

The Future of Foot Ball

By Professor J. I. Wyer

Year after year goes by and the game is scarcely changed at all in the direction of more open play. The rules committee seem unwilling or unable to do away with those features of the play which, while they may in some degree make the game strenuous and exciting, are yet thoroughly distasteful to those who yield to none in love of a good hard contest of any kind, but who cannot enjoy or approve the hospital accompaniment, the medical and surgical interludes and the too frequent and distressing accidents, and even deaths.

A few years ago it seemed a fairly even question whether the game was worth the effort necessary to maintain it. It has enough good points (some of them better than almost any other sport) to make a strong case, but certain aspects of football as now played have been taking such definite shape within the past five years as to constitute so formidable an indictment of the game as to give us good cause for suspending judgment. They may be summed up under the following heads:

First—The persistence of mass formations and close play with the result that the game is less interesting to spectators, more dangerous to players and offers greater opportunities for unperceived roughness.

Second—The commercializing of football. Every year makes it more of a pure business proposition. It is costing too much to maintain, admission charges are too high, too many men are paid to play (which saps the true spirit of the sport and puts it very much on the level of professional baseball) if not in one way or another by the athletic managements, then by outside interested parties.

Third—Undue prominence in college life.

Fourth—High degree of training required, which practically bars out all who cannot afford to make a business

of football and an incident of study ten weeks each year.

Fifth—The risk of serious accidents and the appalling list of casualties which occur each season.

Sixth—The spread of the game into high schools and grade schools, where it is often played without proper equipment or supervision.

These six reasons, each one of which seems to become stronger every year, have without doubt contributed to a reaction which has been more noticeable this year than ever before.

There are signs that President Elliot, who has called attention with disapproval to the game in his recent annual reports, is about ready to take some decisive action at Harvard which may result in nothing less than its abolition at Cambridge.

Few would expect President Roosevelt to object to anything on the ground of ever-strenuousness, yet he has recently shown his dissatisfaction with football as now played and exhibited a willingness to use his influence to better conditions.

The distinct impetus given to association football within the past few months and the interest shown in it by several of the great eastern universities is but one more sign that the present football situation is top-heavy and shaky.

It seems safe to predict that unless the high-priced professional coach, the expensive scale which necessitates exorbitant prices, the rigorous and unreasonable training which restricts the number of players and fosters a species of professionalism, and the present style of play, encouraging brutality and unduly emphasizing beef, unless these cardinal objections can be radically remedied, and very soon, the reaction from the game as now played in favor of some form of the association game in toto will not be matters of surprise to those who have followed the situation closely in recent years.

Foot Ball--East and West

By Robert T. Hill

It is a difficult matter for one going from West to East to judge clearly the difference between the athletics of the respective sections unless he has come very closely into touch with it personally, and whose knowledge is not limited merely by the information which he unconsciously imbibes or by the few contests he may have seen.

The writer, furthermore, is handicapped because of his separation from the undergraduate body, and because Columbia differs from other Eastern institutions, Yale, Harvard or Princeton, and the small colleges, because of its urban location and large graduate body.

It is no secret that athletics occupy a more prominent place in Eastern college life than that of the West. More is required of the individual students, athletically, both by the college authorities proper and by the student body. Throughout the East there is a greater multiplicity of athletic interests, including football and baseball, basket-ball, tennis, association football, lacrosse, hockey, fencing, gymnastic work, water polo, wrestling, boxing, cross-country, track, the crews, and so on through the list, each one of these several sports demanding to a certain extent a peculiar man.

Moreover, the student who distinguishes himself upon the athletic field is given the preference always in the matter of class distinctions and honors. At Harvard the freshman who plays the best game of football in the Yale-Harvard freshman annual is, I understand, generally presented with the class presidency. The freshman who enters college and who is athletically capable has no other thought than of competing for honors. In fact, it is chiefly through their athletics that classes endeavor to perpetuate themselves.

Owing to this fact, then, that athletics so prominently enter into Eastern

college life and more than in the West, is there found a greater homogeneity in the student body. The class rather than the individual or set of individuals is the unit, and in times of athletic stress the four units or classes combine into a stronger body.

And this provokes consideration of student support. It is generally admitted that support of this kind is sadly lacking at Columbia University. The location and character of the students is largely responsible for this. But in other institutions it seems as if the whole student body was saturated with college spirit. "Support" is not demanded, for it is already conceded. One viewing Eastern games is struck by the consistency in this respect. But without derogation to our Eastern brothers, the West in my estimation, and particularly Nebraska, can educate Easterners in the matter of enthusiasm when it once does take the stage.

