

The Tech

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Friday, March 9, 1906.

The absence of accuracy in the articles of the ordinary newspaper reporter is a matter which all those who come in for their share of such printed misinformation as appeared, for instance, in the *Boston Herald* of March 8, cannot but regret. This article which endeavors to tell the reasons for the cancelling of the Fencing Meet, scheduled for March 17, only brings more strongly to our notice that the reliability of a newspaper clipping cannot be judged from the quantity of news which it seemingly contains.

The real reason for disagreement was the failure of the teams concerned to come to a satisfactory decision as to the judges. Harvard held that the B. A. A. fencers, who had served before, should be chosen; while Technology desired some changes. Those who have attended the last two meets at the Gym cannot but realize the urgent need of judges who can see a touch whether it is acknowledged or not. From a sportsman's point of view, the fencer is in honor bound to acknowledge when his opponent has succeeded in touching him. Though this is done as a rule, the judges were noticeably incompetent when they were deciding a bout in which one man failed to make any acknowledgement; and because of this unsportsmanlike action on the part of the fencers, the judges rendered decisions far from satisfactory and seemingly unfair.

Technology's position in this matter needs no defence—contrary to what the *Herald* intimates—and the mere fact that the judges were of the B. A. A. does not insure them against such deplorable mistakes as marked the meet with Pennsylvania and Harvard. The "meet last week" referred to was under the management of the Harvard Fencing Association, and it was they who selected the judges and not Technology as was reported. This apparent partiality is probably the result of one coach teaching both the B. A. A. fencers and the Harvard team, and when there are such close relations between two organizations, it seems but natural to endeavor to secure impartial judges. Another fact that was overlooked was, that a referee—one who is supposed to give the final decision—had to be awakened from a catch-as-catch-can nap, to perform his duties as the bout was progressing.

The impression which the article endeavors to convey is decidedly uncomplimentary to Technology, but the longing for quantity apparently caused a slip which, when looked into, is insulting to the sportsmanship of the Harvard team, namely, the reason for not transferring the meet to New York. The article reads as follows:

"The Harvard management replied that they could not get any judges in New York, owing to the fact that there is to be another meet there that same night."

Now this sounds rather weak when we stop to think that in New York there must surely be at least six fencing masters, or accomplished fencers, who could be secured to render impartial decisions. The intimation that the prowess of Harvard was feared, may satisfy one who has never participated in sports; but those who have—and it is these whom the article is intended to misinform—cannot but realize that it is the right of every contestant in any match whatever to ask for fair play, and to try to obtain it; but when all concessions are on one side, and impartiality cannot be assured, nothing is left but to withdraw.

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