has a natural antipathy to. Just as the Austrian officers prove their graceful dancing by waltzing round the room holding a glass of wine, so may a man prove his graceful running by carrying on the slippery foundation of a crosse an india-rubber ball, and evading on uneven ground the attack of numerous and active foes.

We claim for La Crosse, then, that it is a pastime containing more *hidden drill* than almost any other. A cricketer may

satisfy the requirements of his village club in respect to batting, bowling, catching, fielding, throwing, without much improvement in his bearing. At football shambling legs may give a vigorous kick, and arms may grip tight from shoulders almost as round as the ball itself. We lack a game which shall *enforce good bearing* on us *incidentally*. La Crosse does this. We defy a man to play it well (and no one will find it difficult) without acquiring true grace in running, and more or less, in every other action of his body. No better plan can be devised for making a man run well, than giving him something to carry which he is liable to *spill*.

Let our reader try for himself, making only due allowance for the imperfections we always find at first in tools we don't quite understand.

CHAPTER II.

Origin and Nature of the Game.

THOUGH free from most national prejudices, we can quite forgive an Englishman who turns up his nose at the name, to begin with. What, one may ask, can a field game be good for with a *French* name? The objection is a natural one, but is easily disposed of; the game is *Canadian*, and originated apparently in pre-historic times amongst the noble aborigines of that country. The name was given by the French, its first European possessors, on account of the curved stick resembling a *crosse* or bishop's crosier. The name is not a very happy one, as it suggests *cross* in English. The French for that is *croix*, quite another thing. When more at home in England,

it is too likely to be called the "cross." This is a matter of small moment, perhaps, but it is always well to keep up the proper derivation of words. To call a wooden hook a "cross" (as we already pronounce it) is absurd; to drop one *s*, and call it a "crose" would be far better, as suggesting the original meaning at once. The reform may be carried out some day, but at present we shall keep to the established spelling. (The French use the verb *crosser*, as "to bat, to strike aside with a bat," probably in the same way as we might speak of hindering or "crossing" a thing, or crossing its path with a bat.)

As to the nationality of our new game, even British conceit may be satisfied. Surely we can condescend to learn athletics from the North American Indians, the countrymen of "Deerfoot," who may well teach us "a thing or two in running."

When the red skins first began to play La Crosse we have no information, but it is stated to have been first seen by Europeans when Charlevoix, one of the French pioneers in Canada, ascended the St. Lawrence. That was in the tribe of the Algonquins, who inhabited the country about Quebec and Montreal. Rather more than a century ago, a chief named Pontiac, hoping to surprise the English garrison in the fort at Detroit, collected parties of Delawares, Ottawas, and Shawanees in the neighbourhood. Knowing the skill of the supposed friendly Indians in playing La Crosse, the officers were in the habit of inviting them to play close to the fort. Pontiac directed that on one occasion a larger number than usual were to join in play, and that the ball, as though accidentally, was to be struck into the fort. A few Indians were to follow and

search for the ball ; this was to be repeated again and again, sometimes a number entering, sometimes only a few. When suspicion was lulled the ball was to be struck over again ; the Indians were to follow in large numbers, and to attack the garrison with concealed weapons. The stratagem was put into execution and nearly succeeded, but the garrison discovering the nature of the visit before the Indians had penetrated to the strongest part of the fortifications, turned upon them and drove them back with great slaughter.

It was not until the last few years that the colonists generally began to take up La Crosse. The first clubs were formed at Montreal, taking the game from an Iroquois tribe ; since then it has spread rapidly through the "New Dominion," and now claims the title of the national game

of Canada. To those who know the Canadians this will sound high praise. It must be a rare game indeed to satisfy that hardy race.

La Crosse was introduced into England in August, 1867, by Captain Johnson, a Canadian, who brought over a *troupe* of eighteen Indians, chiefly Iroquois, but including representatives, it was stated, of the Onondagas, Cayugas, Senecas, Oneidas, Mohawks, and Algonquins. Of course they were not all of pure Indian blood. They first made a tour in the United States, and then came over here. The *Field* of August 3rd contains the following:—"Captain Johnson brought over eighteen Iroquois Indians in the *Peruvian* last week, for the purpose of introducing the national game of Canada into England. The Iroquois tribe inhabit Lower Canada, near Montreal, and several of Captain

Johnson's company were the same that performed the game before the Prince of Wales when in Canada in 1860. On Tuesday last, a private performance took place at Beaufort House, Walham Green, under the patronage of Lord Ranelagh, at which members of the press and a few friends only were present. The Indians looked very smart, dressed in their blue and red drawers, the chiefs of each side being distinguished by feathers in their caps and other ornaments." After this public performances were held at the same place, and then for some time at the Crystal Palace. Canadian authorities all agree in praising the game as one affording great pleasure to the lookers-on; of course this is hardly felt yet in England, as not many players have attained to really good play. One Canadian book speaks of "the strange wildness and

beauty" of the game, and these terms we do not think misapplied.

The various attempts made to define the game in few words have not been happy. "A combination of football and hockey," is perhaps better than "a sort of hockey;" but it has this drawback, that no greater offence against the rules can be committed than to introduce either hockey or football into the game. Striking the ball hockey fashion is strictly forbidden; so is kicking, throwing, or even catching it. Football played with racket bats would be nearer the mark.

Be this as it may, La Crosse is a ball game, played by preference with an india-rubber ball. Two goals are erected, as in football, and the object is to drive the ball through them by means of the crosse alone. Stations are assigned to the players in different parts of the field, but there

is this remarkable difference, that no "off side" rule exists; indeed one player is always kept close in to the enemy's goal. Owing to this plan the game is very sociable, as the men usually find themselves placed in pairs (foemen, of course) about the field, and can chat away in comfort. As far as practicable the hands and feet are forbidden from touching the ball. "Running in" (called "dodging" by the Canadians) is the principal feature of the game, the ball being carried on the crosse. The crosse is a hooked stick partly filled in (tight) with a netting, something in the manner of a racket bat. Running with the ball, as has been said before, is soon learnt, but evading hostile attacks gives scope for life-long study; if hard pressed the runner throws the ball (with the crosse) to a friend, probably in advance of him, and there is no off side

rule to prevent the friend from at once continuing the running. The ball should be stopped by the crosse. Experienced players learn to catch with it, and are equal to a catch of thirty or forty yards or more. Throwing the ball requires great judgment and great skill; quickness of thought to decide the right direction, and skill to send it straight. Turning round and throwing back over the head is the usual way. The rules about going out of bounds, &c. &c., are of the plainest kind, and contrast favourably with even the simplest code of football rules.

