THE CANADIAN GAME.

Lacrosse, the Indian Game Bagataway, the National Sport of Our Northern Neighbors.

The First White Lacrosse Team Organized More Than Forty Years Ago in Montreal.

A Game in Which Judgment, Strategy, Courage and Nerve Count for a Great Deal.

Hints of Value to Those Who Contemplate Learning to Skillfully Handle the Crosse.

Special Correspondence of the Globe.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—Lacrosse is to the Canadian what base ball is to the Yankee and cricket to the Englishman. It is his national game, and he is devoted to it with an enthusiastic pride and affection unequaled by the devotees of any other sport. A thoroughbred Canadian's version of the national anthem is "God Save Lacrosse," and he is always ready to make any sacrifice of personal convenience for the sake of what he affectionately calls "the game." Wherever he goes he carries his crosse and does missionary work among the athletes, and if he succeeds in organizing a lacrosse club in a country previously unenlightened he dies happy.

J. R. Flannery, formerly a member of

SIOUX BAGATAWAY PLAYER.

the Shamrock team, the champions of Canada, came to New York in 1879 and organized the United States Amateur Lacrosse association, thereby putting the game, which had been played sporadically in this country, upon a permanent basis. Mr. Flannery says: "The original form of the game now called lacrosse was the Indian game of bagataway, a rough, pell-mell sport without fixed rules, in which the young warriors developed strength and endurance and trained themselves for close combat on the war-path. The Indians used sticks about three feet long with a netted hoop, four inches in diameter, at the end, and a deerskin ball stuffed with hair. The goals were marked rocks or trees, or in grand matches stakes were set up from 500 yards to a mile and a half apart, and the object of the players was to drive the ball past the line of the goal. Sometimes it was required that the rock, tree or pole should be hit with the ball, and when two stakes were used for each goal the ball had to be driven between them, each tribe having its own way of playing. Frequently whole tribes engaged in the game and played for two or three days from sunrise to sunset, making the game a test of strength and endurance. When the tribes played against each other, all the portable property on both sides was wagered on the result and a hundred goals were required to win the contest. With several hundred players on each side, a game of bagataway was very much like a free fight, and the ball sometimes would remain for hours in the middle of a struggling, yelling, excited crowd. As individuals developed skill the game was improved and played between selected teams, and gradually the modern game of lacrosse, with twelve players on a side, goals six feet high, long-netted crosses and hard rubber ball, was evolved from the savage bagataway. The first white lacrosse team was organized in Montreal more than forty years ago, but the game did not attract much attention until 1860, when young men began to see its good points, and it was not until 1866 that it was recognized as the national game of Canada. The Indian players have adopted the improvements made by the whites, and equal them in team playing. Lacrosse is a scientific game, as well as an active exercise, and gives opportunity for the display of judgment, strategy, skill in combination, strength, activity, courage and nerve. A

A LONG THROW.

