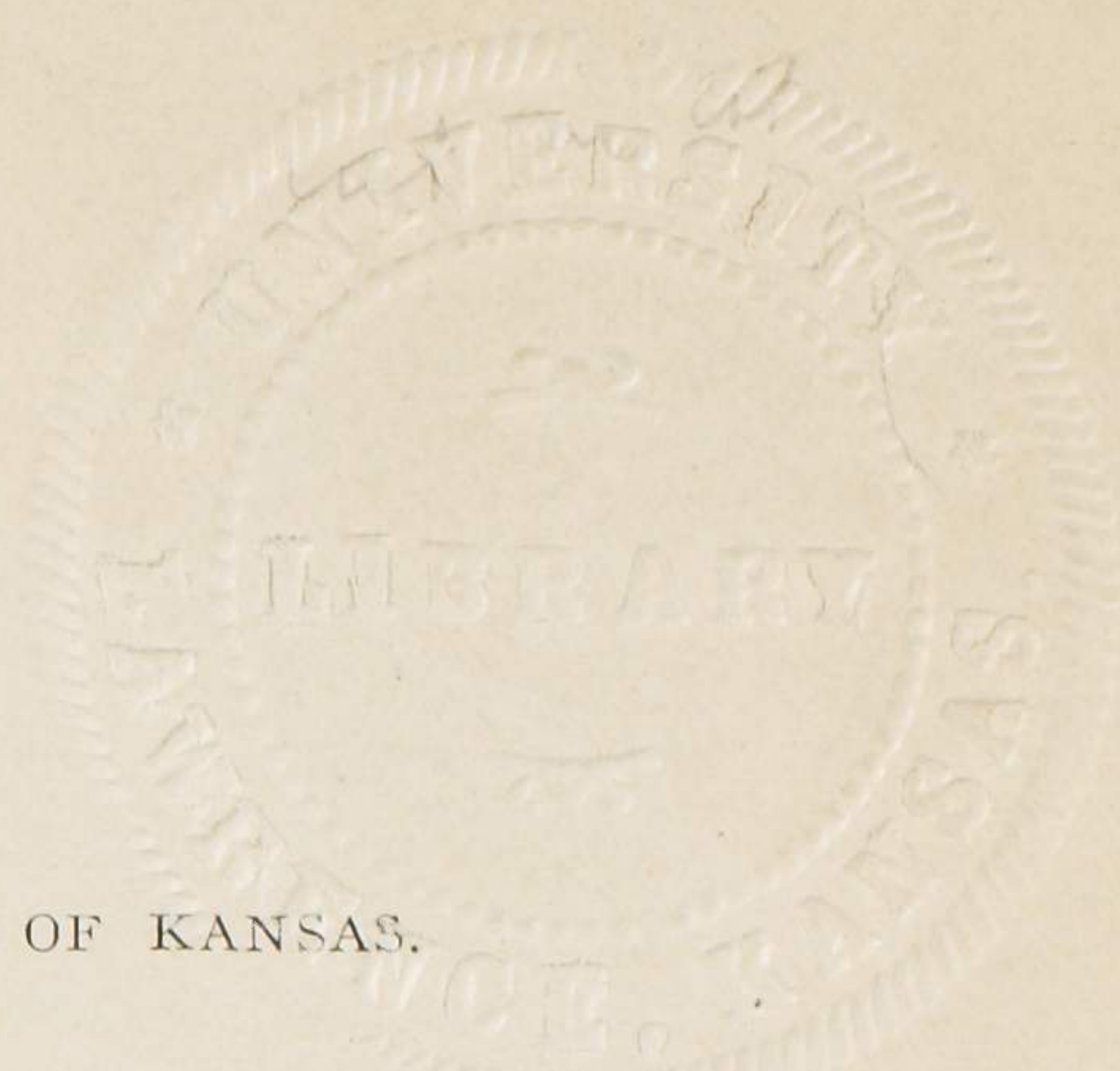


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BASKET BALL.*

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It appears to be generally conceded that no paper on physical education is quite orthodox unless it traces its descent from the period of Greek culture, but I assure you that I shall not follow that precedent, for basket ball, unlike the great majority of our games, is not the result of evolution but is a modern synthetic product of the office. The conditions were recognized, the requirements met, and the rules formulated and put in typewritten form before any attempt was made to test its value. These rules, as typewritten in the office, which are now in my possession, are identical with the rules as first published and remained unchanged for almost two years. Their first appearance, in print, was in the *Triangle*, the school paper of the Y. M. C. A. College at Springfield, Mass., in the issue of January, 1892, under the heading, "A New Game." In the twenty years of its existence the game has been carried to the ends of the earth, and it is to-day in all probability one of the most widely known and played of all games. Its popularity and extensive introduction are due primarily to three factors: first, there was an absolute need for such a contribution; second, it was founded on fundamental principles; third, it was produced in an international institution, which gave it a world interest.

Physical education, in the early nineties, was confined almost exclusively to gymnastics, derived from a twofold source, the apparatus work of the German, and the free work of the Swedish systems. Athletics as we know them to-day were little used in the work of a department of physical education, games hardly at all. About this time there was a growing interest in games because of their human interest and their adaptability to inter-collegiate contests. There had been a steady growth in these since the seventies when intercollegiate sports really began, but they were largely outside the scope of physical education. Those individuals who in the fall season were interested in and took part in football, found that, in the winter, apparatus work was more or less tiresome and uninteresting, while the influence that it might have on the individual did not appeal to the youth who did not know that he had a stomach, save as a receptacle, nor a heart, save in a figurative sense. This left a period of physical inaction for a great many persons who enjoyed participation in

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