In July, 1867, the National La Crosse Association of Canada was formed, "to improve, foster, and perpetuate the game of La Crosse as the national game of our dominion." Its rules (with a copy of which we have been favoured through the courtesy of its secretary, Mr. W. George

Beers, of Montreal) are very full, and admirably drawn up. The rules of the game differ slightly from those adopted in England. The difference will be explained farther on when we come to discuss the English rules. The Canadian rules are much more minute than ours, and seek to provide laws for all sorts of matters which we in England prefer to leave to honourable understanding amongst the players. The close directions given for the guidance of umpires, and the care taken to insure fair play, show that La Crosse is really a national game, exciting great and general interest. The colonists have not been schooled in the continual playing of games where written laws are unknown, so they pile up safeguards as if the combatants were going to law, instead of playing a match; but though too minute for us, their laws are well framed.

It may some day be necessary to follow their example, but while the game is young the good feeling of the players can be depended on.

The Canadians, according to letters received, are looking forward to international matches with the old country. We dare not try such an experiment this year, but in 1869 surely some of our clubs will be proficient enough to give a worthy reception to the travellers from the New Dominion.

When first played in England, the rules of the Montreal La Crosse Club (adopted prior to those mentioned above) were followed by the various clubs; but not finding them quite satisfactory or quite adapted to English ways, the leading clubs agreed to form a La Crosse Association, the laws of which should be binding upon all clubs. The same thing has

been done in football with very fair success, considering that various local ways of playing that game have existed for ages. In La Crosse there are no local rules to excite opposition, and all the clubs are desirous of starting with similar rules. The task of the Association is thus made easy, and the wisdom of forming it proved.

Some of the earlier supporters of La Crosse believed that they had found a game for "all the year round." We scarcely go so far as this; it is a very fatiguing game for hot weather, while all our admiration for it would not induce us to set up a rival to cricket; winter and spring are its seasons. It is not as a rival but as an auxiliary to cricket that we would recommend it, and if we are not mistaken it is amongst cricketers that it will find its chief supporters. Above

all winter games it is a game of SKILL, and that is what cricketers have hitherto sighed for in the winter.

The La Crosse Association, and its rules, are fully described in Appendix I.

CHAPTER III.

The Rules of the Game.

THE rules of the game, as settled by the Association for the acceptance of all the associate clubs (they were confirmed on the 12th Feb., 1868,) are as follows:—

1. *The Crosse.*

The crosse may be of any length, but the woven network must not be bagged, nor of a greater width than one foot.

2. *The Ball.*

The ball shall be of solid india-rubber, not more than nine or less than eight inches in circumference.

3. *The Goals.*

The goals shall be upright posts seven feet apart, with a tape or bar across them six feet from the ground; when practica-

ble they shall be placed at not more than 250 nor less than 150 yards apart, and the ground shall not be more than 100 nor less than 60 yards wide.

4. *Commencing the Game.*

The game shall be started by the ball being placed on the ground opposite the centre flag, between two players on opposite sides, who shall "tussle" for the ball with their crosses. This is called "facing."

5. *Ball out of Bounds.*

When the ball goes out of bounds it shall be thrown in by the player who first touches it with his crosse. When it goes behind goal without passing through goal, it shall be thrown out by one of the players behind whose goal it has passed.

6 & 7. *Touching the Ball with the Hand.*

6. The ball must not be caught, thrown,

or picked up with the hand, except in the case provided for by Rule 7; but a ball coming in the air may be blocked or patted away with the hand to protect the face or body; otherwise it must not be touched.

7. Should the ball lodge in any place inaccessible to the crosse, it may be taken out by the hand and immediately placed on the crosse.

8. *Striking and Kicking the Ball.*

The ball shall not be hit while on the ground, or kicked.

9. *Spiked Soles.*

No player shall wear spiked soles.

10. *Obtaining a Goal.*

A goal is obtained when the ball is caused to pass between the goal-posts and under the bar or tape, in any manner whatever by one of the defending side, or

in any manner not forbidden by these rules by one of the attacking side.

11. *Holding and Pushing.*

Players shall not hold each other, nor grasp an opponent's crosse; neither shall they deliberately trip, strike, or push each other.

12. *Throwing the Crosse.*

No player shall throw his crosse.

13. *Changing Goals.*

After each game the players shall change goals, unless otherwise agreed.

14. *Deciding a Match.*

A match shall be decided by a majority of goals won during the time specified for play.

15. *Number constituting a Full Side.*

Twelve players shall constitute a full side.

16. Change of Players.

No change of players shall be made after a match has commenced, without the consent of both parties.

17. Alteration of Rules.

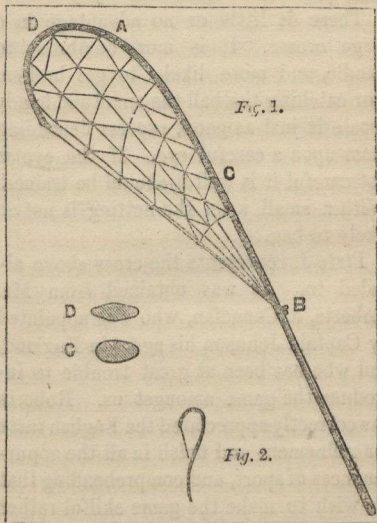
No change shall be made in the foregoing rules except at a general meeting of the La Crosse Association. Should any alteration be deemed necessary, notice of it must be sent to the secretary in writing three weeks prior to the general meeting; and the terms of the proposed alterations shall be advertised in such sporting papers as the committee may direct two weeks prior to the general meeting.

CHAPTER IV.

The Crosse.

Rule 1. "The crosse may be of any length, but the woven network must not be bagged, nor of a greater width than one foot." The usual length is from four to five feet, but most players like it short rather than long, and reduce the length to about four feet by cutting off part of the handle. The Indians use larger crosses than have been adopted in England, though they probably did not exceed the breadth of network here given. The best specimen which has come under our notice had been reduced by the owner to less than four feet in length; the network was nine inches in width, and the weight of the whole scarcely exceeded three-quarters of a pound. Though probably too short,

PLATE I.



this crosse seemed to us otherwise perfect.