team consists of twelve men—goal keeper, point, coverpoint, center, home and seven fielders, four of the last named being on the attack and three on the defense, as a rule. The goals are stakes six feet high and six feet apart, the distance between goals being about 125 yards, and the points in the game are made by driving the ball between these stakes. The game is begun by placing the ball on the ground in the middle of the field between the crosses or sticks of the two center players. At the word "play," these two try to get the ball by drawing their sticks sharply, and the one who gets it usually passes it to another player of his side, who throws it towards the opponent's goal. There are many ways of facing, as this is called, one of the most effective and puzzling being to quickly shift your crosse and place it between your opponent's stick and the ball and then draw to the right. After the face, the game is wherever the ball happens to be, and the skill of a team is shown in keeping the ball among its own players and forcing it toward the opposite goal. One of the most important positions is the goal-keeper's. It is his business to stop every ball that comes near him and throw it back into the field. He must have nerve and activity, and be a good thrower. It is also well for him to be of a patient, forgiving disposition, because he will be blamed for every defeat and get little credit for the victories of his side. Point and coverpoint assist him in defending the goal and must check the home players of the other side. They should be good long throwers, so as to be able to shift the scene of the contest from their end of the field to the other and when the attack is dangerously strong. Point should be the best player on the team, as his position is the keystone of defense. He must be able to pick up the ball with his crosse quickly and in any position, and to throw quickly and surely from any position. Indian players often attack by massing their players around the goal and neglecting their own defense, and a good long throw from point breaks them all up. Above all else, point should be a sturdy check and never let a dodger pass him. Coverpoint must play in combination with point and goal-keeper, and the effectiveness of the defense depends upon the perfect harmony between these three. The fielders are the skirmishers of the team, and as they have to be everywhere they must possess speed, good wind and endurance. They should be lithe and active and expert in handling the crosses. But it does not follow that the fastest runners are the best fielders. In fact, crack runners are soldom crack players. They depend too much upon their speed, and try to make brilliant play by taking the ball the whole length of the field. By the time a runner gets near the enemy's flags he finds himself checked by two or three players and cannot make a goal. Then he is winded and of no use for several minutes. In lacrosse, individuality must be subordinate to team discipline and combination. In the early days of the game every player charged down the field as soon as he got the ball, and the white teams were easily defeated by the Indians, who played into one another's hands with unity of purpose. Not until they learned to play together did the white teams defeat the Indians. It is not so important to run fast as it is to start first for a thrown ball. An Indian seems to know by instinct where a ball will fall, and when it comes down he is there waiting for it. He starts as soon as the ball is thrown and gains several yards on the man who wants to see where the ball will light. This habit can be acquired by observation and practice. A good fielder is one who is in the right place at the right time, knows how to check an enemy and assist a friend, plays for the team and not for himself, and obeys his captain's orders promptly. He must have brains and know how to use them. The home players remain in the vicinity of the enemy's goal in order to catch the ball and put it through, and must be able to catch with certainty and throw with precision. Inside home should never miss a ball, but be able to catch it or change its direction, no matter how it comes to him. Often he can make a goal by hitting a ball on the wing and sweeping it through before the goal-keeper can detect the change of direction. The science of playing in this position consists in knowing how to take advantage of every chance offered and in acting quickly. As every player has an opponent watching him, there is little time for looking about or considering where to throw a ball when caught. The player must either throw the ball or run with the ball, and if he runs he is followed by his enemy, who swipes at his crosse and tries to knock the ball from it, or he is met by a checker who gets in his way and will upset him if possible. Sometimes it is good play to carry the ball, and then the runner must dodge the check. There are many ways of dodging, and frequently the situation will suggest a new way that a good player can put into instant execution. Too much running and dodging is bad because it tires a man, but under some circumstances a player can do more effective service by carrying than by throwing. Either method of playing may be carried to an extreme. It is scientific play to pass the ball from one to another down the field, but too much of that is worse than none at all. It gives the other side time to cover every player and strengthen his defense, and when the ball gets down near the goal the flags are protected at every point. The style of play depends upon the plan of battle decided upon by the team. One plan is to strengthen the defense and attack and leave the field comparatively weak. In that case the defense players make long throws to the enemy's flags, and the strong attack forces it through, the field being depended upon to intercept short throws and put the ball forward and to rush in wherever there is a chance. Another plan is to put the strength of the team in the field and attack and keep the play near the enemy's goal. If the enemy has not discovered the plan the ball can be carried though with a rush early in the game. Still another system is to strengthen the field at the expense of both ends, put out the fast runners on the flanks and carry the ball around the enemy's line. The success of all these plans of campaign depends upon unity of action and perfection of team playing. As all of them are now pretty well understood by all lacrosse players, however, no great advantage is gained by theadoption of any plan unless the opposing team is known to be weak in certain points. The Indians have an advantage over the white men in team playing, in the use of cries and signals that white men cannot understand, and it is very difficult to detect their plans and circumvent them. They excel the white players in strength and endurance and equal them in skill. When the Shamrocks defeated the Caughnawaga Indians everybody thought that proved the superior endurance and activity of the white men, but everpbody did not undersand how that game was played. I was on the Shamrock team and can explain how we got the best of the red men. Our plan of battle was to move around as little as possible and keep putting the ball by long throws down to the enemy's goal. The Indians played a running game and were all over the field after the ball, their plan being to mass their strength wherever the ball was and drive it through our lines by force of numbers. They took the first two goals, but they worked hard and lost their wind. We kept them on the run all through the game by our continual long throwing, and when they were tired out we were fresh, and so won all the other goals. If we had attempted to play the same kind of a game as they played we would have been beaten badly. We won, not by greater endurance as people thought, but by letting the Indians do all the hard work and saving ourselves. There is no doubt that the St. Regis Indians are the best lacrosse players in Canada to-day. Their out-door life as wood choppers, rafters and boatmen keeps them hardy, strong and active, and they play lacrosse all the time when they are not working. The first thing a lacrosse player has to learn is to pick up the ball. It looks easy, but the novice finds it hard enough. A good player will pick up the ball with a

