

SPORTS OF ALL SORTS.

Interesting Chat on Athletic
Topics of the Day.

CREDIT to whom credit is due. When the National Cycling association took the helm of the cycling world, after the L. A. W. had shown that it was incapable of successfully guiding the wheel out of the way at races, many were the predictions that the new organization would not fare as well as even its predecessor. To be candid, I will admit that I did not think that when such a crisis arose, as recently confronted them, the N. C. A. officials would have backbone enough to do the right thing.

But they had. The professionals, flitting they could ride roughshod over the L. A. W., tried the same tactics with the N. C. A. and found themselves chastened, with an accompaniment of fines and suspensions staring them in the face.

The N. C. A. board of control is the nominal ruling party in the new organization, but as a matter of fact one man does the whole business and is entrusted with the running of affairs. He is A. G. Batchelder, the chairman of the board, and he has shown that he is well fitted for the post. Mr. Batchelder is a young man, a Harvard graduate, and is not only well posted on the racing game, but knows how to deal with the professionals and hold them in check.

While the fight between the N. C. A. and the L. A. W. was going on last year, and since the victory of the former, the pros have imagined that it was through their unaided efforts that the fight was won and that to them the credit is due. As a matter of fact, it had not been for the wise counsel and dealings of the N. C. A., directed almost altogether by Mr. Batchelder, the professionals would not have won a victory in a hundred years. Most of them are uneducated and only able to make a living above the grade of day laborers because they can ride fast. They certainly had not the brains to conduct such a contest.

The interest in bicycle racing in this country is becoming more and more centered on the doings of the amateurs. Next season the big bicycle clubs will once more come to the front with their meets, and the old time enthusiasm will be aroused. The pros think they are "it," and that without them the game would be dead. As a matter of fact, if all of them quit tomorrow their loss would only be felt for a very short space of time, and the good results that would accrue to bicycle racing as a national sport would far overbalance their loss.

With only amateurs in the game and no inducements for a man to become a professional, the people would be assured that when they went to see a race it would be on the square, whereas now the audiences are skeptical of the big events being frauds and all arranged before the contestants appear on the track.

Of course, such a thing as the professionals leaving the game is too much in the nature of the millennium to be possible, but it goes to show that they are not nearly so necessary to the life of the sport as they think.

If it be true that Kraenzlein and McCracken are to coach the University of Pennsylvania track team next fall and spring, while George Turner acts as trainer, Old Penn ought not to miss Mike Murphy to any great degree. Both Kraenzlein and McCracken are experts and record holders at their specialties. They have been under Murphy's care for the past four years, while George Turner has also been at Pennsylvania for some time. The three of them

should, therefore, be able to follow out Murphy's ideas pretty well.

Where Murphy shows his greatest talent, however, and excels all other trainers in the ability to detect championship caliber in a raw youth in whom other trainers would see no good at all. He has the same wonderful ability to pick out a man and make a great runner, jumper or hurdler of him, as the case may be, as Ed Hanlon, the manager of the Brooklyn baseball team, has of picking up an unknown player and developing him into a great pitcher or batter.

After the athletic games recently held at Paris it was said that Kraenzlein had retired from active participation in athletics. It is now said that he will take a medical course at Pennsylvania and will compete in athletic games. As he will not be paid for coaching, his amateur standing will in no wise be affected. According to the eligibility rules in force at Old Penn he cannot represent the university, as he has already competed for four years on teams there.

He may, however, enter the athletic championships of the A. A. U. next month, and will probably do so. Kraenzlein is very anxious to create a new world's record over the high hurdles, and these games will afford him an opportunity to make the attempt. He believes he can cover the distance in less than 15 seconds. Kraenzlein is also very anxious to meet Duffy of Georgetown in the 100 yard dash and also to give Jarvis, the Princeton flier, another chance to defeat him at that distance. If Duffy is able to run by that time, it is probable that these three men will meet in this event at Columbia field next month. If they do, the race should be worth going half across the continent to witness, and the time should at least equal the world's record of 9.4-5 seconds.

Last summer one of the favorite occupations of ardent wheelmen was that of indulging in century runs. I do not mean the large club runs, where any number from 100 to 500 men and women ride in divisions from one point to another with the sole object of gaining possession of a medal, a lamp or some other such reward.

The century riders I refer to are of a vastly different breed from these and are seldom, if ever, seen on a medal getting run promoted by a newspaper or lampmaker for advertising purposes, or even on a pure club run. The ideal century ride, according to the class I have reference to, is to get together not more than half a dozen congenial spirits and travel fast or slow, as they feel inclined, stopping here and there to view the scenery or rest in the shade of a tree. Before starting they would fix upon a general course to be taken, and if at the day's end the cyclists did not register quite a hundred miles, why, no matter.