There is little or no advantage in a large crosse. It is more cumbrous to handle, and more likely to get broken. For catching the ball the small and handy crosse is just as good, success depending most upon a careful eye. If the eye is not careful it is well it should be trained. With a small span the netting is not so likely to bag.

Plate I. represents the cross above alluded to. It was obtained from Mr. Roberts, a Canadian, who was appointed by Captain Johnson his agent in England, and who has been at great trouble to introduce the game amongst us. Roberts has correctly appreciated the English taste for refinement and finish in all the appurtenances of sport, and comprehending that we wish to make the game skilful rather

than easy, has improved considerably on the original instrument. He has lately appointed J. Lillywhite, of 10, Seymour Street, Euston Square, his sub-agent, in order, we presume, to reach the larger circle of his world-wide cricketing connexion. The price hitherto asked—eight shillings and sixpence—is unreasonable, and must be reduced, or the trade will fall into local hands. In Canada a crosse of the best make costs under a dollar, so that from four to five or six shillings ought to be the limit in England.

The stick may be either ash or hickory, but hickory is the lightest, strongest, and best. There are some variations in the shape to which it is bent, but we prefer that shown in Plate I. Sometimes the handle is curved back, as at Fig. 2 in Plate I. This gives a more symmetrical appearance perhaps, but is really no advantage in

carrying the ball, which rests against the stick at A, and not in the centre of the net. The handle part is round or oval; beyond the pin, B, it takes the shape shown in section at C, one side being tapered to allow of holes being made near the edge for fastening netting. The stick then gets gradually thinner, until at the top of the crosse, where the curve is sharpest, it takes the section shown at D. At the tip it thickens again; about an inch from the tip a hole is made through (in the plane of the crosse, not through from top to bottom). A string is put through this, and both ends are made fast round the pin, B: this gives two strings near together to form the edge of the net, and serves to hold the stick in shape. Three other strings (four in Canada) are then stretched from the pin to the top of the crosse, and diagonal network is fastened

to these and to holes down the stick at the side. A badly woven net will be dear at any price, as it will certainly "bag," and render the crosse unfit for play.

The Canadian rule (the rules of the Canadian Association are given at length in Appendix II.) places no limit to the width of the crosse, though it forbids a baggy net by the simple test of its remaining "flat when the ball is not on it." It then says:—"A leading or outside string above the level of the others may be used. It may rest on the top of the stick, but must not have anything under to increase its height."

Now as this *leading string* is allowed in Canada, and is not forbidden by the English rules, we presume it must be considered admissible. It is, however, in our opinion, most objectionable, and we understand that the best authorities

(though La Crosse is young yet to talk about "authorities") are of the same opinion. It gives a clumsy player an advantage, by preventing the ball from rolling off his crosse when he inclines it the wrong way. But the ball has no business on that side of the crosse; its proper place is against the stick, which gives ample protection already. A "balustrade" on the other side is quite out of place, and we condemn it at once. Fortunately, it will be of little or no use to good players, and will prove only a snare to the bad ones who adopt it, leading them into careless ways of carrying the ball.

The stick should not be more than an inch thick at the handle, and rather less than an inch wide in the curved part; the handle may be covered with string, or otherwise roughened, to give better hold.

The crosse is always carried so that

the wood forms the right-hand edge of the net, as in Plate I. The best are made with a slight *sheer*, as a shipbuilder would say, so that they do not lie quite flat on the ground, the ends being rather higher than the middle; this helps to keep the ball on, and shows at once when the crosse is upside down.

The best material for the net is strong *gut*, in pieces of good length, so as to have as few knots as possible. Moose skin is also liked in Canada, and various kinds of string have been tried. But there can be no doubt that the best gut is the proper stuff, and is alone likely to be used in England. At B is a wooden peg round which the strings are fastened; this is better than drawing them through a large hole, as is sometimes done. From B to the top of the crosse is about two feet five inches.

CHAPTER V.

The Ball and the Goals

COMPLETE the simple apparatus of the game. The dimensions of the ball were fixed without reference to the Canadian rule, after trial of different sizes. It may therefore be assumed that a circumference of between eight and nine inches (which is also adopted in Canada) is the best. By a "solid india-rubber" ball, is meant one which will not collapse; india-rubber with a wood core, and plain india-rubber with a small hollow in the centre, have both their supporters. For our own part, we advocate the wood-cored ball, too much springiness being undesirable. The ordinary hockey ball sold by Lillywhite and other makers at eighteen pence, or say, twelve or fourteen shillings a dozen, is

just the thing. The ball will last a long time, and may practically be left out of the calculation of expenses.

We prefer a light crosse, and not too light a ball. With a very light ball the temptation to *hockey* is increased; with a relatively heavy one it becomes difficult, and not worth the certainty of detection; a light blow at a heavy ball being useless.

The goals are marked by simple poles, flags, and tapes or bars, just as in football and other games. A fifth pole is planted in the centre of the ground; the Canadians draw a line six feet in front of each goal, "within which no opponent shall stand unless the ball is actually near or nearing the flags." Our Association, wisely we think, leaves this point to the good feeling of the players, who are of course expected to leave the goal-keeper

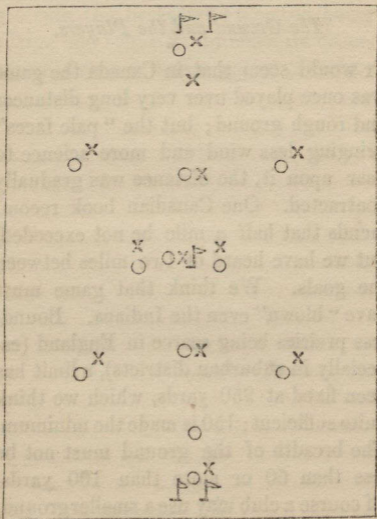
full room to act, unless actually engaged in attacking the goal. It is hardly a case for a rule, the necessary exception being so large and vague as to make its observance little more than a matter of taste.

CHAPTER VI.

The Ground and the Players.

