

CHAPTER XIX

Gymnastics

WITH the expansion of the University and the great increase in the number of students from 1900 on, corresponding growth was experienced in Athletics. The annual Assault-at-Arms, which had been instituted soon after the opening of the Gymnasium in 1893, included a certain amount of work on the gymnasium apparatus together with fencing bouts and occasional exhibitions in boxing and wrestling.

In 1901 a Gymnastic Club was formed in the University which undertook to supervise and keep in order all the gymnastic equipment, to combine with the Fencing Club in staging the annual Assault-at-Arms, and endeavour to enlist all students in maintaining an interest in these branches. They were all under the supervision of Instructor Williams (affectionately known as "Prof" Williams to generations of graduates) who trained and produced a number of very fine athletes. Among these might be mentioned Messrs. Geo. M. Bertram, Percy Biggs, "Casey" Baldwin, Lou Scholes, S. C. Snively, R. M. Millman, William Grant, Tom Loudon, G. H. Muntz, Ed. Archibald, G. Weir, E. G. Fletcher, W. Barber and J. Van Nostrand who all featured in the various Assaults-at-Arms staged up to 1906.

When Dr. J. W. Barton came as Physical Director in 1907, he found a well-established programme which had been built up largely through the efforts and personality of Williams. But he also realized that the building erected fifteen years ago was totally inadequate. While the gymnasium, indoor running track and pool were among the best on the continent, the increase in the number of students had outgrown the accommo-