This year, however, you will meet fewer such companies of riders on the country roads, and more the pity, for it is such folks who keep up the traditions of the wheel, nearly lost since the disappearance of the old "ordinary."

Speaking of century riding, it seems to me that the Century Road Club of America is very lax in its methods of authenticating alleged records. For the past few weeks several wheelmen have been careering day and night over the Century Road club's course on Long Island endeavoring to set up new long distance records for their sex. These records, so far as I can learn, are attested to as authentic by the pace-

makers of the women, who are members of the Century Road club all right, but at the same time are paid by the riders to pace them, and are therefore in a measure interested parties.

Of course, the records may be absolutely correct. In fact, Mrs. Lindsay herself assured me just after her recent 1,500 mile ride that her was, and naively added that she had the affidavits of her pacesmakers for every hundred miles of the ride. And who will doubt the word of a lady so convincingly expressed?

The coming fight between Corbett and McCoy will mark another re-entry into the ring of the two men who have "retired" more persistently at various intervals in the past few years than any prima donna ever thought of doing. After his defeat by Bob Fitzsimmons at Carson City Corbett must con-



FLOYD A. MACFARLAND

Last season Floyd MacFarland, the lanky Californian, was a noted hand-cap and sprint rider. This season, however, in middle distance races with Jimmy Michael and others, he has shown that he has in him the making of a great pace follower. He is now in France.

phatically declared that he would fight no more, while "Kid" McCoy has on numerous occasions declared he had left the ring for good to engage in transactions in Wall street and other places where money is made and lost very quickly.

After his victory over Jim Corbett, Fitz said that he had promised his wife to enter into no more arguments in a 24 foot ring, only to return to the business at Coney Island and be shorn of his honors by big Jim Jeffries. He then retired again, but reappeared the other day to engage in a scrap under Queensberry rules with Gus Kuhlth.

"Kid" Lavigne frequently retired and just as often returned to the game to get the winner's or loser's end of the purse offered. Frank Erne, the clever champion of the lightweight division, must have the crosses nearly worn through his steeringpost regulation by this time, so often has he been taken away and taken it out of cold storage. He probably regrets that he did not keep it hung out instead of folding it up last month, when he met "Terrible" Terry McGovern.

George Dixon retired after "Terrible" Terry forced him to give up the featherweight championship and entered the ranks of the bonifaces, but he couldn't stand idleness and the serious risks of the free drink brigade and again donned the mitts. The accident to his hands at the recent mill between him and Tommy Sullivan will probably keep him in retirement for some time, if not altogether.

Another old time fighter who had retired, and it was thought for good, is Frank Simon. For some years he has been at Dawson City in the gold seeking business, at which he was said to be fast getting rich. Recently, however, Simon entered the ring at Dawson City in a bout with a man named Perkins and knocked him out in 13 rounds.

If poor old John L. Sullivan could have got down to weight and stood the training, there is very little likelihood that he would have remained in retirement ever since his defeat by Jim Corbett.

QUICKEST CHANGE SCENE.

Edward Blondell has made one of the quickest change of scenes on record to use in "The Katzenjammer Kids" next season. It is an exterior of a house surrounded by a flower garden. In a space of two seconds the house disappears and the flowers in the garden change to bright dancing girls, while the table on the stage becomes a wheelbarrow and the chairs change to bunches of bright electric lamps.

be undertaken by a stock company with the idea of an artistic rather than a financial success. Mabel Gilman has caught the fancy of the London playgoers in "The Casino Girl" and bids fair to rival Edna May in popularity. "Net C. Goodwin" will impersonate a British army officer in a play by Robert Marshall. Alfred Klein, who appeared in De Wolf Hopper's operatic presentations and who had the role of the young duke in "The Girl From Maxim's" last

MIDDLE DISTANCE RACING

The Fight
For the
Championship
Is Being
Fiercely
Waged.

MOTOR paced racing and races on motor machines are certainly the rage. The spectators at the bicycle tracks this season will enthusiastically enjoy a good short distance event, especially if the riders are prominent professionals or popular local amateurs. But, as a general rule, their attitude to-

plicated to my knowledge occurred last month at Dayton, O., and served to arouse the racing men to an added source of danger in their new and by no means safe calling.