It would seem that in Canada the game was once played over very long distances and rough ground; but the "pale faces" bringing less wind and more science to bear upon it, the distance was gradually contracted. One Canadian book recommends that half a mile be not exceeded, but we have heard of two miles between the goals. We think that game must have "blown" even the Indians. Boundless prairies being scarce in England (especially in suburban districts), a limit has been fixed at 250 yards, which we think quite sufficient; 150 is made the minimum. The breadth of the ground must not be less than 60 or more than 100 yards. Of course a club may use a smaller ground,

PLATE II.



but matches *must* be played according to the rule given *when practicable*. The Indians thought nothing of a few trees or a small forest on the ground, with gullies and holes *ad lib*. Englishmen will try for the best and smoothest ground they can get; but the game *can* be played anywhere, which is one among its many advantages. The boundaries of the ground must be marked in the usual manner.

The distribution of the players is a matter on which doctors disagree. All rules appoint a *goal-keeper*. A few yards in front they place *point*, and further on *cover-point*. Close to the middle flag is the centre or *facing-man* belonging to each side. The man stationed next to the enemy's goal is called *home*; he should not stand directly before the hostile goal-keeper, but to one side. The other players, disposed pretty much at the discretion

of the captain, are called *fielders*. One forward player is usually put in advance of the centre flag, close to the enemy's cover-point. Each side has a man standing behind each facing man, or behind its own facing man only, to take the ball from him if he succeeds in getting it away from his opponent. Plate II. shows a plan much liked by the Richmond La Crosse Club.*

Although some of the names have been borrowed from cricket (before the game was brought to England), yet the arrangement of the players has nothing in common with that game. Cricketers object to the piracy strongly, and would substitute "first out" and "second out" for "point" and "cover-point." As, however, the names have a firm hold in Canada, and are certainly convenient as

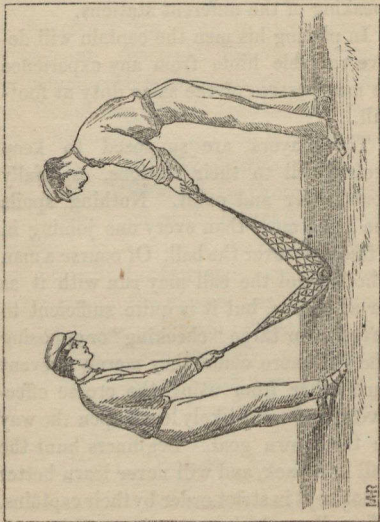
* The marks O and X representing players of the respective sides.

well as pithy, we shall retain them in speaking of the different stations.

In placing his men the captain will derive valuable hints from any experience he may possess of the same duty at football.

The players are supposed to keep pretty well to their stations, especially goal-keeper and point. Nothing spoils the game more than every one joining in a free fight over the ball. Of course a man who has got the ball may run with it as far as he can, but it is quite sufficient to have two or three "checking" or opposing him; if more come they merely prevent each other from using the crosse effectively, and most likely leave open the way to their own goal. Beginners hunt the ball in a pack, and will never learn better if not kept in strict order by their captains. We call particular attention to this prac-

PLATE III.



tice ; it renders the game ridiculous as a spectacle, stops all play properly so called, gives rise to disputes and unfair practices, and turns the game into a poor kind of hockey ; it is, in short, one of the greatest drawbacks the game has to encounter.

The *facing men* commence the game by standing as in Plate 3. At an agreed signal they "tussle" for the ball, trying either to press away the opposing crosse and drive the ball straight on, or to disengage it and roll it back between their legs to the men of their own side standing behind them. The fear of breaking the crosses prevents too much roughness. It is prettier and more creditable to get the ball by finesse than to drive it on by brute force. (*See* Rule 4.)

Twelve players, by Rule 15, constitute a full side, but of course fewer can play.

The English rule as to changing players—only with the consent of both parties—is simpler than the Canadian, which includes matters we prefer leaving to “public opinion.” In Canada no one can play in a match who has not belonged to his club for thirty days, which shows that the spirit of the Voltigeurs, Oscillators, and other famous rowing “clubs,” is not unknown in Canada. At present we may consider ourselves safe from combinations of *famous La Crosse players* into *quasi* clubs, for the purpose of carrying off prizes (!).

Goal-keeper's duties are obvious; he must not quit the goal. *Point* must on no account leave his post, which ought not to be more than twenty yards in front of goal-keeper. He should be the best *checker* on his side (“checker” is the Canadian name for any one essaying to

stop a player "running in" with the ball). Point's particular function is to let no one get past him with the ball, but to oblige it to be thrown from a safe distance at the goal. If the runner were allowed to get close to the goal, and then threw the ball, goal-keeper would have little chance of stopping it. Point is the out-work who obliges the foe to uncover his batteries at a certain minimum distance from the citadel. When the foe "throws in," it is for his "home" to get the ball and complete the work, and for goal-keeper to show cause to the contrary. Cover-point may be dispensed with, but not point. Goals are changed after each game (Rule 13) unless otherwise agreed. Rule 10 defines a game as won "when the ball is caused to pass between the goal posts and under the bar or tape, in any manner whatever, by one of the de-

fending side, or in any manner not forbidden by these rules by one of the attacking side." In other words, the goal counts if got accidentally by the defenders, but only if obtained fairly by the attacking party. The question of umpires, on which the Canadian rules enlarge so freely, is best left to be settled by agreement. Umpires are scarcely required in such a game unless the match is considered a very important one. If the ball bounds through the goal off the person of a player it counts all the same, provided it was not unfairly propelled in the first instance.

The arrangement which appoints goal-keeper, point, and the hostile "home" as the three men always close to goal, is a good one, and should be adhered to. If a captain chose to put two "home men," his opponents would be obliged to have two goal-keepers, and the anticipated gain

would be lost. As irregular posting therefore cannot pay, it should never be tried, for any system of massing the men together is certain to spoil the game. No two of a side should be close together, except goal-keeper and point.

The Canadian rules direct that spectators must not stand within twenty feet of the goals. The rule is a good one, and ought to be enforced in England, when possible, as part of the "unwritten law." It is, however, best left so, being scarcely a fit subject for formal enactment.

The Canadians decide their matches by three games out of five; we, by Rule 14, decide it "by a majority of goals won during the time specified for play." This is simpler and better in every way. A five game match might be interminable.

