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FOOTBALL REFORM.

The reform wave has struck the country in truth, and along with trusts, insurance companies, patent medicines and political machines must go the great game of football. When there are so many evils to be eliminated and so many abuses to be cured, it is perhaps natural for the public to desire reform in everything which has been subjected to criticism for any reason whatever, but the mere fact that football has received much criticism should not be conclusive as to its quality.

Lately there has been a great deal said about the laxity of morals among the different university athletic boards of both west and east induced by the overpowering desire to win. Strange to say, however, the cry for the abolition of football has not been caused by these disclosures, and if it had, it would be a satisfactory answer to say that the fault did not lie in the game itself, but in the attendant circumstances which would be the same in the case of any sport which should be substituted for it as the principal collegiate athletic activity. The ground for the demand for reform or abolition is in the deaths and injuries which have occurred from the game during the past season. During the campaigns of 1900 and 1904 we heard much about the inestimable value of the life of a single American. Admitting this, and admitting the correctness of the casualty list, the game is vicious. But before we should arrive at this conclusion we should investigate the figures more closely. A few striking errors stand out, and if the entire list is as faulty as are the details concerning accidents which we know about, no reliance should be placed on it. In the first place, the death of a football trainer who was drowned while on a pleasure trip is included and attributed to football. Denslow is said to have received most severe injuries to the knee which might cripple him, but the little end is as frisky as ever. Two Iowa players are included among those slain, whereas physicians testified that in each case death was due to outside causes. But most important of all is the fact that a very large majority of the injuries occur among high school players, and we must admit that football as it is now played is not a proper sport for boys in preparatory schools. And when we consider that at least

100 colleges and 500 high schools have teams, with squads averaging at least twenty-five men in each case, the number of casualties, even accepting the list as correct, may not seem so large as to force us to the conclusion that football should not be permitted in colleges even under more exact supervision.

The evil of "cribbing" is still cropping out in our larger schools. In Georgetown University eleven members of the senior class were not permitted to graduate because of "cribbing." Three admitted and will be allowed to graduate upon passing successfully a re-examination. The other eight pleaded "not guilty" and had their entire senior examinations cancelled. If they stand a re-examination in medical zoology and other subjects they will be allowed to graduate this fall.

The wave of reform is striking Northwestern University. Professors and students will join hands in purifying both athletics and society. The Inter-Fraternity Council is the central committee and it has discussed plans for the regulation of "Social Excesses." The fraternities are going to refrain from pledging students until a year after matriculation. The sororities are expected to follow suit.

Such a movement is to be highly commended and much interest will be taken in the work of reform.

Ohio Wesleyan and Western Reserve have selected as a subject for their annual debate, "Resolved, That Congress delegate the power to regulate and determine railway rates to a commission or bureau, the decision of which shall be of their own force effective."

In view of the recent actions taken against football in the East, it might be interesting to note that Princeton has taken the affirmative of the question, "Resolved, That intercollegiate football in America is a detriment rather than a benefit." Harvard and Princeton will meet on December 15 and fight it out.

Senior-Junior Game.

The annual interclass football game between the senior and junior classes will be played on the University gridiron Thursday afternoon at 1 p. m. The game has been scheduled twice before this season and had to be postponed on account of the condition of the field and the weather. These postponements have greatly delayed the dates of the games and what the interclass managers hoped to avoid at the first of the season—playing the games after the football season had closed—has been thrust upon them. In order now to get the games played off before the Christmas vacation it will be necessary to play the first two games this week and pull off the deciding match, between the winners in the first two, next week. The managers of the senior and junior teams have, therefore, announced that the game Thursday will be played regardless of weather conditions.

Meeting of Graduate Club.

All members of the faculty and students doing graduate work are cordially invited and will be specially welcome at the meeting of the Graduate Club, which will meet Friday evening of this week with Prof. H. H. Wilson, 1339 South Sixteenth street. Prof. Geo. E. Howard will give a short address. Special music will be rendered. Refreshments will be served.

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Concerning the Y. M. C. A.

The University Y. M. C. A. has issued a circular appealing to the young men of the University to join the association and help defray the many expenses while enjoying the numerous advantages attaching to membership. A brief statement is given of the purposes of the organization, and then a number of facts about it are enumerated. Every man in the University should obtain one of these circulars and read it attentively.

Class of 1905 Meet.

All the members of last year's senior class who are now in the University will hold a meeting tomorrow morning at chapel time in U. 212 for the purpose of perfecting an organization for the year. There are so many members of this class in the University this year that it has seemed feasible to organize and have some sort of an entertainment during the winter. This will be a new departure in this University, and it is to be hoped that it will be successful.

Notice.

All football men must turn in their equipment to the manager before chapel time Thursday, December 7.

The Messiah.

The annual production of the famous "Messiah" will fill the last convocation period before the holidays, Wednesday, December 20. The soloists are already engaged and are working on their parts. Mrs. Raymond is anxious to have as large a chorus as possible, and urges all who have ever participated in a rendition of the "Messiah" to come to as many of the rehearsals as they can, whether they belong to the chorus or not, and to take part in the production. Rehearsals are held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at five o'clock in Memorial Hall.

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