

TRACK SPORT FOR ALL.

The Only Way for Yale to Build Up—
A Letter from Mr. Brooks.

To the Editor of YALE ALUMNI WEEKLY:

Sir:—It may not be out of place at the present time to express my views on the subject of track athletics at Yale. It certainly is not exaggerating the case to say that Yale undergraduates have not done justice to this branch of sport. Whether the neglect is due to thoughtlessness or to the bad odor of the sport from the contamination of the so-called "Athletic Clubs," I do not know. The important fact remains that Yale of recent years has shirked her duty.

This is very much to be regretted, for we look to the universities to preserve a sport if it is worth preserving, in spite of any and all outside influences. It has been my good fortune to see something of the inner workings of track athletics, as conducted in Great Britain, and their popularity with the public at large and at Oxford and Cambridge in particular, is an eye-opener to the average American college athlete. Track athletics are indulged in by every one, primarily for the love of the sport itself—a feeling which seems to be entirely absent at Yale. Every village, every small school, every public school, every university has its track and grounds and is entirely given over to the sport. Every boy and man makes a try at it for the love of it and winning does not seem to be the only incentive or goal.

Undoubtedly the Britisher laid his foundation well when he built on "the love of sport for sport's sake." It does not require hectic and lurid appeals to get the school boy or university man out on the track; the difficulty is to keep him off, so that he will not interfere too seriously with the team, which is in good time chosen, and which, when finally selected, is the logical result of a well balanced system.

It is hardly necessary for me to contrast our mushroom system, which dies every year and would practically remain dead were it not for the zeal of a few enthusiasts. We hear a great deal of the Briton being a natural-born middle and long distance runner, which is all stuff and nonsense. These great runners are developed, because every man, who has a drop of blood in his heart, whether he be big or little, from the time he is old enough to have strength at all, makes a try at it and keeps trying for years and years. His efficiency is the result of a natural growth. You will find a miler or three-miler weighing 180 pounds with the strength of an ox and with lungs as deep as a low-toned bell.

We can never be permanently successful at Yale in track athletics, unless we build on some similar foundation. There is no sport that offers so many attractions to the many or where so many are qualified to do well. It seems to me that Yale men, if they attempt to take up a sport at all, should do it vigorously and thoroughly. Now that the Yale Captain is issuing his call for men, might it not be well for very able-bodied man to give this matter serious attention and, if able-bodied, at least make a try at some one of its many attractions? It may take a little time to find out what one is best fitted for, but I have always found that the greatest track athletes came from the unexpected. It is a noble sport and would be worthy of every endeavor for its own sake, even if the glory of Yale were not involved.

H. S. BROOKS, JR.,
Yale '86.

New York, Jan. 25, 1900.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

The History of Troop A.

"The History of Troop A, New York Cavalry, U. S. V., from May 2, 1898, to November 28, 1898, in the Spanish-American War," is the title of a book recently published by the members of the Troop, through the house of R. H. Russell of New York. Its 341 pages are filled with interesting incidents occurring in the period of time stated above, touching the humorous as well as the serious sides in the fortunes of the Troop.

Nearly a hundred reproductions of photographs appear in the book, and many pen and ink sketches by F. B. Morse, the former Princeton quarterback. A "muster-out roll," an "in memoriam" page and a good war map of Puerto Rico are found in the book. The reading matter is divided into 24 short articles, each dealing with some particular period in the Troop's history. The Yale men on the board of editors are Stowe Phelps, '90, and F. Lawrence Lee, '95, while the following chapters were written by Yale men: "Ordered Out," A. R. Moen, '89 S.; "Camp Alger," F. Lawrence Lee, '95; "From Camp Alger to Porto Rico," Stowe Phelps, '90; "The Frelinghuysen Lancers," L. S. Stillman, '94; "The Ceales Expedition," G. O. Redington, '94 L. S.; "Detail to Guyania," F. W. Hoeninghaus, '96; "A Little Journey in the World," Harry J. Fisher, '96, and "The Second Invasion of Santa Isabel," William R. Wright, '94.

The muster-out roll shows the names of these Yale graduates:

First Sergeant, A. R. Moen, '89 S.; Sergeant, Stowe Phelps, '90; Corporals, William R. Wright, '94 and Arthur F. Brown, '96 S.; Lance Corporal, Lewis S. Conner, '87 S.; Privates, G. T. Adee, '95; Edward V. Cox, '94 S.; Henry S. Fisher, '96; Louis P. Gillespie, '94; Sherman R. Hull, ex-'95 S.; William W. Heaton, '96; F. W. Hoeninghaus, '96; F. Laurence Lee, '95; Richard F. Manning, '92 S.; Amos R. E. Pinchot, '97; Samuel L. Quinby, '96 S.; George O. Redington, '94 L. S.; L. S. Stillman, '94; R. F. Troescher, '96 S. Also the following discharged to accept commissions in the regular and volunteer forces: M. D. McKee, '96; Frank L. Polk, '94; Edwin O. Holter, '94; F. B. Harrison, '95; Allan A. Robbins, '93 S.; William Williams, '84; Charles R. Hickox, '93; G. B. Hoppin, '91, and Nathan M. Flower, '96 S.

88 S. Decennial.

Professor Percy F. Smith, Secretary, and Messrs. J. C. Anderson, C. E. Curtis and E. H. Lockwood, Committee, have published the Decennial Record of the Class of Eighty-Eight Scientific. The facts which ought to be in a class record are all here, and there are many more of them than are in most records. They are also better prepared than one usually finds them. The record is a well published book in blue cloth cover, running to 110 pages and excellently illustrated. It is from the press of Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor.

Prof. Phelps' Map of Literary England.

Professor William L. Phelps, '87, of the English Department has recently published a map of England, for the especial use of his English Literature class. This map is eight inches by ten inches, and contains all the points connected in any way with the study of English Literature, many of which are not to be found on any other map. The publishers are Ginn & Co., and the map has been placed on sale at the Cooperative Store. The map is exceedingly useful and helpful for students and for all readers.

The Yale *Medical Journal* for January contains the following: "A Case of Dynamic Ileus," by Dr. Leonard W. Bacon. "Two cases in Recent Methods of Treatment for Aortic Aneurism," by Dr. William F. Verdi"; "Some Observations on the more Common Forms of Sexual Impotence," by Dr. Ernest D. Chipman.

(For other Current Literature see editorial page.)

Harvard and Columbia Gifts.

The will of the late Dorman B. Eaton of New York City, which was recently filed for probate in the Surrogate's office, provides handsomely for several charitable and educational institutions. Columbia and Harvard Universities are each to receive upwards of \$100,000. The money donated to the latter is to be used in founding a professorship of the science of government; while the money given to Columbia is to be devoted to the foundation of a professorship of municipal science and administration.

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