When the ball goes out of bounds at the sides it is to be thrown in (by the

crosse of course) by the first player who touches it with his crosse. Having touched it, he may get it on his crosse at leisure, and is not to be "checked" or balked while throwing it. He should throw it straight in from the spot where it passes the boundary. When the ball goes behind either goal line it must be thrown in, *straight*, by any player of the side behind whose goal it has passed, who is also to be allowed a fair throw. The best man to throw out is usually the goal-keeper. The ball, for obvious reasons, should be thrown out to one side of goal. (Rule 5.)

CHAPTER VII.

Stopping the Ball.—Unfair Play.

THE main distinction between La Crosse and all other ball-games, is that in the former the ball is manipulated by an instrument, and not directly by the hand. The same is the case in tennis and rackets, and to some degree in cricket. But in these games the instrument is used only for *striking*, while in La Crosse striking, carrying, and catching are equally performed by it, the direct use of the hand being essentially foreign, and even hostile to the game. In drawing up rules it is not easy to meet all the cases which may arise, but this is the *spirit* of the game as played in England. The Canadian rules allow the *goal-keeper* "to stop the ball in any way." This rule has been rejected

by our Association, and we think very properly. In the first place, there is no rule to forbid the ball being stopped by the feet or body, and it is even permitted to stop it by the hand *to protect the body or face*. It seems to us that stopping by the hand is really a matter of little importance, for in nine cases out of ten, if the hand can be stretched out, the *crosse* can be stretched out to much greater advantage. Nevertheless, if *stopping* by hand were allowed, it would soon lead to *catching* and *throwing* by hand, both of which are strictly and rightly forbidden. For this reason, then, the ball must not be touched by the hand while in the air, except to protect the person, and this exception must be jealously watched (Rule 7). We see no advantage in arming the goal-keeper with an exceptional power, which after all is of little value,

and which can only lead to dispute. The feeling of the La Crosse conference was unanimous on this point, as indeed it was on nearly all the alterations made in the rules.

The ball may be stopped with the foot when coming along the ground. To make a rule to the contrary would be to invite endless dispute, though foot-play is almost as obnoxious to the game as hand-play. However, in almost every case the crosse, in the hands of a practised player, will be a better stop than either the hand or foot. Thus the evil will defeat itself, and no great harm be done. *Kicking* the ball is quite a different matter. Rule 8, forbidding it, must be strictly enforced, or the game loses its character entirely. If men are allowed to get careless about kicking, they will be rushing into "scrimmages" for the sake of a sly kick. If prevented

from kicking they will find that scrimmages do not pay. A mob of men packed too tight to use their crosses and not allowed to kick, will find themselves wasting a good deal of energy, and will soon see the wisdom of scattering. A goal obtained by kicking does not count, though at other times a purely accidental kick—which cannot always be avoided—must be excused. Rule 8 also provides that the ball shall not be *hit while on the ground*. This by no means forbids its being struck at by the crosse while in the air or on the bound. It would be useless to authorize the ball being *stopped* by the crosse, and then to forbid its being *struck* under the same circumstances, as the difference consists merely in the amount of forward movement given to the crosse—a matter which no rule can touch. An unsuccessful stop or catch,

may be a stroke without being intended for it. Striking the ball in the air does not come under the head of hockey, as it will probably take effect by the net-work, which is not capable of giving a very hard stroke. But striking the ball on the ground is simply hockey, and is forbidden. While on the ground it cannot be struck by the net, so that any offer to strike is an attempt to use the stick part of the crosse as in hockey. Pushing or spooning the ball *in the attempt to lift it* is lawful, but not striking. *Swiping* is the word used in Canada; it means a deliberate swing of the crosse round upon the ball. It is considered dangerous to the other players, and destructive to the crosse, and at any rate is wholly unlawful. Swiping at a ball in the air is probably included in the condemnation. It should not be done, though our rules do not

exactly forbid it, and could not without leading to disputes.

The one case in which the ball may be touched while on the ground is met by Rule 7—"Should the ball lodge in any place inaccessible to the crosse, it may be taken out by the hand and immediately placed on the crosse." This is a very important rule, and deserves attentive consideration; though it may be observed that most grounds likely to be chosen for matches are too level for it to happen often.

The rule should always be rigidly construed; make it a point of honour to avoid using the hand whenever possible, and keep a very sharp look out on breakers of the rule. No one is likely to use the hand on even ground, because even if hard pressed, he can pick up the ball quicker with the crosse than with

the hand. It is only on *rather* difficult ground where men will try to save time by unfairly invoking this rule.

The ball when picked up must be placed on the crosse *immediately*; it must not be kept an instant in the hand. The Canadian rule is that the ball, whenever taken up by the hand, must "be faced for with the nearest opponent." Our Association rejected this in the interests of simplicity, and not because there was no good in it. Who for instance is to decide who is the *nearest opponent*? In favour of the English view it may be said that if a man gets the ball on his crosse and runs off with it before his pursuers come up, he is fairly entitled to the advantage; while, if they come up, they have a good chance of knocking the ball off his crosse, or even of getting it first. When once he has the ball in his hand,

LA CROSSE.

he must be allowed to place it on the crosse without hindrance; and his hand may not be held. Though the Canadian rule seems fair, it may be remarked that under it a man loses all the advantage of being first after the ball, if only it happen to go into a hole, and that men might be tempted to throw the ball purposely into such places, for the sake of the breathing time which a solemn "facing" will afterwards allow them. The English rule may want revision some day, but at present we think the Association has decided for the best.

Of course if the ball goes out of bounds "in an inaccessible spot," it becomes the prize of the first man who touches it with the hand, and who is at liberty to place it on his crosse by hand. But if accessible it must be touched (and afterwards taken up) by the crosse.

The rule about spiked soles is sufficiently plain and desirable. Mocassins, which can be obtained of the Mr. Roberts before mentioned, are better than shoes or boots, provided you are sure of your ground, and are not afraid of stepping on a sharp stone.

Rule 11 must be strictly enforced, as embodying one of the essentials of the game, which, though it requires both nerve and endurance, boasts of being a *gentle* game. "Players shall not hold each other, nor grasp an opponent's crosse; neither shall they deliberately trip, strike, or push each other." Tripping and striking we need not enlarge upon, but pushing and roughness generally cannot be looked after too sharply. Holding an opponent is bad enough, but holding his crosse is worse. You are at liberty to strike it, or knock it up or aside with

your own crosse, but never with the hand or foot.