In the case in point Hausman and Ruts, the well known New Haven tandem team, were competing in a motor race and had worked up to a speed of 1.10, which was terrific for the half mile horse track. Hausman was in the rear, as usual, and controlled the speed, while his team mate attended to the steering. Suddenly the machine shot forward at a much greater speed, and the spectators noticed Hausman working frantically at the levers trying to reduce the pace at which they were going, while Ruts had all he could do to keep the tandem from leaving the track.

Suddenly Hausman jumped, struck the fence and rebounded on the track, while the wheel, relieved of his weight, went even faster than before. Ruts was now on an uncontrollable machine, with the power turned on to the limit. At the next turn of the track he must fall, as the banks were not high enough for him to negotiate them while going at such a fearful rate. Steering the machine with one hand, he felt for the levers behind him, for, although death, or broken limbs at best, seemed inevitable, the plucky New Haven lad did not lose his presence of mind in this awful dilemma.

His hand by accident touched the wire connecting with the electric battery, and quick as thought he grasped and broke it short. The power being thus cut off, the machine's frightful speed quickly lessened, and the daring rider was enabled to dismount in safety.

In explanation of his action in thus deserting his machine Hausman said that when he could not turn off the current and found he had no control over the speed of the machine he lost his head. The thought of the fearful fate of Miles and Stafford at the Waltham track flashed through his mind, and he jumped without thinking of the plight in which he left Ruts.

There are almost 40 middle distance cranks in this country today, and the race for the championship is becoming very interesting as the season nears the close. Johnny Nelson, the young Swedish ex-amateur, promises to be as much of a sensation in the paced racing game as his rival, Jimmy Michael, was some years ago. Nelson has scored victories this season over Burns Pierce, Will Sullivan, Charlie Miller, Harry Gibson, Albert Champion, Annie McEachern, Charlie Porter, Harry Caldwell and Everett Ryan. He was defeated once by Porter, but in that race Nelson rode without motor pace, while Porter had such aid.

Nelson seems to be able to follow any pace set for him for any distance, and what is just as important in such events nowadays, he is well versed in all the jockeying methods employed by the veterans of the game to tire out and defeat their opponents. In several of his races Nelson has clipped the feathers off the wings of Father Time, only to be deprived of his record by Jimmy Michael or some other rival.

There has never been a season in the history of the sport when there has been so much interest in middle distance riding, not even excepting the years when Michael was king at the game. This is in a great measure due to the introduction of motor paces, which has made the riding much faster and more exciting. No previous season has ever found so many cranks

ward these events when there is also a motor paced race on the programme is very like that of a crowd at a fight during the preliminary bouts.

There is an element of danger in connection with motor events which makes them very fascinating to the crowds who patronize such affairs. You can see men and women watch the "demon" machines going at railroad speed round the tracks with their eyes riveted on the riders. Every now and then, when the speed becomes terrific and the danger of a spill or something worse increases, it is easy to note by their blanched faces and strained looks that they are fearful of an accident, yet if one should overtake them they would not mind any feature of it. It is the danger of a serious accident or even of loss of life that draws to these races many people who would not go to an ordinary meet.

A great many motor races are being run off this season at night on the new coliseum tracks of six or eight laps to the mile. Here, under the glare of the electric lights, where the tracks are so small and are banked up so high, every movement of the riders and machines can be distinctly seen by all the spectators, and the spectacle is a very exciting one.

The riders of these machines have by this time become well accustomed to their mounts and constant practice has in many instances made them daring even to recklessness. They often take chances in passing one another and in running up the banks that seem suicidal. The only wonder is that the casualties are so few.

Several bad accidents, in one or two instances accompanied by loss of life, have already occurred. The first of these was at the Waltham (Mass.) track on Memorial day, when two men were killed.

Most of the motor cycles used, both for racing and for paces, are tandems. The forward man steers the machine and pedals with his legs, while the rear man gives most of his attention to the motor and looks after the levers which control the speed of the machine. Both have all they can attend to, for it is no child's play to steer a tandem on a banked track while careering along at a 1.10 gait. The man behind is especially busy if it is a paced event, for then he has to see that he does not make the pace so fast that his man cannot keep up with him or so slow that he is either better or not drawn to his limit of speed. The change must be as gradual as possible, so as not to run away from the pace follower by a sudden acceleration of speed.

An incident that has never been dis-



HENRY JEWETT, STAR OF "THE CHOIR INVISIBLE."

