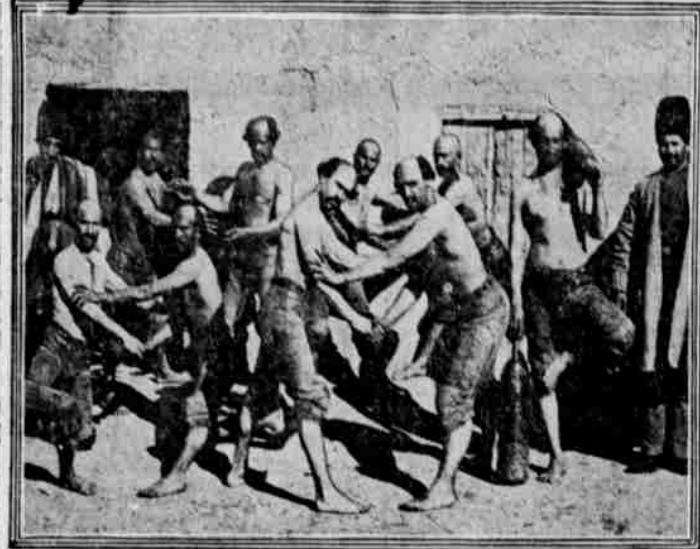


Sports of Nations



Persian Wrestlers.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

EACH recurrence of the Olympic games shows a growth of the play spirit among the nations and a greater recognition of the value of games as a training for life. Games played a big part in maintaining the morale alike of civilians and soldiers during the World war; and from this experience has come a renewed realization that the stunts that win wars are just as needful for the vigorous, bloodless battles of peace.

Back home, before the war, America had contributed two new things to sport: baseball and the city playground.

It has been noted that sports of a nation afford an almost invariable barometer of its progress in civilization. Baseball is one of the most complicated and highly organized pastimes known to any people. It is a veritable instrument of the most delicate precision in the world of sport. A South Sea Islander no more could play it than he could operate a linotype machine or deftly handle the paper money in a bank teller's cage. Yet the instincts baseball satisfies—the zest of racing to a goal ahead of the ball, the deep satisfaction of diverting a swiftly moving object to serve his own ends, the mere impact of the speeding sphere against the instrument he controls, bagging the spheroid as it flies afield, the suspense of nine men as they await the batter's fate—each and all find their counterpart in play as old as animals that walk on two feet and have enough gray matter atop their spinal columns to control nature's laws for their human purposes.

The foot-race ever was the most popular of the 24 Olympian events. The Romans battled bulls with the forearm swathed with bandages, and the Gilbert Islanders wrap coconut shells with cord so they will rebound to a blow from the open palm; Homer's princess of Phoenicia is represented in the Odyssey as jumping to catch a ball tossed by her maids of honor; and the Chinese had a game in which a suspended ball was kept hurtling to and fro by blows from the players.

America has been among the leaders in her attention to children's playgrounds. In fact, playgrounds for children may be considered the distinctive contribution of this country to the world's play.

Playgrounds in Cities.

To gather statistics of play is like counting the sands of the sea or the children of the nation; but it is significant of the awakening interest in play to note that even by 1915 more than 400 cities maintained nearly 4,000 playgrounds, and the children who found relaxation on 340 of these playgrounds from which reports were had on any one day would have numbered scarcely less than the total population of Boston. Each year since has seen an increase both in the cities having playgrounds and in the total of play spaces.

Moreover, this is but a fraction of the opportunities for normal play, for it does not take into account the thousands of boys' clubs and provisions for their special clientele which churches, parishes, private schools and organizations like the Y. M. C. A., Boy Scouts, Knights of Columbus and numerous others make. One of the most characteristic adjuncts of the American school, city, town or country district is its playground; and few are the city parks where the old "Keep Off the Grass" signs have not been superseded by invitations to play, and special provisions for games.

For one who would study the derivation of games, the average playground, no matter how crude, is a veritable museum of archeology. Tools and weapons, of one age frequently become the playthings of the next; and centuries later, when adults have deserted the sport, children adopt it.

Game-hunting marked an important

development in the life of primitive races. The Indian who stalked deer, the Semang black man who tracked snakes, the naked savage who hunted the rhinoceros, snared wild birds at their drinking places, and trapped the tiger were not out for a summer's sport.