At the same time never *throw* the crosse; this rule (12) may seem laughable to some, but it was found soon after the game was introduced into England, that men took to throwing their crosses at the ball on an opponent's crosse when not near enough to touch it fairly. The manœuvre was only too successful. Though obviously unfair there was no rule against it, so the Association has made one.

CHAPTER VIII.

Picking up and catching the Ball.

THE ball should be picked up by the crosse as you pick up a racket ball. Go at it hotly, and you are sure to fail. Violence saves no time, be you ever so hard pressed. If running fast, and on rather *uneven* grass, you may get the ball up by simply pushing the top of the crosse (D, in Plate I.) under it, with a sharp, lifting motion, tipping up the crosse to prevent the ball falling off again. If the ground is very smooth, there is, however, a chance that the ball will merely be struck forward, and not picked up at all. It certainly will be so if a tuft of grass or any other obstacle in front prevent the edge of the crosse from getting fairly *under* the ball. It need scarcely be said

that a good *edge* to the top of the crosse is indispensable. You never, unless under very unusual circumstances, roll the ball on to the crosse by any other part than the top. For the few inches forming the top or head, therefore, the stick is brought to the lozenge section shown in Plate I., and this is the only right form.

The more usual and safe way of picking up the ball is a little troublesome to learn, and obliges a partial stoppage if it has to be picked up on the run. Stretch out the crosse on approaching the ball, and catch the latter by the inside of the top part of the stick—*hooking* the ball, in fact. Draw it sharply *towards* you, and while the ball is still in motion bring back the crosse and push it underneath. As the crosse is presented to the ball while it is still rolling towards you, it would probably roll on of itself, but

you should help it by pushing the crosse as directed. There will be little danger of striking it away from you, even if the edge of the crosse is presented not quite on the ground. In offering the crosse, the body should lean forward, so as to get the handle near the ground. This diminishes the incline the ball has to ascend, and assists it in getting over the stick. Directly the ball is on, tip up the crosse, and cant it slightly over to the right, so that the ball may rest against the stick near, but not too close to, the top.

When the ball is flung towards you, and runs along the ground, you can usually pick it up by holding the crosse to it at an angle, with the top on the ground: the ball will run up the incline. When coming hard it may run up and jump into the face or over the head, if the crosse is

not inclined sufficiently. If coming very fast it can only be stopped, and picked up afterwards. If coming on the bound, gently, it should be received on the crosse (inclined, of course); if hard, block it with the crosse inclined forwards, so as to throw the ball straight down on the ground: catch on the rebound.

As to catching the ball when coming in the air there is not very much to be said, except that it requires much the same qualities as catching a ball in the hand. Receive the ball on the net, and of course drop or draw back the crosse slightly at the moment of contact. A practised hand will catch the ball with more facility than can well be imagined, even when it comes straight breast high, or even overhead. When coming straight at you above the waist, hold the crosse perpendicular to stop it. As the ball

commences falling, follow it with the crosse. A rapid twist of the wrist will revolve the crosse from above to beneath the ball, which will thus be caught.

Catching is entirely a matter of practice, joined with natural aptitude.

CHAPTER IX.

Running with the Ball.

CALLED "dodging" by the Canadians. To throw the ball well, to catch it on the crosse, and even to pick it up, require more dexterity than most exercises. But the chief interest of the game lies in running with the ball; to do this properly needs high qualities, among which *coolness* stands pre-eminent. It seems so easy to drop the ball from the crosse, and so difficult to avoid the blows of the same far-reaching weapon, that one doubts at first how a good "run in" can ever be accomplished. Yet it is done continually by good players, and it may even be said that, man for man, the attack is stronger than the defence.

Plate IV. shows the position in running

PLATE IV



with the ball. The crosse is inclined more and more in proportion to the speed, the ball being kept in its place by the pressure of the air in front. The crosse is canted to the right that the ball may rest against the stick, which, as already stated, forms the *right* edge of the crosse. That, at least, is the way most players prefer to carry it, though in Canada it seems to be turned either way. The matter is immaterial, of course. With the light crosses used here one hand is sufficient. (Perhaps there will be a one-handed *versus* two-handed controversy some day, as there is now in croquet.) Steadiness and watchfulness are required to keep the ball on the crosse, and slip-shod running will soon bring it to grief. However, it is easier than at first appears.

When intercepted by an opponent, and

unable to get past without fencing (discretion is much the best part of valour in running-in), prevent your crosse being struck, if possible. It may sometimes be saved by transferring it to the left hand, or even behind you, but you risk dropping the ball in this. If pressed hard, throw up the ball over the enemy's head, and darting quickly on before he has time to turn, catch it in its descent. This is a pretty piece of play, and is often done with success. It needs strength of wrist. A slight jerk of the crosse *from the wrist* throws the ball over the head of the "checker." Another way is to throw it in the same manner to your right, darting off immediately to catch it. The chances are you get the start, the enemy not being previously prepared, as you are, for the movement. Still a good "checker" will not be soon got rid of, and it may

become necessary to *throw* the ball either at the goal, if near enough, or to another of one's own side. A "checker" may be kept at bay by turning the back to him, which makes it difficult for him to reach your crosse, and at the same time puts you in the best position for throwing if necessary. In reaching past your side to strike your crosse he gives you an opportunity to turn to the other side and run on.

A vigorous, charging sort of run does not pay at all, at least with good players. Quickness and suppleness are the chief things to attend to. Mind while engaged in front you are not also attacked from behind. When there are two to one it generally becomes expedient to get rid of the ball at once. When near enough to the goal, throw to your "home man" without trying to get too close.

It is well to wear gloves, to save the knuckles from blows of hostile crosses.

The art of "checking" is of course analogous to "dodging." Given an active man, with a crosse in his hand, and a ball to be knocked off another man's crosse, and we think he may be pretty well left to self-instruction. A wonderful Canadian work which has come into our hands (written long before the Association was formed) enumerates six "methods" of checking, all very much alike, and all warranted not to fail unless the "dodger" does something which he certainly will do. One, the description of which may be condensed into "hit his crosse if you can," is "a very fine check, and seldom fails when quickly performed, and at the exact time, to calculate which you must watch every

motion of your opponent, and try to *read his thoughts*. When the checker attains skill (!) in this method, it will prove as satisfactory to him as surprising to the dodger." We should think so.

