

that a French flier going eastward covered over 2,000 miles in two days. Perhaps MacLauren may reach Alaska while the Americans are still tinkering with their engines; and no one knows where the Frenchman will be in a day or two if he decides to go on right around the world.

It is a pity that we Americans gave such an amount of publicity to our own performance, especially when our planes seem to have a hard time standing up to the strain put upon them. Luck may be with us yet. Perhaps MacLauren may lose his oil through a crack in his engine-casing and have to drop into some half-deserted and inhospitable bay in Kamchatka! Who knows? Eventually our own planes may make the circuit before him yet!

### The "Engineering News-Record" Completes a Half-Century

THE "Engineering News-Record" may well take pride in fifty years of invaluable service to the engineering progress of the United States. The story of these years is one of an amazing American engineering and scientific triumph. Fifty years ago, for instance, the electric dynamo was almost unknown. There were very few water turbines, all less than 100 horse-power. There were no steam turbines, no internal combustion engines, electric lights, automobiles, or trolley cars! Structural steel was used for the first time just fifty years ago.

Journals like the "Engineering News-Record" have done much to make this progress possible. They have consistently and carefully brought to the whole engineering and to the allied professions a practical knowledge of engineering progress, so that all might take advantage of it. They have spread abroad the findings of important researches. In brief, they have been of invaluable aid in building up that mass of practical and theoretical knowledge upon which modern engineering practice is based and to which a phenomenal progress has been due.

The anniversary number of the "News-Record" will prove interesting and stimulating reading for engineers and laymen alike, for, with the aid of a number of outstanding engineers, it tells the story of a half-century of engineering achievement. We congratulate the "News-Record" on its fine service of fifty years and on its valuable anniversary number.

### The American Olympics

THE annual Relay Carnival of the University of Pennsylvania seems in a fair way to develop into a kind of American Olympic. Accommodating at first a fine idea but not many contestants, Franklin Field has become almost if not quite a unique meeting-place for American athletes of all ages and sizes, from the greatest of our universities to the smallest of our private academies. A list of contestants sounds like a census of American educational institutions.

The appeal of the Carnival reached out into Canada, and now this year we find a team from Cambridge University coming all the way from England to enter the two-mile relay, which, incidentally, was won by Boston College, which broke the world's record with the time of 7 minutes 47  $\frac{3}{5}$  seconds.

The Carnival has become not unlike the original Olympic performance because of its appeal to athletes of all ages, from experienced college stars to stripling schoolboys. The University of Pennsylvania deserves great credit, not only for developing so worthy and notable an annual event, but also for the miraculous and clocklike regularity with which the innumerable events are managed.

### Athletics Still for the Favored Few

HERE is an excellent example of what not to do. A small city not far from New York decided to engage an expert physical trainer for the public schools. What they actually got was a college athletic star who charged a high price and who knew exceedingly little about the physical training of children. Naturally enough, the high school first teams got his attention. The mass of children in the grammar and primary grades got nothing except such mild and innocuous exercises as their hard-working teachers could find time to give them. And yet the younger children should receive by far the greater amount of attention.

It is amazing in how many schools of all kinds the efforts of coaches and physical directors go principally to the few who make up the first elevens or nines. If the majority gets anything at all, it is likely to be routine callisthenics or "gym" work. Now "gym" work and callisthenics have their uses, but the finest kind of physical training can come through intelligently directed outdoor sports and games. No school has the least excuse for neglecting even one

clumsy boy for the benefit of a natural athlete.

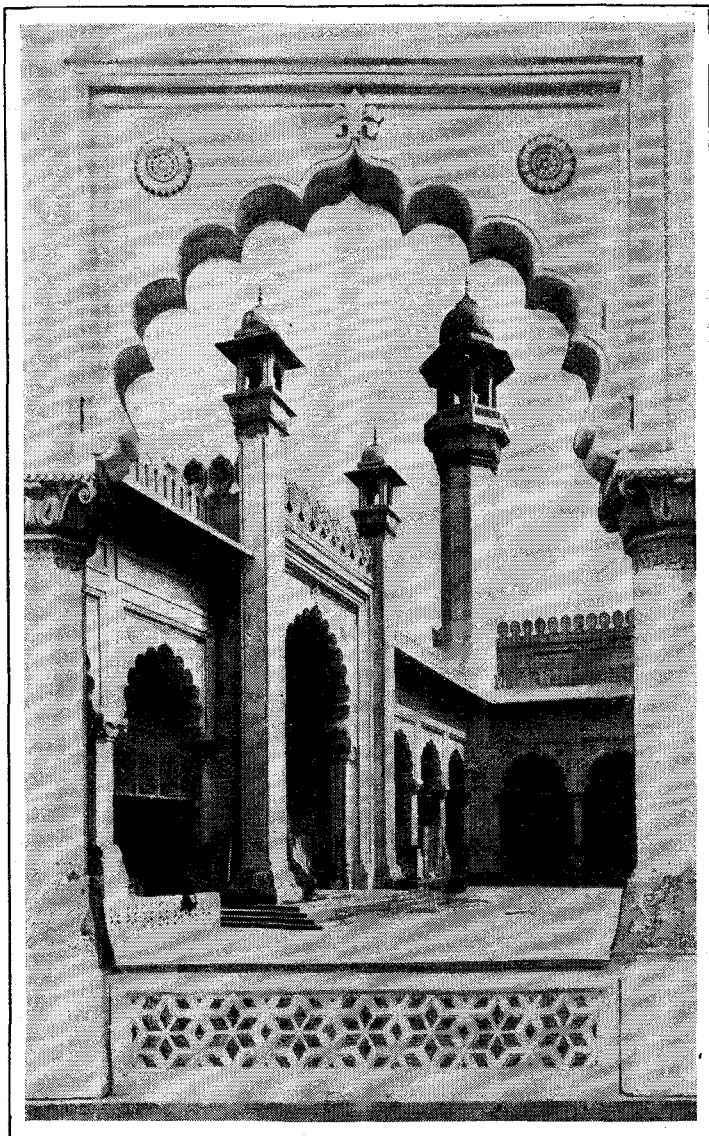
All this has to be said every year. And now is a good time to say it once more, with baseball coming into its well-deserved annual kingdom. Give every boy a chance at it, and a good chance. Here is one of our very best games, possessing little risk, and developing to a high degree quick thinking and quick co-ordination. It demands no excessive exertion. Differences in age and size mean much less than in other sports. It should be the ambition of all physical directors to turn out as many ball-players as they have boys. This done, then the able, first-team boys can be given such attention as is proper and possible.