GOAL IN DANGER.

quick scoop of the crosse while running at full speed, and until one can do that he cannot play well. Then he must learn to carry the ball on the flat surface of the netting, and having mastered that, he must learn to catch. The art of catching consists in retreating the stick with the ball until the latter rests quietly upon the netting. It is difficult to learn, but once learned it is very easy. Of course there are different ways of holding the crosse to catch balls coming in different directions, but the principle is about the same in all. To throw accurately and effectively is the most difficult and the most important thing to be learned. Some players can throw well in practice when left to themselves, but find it a different affair to throw from any position and to any point in the excitement of the game or while running at full speed with an opponent at their heels. The short throw is made from the head surface of the netting and is mostly used in fielding. The medium throw is made from the center of the netting, and is chiefly used in the field and by home players. The long throw is generally made by the goal-keeper and defense men, and is achieved by projecting the ball from the lower angle or pocket of the crosse. Both hands are generally used in making a throw. The long throw has been developed by the white players, who excel the Indians in this particular. The secret of hard, swift throwing is always to start the ball from the pocket and give it the final impulse from the upper part of the stick as it rolls along the netting. The average throw of Indian players is from 50 to 80 yards, and very few of them come up to 100 yards. The Canadian record is 142 yards, but the best in the world is 148 yards 2 feet, made by W. Kenny at Melbourne, Australia, in September, 1886. Lacrosse is a splendid game for developing the muscles evenly, as the action is not confined to any particular set of muscles. It makes a man active and strong, and teaches him to think quickly and move instantly. The work is not mainly upon two or three players, as in some other team games, but every man has all the innings he wants, and can keep in action all the time if he chooses. When played scientifically, lacrosse is interesting to the spectators. It is simple and readily understood, and yet it is full of fine points and opportunities for strategy and hard work. It is also inexpensive, as no equipments except a stick and light running clothes are required. The more it is understood the more popular it grows, and every year sees an increase in the number of clubs. A great many youngsters are taking hold of it, and from their ranks are to come the crack lacrosse players of the future.

COVER POINT.

HARD PRESSED.

An important improvement in the lacrosse player's equipment has been made by Mr. Flannery, who has devised a new form of stick called the "expert." In the old form the netting was made by lacing one string back and forth longitudinally, and when the crosse got out of shape or bagged, it was very difficult to restore it. In the "expert," each string is fastened independently, and the tension at any point can be regulated in a moment. There is also a rubber spur at the pocket to prevent the ball from getting wedged in the angle, as sometimes happens in the old style, to the great annoyance of the player. Nobody can learn to play with a poor stick, as many a beginner, discouraged by repeated failures in catching and throwing, can testify, and most of the contrivances sold at the shops for crosses are poor sticks. With proper equipment any moderately active youth can learn to play lacrosse, and with practice and training for wind he may become a good player and get not only amusement, but good, healthful exercise out of the game at small expense.

For My Lady's Chamber.