It is assumed that a runner will seldom get beyond "point" without having to throw. Goal-keeper's chief duty is therefore stopping balls thrown, though sometimes he must engage in "checking." If it comes to this, the goal is in no small danger.

It need scarcely be said that in field play, both "dodging" and "checking" is the soul of the game. Both branches must be studied before a player can become perfect in either. We cannot praise the "waltzing movement" (!) recommended by the work above mentioned, as very useful in running-in, and as "*looking very neat when kept up,*" but we agree that

“a sudden and single turn will often prove useful to save a check.”

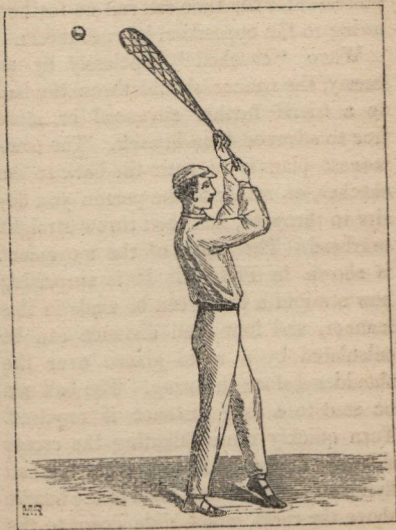
A good plan is to strike the “dodger’s” crosse down with the edge of your own; but so as not to hit the ball, which will forthwith jump into the air and give you a good chance of catching it.

CHAPTER X.

Throwing the Ball.

THROWING the ball over the head of an opponent by a jerk of the wrist has already been mentioned in the chapter on Running. The same movement may be employed in throwing the ball short distances, but it can hardly be reckoned amongst the "methods" of throwing. We do not intend to divide the chapter into thirteen sections, devoted to as many styles, as the Canadian book before-mentioned does, for we confess we cannot find so many; but there are two or three which require separate description.

The Indians trusted more to throwing and striking the ball to long distances than to running with it. The "white" practice lays more stress upon running, and enjoins



that the ball shall only be thrown when its possessor for the time can run no further, owing to the opposition he encounters.

When "checked" hopelessly by an enemy, the runner should throw the ball to a friend further advanced or more free to advance than himself. The commonest plan is to turn the back to the checker, or rather to the person you desire to throw to, and then throw straight overhead. The finish of the movement is shown in Plate V. It is surprising how straight a throw can be made in this manner, and how well distance can be calculated by a rapid glance over the shoulder before throwing. The ball can be sent to a long distance if required. Turn quickly round, slanting the crosse sideways as you do so to prevent the ball flying off; put the left hand to the handle above the right, which slide down to the

end; then raise the crosse over your head with a quick motion, partly from the shoulder, but chiefly from the elbow; stop it suddenly before the hands touch the face, and the ball will fly off with great velocity. It is easy with a little practice to give either a low and swift throw or a high and slow one; the latter being the easiest for a friend to catch, and the former the hardest for an enemy to stop. A man checking you is baulked by having your back turned on him, which makes it hard for him to reach your crosse. While he is trying at it, you throw in this way right over him. This *overhead throw* may be regarded as the standard throw, and as the most generally useful.

A very good method for a short, vicious throw at goal, is to bring the crosse to the shoulder and throw out straight in front.

It requires practice, as the ball may be easily dropped. Keeping the crosse level, you bring it round towards your right side, but pointing straight out from the body. At the same time raise the arm and the crosse; swing the latter round, using the hand as a pivot, until the net is over the shoulder, and level enough for the ball to remain on. In coming round the fingers instinctively change their hold on the handle, and the wrist gets bent back. With a sudden spring from the elbow and wrist you swing the crosse upwards and forwards, and drive the ball both hard and sure. The difficulty lies in bringing the crosse round to the shoulder without dropping the ball. Besides this *throw from the shoulder*, there is what we may call

The *underhand throw* (to borrow another name from cricket). In this you

face the mark you throw at, and jerk the ball up off the crosse straight before you. It requires no change of position, and therefore can be done quickly; but it is the weakest throw of all. It is, however, accurate, for you have the advantage of a good view. You cannot throw this way *with a low trajectory* (to use a term well understood by volunteers), and therefore the ball is easy to stop. You must hold the crosse short with one hand, and try to get the ball on the middle of the net. It is not a bad throw to end a run-in close to goal. By turning the left side a little to the mark you gain power. Except in throwing from the shoulder, the more you face away from the mark the stronger you will throw.

There are various ways of *throwing past the side* (the left). You turn your back to the mark, but with the left side more

or less to it. Raise the right side of the crosse to prevent the ball coming off, and then swing round. In most of these ways you keep the crosse as close in as possible, and jerk the ball off just clear of the left side or shoulder. (It is jerked back over the right shoulder sometimes.) But there is one way in which the crosse is kept out at right angles to the body the whole time of throwing. This is a good throw but a difficult one. It is performed with a short swing and a half jerk. Of course the left is the natural side to throw past in all these cases, but it is good to practise with the right as a means of baulking an opponent by an unexpected throw. A good swinging side throw *along the ground* is often effective.

There are several fantastic methods of throwing recommended, such as—face the goal and throw overhead from behind

your back; or throw past your left side from behind. The latter throw is confusing to an adversary, but only an experienced hand can risk dropping the ball in the attempt to bring it round behind. Throwing between your legs is one elegant method, especially recommended if your enemy also happens to be standing in the same position!

Tipping the ball is often done when the player is too hard pressed to be able to take it up. It consists in just getting the ball on to the stick and tipping it forward before it has time to roll off again. It may be described as a gentle evasion of the rules against hockey. Goal-keeper often "tips" the ball to one side as it comes towards him.

There is a way of throwing exactly analogous to throwing by hand. The crosse is raised and drawn back to the

right. At the moment of throwing it is turned almost edgewise, but the rapid motion prevents the ball from falling. The arm is moved as in throwing by hand, but the left shoulder must be brought round. This is a quick, useful throw for short distances.

CONCLUSION.

It must not be supposed that it is as difficult to play La Crosse as it is to describe it clearly. Throwing, for instance, is a simple art enough, difficult as our description of it may seem. La Crosse is, in fact, a very easy game; any one can join in it without previous training, and there are no troublesome rules to be remembered. On the other hand, *expertness* with the crosse is the result of practice only. Yet while the player may go on improving for years, by long practice, he will find that he may become a moderately good player by very little indeed. This is just what a field game ought to be, simple enough for boys, clever enough for men.