Ingenuity in Hunting.

Methods of hunting were exceedingly primitive at first, but some tribes early developed an amazing technique. The Eskimo would wrap himself in skins and lie by the hour alongside an ice-lead to harpoon a seal. The Tarahumars of Mexico felled trees by the score to get squirrels occasionally caught as the trees fell.

More ingenious were the Tasmanians, who would clear a forest oasis by burning, wait for the grasses to grow and attract animals, and they would set fire to a barricade of brush they arranged in the meantime, with exits near which they would take their stand and spear the frightened animals as they sought to escape.

Some African tribesmen camouflaged their spear-heads with bird feathers. The Fuegians attained a low visibility by daubing themselves with mud and clay. Florida Indians donned skin and horns of deer to enable them to approach their prey.

Horse-racing is another sport that dates back to remote antiquity. Probably the French were the pioneers in turf sport as practiced in modern times, but it was natural that the English, with their love of outdoors and of animals, should have cultivated the horse for the race as they did the dog for the hunt. James I seems to have been the first royal patron of racing.

Boxing and Wrestling.

Boxing and wrestling are the more humanized forms of individual contests of strength. Naturally the program of the original Olympic games, veritable encyclopedias of ancient sports, included boxing and wrestling. Moreover the Greeks had one game, the pancrace, which combined both. Wrestling, at least, is much older than Greece, as indicated by the bouts pictured on tombs along the Nile.

In Greece, boxing fell into disfavor in Sparta for an unusual reason. The Greeks had developed sportsmanlike rules for the game, eliminating kicking, biting and ear-pulling, and the bout closed when one boxer admitted his defeat. Lycurgus held it improper for any Spartan to acknowledge defeat, even in a game!

The Japanese have been devoted to both sports for ages. Sukune, Hackenschmidt of Nippon, in the days when John was foretelling the coming of Christ, was defeated, and from wrestling jiu-jitsu evolved. Boxing today is extremely popular throughout the empire.

Jack Broughton, English "father of boxing" as it is practiced today, is believed to have invented the modern boxing glove and the division into rounds, but he scorned to train in order to meet a butcher named Stack, who belted his name with a blow like a cleaver, and put the idol of British sportsmen in the ex-champion class.

A writer of the sixteenth century called football a "devilish pastime" and charged it with inciting "envy and sometimes brawling, murder and homicide."

Nevertheless, by the time of Charles II football had become firmly established at Cambridge. It was ever held in high esteem in Ireland. There, when all other sports were prohibited for archery's sake, "only the great football" was exempt. Women joined with the men in playing it on Shrove Tuesdays. So many participated that few knew the whereabouts of the ball.

Abandoned as a general pastime because of its roughness, it was retained in colleges until, with the past half century, it sprang into renewed popularity in greatly modified form. The British carried football into Jerusalem when they recovered the sacred city. Missionaries have taught it to heathen tribes.

Adrift With Humor

WHY HE SANG IT

While King George III was mad, British society did not look with favor upon the prodigal prince of Wales, the heir apparent. After a dinner attended by the prince he begged John Wilkes to sing. Wilkes at first declined, but under pressure gave "God Save the King."

"How long," asked the prince sulkily, "has that been a favorite song with you?"

"Ever since I have had the honor of your royal highness' acquaintance."—From the Diaries of Lord Glenberrie.

QUICK TEMPERED



"It doesn't take her a moment to get mad."

"Quick tempered, eh?"

Far From the Crowd

My radio! My radio! Proceedings I shall hear, While no one steps upon my toe Or bellows in my ear.

No Hope of Profit

The vicar overtook one of his parishioners, a tradesman, after service, and remarked:

"I hope you derived profit from the service this morning?"

"Sir," returned the other, "I drop business on Sundays, and attend church with no hope of profit!"

What He Wanted

"Where have you been, Frank?"

"In Manchester."

"What were you doing there?"

"I ran a photograph gallery."

"Did you get anything to do?"

"Well, I should say I did. I put out a sign 'Babies taken here,' and next morning there were four of them left on the doorstep."

The Real Question

"The stuff I want must be sky blue, this is not the right blue."

