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THE AMATEUR IN SPORTS.

He Is One Who Plays Only For the Pleasure of Playing.

An amateur is one who plays for pleasure only. He can play with whom he pleases, so long as he plays for pleasure alone. He may play with or against a team which is being paid or playing for gate money. He may play with professionals or against them. There is no reason why an amateur should not play in any company he pleases so long as he enjoys it, provided he plays only for that reason. The professional is one who engages in athletics for a livelihood. This, however, would not make a professional baseball player a profesional tennis player. Experience has taught that, as a rule, men who are playing for a livelihood—that is, for money—place a small value on pleasure and are ready to mar the game by quarreling, trickery or unfair dealing. It is only when the professional hurts the pleasure of the game that he is objectionable. This is not the distinction perceived by our makers of rules, who have been so absorbed in the money, summer baseball and summer board question that they failed to notice how rapidly they were creating in the amateur world all the unpleasant characteristics of the professional, the most notable of which is quarrelsomeness and making a business of it all.

The colleges for their athletic intercourse need only the common rule that an amateur is one who has received no compensation for his athletic skill, that those who have received such compensation are professionals and that professionals are barred. With all subscribing to this simple rule and living up to it only an agreement to meet annually each year for a certain period would be further needed.—Outing.

THE MEALS FOR POETS.

English Breakfast Parties Early In the Last Century.

The breakfast party became fashionable in the early decades of the last century. Samuel Rogers being one of the principal hosts. Round his table gathered all the wits and celebrities of the day. At his house in St. James place Byron and Moore first came together "over a mess of potatoes and vinegar." It was in his dining room that Erskine told the story of his first brief and Grattan that of his last duel, while the Iron Duke described Waterloo as a "battle of giants." Rogers asked people, it was currently reported, by way of probation for dinner, but his breakfast parties were more social than his dinners, which, comparatively speaking, were affairs of necessity or form. His invitation notes were models of penmanship and conciseness. "Will you breakfast with me tomorrow?—S. R.." was the pithy invitation to a celebrated wit. "Won't I?" was the congenial response. He was fond of quoting Rousseau's profession of un gout fin pour les dejeuners, the time of the day when we are quietest and talk most at our ease. Greville in his "Memoirs" notes one of these breakfasts in 1831. "Sydney Smith, Luttrell, John Russell and Moore excessively agreeable. I never heard anything more entertaining than Sydney Smith—such bursts of merriment and so dramatic! Breakfasts are the meals for poets. I met Wordsworth and Southey at breakfast. Rogers' are always agreeable."—Chambers' Journal.

Codd's Curious Defenses.

An interesting book might be written on the subject of "Curious Defenses."

One excellent instance is supplied here in what was known as "Codd's Puzzle." Codd was defending a client accused of stealing a duck. He set up seven defenses: (1) The accused bought the duck and paid for it; (2) he found it; (3) it was given to him; (4) it flew into his garden; (5) it was put in his pocket while he slept. Six and seven are not recorded, but an amicus curiae suggested that there never was any duck at all. The accused was acquitted, not "because they chose any particular defense, but because they did not know which to choose, and they gave the prisoner the benefit of the doubt."—Spectator.

The Hygienic Value of Sunday.

Sunday is not only a religious but a hygienic institution. It is beneficent in its uses, morally and physically. How workers should best spend the Sunday is still a moot question, but that it should be a time of soul refreshment and recreation, a moment, as Miss Corelli expresses it, "for standing and taking breath on the threshold of another week," a season for thought, for intellectual enjoyment, for the solace of nature and the admiration of its wonders and beauty, no sensible person will be likely to deny. Whether motoring or card playing is the best way to attain these ends must be left to each individual's judgment.—Lady Violet Greville in London Graphic.

Discontent.

The peacock heard the nightingale singing.

"That seems easy to do," said the big bird. "I'll see if I can't sing as well as that."

At the dismal squawk that followed a moment later every living thing within hearing distance fled in terror.

"Curses on my fatal gift of beauty!" exclaimed the peacock. "Why wasn't I made plain, like all the great musicians!"—Chicago Tribune.

The Voice of the Worldly.

"Poverty is no disgrace," said the romantic young woman.

"No," answered Miss Cayenne, "and it is no great recommendation either."—Washington Star.

He who gives up the smallest part of a secret has the rest no longer in his power.—Richter.

A WINNING SCHEME.

The Power of Timid Beauty to Disarm Wrathful Shoppers.

