JUNIOR EDITORIAL CORNER

Well, Juniors, what do you think of the new athletic division in the paper? Already it has had three good articles by Joseph Hickey of the San Francisco athletic league and three student reports, two by Bert Leo of the Hearst school and the other by George Michling of the Spring Valley.

The Junior has taken this up because it is a great thing, because the Juniors are interested and because The Junior Call is your paper, and if you can't find your own news in your own paper where can you find it?

The Junior has started it, but it rests with you to make it a success. There is no reason that the Junior shouldn't have an athletic section, just as the regular papers have for the grownups. Every boy and girl is interested, not only in what his own school is doing, but in what others are doing as well.

Some schools have already appointed their reporters. Others are giving examinations to decide who shall have the privilege, for no one can be a reporter who is a "slouch" in school, any more than a "slouch" could make the team.

Hurry up, girls and boys. Get into line. If you want the athletic news of the entire city every Saturday morning you can have it.

By some mistake the name of the author of "The School Orchestra" was omitted last week. This very interesting article was written by Jean Hamil, seventh grade, San Francisco State Normal Training School.

SHORT BARKS FROM ALONZO

The Junior had a little dog,
Alonzo was his name,
And everywhere Alonzo went
He spread the Junior's fame.

I didn't write that. I never write poetry. Mother wrote it.

This talk about putting away a bone for a rainy day is useless. All my friends out in Richmond had theirs buried in the new lot of the Sutro school. What chance do you think there'll be of a bone after those children get through cleaning? They won't even leave the earth.

There's a wireless started among dogs. I'm president. When I want to talk to mother in Oakland I just wag my tail a certain way and start an air wave. There's a mean bull terrier next to mother's. He tried to steal my last message, but mother—mother always had a strong character! I haven't seen that terrier for several days.

Wasn't it great to see the Columbia Park boys home again? I've been barking ever since and my tail just aches from wagging.

The other day I saw a sign outside a book store, "Books with dogears cheap." I bought one. An extra pair of ears always comes in handy. But I couldn't find them. Strange, isn't it, how some people will lie?

I'm writing a story for the Junior. I think it's going to be great. I've got as far as "Once upon a time," but I've only been writing a week.

I think some of those athletic teams will be wanting me for a mascot, so I'm getting a new collar. Remember, first come first served. Alonzo's all ready.

Last week I lost my press badge and couldn't get in to see the ball game, so I chased a cat under the fence. She got in free—and girls don't understand baseball.

I wish you'd stop running off to play and expecting me to mind the baby buggies. Really, the Junior keeps me quite busy enough, even if I do love children.

Meg Merrilies

Old Meg she was a gipsy,
And lived upon the moors;
Her bed it was the brown heath turf,
And her house was out of doors.

Her apples were swart blackberries,
Her currants pods o' broom;
Her wine was dew o' the wild white rose,
Her book a churchyard tomb.

Her brothers were the craggy hills,
Her sisters larchen trees;
Alone with her great family
She lived as she did please.

No breakfast had she many a morn,
No dinner many a noon,
And, 'stead of supper, she would stare
Full hard against the moon.

But every morn of woodbine fresh
She made her garlanding,
And every night the dark glen yew
She wove and she would sing.

And with her fingers, old and brown,
She plaited mats of rushes,
And gave them to the cottagers
She met among the bushes.

Old Meg was as brave as Margaret Queen
And tall as Amazon;
An old red blanket coat she wore,
A chip hat had she on.
God rest her aged bones somewhere:
She died full long agone.

—John Keats.

The Miser

A miser traversing his house
Espied, unusual there, a mouse,
And thus, his uninvited guest,
Briskly inquisitive, addressed:
"Tell me, my dear, to what cause is it
I owe this unexpected visit?"

The mouse her host obliquely eyed
And, smiling pleasantly, replied:
"Fear not, good fellow, for your hoard,
I come to lodge and not to board."

—William Cowper.

ORGANIZED PLAY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

By JOSEPH B. HICKEY
Secretary Public Schools Athletic League

THE schoolyard will always be used for general play, but the advantage of organized games over unorganized activities is admitted by all to give the best results, as the games which are suited to schoolyard play are many. Nearly all of the events designated as track and field athletics can be conducted in almost any schoolyard, and the advantage to the pupil of competing under proper rules must appeal to all those interested. Athletics in the school yards must from now on be considered part of the curriculum, for when properly conducted they mean a great deal to the school. Owing to the limited space in the majority of schools the list of events mentioned as suitable for such purposes is modified, but is sufficient to improve the athletic ability of the children in the schools.

Proper organization of athletics in a school depends on the formation of an association, to be named after the school in which the organization is effected. Either the principal of the school or one of the teachers assigned for that purpose should preside over the work and properly elected officials should be chosen. The association should be an organization in each class, each class to have its track and field captain. Such an arrangement calls for many officials and is inclined to keep the boys more interested. It is very necessary that all class and school athletic games be conducted according to the laws of athletics. The pupils must familiarize themselves with the rules and have the doubtful points explained to them before each competition. In athletics there must be law and order as in any other organization where the interests of many individuals are concerned, and only the recognition of the correct way to perform will give all a fair chance.

