

their physique and stamina, and counter-acting the 'softening' and debilitating effect of the very common forms of recreation instanced by your correspondent, such as the unhealthy and (in many cases) intellect-destroying picture palace, to which so much of youthful leisure is devoted, and which results mainly in benefiting aliens and taking money out of the country.

But in looking round for a unifying system to bring about the desirable end, surely the Marquis has overlooked an organization already in existence, and which has been doing exactly the work for which he pleads, and can continue to do it equally well or better than any new body that can be brought into being. I refer to the Cadet Administration, which, acting through the Territorial Force Associations, controls the very large number of cadet battalions throughout the country, providing physical training for thousands of boys and young men, and which arrange inter-corps contests on defined and coördinated lines of training — the very principle for which your correspondent contends; and coupled with this there is training of eye and hand by means of miniature rifle shooting, signaling, etc., and in those cases where specialized training is included — as in my own corps — the addition of such useful knowledge as map-reading, handiness in the use of tools, and constructional work is gained.

Historical precedent may well be sought by those who arrange for the physical training of youth. He is not a sportsman who merely spends his leisure in swelling the throng which congregates to see a score of paid players kick a ball about. This form of 'sport' is largely responsible for the 'C 3' category which your correspondent deplors. In the centuries during which the foundations were laid and the British Empire built up, games were played and sports arranged in which all could take part, and the contests were such as developed those qualities and abilities which caused the Briton to be respected wherever he went. The archers who won Crécy were trained on the village greens of old England in evening and Saturday afternoon contests, which formed the ordinary sports of the people.

The cadet organization properly handled

would give a healthier, manlier manhood, cleaner and more self-reliant, capable, withal, of a well-balanced judgment, and which would attain its own by natural selection, putting all Bolshevik and other traitorous agitators — whose opportunities lie in ill-balanced and uninformed minds — in their proper place, and thus make our homeland happier and more prosperous for all classes *mens sana in corpore sano*, once more. When their usefulness is more widely known cadet corps will receive greater recognition, by which their membership will be increased and their powers for good extended by greater financial assistance and encouragement from the country. I am, Sir, faithfully yours,

Harry G. Assiter, F.S.I.

The Guildhall, London, September 3.

IN the student's magazine, issued at Cambridge University, recently appeared the following quatrain.

REVOLT

Like old Prometheus's vitals, daily vultured,  
My mind grows, complex: sometimes a  
deep-sheathed

Small cell, from some cave-ancestor be-  
queathed,

Twinges, as it's unmercifully cultured.

H. de G. S.

FEARS are being expressed that, unless definite steps are taken to check indiscriminate advertising, the beauty of the great waterway of the Thames at night may again be defaced by flashing signs of whiskeys, beers, and pills. At present it is very doubtful whether the measures that have been passed are sufficient to prevent them. The shortage of coal rather than any love for the amenities of the river may stay for a while the discordant ways of daring advertisers, but if one sign should begin to flash again, others, it is argued, are bound to follow, for the instinct of imitation in business is certain to manifest itself, and the banks of the river may at any time become a blaze of fearful lights.

The chairman of the committee of the Seapa Society, Mr. Richardson Evans; pointed out that while local regulations are general against sky signs, there are at present no definite rules against illuminated

advertisements on the towers, minarets, and buildings on the banks of the river. 'It is true,' he said, 'that the Advertisements Regulation Act, which was promoted by the society, enables local authorities to frame by-laws to prevent advertisements that impair the natural beauty of the landscape or the amenities of pleasure promenades and public parks, and that the Thames Embankment may be considered a pleasure promenade. But you can hardly trust borough councils on one side of the river to act on behalf of persons on the other side. The illuminated signs may be, as in the past, in the boroughs of Lambeth or Southwark, while the people mostly concerned in protesting against them are in the Strand boroughs or the City of Westminster. For this reason the London County Council was right in asking Parliament to make them the authority for the metropolis. Our amending bill, which will be pressed forward next session, specifically empowers local authorities to make by-laws "for prohibiting advertisements constructed of moving parts or illuminated by flash or changing lights."'

A DIFFICULTY has arisen in the administration of Syria which, like many another, is largely due to delay on the part of the Paris Conference, and has evoked some needless wild writing. It is a difficulty which should certainly not be allowed to arouse needless feeling, for it is certain that with good will on the part of the interested parties it ought to be settled amicably, and it is, therefore, welcome news that Field Marshal Allenby's visit is concerned with the method in which such a settlement may be effected. The matter has been precipitated by the rearrest at Beirut by the British of Emir Said, a spy and agent of the Turks, who owed his life to the amnesty granted by the Arab Prince Feisul, and whose only return was two attempts at rebellion. To this arrest the French papers have objected, declaring that the consent of their Commissioner should have been asked, and they accuse Great Britain of acting against their interests in Syria, although by the Sykes-Picot secret agreement of 1916 the British had pledged themselves to leave Syria as a sphere of French

influence, an agreement which is contrary to one made by them in the previous year with the King of the Hedjaz. The British have, therefore, to combine their pledges to the Arabs on the one hand with those made on the other to the French. France has traditional interests in Syria and desires to have a mandate there similar to that the British are to have in Mesopotamia. With that desire we are said to be in sympathy, and Field Marshal Allenby is also said to favor it. While some of the French papers have spoken strongly and even heatedly on the matter, the *Journal des Débats* has treated it more guardedly and has thus succinctly described the situation: 'England has recognized that Syria was a field reserved for French influence, direct on the littoral, and in the interior exercised through the intermediary of one or more Arab states to whom France alone would supply counselors and means. France, on her part, recognized an identical situation so far as England is concerned in Mesopotamia. But when General Allenby occupied the country in 1918 only a small French authority was allowed to be established on the littoral, while in the interior the establishment of a Shereefian power was favored which was far from well disposed toward France.' Even though engagements had been previously entered into by England with the Arabs, the *Débats* thinks that that difficulty could be got over by her giving up aiding the Arab state of Damascus and handing over that duty to France. To all this we may add that the correspondent of the *Times* in the Middle East points out that while the Christians in Syria 'quite definitely prefer the French to ourselves' as their protectors, the overwhelming majority of the Mussulmans demand 'the British, or better still, and as a new idea, some more remote power, such as America.'

#### THE GEDDES BROTHERS

THERE are no stars in all the sky  
 Outshine the blest Dioscuri;  
 Castor and Pollux, sons of Zeus  
 Immortal, and by common use —

Called patrons of seafaring men,  
 Who lamp their radiance back again.