Henry Jewett is to have another try with "The Choir Invisible." The piece did exceedingly well last year, but there were reasons which made the shortening of the tour desirable. It is said that the play has been altered for the better in many respects, and when it is sent out this fall with Mr. Jewett as the star the equipment and the cast will both be as good as can be secured by the judicious expenditure of money. Mr. Jewett is one of the best of the younger actors of America. He is studious in the extreme, and whether or not one approve of his impersonation of a given role, it may always be accepted as certain that Mr. Jewett bestowed much thought upon it before determining just how it should be played.

Garrick with Stuart Robson's "Oliver Twist" next season.

Francis Wilson will produce "Boo! Boom! Boom!" his new opera, in New York on Sept. 10.

Hugh Chivers, who was long with Della Fox's company, will retire from the stage after the coming season and devote his time to the New York Stock Exchange.

"The Man From the West," in which James J. Jeffries is to star under the direction of his skillful mentor, William A. Brady, is not a rip-roaring melo-

massed together in one field and so many of them very evenly matched.

Before the snow flies it is likely that the real champion will have been developed. This is a culmination devoutly to be wished, as in former years the situation has always been much in doubt at the close of the season.

CHARLES E. EDWARDS.

THE ACTOR-MANAGER AS HE WILL BE.

Mr. Tree's description of the actor-manager as seen through the spectacles of his detractors in his lecture at Oxford is interesting. "I can picture him," said Mr. Tree, "having condescended to give up an hour or two of his leisure life to the careless pastime of a rehearsal, standing in the center of the stage, clad in costly furs, holding in one hand an edition de luxe of Shakespeare (without notes), wielding in the other a tyrannical scepter in the shape of a blue pencil, while by flashes of lightning he mutilates with a fiendish, that portion of the text which he cannot with any show of ingeniously commander to his own part. I can see him waving a recently manicured hand, flashing with precious gems, in lofty deprecation of honest merit glittering in a corner. I can imagine him leaving the half finished rehearsal, bent on some errand of gluttony, and cooing through the stage door, the decadent odor of his scented curls hitting the nostrils of the virtuous commentator to those whose muttered foot note he turns a deaf ear. I can see him carefully fling a handful of superfluous

THE NEW GAME OF "GOLF POOL."

A new game has just been devised by an enthusiastic golf player who delights to spend his evenings over the pool table in the rooms of his pet country club. The game he has christened "golf pool," and that is really the best possible name for it.

In playing the game the regulation pool table is used, such as is to be found in billiard rooms. Starting at one of the corner pockets, mark the figure 1 in front of the jaws of the pocket with a piece of billiard chalk. Move along to the side pocket and mark that in the same manner, only using the numeral 2. Proceeding around the table in the same manner will number the corner pockets 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. The two side pockets will bear the numbers 2 and 6. The table is now really marked for a six hole course, and the play may begin.

Only two balls are used, and not the full pool set. At the start of the "golf" ball is placed on the spot at the end of the table where the numbers 1 and 2 holes are. The "driver" ball is placed on the spot at the other end of the table, and the opening drive made with the cue in the ordinary manner of making a billiard shot, the object being to put the "golf" ball in hole 1. Should the player succeed the "golf" ball is taken from the pocket and placed on the center spot, and in every play for the next hole thereafter the ball is placed on the center spot, the player



THE NEW CYCLING WONDER.

Johnny Nelson of Chicago bids fair to be the middle distance cycle champion of the year. He graduated from the amateur ranks last fall and has been defeating the cranks with great regularity. He is a magnificent pace follower, and no one, including Jimmy Michael, has yet made him ride to his limit.

gold to a group of satellites who rule a hitherto cheer while, leaping into his triumphal motor car and Juggernauting with the reëntries revolutions of its glided wheels the prostrate figures of literature, art and science, he is puffed away to his lordly mansion in Grosvenor square."

TAXES ON AMUSEMENTS.

The annual report of the treasury department of the United States gives interesting computations of the money received by the government in the special taxes levied upon amusement enterprises. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1899, there was received in taxes on theaters, museums and concert halls the sum of \$4,378,339, on circuses, \$18,223,17, and other entertainments \$72,164,93, making a total of \$144,766,49.

shooting from wherever the cue ball may have rolled on the table. The round of six holes is made in this manner, the player doing it in the least number of shots winning the game.

In place of the usual hazards and bunkers another are made in this manner: The player makes hole 1 on his first trial; in shooting for hole 2 he fumbles, and the cue ball drops in No. 4. This counts two points against him, and he must continue replacing the cue ball on the lower spot. If, on the next trial, he makes the No. 2 hole, the score for that hole is four shots. On his trial for hole 3 should both balls drop in the wrong pockets the count is four points against him. The "golf" ball is again placed on the upper end spot and the cue ball on the lower spot. Luck being good to the player on the next shot, the "golf" ball drops in the third hole, and his score for the three holes is nine points. A player continues shooting until he has completed the round and is then followed by the next in turn. The game is a great one for developing position play on the pool table, and at one of the country clubs has become such a favorite that the regular pool game has been superseded.