### Settling an Election by Bombs

IN Honduras the counting of votes after the recent election has been only a prosaic prelude to the heroic fighting, drinking, and bombing out of which one of the three candidates may presently emerge as President. This method entails one difficulty; if the strife between armed mobs of the *de facto* party in the capital (Tegucigalpa) and the two revolutionary mobs outside includes firing on the American Legation and Consulate and bombs are dropped on our Marines, Uncle Sam is likely to threaten interference with the national sport of revolution and counter-revolution.

It was reported on April 24 that American sailors had been killed in air attacks of a very indiscriminating sort, but the report has not so far been confirmed.

Instead of hastily seizing the opportunity furnished by the rioting, reckless street fighting, shooting of women and children, and looting of stores to intervene by force in the interests of order and trade, our Government has taken the peaceful and moderate course of sending to Honduras the American Commissioner to the Dominican Republic, Mr. Sumner Wells, with instructions to try to bring the rival leaders to consent to arbitration and agree upon a stable form of government. A conference is to be held at Amapala on our warship, the cruiser Milwaukee. Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Guatemala have been asked to join in the conference; and the combatants, it is expected, will observe an armistice while the sessions continue. But on April 28 fighting was renewed in the streets of the capital and the fall of



The Indian Pavilion at the British Empire Exhibition

the *de facto* or hold-over Government was rumored.

One never knows when an after-election war in a Central American state may through some excess boil over and become an international question. Honduras has an elegant republican Constitution, beautiful to peruse but neatly arranged so that it shelves itself in case of any real trouble.

### An Empire Exhibition

WHEN the Prince of Wales as head of the British Empire Exhibition formally asked his royal father to declare the great show at Wembley open, and when King George replied in an excellent speech, hundreds of thousands of people for the first time heard royalty talk through radio; that in itself was not one of the least wonders of the exhibition and a reminder as well of the advance of human attainment since the day, over seventy years ago, when Victoria opened the Crystal Palace Exhibition. Another modern touch was the telegraphing of the King's speech entirely around the

world on British cables and wires, the first word returning to Wembley before the last word was on the wire.

By all accounts, the display at this Exhibition is notably fine, and naturally it is varied. Canada, Australia, and India take a large part of the 220 acres of space, but every one of the British dominions, colonies, protectorates, and mandated territories is represented. Some \$200,000,000 has been expended on the Exhibition, and it is believed that it will be seen by at least 25,000,000 people.

King George summed up the serious purpose of this homecoming of the colonies, as apart from the elements of beauty, art, and the curious, when he said: "It represents to the world a graphic illustration of that spirit of free and tolerant co-operation which inspired peoples of different races, creeds, and ways of thought to unite in a single commonwealth and contribute their varying national gifts to one great end."

The bond of the British Empire is loose but it is strong.

### Politics and the Public Schools

BECAUSE interference with the public schools on the part of politicians is anything but a local performance, the recent dismissal of Dr. William L. Ettinger, Superintendent of Schools in New York City, may well be a matter of general interest. The public schools present a very tempting field to politicians of the spoils-hunting variety. American municipalities have found it necessary to guard very carefully this greatest American asset against the corruption and inefficiency that goes with political control.

The schools of New York lie peculiarly at the mercy of the Mayor of that city. He selects the members of the Board of Education without restriction. There is no requirement of knowledge of education, or even of business. The Board of Education has exclusive power to select the Superintendent of Schools and eight associate superintendents, who comprise the Board of Superintendents, and, upon nomination of the Board of Superintendents, appoints the 26 district superintendents and the heads of high schools. The Board of Education also has power to select from an eligible list, supplied by the Civil Service Commission, the Board of Examiners, which, in turn, passes on the eligibility of the teachers in general and the heads of elementary schools. It is only too obvious how an unscrupulous or ignorant Mayor not only could dominate but could easily destroy the efficiency and morale of the whole Educational Department.

Superintendent Ettinger, after six successful years as Superintendent and many years of service in the public schools, was dismissed, without warning and within but a few days of the end of his term, long after he should have been notified of a reappointment or dismissal. President G. J. Ryan, of the Board of Education, gave several reasons for the dismissal of Dr. Ettinger. Mr. Ryan charged that the Superintendent had failed to co-operate with the Board and with the city administration, that he had neglected budget-making, and refused to make annual reports. It was also charged that he had refused to allow himself to be "investigated" by New York's picturesque Commissioner of Accounts Hirshfield.

This last charge can be discounted at once, for the Superintendent's action was sustained by the courts and the Commissioner's power to issue subpoenas has re-