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SPORTS AND ATHLETICS

Continued

one of the teams in the Jefferson County Home Talent League gets a try-out with Toledo in the American Association next spring. Another lad who played outfield part of the season with one of the teams in the first season, became captain of a school team. Another pitched two no-hit, no-run games for his college. Not so bad for the first two years.

Naturally, the type of baseball was not so expert, not so scientific, not so mechanical as that provided by highly paid men of exceptional individual ability. It couldn't be expected and the spectators soon learned it. It did give more interesting games. There is nothing more dull to many a baseball follower, especially the casual fan, than to see a team playing so well that the element of the unexpected is eliminated.

This is part of the attraction about home talent baseball. These players are more tense than the man who has learned the game so well that it is second nature to him. In home talent baseball there is no telling what might happen next, and that's just what the fans liked. The entertainment that was provided for them was greater than they ever got before because they learned not to expect perfect plays and they enjoyed the harder playing that these lads tried.

When a player made an unusually good play they rooted for him, no matter whether on their team or on the other team. When a player pulled a boner, they laughed and had a good time over it.

BADMINTON NOT HALF BAD

A MUSCULAR Christian, Bishop Charles L. Slattery, has joined the three hundred enthusiasts who support a Badminton Club in the heart of Boston's financial district. Five years the club has existed, but "the essential features of Badminton date back to the China and Japan of 2,000 years ago," we are told by Alfred Howell, who writes in the Boston Herald:

The game itself, as we know it in England and in scattered sections of the United States, was probably developed along with battledore and shuttlecock, which was the progenitor of modern tennis, but, so far as can be ascertained, the first special Badminton court was built in 1873 at Poona, India.

It took England by storm, however, about forty years ago; and so far as a winter game can go, it rivalled cricket. But unlike cricket, which has never been played to any extent in this country, Badminton is fast gaining here a vogue and popularity.

And now here's a brief sketch of the game.

Picture a room forty-four feet by twenty-two, and across the exact center a net almost five feet high. On each side a flashing, whirling form, in athletic shirt and drawers and sneakers, armed with a miniature racket; and hurtling over and around and about him, to dare his sight and aim, is a small leather-covered cork shuttle, or "bird," with a tiny weight inside. Sixteen perfectly matched feathers stick out from its height of seventy-five to eighty-five grains.

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with a smashing overhead and a lob, and then with a touch that seems a caress, but it gets across the net, to meet with another smash and a half-return that scores, with the panting cry, "Eight—six, Joe."

And you can't hit it on the bounce, because the "bird" doesn't bounce; rather you've got to hit it on the fly, or not at all. And, take the writer's word for it, in order to do that little trick, you've got to be alive and on your toes and incredibly swift.

And there you have Badminton, the game that bids fair to outdistance squash and handball in the winter popularity of northern America.

Mr. Howell has interviewed several members of the club, and tells us that one of them, Mr. Fay A. Simmons, says: "It is a most surprising thing to me that Badminton hasn't been more widely taken up in this country. It is an ideal game, for it forces into use practically every muscle and faculty; and besides that, the cost of installing court and equipment is really very small." Meanwhile Dr. Leroy G. Crandon is quoted as saying of Badminton:

"Not only does it keep a man's interest at top pitch, and so keep him coming regularly to play, but it provides an element of safety that's entirely foreign to tennis or squash or handball. I am referring now to the eyes. There have been several cases within my personal knowledge where an eye has been lost in the stress of violent play on tennis and squash courts, but with Badminton that is impossible, even if the player is wearing glasses.

"That is a good feature, and in addition, of course, is the fact that it can be played with safety by every one. Several chaps I know down town, who joined the club and started playing the game, found their blood pressure materially lowered in a comparatively short time, and found their general health improved. Of course, that is not surprising, for business life to-day is extremely wearing, and the average man, realizing that and being intelligent, takes measures to overcome it."

Another member, Mr. William P. Nutter, tells Mr. Howell:

"I took it pretty easy when I first joined the Badminton Club last November. Considerably overweight, I wheezed a lot and grunted some when I started to exercise, but Badminton got me as it gets every one else, and along about the first of the year I started to go down every day, for I could even then see the improvement. And now—well, this is what it's done: It's taken off weight—I shan't tell you how many pounds; it's hardened every muscle, and it's increased my efficiency in a business way almost 100 per cent.

"If any evidence was ever needed to bolster up my conviction that healthy play is necessary in business life, my personal experience during the last six months is ample. Let me give you a concrete case:

"A member of the club, one of the biggest men in mercantile life in Boston, came in about a quarter of six one night some two months ago. He was scheduled to make a speech in the chamber of commerce at 6:30 and he was fagged out, body and mind. He wanted to be put in shape, and he was. They gave him five minutes of stretching and setting up stuff, then a

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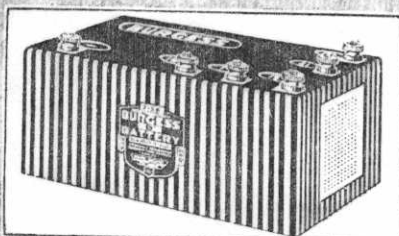
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SPORTS AND ATHLETICS

Continued

ten-minute game of Badminton; then a warm shower and a five-minute rest. After that he got a thorough massage, followed by a cold shower, and that chap went out from there with his eyes snapping and a springy step, and his mind as clear and fresh as it had ever been. Now, cocktails might produce the appearance but not the effect of that healthy treatment, nor would they result in the speech he made that night. And that's why the fellows down here on the Street have joined the Badminton Club."

THE FISHERMAN'S TEN POINTS OF HONOR

PERSONALLY an enthusiastic angler and officially a member of the Board of Fish Commissioners of Pennsylvania, Dr. Charles Reittel is devoting himself to "research work on natural fish food, lake and stream conditions, marine growth and other matters that make for an abundant supply of game and food fish," we are told. In *Forest and Stream* appears his code for the "Compleat Angler," of whom Dr. Reittel says, in numbered paragraphs:

1. He holds that a good fisherman not only can catch fish but is one who rigidly conserves angling as a sport.
2. He realizes that fish must have homes in which to live. Therefore he sees to it that good forests and waters are made available and kept available for abundant fish life.
3. He knows well the enemies of the fish—the water-snake, the hawk, the otter—and he takes of his time and money to rid fish life of these menaces.
4. He loathes that human "fish-hog" who ruthlessly wastes and destroys, and he vigilantly brings to bay these robbers of our fish.
5. He is tortured by that ghastly nightmare, pollution of waters, and he fights everlastingly to keep clear waters clear, and to redeem foul waters to purity.
6. He is a student of fish life and habits. Thus he knows that both the size and number of fish depend directly upon the abundance of the food supply. Therefore he conserves bait life, and water vegetation.
7. But he obeys the fish laws, not out of fear, but because he understands that they are absolutely necessary for the preservation of the fishing sport—for himself, his associates and posterity.
8. He has found that artificial propagation is necessary to keep the supply of fish abreast of the growing numbers of fishermen. As a result he is in touch with fish culturists and their work.
9. He believes that "the Compleat Angler" is a result of wholesome development from boyhood and girlhood days, and he is as much interested in dating a fishing trip for the youngsters as he is in arranging one for himself.
10. He is a dynamic part of the spirit of American Democracy and therefore holds as inviolate that all fishing waters shall be open to all of the people. Believing this, he holds that real conservation means conservation for all—not for a few at the expense of the many.



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