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SCHOOL ATHLETICS

This issue of The American is dedicated to athletics and it is meet, perhaps, that we voice an expression of our feelings on the subject of school athletics. Nearly everything is all right, primarily; it is abuses which lead to serious consequences, it matters not what is the vehicle for the abuse. We do not all harbor dispositions for excesses along the same line; what one man will go wild over may have no effect whatever upon his brother. As a general thing, though, go where you will you find more or less community interest in some certain thing. Environment will dictate to considerable extent just what the community interest is to be centered upon. It is largely so in school life.

In the majority of our schools the same games, competitive or otherwise, according to larger and more comprehensive community interest, will be found. Play is play, a relaxation in a way, a change from compulsive study or drudgery, as some may term it, and beyond doubt is as necessary for the development of our youths of today as the writer thought it to be when he was "at the bat" many years ago. A good, clean game, vigorously, but not too vigorously, played, at the proper time, relieves the body and upbuilds and develops it, while at the same time it refreshes the mind. This is well—splendid—and we approve heartily. Competition with similar teams or individuals of another school or college will stimulate a desire for perfection in play and cause all interested to develop both mind and body, for all know that both are necessary to win the game, be it a school game or the great game of life which is to commence in all seriousness when the school games are over.