This is an athletic age. More people both old and young, are participating in athletic sports of one kind or another, than ever before. Spectators at all kindsof contests have increased many fold. While interest in athletic sports has become much more general, college athletics have become highly specialized. It is a far cry from the law of Princeton made in 1787, and later heartily indorsed by Yale, forbidding baseball because "it was rough and unbecoming to gentlemen, tending to thin out the ranks of able bodied man, Since it was so dangerous," to our present and enthusiastic reception of football and other strengous games.

Almost a century later, in 1876, or thereabouts, Rugby was introduced to Harvard and Yale from England. Additions and modifications have been made, until the game has developed to its present standing, that of being the most popular of the fall attractions.

During these fifty years, in spite of the strenuous opposition of the collège professor of the earlier day, it has grown from a Harvard-Yale contest of a half century ago, until today teday it is the exceptional institution of high school that does not support what it hopes may become a winning aggregation.

Indeed our interest in the game and our American desire to excel, has increasingly emphasized the importance of college athletics, until their direction falls into the class of specialists for each branch of sport.

It is not the purpose of this paper to discuss the pros and cons of this system but to accept conditions as they exist, mainly, that college athletics play a large and important part in every institution taking any part in inter-collegiate athletics. A losing team, especially if it be football, brings much more unfavorable criticism upon an institution than would poorly taught courses or the unwise expenditure of college funds.

Athletics supremacy has passed from one section of the country to another, and from one institution to another in these several sections. For years the large institutionssof the east were sufficient unto themselves, while those of the central states warned enviously for the opportunity to test their strength against these easterners. That time came. The place of leadership is now conceded to the Middle West with the Fer West clamoring for recognition, and gaining it by leaps and