

VIGOROUS ATHLETICS.

Break-Neck Sports Which Endanger Human Life.

Disastrous Results of the "Gentle and Joyous" Foot-Ball Fight and the Festive and Fetching Base-Ball Battle.

Sir Walter Scott, in summing up the list of casualties which resulted from the tournament in which Ivanhoe carried every thing before him, says in effect that, because only a few knights were mortally wounded and several others dangerously hurt, the tournament passed into history and rhyme as "the gentle and joyous passage-at-arms of Ashby de la Zouche."

This mildly ironical expression is recalled, says the San Francisco Chronicle, by the accounts of the recent football game between Yale and Princeton. We read that one player "mowed down half a dozen Princeton men;" that "in a rush King was badly hurt, but revived sufficiently to go on with the game;" that "another player was retired on account of injuries," and that "several of the players had to be carried off the field at the conclusion of the game."

Surely this will pass into the history of American sports as "the gentle and joyous foot-ball match between Yale and Princeton."

In the National game, too, the list of a season's casualties is by no means a short one. Broken fingers, cracked heads, bruised legs, spiked hands and sprained ankles are some of the most common accompaniments of base-ball, and it seems impossible that the game can be played well or scientifically without them.

It is not intended to throw cold water upon athletic sports or games of any sort, but only to suggest that any game which results in personal injuries and often in disfigurement for life can be called "sport" only by an extremity of courtesy which amounts to a positive misnomer.

The injuries are not inflicted intentionally, it is true, but they are none the less injurious; and all the apologies in the world will not mend a broken leg or cure a sprained ankle.

With all our boasted civilization we are not much better in these matters than were the Greeks or Romans. Their games were not merely rough, but in many cases cruel and brutal. They seemed to have very little regard for human feeling, or even for human life, as every reader of Greek and Roman history knows.

But this is not a logical deduction. On the contrary, our growing fondness for athletics is a favorable sign, the only danger being that we should overdo the matter. We are like a child with a new toy—we can not get enough of our field games and open-air sports. At the same time there is a happy medium between the gladiator and the "Miss Nancy," between pusses-in-the-corner and combats with the cestus.

To show our manhood we do not need to knock somebody down every time we go on the street, nor to show our proficiency in manly sports do we need to play foot-ball in such a way as to leave a majority of each eleven crippled at the close of the game.

There must be ways and means of playing foot-ball which do not put the player into the category of what life-insurance people call "extra hazardous risks," and it is time that new rules be found or made which shall eliminate the personal danger from the game without diminishing its interest.

The question is certainly worth considering. Fun is fun, and a working people like the Americans can hardly get too much of it, but when fun is synonymous with wounds and bruises and fractures and the like, it is time to devise some other kind of fun and to put some limits to the extravagance of our athletic youths.

WONDERFUL FISH.

Its Beautiful Changing Colors and Its Remarkable Intelligence.

The sight of two brilliantly colored fish and a lot of little fish, evidently their offspring, attracts a crowd every day in front of an aquarist's window on East Sixteenth street, says the New York Sun. They are paradise fish from Cochon China, and the two adult fish have performed a feat no two fish of the species ever performed before in this country.

They have reproduced little paradise fish, and great is the joy of the fish sharps who visit the place and learn the way the fish build their nests. The sharps term the paradise fish macropodus venustus; that is to say, big-footed beauty. It is called a paradise fish because of the variety and brilliancy of its colors.

It is indigenous to Cochon China and India, and is about three inches long when full grown. Mr. Samuel, who had the fish sent to New York from Germany, said concerning the paradise fish and its habits:

"The head is gray in color, and is mottled with dark spots, and the gills blue, bordered with crimson. The eyes are yellow and red, and the pupil black. The sides of the body are crimson, with ten or twelve vertical blue stripes. The tail is crescent in shape and is crimson, with a blue border.

