advantages of the two methods.

One thing is certain, we are on the eve of a marvellous transformation in the kind of machinery which will carry the ever-increasing traffic of men and merchandise across the Atlantic.

Mr. John Burns, in a recent speech has made a timely and witty protest against what he calls "football on the brain." He says, "I am fond of cricket and football, and each in its proper proportion and amount is excellent. But there are some who dream of nothing else but football, and whose heads will ultimately become shaped like the sphere in which they delight, because they have no other ideal in life. These were cultivating the wrong end of their anatomy —their feet instead of their heads. Sportsmen are wanted, not gladiators! athletes, not professionals; recreation is needed, not brutality." This is very good as a warning to the youth of England, but it is a little overdone. Football requires brain as well as feet. Alacrity of thought, quickness in understanding a situation, a rapid decision, and a tremendous exercise of will power, combined with skill in tactics, are all essential in the playing of a great football match. Indeed a strong brief might be held to prove that football is highly intellectual, demanding qualities of brain of no mean order.

Advertisements in newspapers are by no means unprofitable reading. They convey to the mind a sense of the enormous number of wants felt by humanity, and may teach us what to avoid in our endeavours to write tersely. Many of them show that the writers are devoid of a gift of humour. Others exhibit a lack of modesty in personal appreciation. Here is one fifty years old: "A young man is desirous of engaging himself to an amiable lady, who understands the theory and practice of domestic economy, and who is of a sweet and pleasing temper, and graceful and accomplished manners, and possessed of a fortune of not less than £5,000. A letter addressed No. 13, Letter Box, Post Office, Oldham, will be attended to." Observe, there is not a word to indicate what are the qualities or advantages of the young man, who asks for a wife of such perfection. People often compose a sentence and see in it only the one meaning which is in their own thoughts. Most daily papers have at least one advertisement beginning: "Wanted, a *post* as a companion." Such companionship does not sound very cheerful. Sometime ago a religious paper contained the following: "Will any one who loves our Divine Master send a subscription towards procuring a milch cow for the wife of a poor curate, who has had twins?" Some years ago I saw in the "Daily Telegraph" this advertisement: "To dispose of; an affectionate cat; a playful monkey: and a talkative parrot. Owner has no further need of them, as she is going to be married." One cannot help feeling that the unfortunate husband would have no light task in supplying the places of the late favourites.

SAD DROWNING IN CO. LIMERICK.

It is reported that a little girl named Burns, the five year old daughter of a respectable farmer, living near Grange, accidentally fell into the Camogue a few days since. Her body has not yet been found. The river was very flooded at the time, and friends of the poor child have searched in vain along the river's banks from Grange to its fall near Islandmore, Croom, where it joins the Maigue. The flood was so fierce for the past ten days that it is feared the body must have been carried along to the Shannon, or possibly may have become entangled in the sally beds towards Adare or the ferry. The greatest sympathy is felt for the afflicted

Italian, and French. "The American Commonwealth," a standard work on both sides of the Atlantic, and "The Flora of the Island of Arran," are amongst his other publications. Mr. Bryce was Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs in 1886. He was one of Mr. Gladstone's chief supporters of the Home Rule Bill. He was President of the Board of Trade during Lord Rosebery's Premiership. Professor Bryce has during his Parliamentary career taken a special interest in questions relating to Ireland, and it is to be noted that after the dissolution in 1886 he was returned unopposed for South Aberdeen.

SIR HORACE PLUNKETT'S SUCCESSOR.

Sir Horace Plunkett retires with the Government under which he received his appointment. Speculation is busy as to the choice of his successor, and the names of Mr. T. W. Russell and Mr. Thos. Lough, M.P., are mentioned as possible selections.

WHY THE PREMIER RESIGNED.

Mr. Balfour on Saturday addressed a meeting of his constituents at Ardwick Conservative Club. The ex-Premier, who was well received, said that after the publication of the Japanese treaty there was one remaining task which the late Government had set themselves to perform, and that was a Redistribution Bill. Such a measure required individual and enthusiastic support to carry it to a successful termination. Though he believed the Party was loyal to the core all through the country it was, nevertheless, distracted by internal dissensions, and it was not in the public interest that the Unionist administration should begin a task which there was no hope of bringing to a conclusion.

THE PREMIER'S PRECEDENCE.

The action of the King in recognising the Premiership makes the Table of Precedency, as it will now stand, as follows:—

The King.
The Prince of Wales.
Other Members of the Royal Family.
The Archbishop of Canterbury.
The Lord High Chancellor.
The Archbishop of York.
The Prime Minister.
The Lord Chancellor of Ireland.
*The Lord High Treasurer.
*The Lord President of the Council.
*The Lord Privy Seal.
(*If Peers.)

KING'S COUNCIL.

Parliament Prorogued.

The King held two Councils at Buckingham Palace yesterday. At the first the outgoing Ministers handed in the seals of office, and Parliament was further prorogued. At the second the new Ministry took over the seals. Those of the Liberal administration who were not of the Council were sworn in.

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