Towel shams are now considered necessary in well-appointed bedrooms for concealing the towels during the daytime. They are sometimes profusely ornamented. For instance, one will have a foliage design outlined upon it with ingrain cotton, the flowers being padded and worked over with rabbit wool. Across this design an oblong piece, in imitation of a sheet of paper, is laid, having on it a bud sketched out in black silk outlines, and, to give the needful white tint of the paper, the material is darned with flourishing thread. A trifling novelty that will propably be a favorite on account of its odity, is the little folding-chair workbag. A diminutive chair of ebonzed wood is furnished with a bag, drawn up with elastic and headed with a frill in lieu af the ordinary seat. The back has also a flat bag fastened to it like those fitted inside some portmanteaus. They are made in cretonne, but would be much more elegant in plush, velvet or brocade. It has been proposed to ornament the upper bag, if of plush, with a monogram, and cords might well replace the elastic; the chair, to be in keeping, might then be gilded. Satin sheeting, serge, or oatmeal cloth, could be embroidered and large ribbon bows added; indeed, the various modes of beautifying them are almost endless. Eastern embroidery is a work in which all such sorts of scraps can be used up. It is a regular potpourri of fabrics—a melange of figures. The more variety the better. The material on which this quaint ornamentation is laid is red Turkey cambric. Japanese figures are cut out of cretonne and appliqued on. Cornucopias, pines, fans, circles, crescents and stars are cut out of plush, velvet, satin, silk and cotton and arranged in some kind of design, characteristic of Eastern work. The more prominent figures are highly raised from the ground, the edges are buttonholed over, or herring-boned, and feather stich is introduced wherever there is an uncovered space. Spangles and tinsels play a decided part in this manufacture.

A WINTER SERENADE,

UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

Voice.

"The lady Moon is under a cloud;
Clarabel, open your window wide;
The north wind, piping, now low, now loud,
Ruffles the crest of the rolling tide."

Guitar.

Racketty-tum, tum, tinkle-dee-dee—
"Open the lattice, love, for me!

"I've twanged and sung till the night is late,
And voice and patience alike are spent;
And the watch dog, chained at the wicket gate,
Growls a surly accompaniment
O!" Twankety, bang, bang! twiddle-dee-dee!
"Look from your lattice, love, on me!

"My nose is blue with the cold, dear maid;
The frost is nipping each separate toe,
And the tripping notes of my gay roulade
Trail off in a doleful tremolo."
Tum, tum, shivery, tweaky-dee-dee;
"Deign from your lattice to smile on me!"

There's a light at last; and a muffled hum,
And the stealthy creak of a door ajar;
She hears the ricketty-tum, tum, tum,
And the wheezy whoop, O, my wild guitar.
I see yon envious curtain stir,
But O, for a rapturous glimpse of her!

I lean and listen with straining ear;
Hark! That step, that titter again!
And low in a lull of the blast I hear
Old Towzer chafing at leash and chain;
And, ha! By a glint of the moon I see
Her father setting the dog on me!
(Exeunt over the back fence!)

—Emma Alice Browne in New York Ledger.

Be it ever so humble, buy and use "Briar Pipe" smoking and "Charm of the West" chewing tobacco.

AN OPTIC FOR AN OPTIC.

The Experiment of Transplanting a Living Rabbit's Eye to the Human Head a Failure.

Charles Alf Williams Has the Sympathy of One-Eyed Men in his Recent Affliction.

Though His Well-Laid Schemes Will Fail, Yet He May Still Enjoy Life.

Some of the Unspeakable Pleasures to be Had From a Glass Eye—Removing the Eye.

The general public and wearers of glass eyes in particular will read with regret the announcement that the attempt to transplant the eye of a living rabbit from its native socket to the head of Charles Alf Williams, city editor of the Minneapolis Tribune, was a failure. Mr. Williams is an enterprising newspaper man, and had the idea of scooping the universe on the feat of wearing a rabbit eye. He was not content to have his sightless eye removed in the ordinary way and then wear a glass eye, such as do good service among ordinary newspaper men. He was venturesome, and, in the interests of science and from the attractions of the new idea, consented to have the trial made. He reports from New York that the rabbit's eye was successfully transplanted and the muscles had knitted to the human socket, so that the ball rolled naturally with the other. But after ten days the humors of the eye began running out and the mild optic had to be removed. Nothing remained but the insertion of an ordinary glass eye.

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It is understood that Mr. Williams had banked pretty heavily on this rabbit eye. While he did not anticipate that he would be able to see to any great extent with it, it was thought that when once it had become a part of his anatomy, its soft gleam, its mild, pathetic, pleading look, its liquid lustre, would be found very useful to him in his business. It was his intention of always turning this eye upon men with stuffed clubs who climb the Tribune elevator to demand retractions. He thought he could melt the iron-handed kickers into pleasing frames of mind, even as hard-hearted misers melt at the pleading looks of little children. This, it was thought, would be an improvement over the old way of dropping these kickers from the eighth story window. Another advantage was to have been the delusions that Mr. Williams could have worked on his hunting expeditions. Mr. Williams is especially fond of hunting jack rabbits, and with his ready rifle he frequently brings home whole wheelbarrow loads. Expert hunters and sportsmen had assured Mr. Williams that with the rabbit eye he would be a sure winner among his favorite game. All that would be necessary would be to conceal himself near the paths and byways where jack rabbits most do congregate, and as one approached let the soft luster from his rabbit eye meet the trembling gaze of the timid little quadruped, who would be riveted to the spot, his fears allayed by the appearance of an eye that spoke from its liquid depths in his native tongue, as it were. The game could then be easily captured. This will be sore disappointment to Mr. Williams.