There appears to me no probability of Michigan meeting an Eastern team this year, or for some time to come. I believe I voice the sentiments of the Eastern followers of the college game in stating that Michigan would undoubtedly give her rival a hard drubbing, unless it should be Yale, in which case honors might be more even. I have seen the Yale team at work once this year and I was amazed at the "team-work." They win by that.

Much of the attention given to athletics in Eastern colleges is due to the competition among them for honors, directly resulting from the large number of institutions located so comparatively near to each other. Rivalry runs rampant at this season particularly. Of course this rivalry is productive both of good athletes and good student support.

I cannot refrain, in closing this short sketch, from giving vent to the general feeling among Nebraska men here that they have seen no better football than upon Nebraska Field.

University Athletic Board

The University of Nebraska has an Athletic Board of which she may well be proud. It is made up of a body of men who are thoroughly alive, and men who are thorough business. It men who are thorough business. The rapid advancement of Nebraska in the past few years has been largely due to the unabated efforts of this Board. They have worked wonders with the amount of money they have had on hand. While economy has been necessary, yet these men had used the money so judiciously that every thing the athletes have needed to give them the best advantage has been granted. The Athletic Board is composed of six faculty members and five student members.

Faculty Members.

Dr. Lees—President of the Athletic Board, also chairman of the football committee. Dr. Lees is professor and head of the Greek department in the University of Nebraska.

Professor Chatburn—One of the members of the football committee, and has served for some time as a member of the Athletic Board. Professor Chatburn is a professor in the Engineering department.

Dr. Pound—Dr. Roscoe Pound is Dean of the Law School. He has been interested in athletics ever since he has been connected with the Law School. Dr. Pound is chairman of the baseball committee.

Dr. Clapp—Head of the department of Physical Education, and coach of the track, gymnasium, and basket-ball teams. Dr. Clapp is chairman of the committee on track athletics.

Dr. Dales—A professor in the Chemistry department. Dr. Dales is chairman of the basket-ball committee and also a member of the baseball committee.

Dr. Bolton—Head of the department of Psychology. He is chairman of the committee on grounds and field. Dr. Bolton has thoroughly identified himself with athletics in Nebraska by his hard and earnest work.

Student Members.

Max Meyer—Member of the Senior Law Class. Meyer has been active in the law school organizations ever since his freshman year.

James Van Burgh—Member of the Senior Law class and has been prominent in University life ever since his entrance.

Maurice Benedict—Member of the Senior Academic class. "Bennie" has been one of the most prominent men in the University ever since he entered, and has played four years on the football team.

J. William Hoar—Member of the Junior Law class, and has been on the varsity basket-ball team for four years. He was captain last year and is serving as captain this year.

Clarence Morse—Member of the Junior Academic class. Morse has pitched on the varsity baseball team for two years and is captain of the same this year.

The Scores of Four Years

The Nebraska Team Has Not Been Defeated on Its Home Grounds in Four Years

1902		1903	
	Nebr.		Nebr.
Doane.....	0 51	Grand Island.....	0 64
Colorado.....	0 10	South Dakota....	0 23
Grinnell.....	0 17	Denver.....	0 10
Minnesota.....	0 6	Haskell Indians..	0 16
Missouri.....	0 12	Colorado.....	0 31
Haskell Indians..	0 28	Iowa.....	6 17
Kansas.....	0 16	Knox.....	5 33
Knox.....	0 7	Kansas.....	0 6
Northwestern....	0 12	Bellevue.....	0 52
		Illinois.....	0 16

1904		1905	
	Nebr.		Nebr.
Grand Island.....	0 72	Grand Island....	0 30
Lincoln High....	0 17	Lincoln High....	0 20
Grinnell.....	0 46	South Dakota...6	42
Colorado.....	6 0	Knox.....	0 16
Creighton.....	0 39	Michigan.....	31 0
Knox.....	0 34	Creighton.....	0 102
Minnesota.....	16 12	Ames.....	0 21
Iowa.....	6 17	Colorado.....	0 18
Haskell Indians..	14 6	Minnesota.....	35 0
Bellevue.....	0 51	Doane.....	5 43
Illinois.....	10 16	Illinois.....	