"When the fish is excited all the colors are brilliant. When the male fish is fighting for the possession of a female of the species he extends all his fins and displays their most vivid colors. The tail is covered with small spots, like the eyes on a peacock's tail, and the under surface of the fish becomes jet black. The colors of the dorsal fin change constantly from green to blue, sometimes showing white spots, and the body trembles perceptibly, radiating colors of every hue.

"The fish go to the top of the water very often for air. They are exceedingly inquisitive, and when a person approaches their tank they swim close to the glass and look at him. At times I have noticed them resting on the bottom of the tank, supported on the two long, scarlet spines, looking much as a boy does when reclining on his elbows reading.

"As summer approaches the fish become very active and build a nest. The male fights for the possession of the female and the victor betakes himself to a corner of the aquarium, where he commences to construct his nest. Taking a position about an inch below the surface of the water he frequently takes air into his mouth and then ejects it forcibly in the shape of little bubbles covered with a glutinous substance which prevents them from bursting for several hours. He continues to make bubbles until he has a little floating platform about six inches in circumference and a quarter of an inch thick.

"When the nest is finished the female approaches and deposits her eggs beneath the nest. The male gathers the eggs with his mouth and places them on the bubbly nest.

"When all the eggs have been cared for the female again makes her appearance, and the operation is repeated until about 1,000 eggs are on the nest. The eggs hatch out in about thirty-six hours. The father guards the young very jealously, and will not permit any thing moving to approach near them. He will even fight his mate if she comes close to any of the small ones, although I have never seen her molest them. In this period I have seen the male kill his mate. For the first three days the young fish are kept near the surface, and after that the male disperses them by puffing at them. If any weak ones sink he gathers them in his mouth and fires them to the surface. As the young increase in size he instructs them how to find food. When they are fifteen days old they look like the adult fish.

"They are fed on earthworms and raw beef, and during the cold weather I keep them comfortable by keeping an incandescent sixteen-candle power lamp burning under them day and night. They can not endure a temperature lower than 54 degrees or higher than 95 degrees. Aside from temperature they are very hardy and exceedingly prolific in summer. My pair reached me late in the fall, but by the use of the electric lamp I was enabled to raise the temperature to 80 degrees, and they commenced to build. I raised twenty-four small fish, but the cold weather has since killed some of them. The males are very intelligent, and they can be taught many things, such as ringing a bell when they are hungry by pulling a cord dangling in the water."

The American Cologne Habit. Moral reprobation is now coming from Paris, says the New York World about the iniquitous habit of Americans in regard to cologne. We owe this to England. It may be remembered that during the early days of last summer some astute and pawky essayist in Great Britain discovered that American men and women had a habit of frequently indulging in what was known as a "cologne soak." This dissipation took the form of an elaborate consumption of cologne-soaked lumps of sugar or of cologne itself straight from the bottle. Of course nobody had ever heard of a "cologne soak" in this country, but the British reviewer is never nonplussed by such a mere detail as that. After the British reviewers had ceased writing scathing things about us they turned their attention to some other form of public evil. Meanwhile their articles drifted into France, and now the French writers are moralizing on our habit of drinking cologne. Apparently news is scarce across the water.

A Royal American. A curious mistake has been made by an official at Carlsbad. An American gentleman who had been traveling in Bohemia arrived at the Spa, and entered his name as James L. King, of Buffalo. This was conveyed to the local press as "James the First, King of Buffalo," and Mr. King was besieged as "His Majesty" by such a shoal of tradesmen, beggars and tuff-hunters that he was obliged to leave Carlsbad sooner than he had intended. Some of the natives even mistook the popular tourist for "Buffalo Bill."

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Table listing Notary forms such as Protest and Original, Notice of Non-Payment, etc.

Table listing District School forms such as Appointment of District Officer, Vacancy, etc.

Table listing Conveyancing forms such as Warranty Deed, Mortgage, etc.

CONFESION OF JUDGMENT.

228 Confession of Judgment. 229 Consent of Child-Adoption. 230 Order of Hearing. 231 Discharge. 232 Subpoena—long form. 233 Pockets. 234 Records, plain and printed. Record of fees received. Card, with list of fees for office use.

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