

Editorials



THE baseball world has witnessed in the season of 1911 the most brilliant era in its history. Never before have the crowds of its admirers been so large or so enthusiastic. Never before have the financial profits of the pastime been so enormous or the trophies of the fortunate victors so glittering.

Each year in ever-increasing numbers men and women of social and business and political prominence join the great army of baseball enthusiasts. Each year sees some improvement in the style of play, in the type of spectator, in the personnel of the player, in the all-round standard of the game. Each year press and pulpit and the various organs of public feeling and opinion, discordant on all other topics, join with ever-increasing fervor in universal praise for the One Great Game.

From the typical American sport founded on democratic sentiment and fired with democratic enthusiasm, baseball is developing with bewildering rapidity and fast outgrowing even the broad confines of its native land. Whether on the islands of the Carribean Sea or the waste plains beyond the Arctic Circle the same game is everywhere played with the same zest and meets the same applause. It has leaped across the wide Pacific to the torpid countries of the far East and is rapidly encircling the whole Orient with its Occidental zeal and energy. It is reaching out among the kingdoms of Europe until before many decades have past it will be universally recognized as the great International World Game. In this campaign of expansion the Baseball Magazine has shared the toil and is now sharing the success. We have spent time and effort and money to improve each issue. Our motto has been "Every number a little better than the one before." And every month has increased the circle of our friends and readers until we feel inspired to look for a much larger sphere of usefulness to come.

Our interests are the interests of the game you love and with your help we can all work together steadily, industriously, successfully, in the world-wide triumph of "The King of Modern Sports."



CRITICISM of the boxing game seems to be a popular diversion. How much of this hostile comment is sincere, and how much merely posing before the conservative element of the community, is not for us to say. It is worthy of note, however, that whenever news is slack, and features dull, the press always finds an opportunity to fill its editorial columns with abusive allusions to boxing with the usual stock-in-trade expressions of "Brutal Pastime," "Relic of the Stone Age," etc.

Much of this criticism has been due to a mistaken attitude arising from lack of knowledge of the conditions. In the first place, it has been taken for granted that boxing is an evil, and therefore should be abol-

ished. As a matter of fact, this is jumping to conclusions without proof or reason. Boxing is certainly not an unmixed evil, if indeed it be an evil at all, and to state arbitrarily that it should be abolished is very far from wisdom or justice.

In the second place, the public, assuming as it usually does, that boxing is an evil, proceeds forthwith to legislate it out of existence. Even if it were true, that boxing is an evil, the remedy does not lie in such high-handed proceedings. It has been proved by experience that where a large minority desire a certain thing, they will get that thing in some way, in spite of all the law may do in opposition.

The celebrated Johnson-Jeffries affair was legislated out of one state, only to find safe refuge in another, nor were the number of spectators lessened, nor the receipts diminished by such arbitrary interference.

Boxing has many objectionable features, but it does not follow that the whole system is evil. Every athletic sport has objectionable features, but to attempt to abolish a pastime so justly popular merely because it has some obvious defects is shortsighted persecution.

The features of boxing which are most frequently criticised are the personnel of the boxers themselves, the assertion that boxing is a brutal sport, and the general statement that boxing bouts are usually crooked, and cater to an objectionable element of the community.

Taking up these criticisms in detail, it is but fair to admit that the personnel of many boxers is not what it should be. But the same may be said of any other pastime or of any other profession. In any case it is equally obvious that a large percentage of the leading boxers are fully up to the average, if not above, the average in intelligence and general character. Boxing is a strenuous profession. It fosters right living and careful physical training. It frowns on dissipation.

The oft-repeated assertion that boxing is a brutal pastime has no justification in fact. At best, but two men engage in a boxing contest, and the amount of damage possible is strictly limited as compared with other sports like baseball or football, where many engage on each side. It is a rare occurrence for a boxer to be injured, in a contest, while numerous bones are broken every year in football and baseball, to say nothing of occasional loss of life due to injury received in these popular pastimes.

As far as brutality is concerned, boxing is less to be blamed on that account than almost any other athletic sport.

As for crookedness in staging bouts, public opinion has effected a radical reform which will undoubtedly do away with this objection, while as for criticism of the element of the community which favors and supports boxing, it is only necessary to say that the leading business and professional men in almost all communities are its regular patrons.

Boxing is the simplest of all athletic sports. It is a match of strength and skill in the most direct manner possible. It is the most ancient of games, the true forerunner of all athletic contests.

Boxing comes down to the present generation well recommended by antiquity. It was popular with the ancient Greeks and Romans, and is equally popular today. It is a scientific sport, calculated to develop strength and skill fully as well as any other.

Boxing needs to be rid of some of its objectionable features, to be sure, but the good people, perfectly sincere, who are attacking the sport in an effort to abolish it entirely, are attempting a work which is neither practicable nor desirable.