"But madam, are you sure the sky is the right blue?"—Der Wahre Jakob (Berlin).

NOT A PROFIT



First Wife—Your husband says he's a real prophet.

Second Wife—I've found him a total loss.

Retribution

When some one hurts me with a sneer, I'll mutely stand and hold my tongue, And think of those who held me dear I hurt so oft when I was young.

Entirely Proper

Miss Perte—it was a peach of a show. One of the female performers were absolutely nothing but a single catskin.

Aunt Lucy—Shocking! What kind of a creature could she have been? Miss Perte—She was a trained cat.

What He Deserved

Dennis—What do you think of Dora's father? Dick—That fellow ought to be fined for contempt of courting!

Room and a Half

"But where is the kitchen?" "You provide that," responded the landlord in the utmost amazement. "Any good store will sell you a combination kitchenette and dining table."

Page Mr. Tunney

"Father, would you care if I married a man with a title." "Not if it were the heavyweight title, Doris."—Everybody's Weekly, London.

TULLE TURBAN CHIC

Tulle in a turban draped or swathed about the head offers a very smart medium for the hat for theater wear, although there are other fabrics used equally as well.

Flattering Tricot Hats

Smart little hats are made of red, white or blue tricot and are in the shape of close-fitting turbans, which are immensely flattering to the average face.

NEW SKIRT

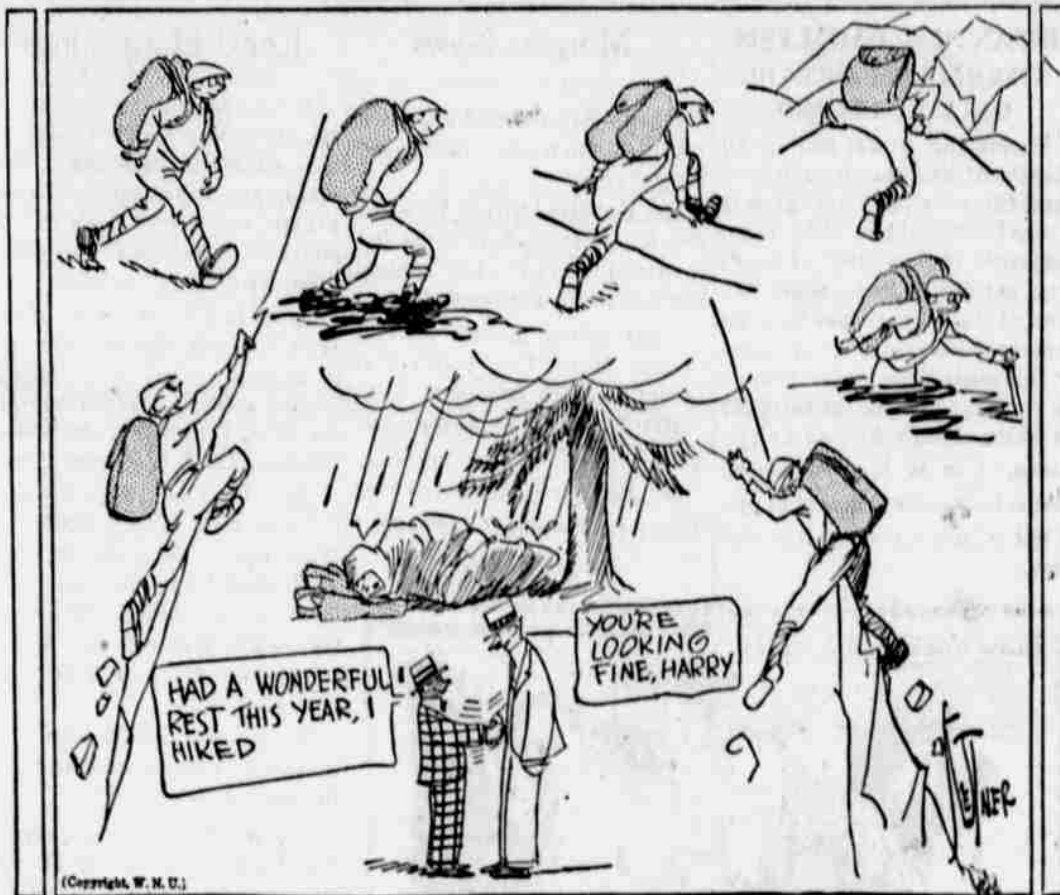
A chiffon frock of much distinction has a pattern with much bright blue, and green and yellow in the floral design. The flowing skirt is attached to the bodice with cartridge plaits.

