## 210 SPORTS, PASTIMES, AND PHYSICAL TRAINING

will then selze him, one under one arm, and the other under the other, and without any great effort in treading water, bring him along, with his head above water, while they enjoin him to keep himself stretched out and as much as possible without motion.

The cramp generally proceeds from acidity of the bowels, arising from a bad state of the stomach, or from the effects of the cold water on the muscular system. Some persons are very subject to it on slight occasions, and such persons will do well never to go out of their depth. But should a tolerable swimmer be seized with the cramp, he should not be frightened, but the moment the cramp is felt in the foot or leg, strike out that foot or leg, with the heel elongated, and the toes drawn upward toward the shin-bone, never minding any little pain it may occasion, as he need not fear breaking a bone, muscle, or tendon. Should this not succeed, he should throw himself on his back, and float quietly, and paddle himself gently to the shore. He may also swim with his hands, like a dog, and practise any of the motions of the upper part of the body for keeping his head above water till assistance arrives.

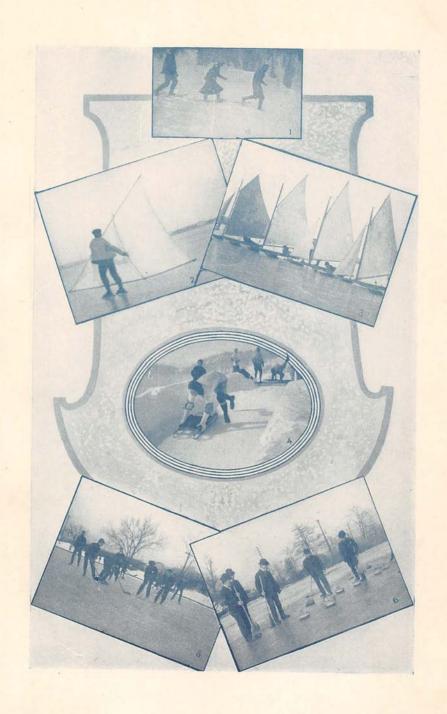
## SNOW-SHOEING.

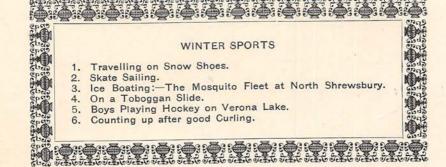
NOW-SHOEING is a pastime much enjoyed in the more northern sections of the country and proficiency in the art is often of real practical value. Snow-shoes are made of a single light strip of hickory or ash, the ends are bent until they meet, and then bound together for from 6 to 10 inches. Thin pieces of flat wood are fitted across the frame to strengthen it, and it is then woven with thongs or tendons, so as to make a sort of basket-work. It is from three to six feet in length, and from 12 to 20 inches wide. It is fastened to the foot by a toe-strap and two thongs that pass over the instep. The toe of the foot points toward the rounded end of the snow-shoe. The heel is left free to rise and fall, and a hole is left in the basket-work under the toe-strap, into which the wearer's toe sinks at every step. It requires much practice to attain skill in snowshoeing. The shoe enables the walker to slip or slide over the surface of the snow with as much ease as on hard ground, the basket-work bearing the weight of a man in places where without it he would sink. The shoe should be raised a little with the toe at the beginning of the step, letting the end trail, keep head and shoulders erect, and glide the shoes one over the other. Beginners are apt to catch the toe of one shoe under the edge of the other, and so trip themselves up.

## TOBOGGANING.

OBOGGANING is one of the most ancient methods of progression and transportation in this country, and is fine sport as well. The Indians employed it for centuries and the word is of Indian origin.

The toboggan is really a sled without runners, and the frame is made of tough elastic wood about a quarter of an inch thick. They





are eight feet long, and sixteen to twenty-four inches wide. Across the upper side ribs or cleats of wood are fastened to give them strength, and along the side are hand-rails, to which the coasters may cling, and to which cushions are often strapped. The front is bent backward in a curve to form a sort of dashboard. The original toboggan slide was a natural one down the side of a hill. The artificial slide, the idea of which came from Russia, is made of boards covered with snow and ice, and often slopes down to the ground from a height of from 40 to 50 feet. In Canada and the Northern States they are a great feature of the Ice Carnivals, and furnish much sport for both sexes, who disport themselves in gay attire specially suited to the frequent spills in the snow, to which the skilled as well as the unskilled performer is often liable.

## TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETICS.

BY

J. E. SULLIVAN, SECRETARY-TREASURER AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION OF THE UNITED STATES.

RACK Athletics in America must now be considered as being on a very solid foundation, and experts are of the opinion that Track Athletics is the very foundation of our entire physical training structure. Running, walking, jumping, and throwing are natural forms of exercise; natural to the child and natural to the boy, and as such are considered to-day as valuable adjuncts in all educational institutions throughout America.

The history of track and field athletics in America is interesting because it shows a steady growth. There has never been a boom recorded in its history; it has steadily and quietly gone forward, and its present position is due to the hard and energetic work performed by a great many men in America during the past twenty-five years.

America held its first championship meeting, recognized as such, in 1876, and from that time to this track and field championships have been fixtures. The colleges took up track and field athletics about the same time, and from '76 to date they have held annual track and

field championships.

How athletics has grown both in the outside and the college world is well known to all. The most remarkable growth in the past ten years has been school-boy athletics, and to-day the school-boy element is an important factor in athletics. The creation of the Public Schools Athletic League in the City of New York has done more for school-boy athletics than has ever been accomplished by any similar organization.

Athletics in public schools, or track and field play as it might be termed, is now conducted in a business-like manner—there is system