

ly draw together all those enthusiastic in this study who are perhaps in part amateurs. From this class the science of astronomy has, however, drawn some of its brightest lights. Hall, for example, now at the head of the Yerkes observatory, in the start had his own little telescope in Chicago, and Barnard, who discovered the fifth satellite of Jupiter, was originally a photographer's assistant at a small salary. An astronomical society admitting these amateur workers as associate members, while the full membership would be reserved for the higher achievement, would be of great scientific value.

Medical Experts.

Mr. St. Clair McKelway of Brooklyn delivered a pregnant address at the Saratoga convention of the American Social Science association on a topic of great practical interest. In this he discussed the value of medical expert testimony in law trials and the evils involved in the practice. The speaker, putting emphasis on the point that the medical expert is retained to prove the contention of one or the other side precisely as is the lawyer, goes on to say: "If the professions other than that of law, which, as already said, is a licensed and discounted partisan, and the contending partisanship of which is tempered by judge and jury and is really useful to both, deliberately enter the market in competition for clients or for a price, they must expect to part with the authority and respect which they would like to command, and they must expect to be rated by the gauge and wage of interest in hand or in sight, supplied by the adherents to the view to which they sell their services. The retained expert is becoming more and more a discredited quantity in the courts of law, among jurors, in the press and in the general community." Mr. McKelway touched a crying evil with great vigor of statement. Had the consequences not been so maleficent in a host of cases it would have made this court practice a public laughing stock as a travesty on the righteous mechanism of law. The speaker argued that this hitherto necessary evil should be remedied by making the payment of expert testimony an affair of public remuneration, the selection of the witnesses a matter to be determined by the presiding judge. This would eliminate the phase of personal temptation and hang the issue on the skill and veracity of the witness who had ceased to be a retained advocate. Whether or not the manner of reform would suit the preferences of the bench and bar, its need is recognized generally by the profession.

In submitting to any rational requirements of a peace conference as to disarmament this country would have the advantage. Her margin would admit of much expansion to match the contraction of other peoples.

Olympic Games at Paris in 1900.

The revival of the ancient Greek games at Athens in 1896 was a thought at once unique and valuable. The Olympic festival, occurring every four years, was held by all Hellenes in every Mediterranean country as the most sacred thing in the race life, and it powerfully drew their eyes and hearts to the common home. Consecrated by divine sanction, the Olympic season at once declared truce to all warring Greeks, and peace then reigned throughout Hellas. No other influence so welded Greece together and so made its commonwealths feel the thrill of a common blood and a common ideal. The modern recrudescence lacks nearly everything which made the ancient festival an organic outgrowth of life. But it does not lack in timely suggestion. The recent announcement of the programme of the games by the international committee includes nearly every kind of prominent athletic amusement and exercise involved in our modern habits and will at once engage the attention of expectant competitors.

This international festival of athletics, for this is what it is proposed to become, may attain a strong influence, which will help to bind the world together in ties of future peace. Regarding modern civilized humanity as a greater Hellas, for the world's finest culture came from this source, there is something striking in the thought of the new Olympic festival, which will be moved, however, from city to city instead of being sacredly guarded at one. The trend of recent startling movements has been toward the establishment of universal peace and of safeguards for its continuance. Humanity longs for such a panacea to its manifold wars, and the disposition to put that into operation has been made manifest in startling fashion. Everything which can converge to that end is full of significance. It is one way to look at the new Olympic games. Even as the great Elian festival drew the hearts of all Greeks together in love and covered the sympathy of blood and ideal so perhaps this new Olympian gathering for international rivalry in friendly exploits may be a binding link in the great peace chain. Should it prove to exert such a manifest influence the name of King George of the Hellenes as a world's benefactor, for to his inspiration the project to connect ancient and modern life in this fashion was due, will survive all the mediocrities of his reign.

The railway industry in the United States is the most important factor in our prosperity, and its capitalization is the largest, yet the returns of that industry are the lowest, and there has been a steady decadence in the income value of railroads for the last six years. According to the statistics of Poor's Manual and of the interstate commerce

commission, our roads have sunk to such a low ebb of profit that they cannot go much further that way without bordering bankruptcy. Without entering extensively into figures it may be cited that on a stock and bonded capital of \$10,635,008,074 the returns are 1.92 per cent, a declension of one-half within half a dozen years. The essential cause of this terrible decline is attributed to extensive competition and the cutting of rates in the most unscrupulous fashion. In every pooling arrangement there has always been one to betray the rest. No guardianship on the part of traffic associations or of the interstate commerce commission has been able to check the rings within rings in railway operations and the surreptitious attempts to cut each other's throats. Many of the most conservative and honest railway men are coming to believe that government ownership is the only remedy. But against that, alike as a matter of theory and practice, there is a radical objection in the sentiments of many people. That something will have to be done very soon, however, to remedy the evil is the conviction of all those who have looked into the subject.

Corbett on Boxing.

The pugilist whose solar plexus was rudely shocked last year by the fist of one Fitzsimmons has given his views in a very prominent newspaper on the subject of prizefighting. His tone is as that of an ancient Hellene commending the dignity and importance of the Olympic games. Mr. Corbett promulgates the following: "It must be evident to every one that boxing, in the highest sense of the word, has become a sport that must be recognized by the American public. The day of the prizefighter, the man who pummeled his adversary with his bare fists, has gone forever. In his stead has sprung up a race of athletes, quiet, gentlemanly, well dressed men, who are welcome in any company, although they earn their livelihood by their knowledge of the art of 'hit, stop and get away.' From a sport that was carried on only under cover it has come to be one of the leading entertainments and amusements of the times."

It is quite fit that this representative of the fistic art should salve his own vanity by puffing the business which he alternates with play acting as a means of support, but one must be allowed gently to dissent from his conclusions. In calling professional boxing for money one of the leading entertainments of the time and prizefighters "a race of athletes, quiet, gentlemanly and well dressed, welcome in any company," he is forcing the pace much more than he was able to do with the redoubted Australian bruiser. The spectacle of a modern prizefight, whether it be called a boxing entertainment or a bruising match, smacks of the same ruffianism as