

## WOMEN-MADE GAMES DON'T MAKE ATHLETES.

By W. G. Shepherd.

(Staff Correspondence.)

Stockholm, July 17.—Olympic games ought to bring home to the American people the value of athletics in public grade schools.

As the intimate associate for the past few weeks of the young men representing the United States in the Olympic games, I can see what scientific and organized athletics would do for boys and girls in the United States.

On the basis of clean morals alone athletics pay. In this Olympic team the young men are clear-eyed, clean-limbed and clean-minded. Immorality and athletics do not mix any more than oil and water.

"Did you ever drink?" is the question I have put to nearly 100 members of the American team, and most of them answered that they have never touched liquor. Few smoke. The reason is simple; the desire to be a successful athlete easily outweighs every temptation to indulge in injurious practices.

The school boy training for an athletic event finds it easier to be good than to be bad; for an ordinary school boy, with no inclination toward athletics, it is easier, only too often, to be bad than to be good.

Athletics furnish the incentive for morality that preachers, teachers, fathers and mothers so often fail to set forth.

A large majority of the present Olympic team came from the few cities where organized athletics

is encouraged. With few exceptions the athletes began their athletic careers in the public schools.

The east, and particularly New York city, is most largely represented on the team because in New York the idea of athletics in the grade school has been perfected.

The unsystematized, unscientific, woman-managed games of the public playground take the place in the west and middle west of the scientific, standard field sports recognized and followed in the eastern schools.

As a result New York produces more men who have run, jumped, swam and vaulted since their early 'teens than any other city. Western athletes on the Olympic team are largely athletes as the result of accident, with half the experience of their eastern brethren.

It is a pity that every educator in the United States could not have been on the Finland with us. It is a pity every educator cannot be here to see the steady eyes that bespeak self-respect and self-mastery; see the fine nerve-controlled bodies and minds, hear the laughs and witness the fun of the healthy, decent fellows who make up the team.

I am sure every school teacher and principal who might witness all of this would immediately be converted to the idea of establishing standard athletics in the grade schools.

They ought to hear the athletes themselves condemn the women-