

fluence athletics may have upon the students of a school like the Chemawa Indian School. The possibilities in this field are simply tremendous, provided, of course, athletics are systematized and run in accordance with proper rules.

Any one who knows something about conditions prevailing in an Indian school cannot fail to admit that the situation is somewhat different from conditions in other institutions of learning. Chemawa, for instance, cannot be classed, from an academic point of view, as a college or even as a high school. And yet a great number of the students attending this school are of high-school and even collegiate age. They are young men imbued with natural instincts for play, capable of vigorous physical activity and yearning for athletic competition, and for social intercourse that goes with athletics. To deprive them of those opportunities would be folly bordering almost on crime. An outlet must be found and none suggests itself better than the field of athletics.

It must be remembered that a large number of the students of a school like Chemawa come from places where social intercourse is necessarily restricted, because of paucity of inhabitants. Many of them are sent to the school by parents who are unable to support them at home. Few of them fully appreciate the value of acquiring learning, and not a few of them are sent to the school against their will. This condition must be borne in mind, for it will fully explain the desire for play and a good time on the part of the students. Were play and good times withheld from them, the probabilities are that the students will not care to return to the school to avail themselves of the opportunity of acquiring knowledge. To many students, knowledge is a bitter pill which, in order to be taken, must be sugar-coated. Athletics offers a good coat of sugar for such a pill.

Few of the students who come to a school like Chemawa have an opportunity, while at home, to partake of the benefits of social intercourse. They are either too young for that when they leave home, or their home village is too small for such opportunities. It has been proven that athletics usually result in extensive social intercourse which is highly beneficial to each participant. None of us are self-sufficient. We learn by watching and coming into contact with others. A boy who makes an athletic team and who goes with that team to another town to take part in a game, comes into contact with boys of a different environment and cultural development and receives from them certain elements which he would have missed had he kept close to the walls of his school. When one takes into consideration the fact that the athletic field is a laboratory for manliness, honesty, perseverance, co-operation, self-restraint and fair play, one cannot fail to see the tremendous benefits that a school like the Chemawa Indian School could derive from a system of well organized and clean inter-collegiate athletics.