It should be remarked that catching, stopping, and sometimes throwing, may

very well be practised in private gardens, before venturing out to exhibit in public.

In its first season (1867-68) La Crosse was played much less frequently than ought to have been the case, owing apparently to peculiar spite on the part of the weather. Judging by past experience, if the farmers want rain in the summer, they need only arrange a La Crosse match to have their wish fulfilled. Nevertheless those matches which were played between the different metropolitan clubs—such as the Civil Service, Richmond, and two clubs at Blackheath—gave great satisfaction. Towards the end of the season the Association rules here given were followed, and found to be just the thing required to make the game perfect. We are not aware of a single flaw having been detected in them, nor has any improvement been suggested.

APPENDIX I.

The La Crosse Association

HELD its first meeting at the Cathedral Hotel, St. Paul's Churchyard, on the 15th Jan., 1868. At the adjourned meeting on the 29th, the following Rules were agreed to :—

1. This Association shall be called the "La Crosse Association."

2. All clubs willing to adopt the rules shall be eligible for membership.

3. The annual subscription for each club shall be one guinea, payable in advance.

4. All subscriptions shall be due on the 1st October in each year; any club joining after that date must pay for the current year.

5. There shall be an annual general meeting on the last Wednesday in April.

6. The Association shall be managed by a president, secretary, treasurer, and committee, consisting of one representative from each club in the Association, in addition to the aforementioned officers, who shall be *ex officio* on the committee. Three to form a quorum.

7. The president, secretary, and treasurer shall be elected annually at the general meeting in April, by a majority of representatives of clubs present; the retiring officers to be eligible for re-election.

8. Every club which has paid its subscription shall be entitled to send three representatives to all general meetings of the Association.

9. Any club wishing to join the Association must send in an application to the secretary, and such application shall be considered at the next meeting of the committee.

10. Every club must have a distinguishing name and costume ; a description of which must be sent to the secretary for registration.

11. Prior to the admission of any club into the Association, the secretary of such club shall forward to the secretary of the Association the name of its proposed representative on the committee, and a description of its distinguishing costume.

12. All clubs belonging to the Association shall play association rules and no others.

13. No alteration shall be made in the rules of the Association except at a general meeting. Should any alteration be deemed necessary, notice of it shall be sent to the secretary in writing, at least three weeks prior to such general meeting ; and the terms of the proposed alteration shall be advertised in such sporting

papers as the committee may direct, a fortnight prior to such meeting.

The conference was attended by representatives from all the clubs then known to be in existence. Others have been formed since, and will doubtless give in their adhesion.

The subscription of one guinea for each club is high, and will be reduced when more clubs join. But at first all must be prepared to sacrifice something to help on the stranger, vigorous though his growth is likely to be.

The officers elected for the first year were—

Mr. Walter H. Bosanquet, President,
(22, Austin Friars, E.C.).

Mr. E. Cobham, Secretary and Treasurer.

APPENDIX II.

The Canadian La Crosse Association

WAS constituted on the 1st of July, 1867 —“Dominion Day.” The first annual convention was held on 26th Sept., 1867, when the following rules of the game were drawn up, as well as a very clear and full set of rules for its own government.

1. *The crosse* may be of any size to suit the player, but the network must not be bagged; it must be flat when the ball is not on it. A leading or outside string above the level of the others may be used. It may rest on the top of the stick, but must not have anything under to increase the height.

2. *The ball* shall be india-rubber sponge, not less than eight, and not more than

nine inches in circumference. In matches it shall be furnished by the challenged party.

3. *The goals* may be placed at any distance from each other, and in any position agreeable to the captains of both sides. The top of the flag-poles shall be six feet apart, and in a match may be furnished by either party.

4. There shall be a line or crease, to be called the *goal crease*, drawn in front of each goal, at a distance of six feet from the flags, within which no opponent shall stand, unless the ball is actually near or nearing the flags.

5. *Spectators* must stand at least twenty feet from the goals.

6. There shall be two *umpires* at each goal, one for each side; (the rule then defines at some length the umpire's duties.)

7. The umpires shall select a *referee* to whom all disputed games whereon they are a tie may be left for decision (goes on to define the duties.)

8. *Field-captains*, to superintend the play, may be appointed by each side previous to a match, who shall toss for choice of goal, and select umpires. They shall report any infringement of the laws to the umpires. They shall be members of the club by whom they are appointed, and may or may not be players in a match; and if not they shall not carry crosses.

• 9. The *players* of each side shall be designated as follows :—

- I. Goal-keeper—who defends goal.
- II. Point—who is first man out from goal.
- III. Cover-point—who is in front of point.

iv. Centre—who “faces” in the centre of the field.

v. Home—who is nearest the opponent's goal.

The remaining players shall be termed “fielders.”

10. Twelve players on a side shall constitute a *full field*, and they must have been regular members of the club they represent, and no other, for thirty days prior to a match.

11. No change of players shall be made after a match has commenced, except for reasons of accident or injury during the match. When a match has been agreed upon, and one side is deficient in the number of players, their opponents may either limit their own numbers to equal them, or compel them to fill up the complement.

12. The players shall not wear *spiked soles*.

13. *The ball must not be touched with the hand*, save in the cases of Rules 14 and 15.

14. *Goal-keeper*, while defending goal within the goal crease, may stop balls in any manner.

15. *Whenever the ball is taken up*, or out of a hole, with the hand, during the progress of a game, it must be faced for with the nearest opponent.

16. Should the ball be *accidentally put through a goal by* one of the players defending it, it is game for the side attacking the goal. Should it be put through a goal by any one not actually a player, it shall not count for or against either side.

17. Players shall not *hold each other*, nor grasp an opponent's crosse; neither shall they deliberately strike or trip each other, nor push with the hand.

18. After each game the players shall *change goals*, unless otherwise agreed.

19. Any player convicted of *deliberate foul play*, or infringement of these rules, shall be suspended from play by the umpires at the request of his captain.

20. *A match shall be decided* by winning three games out of five.

21. Any amendment, revision, or alteration proposed to be made in any part of these laws, shall be made only at the annual conventions of "The National La Crosse Association of Canada," and by a three-fourths vote of the members present.

FINIS.