

Now, what are the specific objections to excessive drinking at a football game? It would be tiring to enumerate them all, but attention might be called to these. First, the discomfort caused those who really enjoy a football game sensibly, and who are in the vast majority at almost all games, by offensive manners and conversation of inebriates in their vicinity; second, epithets hurled at officials and players, and the generally objectionable conversation, language and actions of those too dulled to know what good sportsmanship is; third, the permanent effect of such influences upon boys of school age who attend games with their parents or alone. Certainly, almost any place of entertainment would be more wholesome for them than some of the largely patronized games; fourth, the acts of rowdyism and vandalism both in the stands and on the field such as received wide notice during the past season; fifth, the increasing number of motor accidents reported on Saturday nights during the height of the football season, attributable to those returning from games who were in no condition to drive, contributing considerably to the appalling annual motor casualty list; sixth, the unpleasant exhibition which anyone makes of himself when under the influence of liquor.

In order to be sure that I understand the points of view of those closest to the situation in football, I took the trouble to secure from a considerable number of graduate managers, representative alumni and students their ideas. While there is considerable diversity of opinion as to whether or not drinking has actually increased at the games the last few years, and while the majority do not object to drinking in the stands if it does not become obnoxious, there is a very general agreement upon several points. All state that drinking to excess is repugnant to them and their families and takes away much of the pleasure of the games from the majority of those in attendance. They deplore the bad effect which witnessing the actions of many older spectators has on boys and girls, one alumnus remarking that 90% of boy life is copied life. They feel that drinking at football games may in large measure be accounted for by the fact that the occasion is looked upon as a holiday and that drinking has become a growing social custom in this connection. It appears to be the definite feeling of a vast majority of the alumni that if we could return to the old idea that drinking in public places such as stadia is an exhibition of bad manners the result would be excellent. How to reach that objective they do not know.