Pajamas Match Furnishings

In the future of harmonizing clothes and furnishings is a very modern version of lounging pajamas which repeat the color and design of a most extraordinary pillow and rug.

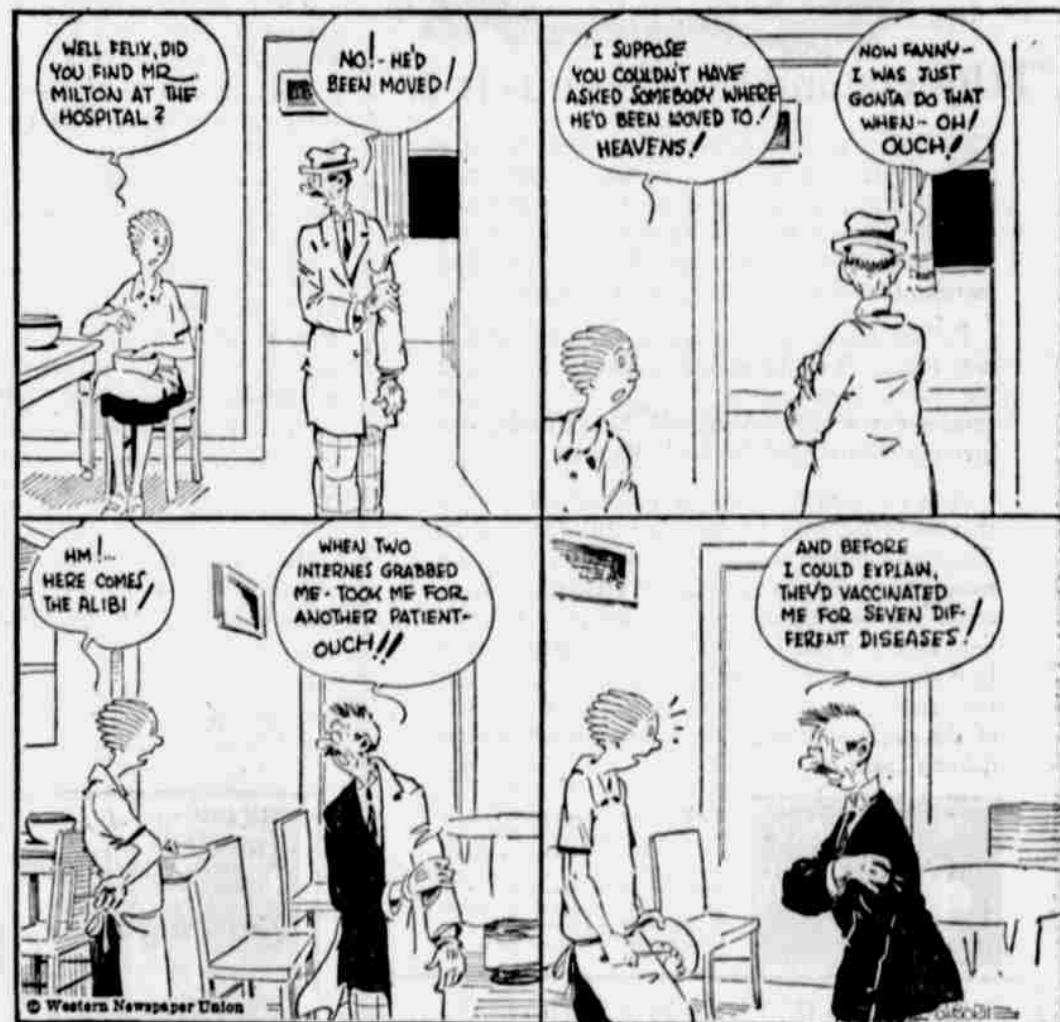
OUR COMIC SECTION

Vacationing



THE FEATHERHEADS

Think of the \$\$ Saved



FINNEY OF THE FORCE

Old Fashioned Folks