The older pupils must be relied upon to fill the official positions, so that when an athletic event is scheduled it shall be properly conducted with the regular number of officials. These officials should study the rules and live up to them. They must make it a point to see that every pupil is given a fair show, that there is no favorite and that every one is absolutely on an even footing. It is a healthy condition if the entire school can compete on a basis of this kind and the best results are sure to develop. As it would be impossible to contest all events included in a track and field list in one afternoon, two or three events should be selected for certain afternoons or mornings, including a variety, such as a relay race, jumping event and shot putting contest. At first it is advisable to have all the events from scratch, and later, when all have attained a mark in their respective contest, handicap games can be arranged. This latter feature gives all who are not experts a chance to take part with the more proficient boys and stimulates sport.

To hold all the events in a schoolyard on one afternoon is impossible when the time is confined to an hour or so, and such an effort would only bring about disorganization. It is therefore much better to have a fixed list for each day, so as not to discourage the pupils or tire out those who are helping the cause of athletics in the schools by contributing their time to its advancement. The following schedule is suggested:

Monday—40 yard dash, shot put; hop, step and jump.
Tuesday—Shot put, hurdle race, standing high jump.
Wednesday—Potato race, running high jump, standing broad jump.
Thursday—Class team race, running high jump, standing jump.
Friday—Sack race, flag race, relay race, three legged race.

The foregoing events are to be the fixed athletic events of the day. They should be properly managed and considered as important as though they were championship games. Classification by weight should be avoided unless necessary, as it is preferable to arrange the boys according to sizes. In all schoolyard competitions open to boys from different classes, arrange the preliminary heats so that only one boy from each class will be in each heat. If semifinal heats are in order before the final is reached it may be necessary that two or three boys from the same class compete in one heat, but it should be made a point to separate them as much as possible in order to increase the competition.

The rigid discipline of field and track games will be one of the greatest allies to general school order. It is one of the greatest helps in developing in the boy those valuable traits of character, self-control, obedience, honest effort and the spirit of fair play. All athletic events, whether merely preliminary or otherwise, even to the decision of championships, should be conducted in a strictly official manner. For schoolyard athletics as herein described, the number of persons in charge need not be great. These games are preparations for larger championship meets and for the proper conduct of such affairs many regulations are essential.

In the handicap games the method of allowing the advantages is generally known among the more advanced athletes, but the following example is nevertheless given as illustration of how such events are conducted. Scratch races among the pupils will of course be instrumental in deciding the best competitor, the second best, etc., and a record should be kept of all performances. Suppose, for instance, the results in the standing high jump scratch are as follows: First, John Jones, 3 feet 6 inches; second, D. Anderson, 3 feet 4 inches; third, H. Andrews, 3 feet 1 inch. In addition the records of all other boys should be preserved also. The following handicap jump would be in order: John Jones would be scratch, D. Anderson would have a handicap of 2 inches and H. Andrews 5 inches.

Boys should not be allowed to take part in too many events or be permitted to compete to the point of exhaustion. Overindulgence in athletic competition will tire the youngsters of the sport if they are allowed to take part in two or three events on one day and the enthusiasm will be found to grow less. In answer to the argument of not allowing a boy to compete in more than one event it has been said that a youth will run in the streets without restriction, but this is not the kind of running that is a mental strain on a boy. As soon as a boy is placed in competition he becomes nervous. It gets on his mind and the mere thought of the final test that is coming has been known to upset not only schoolboys, but trained athletes as well. The games as advocated by the Public Schools athletic league, to show any benefit, must be the kind of work that enlists the entire class; let them all take their turn in putting the shot, high jumping, running and other activities. A boy should not be worried when he is at play. The athletics in the schoolyard should be none other than play, without preparation, rules and regulations being favorable only to the extent of allowing all an equal opportunity to demonstrate his or her superiority at jumping or running, whatever it may be.

A CHAT WITH THE MAN IN THE MOON

ALICE TOFT,
Mountain View. Age 14 Years

Marjorie had been spending a week in the country with her grandmother. There were some woods close by the farm and nothing delighted Miss Marjorie more than to take her fairy book and read in the woods.

One day as she was in the most interesting part of "The Three Bears" she was startled by a long drawn "Oh!"

Looking up she saw a little old man with a long beard.

"My, you frightened me," he said. "If I'd known you were here you'd never have seen me."

The fairy book was forgotten.

"Why, who are you?" asked Marjorie.

"The Man in the Moon, of course. As a matter of fact I'm not in the moon now, but I will be as soon as the tide goes out. When it does I go out too, and when I'm in midocean the gravity of the moon pulls me back home.

"Really?" said Marjorie, "you seem to be in a hurry. Sit down and visit with me a while."

"Well, I don't mind if I do. It isn't often I get a chance to talk to a nice little girl like you. You see I can only come to the earth when Halley's comet approaches. I slide down on Mr. Comet as easy as you please, and before I know it I'm on the earth. When I was here before there was hardly any San Francisco. San Francisco is my favorite city—it and New York and Paris and any of those lively cities."

"Can you see what we are doing here on the earth from the moon?" asked Marjorie.

"My, yes. I've a telescope up there that's a dandy. Why, I've watched George Washington by the hour when he was fighting the British, and I watched Columbus make his voyage, and many other things. You can't imagine the shock it gave me when I saw Cook and Peary plant the stars and stripes on that dismal north pole. I'd never seen any one there before, and it made me giddy. I no sooner got over that shock than Mr. Paulhan began to fly around in the air. Do you know why it rained when he was going to fly in San Francisco?"

"No," said Marjorie.

"Well, I saw them getting ready to fly and I got so excited that I yelled. Then, of course, the rain clouds thought I was yelling for them to rain and so they did. My, I believe I must hustle now. Good by."

He was gone before Marjorie could reply. She sat looking puzzled for a few minutes, but was soon lost in the story of "The Three Bears."