HE all-absorbing topic, at present, in the local affairs of this city is the horse-railway problem. The daily papers contain many accounts of the wrongs and nuisances committed by these corporations. Our own little grievance, at the Institute, is the failure to always induce a car to stop when signaled. The drivers, acting, we suppose, upon the supposition that everybody here is a young athlete, and perfectly able to jump on the car in motion, drive by our buildings at full speed. The trouble comes when, on a rainy night, with a drawing-board under one arm and a bag and umbrella under the other, a man is expected to catch a car on the fly. We happened to notice, one evening some months ago, a couple of fellows descend the steps of Rogers and invite, in perfectly distinct manner, a passing car to stop. The conductor declined the invitation, and stood in the doorway of the car with a very expressive grin on his face, evidently enjoying the race, for the two gave chase. The latter won, but not until the car had reached Arlington Street. This conductor was probably a trusted and honored servant of the road by which he was employed, for he was seen on the street, a few weeks after, promoted to the dignity of car-starter.

It has become a fashion at the Institute, to think that athletic sports are matters with which a truly scientific mind cannot afford to be bothered. This is certainly a mistaken idea, for in few institutions is a good physical development as necessary for a successful future, as it is in ours. More or less exposure to severe weather and trying circumstances, is an almost certain attendant on a successful career in most of the professions which an Institute man is supposed to follow. Who, for example, is in more need of a good constitution, capable of withstanding the attacks of disease, than a chemist, who spends a great part of his time in an atmosphere vitiated by unhealthy compounds and bad gases; or a civil engineer, who may be called upon to spend weeks in camp, perhaps in swampy lowlands, exposed to attacks of malaria.

A sound constitution is not a difficult thing to attain. The reason the mass of our students do not take exercise, is because of disinclination, or, to put it plainly, physical laziness. Instead of honestly acknowledging the fact, they say: "Our gymnasium isn't good for anything; it has no apparatus." Now, the truth is, the Institute gymnasium has nearly all the really essential apparatus of a good gymnasium. Many gymnasiums which have cost twice the money have not as good appliances for general exercise. It could hardly be expected that money should be spent on apparatus which is of use to only a twentieth part of all the students at the Institute. If each man would put in four hours a week,—or two would do if the exercise were diligently and understandingly applied,—would