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But while Mr. Williams will have the sympathy of all his acquaintances at the failure of the process, his spirit of enterprise will be appreciated just the same. It is no ordinary thing to do. A great many people, and especially those of a nervous temperament, who are annoyed at little things, object to the old and comparatively simple process of having an eye removed any way. They shudder at the thought of putting a glass eye within the socket after the natural orb is removed. It easily appears then that to submit to an operation like that which Mr. Williams has just undergone requires a degree of nerve which is not possessed by the average citizen. Such is the case. It is not a small matter to allow an eye to be extracted, though the operation is simple. When one comes from under the influence of ether he has taken he finds himself in a dark room, with an attendent beside him, who is bathing the place where the eye used to be with ice water. For a few moments the patient is uncertain whether one eye has been removed from his body or whether the rest of his body has been carefully dissected from the eye. In the semi-conscious moments, while the anæsthetic is still partially in effect, there is a feeling that the head has been split open and one-half removed. The ice water, which is constantly applied to one side of the head, helps along this delusion. But the removal of any eye is not a gory operation. There are but a few small muscles to be cut, and this the oculist does with a fine pair of scissors, the blades of which curve to fit the eyeball. These muscles, if one stops to think of it, are not really a part of the eye itself, and no more sensitive than any other muscles of the body. Then the nerves are not very numerous, though unless the patient were well under the influence of some anæsthetic when the fine scissors sever the optic nerve the shock would be severe. That is about all there is to it, and a skillful oculist only wants from four to five minutes in which to make the operation. There is no reason why a hearty man, if he has an eye removed at dark some afternoon, should not eat a very square meal the next morning, and in three or four days be about his regular business. And yet, although the operation is so simple, most men would kick like steers rather than have it done a second time.

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But Mr. Williams and his friends should not go into sack cloth over the failure of this experiment. A man of Mr. Williams' enterprising and genial nature will be able to pass through life and have fun with a glass eye. This article of wearing apparel is not half appreciated by anyone who has not worn one, and from long experience found that a glass eye is one of the greatest comforts that a lonesome man can have. It is always with him, and when in his lonely moments he removes it from his head and holds it tenderly in his hand, that eye looks into his with a look that never changes. If he is sad, and the tears almost roll from his one natural orb, this product of human skill looks into his face as gay and cheerful as in his brighter moments. If the eyes of his friends grow crafty and their glances betray that the owners are false, this eye looks firmly at him as innocent and clear as on the morning when it came from the hand that made it, when other eyes turn from him this never fails him. When other eyes grow heavy and cannot watch over him this eye is as wakeful as at midday. Like the eye of the eagle it turns toward the noonday sun unmoved, and like the owl it sees as clearly in midnight gloom as by the morning sunshine. Like an honest man it turns unmoved on creditors and debtors. It never goes back on its proud owner, but when the natural eye grows blank and fishy at the chill touch of death, this other eye shall lose none of its luster, but to all eternity it will continue undimned as while its owner was on earth.

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Charles Alf Williams will find this to be so. And so, while Mr. Williams has the profound sympathy of the general public and one-eyed men in particular, because of the failure of the operation, his offering on the altar of science will be duly appreciated, and he will be able to enjoy life and transact the business of his profession the proud owner of a vitrious orb that will be a source of constant amusement to him and entertainment to his many friends.

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MR. DUNLAP, - - } - GEORGE BROWN
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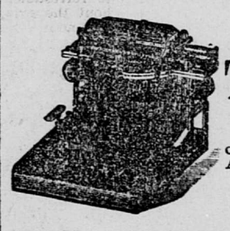

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