A woman whose stern visage spelled trouble, says the Philadelphia Record, stepped up to the complaint desk in a big store. Back of the desk was a timid miss—one of those Dresden doll girls who never seem to lose their baby ways—and at the sight of the wrathful shopper she seemed to shrink a bit, while into her wide blue eyes came what the poets would style the look of a startled fawn. The indignant customer began a tirade about some mistake that had been made in connection with a purchase, but her anger disappeared when she saw how much the shopgirl seemed to take the matter to heart. Finally, after calmly explaining the fault, she went away smiling. "It's a great scheme," remarked the observant manager with the air of a man bestowing bouquets on himself. "You see, in every large business establishment there are bound to be mistakes occurring all the time. When customers come back and kick about errors they are usually in an unreasonable frame of mind. If there was a man back of the complaint desk or a strongminded woman, we'd have all kinds of trouble smoothing out the kinks, because the customers would keep their fighting mood on when they encountered somebody who looked able to take care of himself. But to go up against a pretty, timid girl disarms them, and in a minute they are cool and ready to talk over the situation peaceably. The men kickers could not raise a row with a handsome girl, and the women—well, their motherly instincts are touched and they become good humored."

ABUSE OF HOSPITALITY.

The Way It Was Rebuked by an Oriental Philosopher.

"Hospitality is an excellent thing," said the story teller, "but it is open to abuse. Let me tell you how the oriental hospitality of Nasr Eddin, a great man of the east, was abused many years ago.

"From a distant village a poor man came to Nasr Eddin and made him a present of a hare. Nasr Eddin was delighted with his gift. The poor man on the strength of it stayed with him a month.

"A short time after a stranger came with his entire family to Nasr Eddin's house.

"'We,' the stranger explained, 'are friends of the man who gave you the hare.'

"Nasr Eddin welcomed the visitors warmly, and they stayed two weeks.

"They had not been gone long when another family of strangers arrived.

"'Whom have I the honor to receive?' said Nasr Eddin.

"'Friends of the friends of the man who gave you the hare,' was the reply.

"Nasr Eddin looked grave. He did not invite these guests indoors. He served them on the lawn with cups of some clear fluid. Tasting this fluid, they made wry faces, for it was nothing but warm water.

"'What is this you offer us, oh, Nasr Eddin?' the strangers said reproachfully.

"The host replied:

"'Oh, that is the sauce of the sauce of the hare.'"

Moving Pictures and Seasickness.

Successive pictures have been taken at intervals during an ocean voyage to show the life aboard ship, the swing of the great seas and the rolling and pitching of the steamer. The heave and swing of the steamer and the mountainous waves have been so realistically shown on the screen in the theater that some squeamish spectators have been made almost seasick. It might be comforting to those who were made unhappy by the sight of the heaving seas to know that the operator who took one series of sea pictures, when lashed with his machine in the lookout place on the foremast of the steamer, suffered terribly from seasickness and would have been glad enough to set his foot on solid ground; nevertheless he stuck to his post and completed the series.—From "Stories of Inventors," by Russell Doubleday.

Landseer's Witty Comment.

Several years ago a London Hebrew, Abraham Solomon, painted a stirring picture, "Waiting For the Verdict," which was exhibited at the Royal academy. The artist, not being a Royal academician, entitled to annex R. A. to his name, had his painting "skied." All the pictures contributed by that august fraternity were, as usual, hung on the line. Thomas Landseer was in ecstasies as he beheld the thrilling scene depicted on the canvas and exclaimed, "There is Solomon in all his glory, but not R. A.'d like one of these!"

The Grunting Ox.

One of the largest of the mammalia of Tibet is the yak, or grunting ox. Standing between five and six feet high at the shoulders, the bulk of this strange looking creature is not a little exaggerated by the enormous growth of hair upon the lower part of the body and tail. Beneath the outer coat, moreover, there is a layer of wool known as pushim, which is highly prized for the making of cloth.

True Friendship.

Harold—My trusted and bosom friend, Jack Armstrong, has cut me out in the affections of Dolly Giddygurl. What do you think of that? Jerrold—Why, I think that's the kind of a friend to have, old chap.—Puck.

Skinny.

"She said I was a regular Venus de Milo."

"Yes; she told me that you had just no arms at all."—Houston Post.



"A SECRET."

One great secret of youth and beauty for the young woman or the mother is the proper understanding of her womanly system and well-being. Every woman, young or old, should *know herself* and her physical make up. A good way to arrive at this knowledge is to get a good doctor book, such, for instance, as the "People's Common Sense Medical Adviser," by R. V. Pierce, M. D., which can readily be procured by sending twenty-one cents in one-cent stamps for paper-bound volume, or thirty-one cents for cloth-bound copy, addressing Dr. R. V. Pierce, at Buffalo, N. Y.

The change from maidenhood to womanhood is one that involves the whole body. The strain at this time upon the blood-forming structures may be too great. Disorders of the functions peculiarly feminine are nearly always dependent upon defective nutrition. In all such cases Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is just the vegetable tonic for the female system.

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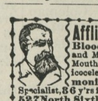
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