HIS FOURTH BEST.

In one of the open games of the recent whist congress at Niagara Falls there was a team entered from Philadelphia or some other place where whist is not played much, and its presence gave occasion for the richest anecdote ever heard regarding a whist game. In order that it may be fully understood it might be well to say that the pair had never before played duplicate whist and did not understand the purpose of the trump slip.

The victors came in the order of things to the Detroit team—Eaton and Austin—and the usual colloquy ensued regarding system, the victors stating among other things, that they led fourth best. One of them opened the hand with the jack from a suit which was afterward found to contain king and others. The results are immaterial, but the Detroiters were kept guessing until the close of the deal, when Austin remarked:

"I thought you said you led fourth best."

"We did," was the reply.

"You didn't in that hand," said Austin, somewhat indignantly.

The visitor promptly spread out the hand and showed the suit—king, jack, nine, five, three.

"Now," he said triumphantly, "trav, five, nine, jack; there is your fourth best."

DON'T SAY "LINKS."

According to golfing authorities, it is not good form to say "links." The totemic sausage name is being tabooed and the word "course" is taking its place. In a strictly golfing sense "links" doesn't mean anything at all. The use of the word came from the fact that the first courses were laid out in Scotland, where the rolling sand dunes and hillocks of the land of the thistle and heather are called links. From this the word came to be applied to the course itself and is now in general use. The experts, however, object to it as a duffer expression, and the pibelian "links" will probably be shoved to the background in favor of the mollificent "course."

"Othello" will be brought forward later on.

While Sol Smith Russell's health is much improved, he will not act next season, spending the winter in California.

"Two Kinds of Women," Barrie's new play, has for its chief character an artist's model and a strictly domestic Scotchwoman.

Ex-Vice President Adlai E. Stevenson is very fond of the theater.

Minnie Seligman is to star in a new play by the authors of "Zaza."



A. G. BATCHELDER.

[Chairman of the board of control, National Cycling association.]

THE STAGE IN AUGUST.

Minnie Dupree has a new monologue which she calls "Cinderella at the Phone."

Johann Strauss, the great writer of dance music, never could learn to dance.

William Hailman, the ex-Philadelphia ball player, has been engaged for the German comedy role with Barney Gilmore in "Kidnapped in New York."

"Charles IX" is the title selected by Sir Henry Irving for his English ver-

sion of the old German play founded on the massacre of St. Bartholomew's day.

Eugene Duché, who was the first actress to play the part of Camille, died in Paris last month. It was in 1862 that she originated the role of Marguerite Gautier.

It is the intention of Richard Golden to publish "Old Jed Proud" in novel form this fall.

London is soon to have a permanent German theater. The enterprise is to

be undertaken by a stock company with the idea of an artistic rather than a financial success.

Mabelle Gilman has caught the fancy of the London playgoers in "The Casino Girl" and bids fair to rival Edna May in popularity.

Net C. Goodwin will impersonate a British army officer in a play by Robert Marshall.

Alfred Klein, who appeared in De Wolf Hopper's operatic presentations and who had the role of the young duke in "The Girl From Maxim's" last

season, will be one of the leading comedians in the new farce, "The House That Jack Built."

Mrs. Brown Potter and Kyrie Bellamy may appear in a new dramatization of "The Duke's Motto."

That all the world's a stage, with its players like us in like accident, is shown by the fact that Tino di Lorenzo, the famous Italian actress, in Rome last week was at the theater thieves broke into her house.

John E. Renshaw will play David

Garrick with Stuart Robson's "Oliver Twist" next season.

Francis Wilson will produce "Boo! Boom! Boom!" his new opera, in New York on Sept. 10.

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"The Man From the West," in which James J. Jeffries is to star under the direction of his skillful mentor, William A. Brady, is not a rip-roaring melo-

dram, but a consistent play, with a thread of sentiment running through the fabric of stirring incident.

An alphabetical list of the societaires of the Comedie Francaise from the time of Moliere down to the present day has recently been published in Paris.

It gives the particulars of every societaire's period of service, together with 351 autographs, beginning in 1653.

Edward Harrigan is going to London in "Old Lavender" next year.

Beebohm Tree will open his London theater this fall with "Julius Caesar."