

as the sun rose, continued till breakfast time, and were resumed each evening, only to cease whenever the moon set. The Club have determined to furnish competitors for all the inter-club contests this year. This is as it ought to be.

The dates of opening are not yet fixed for all the Clubs. West End opens next Saturday, and Eden and Epsom the following Saturday, the 11th inst.

In our heading portraits are given of the English champion and lady champion. Concerning Mr Pim's play the following will be read with interest:—"In the new champion we have a man whose play not only maintains but actually raises the standard hitherto associated with the Championship. Of his predecessors, Mr W. Renshaw will always be remembered as the discoverer of the most beautiful points of the game, as the brilliant exponent of the volley who could yet adapt his tactics to the needs of the occasion, and play his chief rival, Mr Lawford, at his own game from the base line. The latter's powerful drives and Mr Hamilton's marvellous activity and endurance are also matters of history. The hard hitting of Mr Lawford and the dashing style of Mr Renshaw are united in the play of the present champion, who has added strokes of his own not as yet mastered by any other player. The absolute ease and freedom of his drives and volleys, the apparent non-balance of his demeanour, the precision with which he places the ball while hitting his hardest by what might be taken to be a lucky aim were it not again and again repeated with success—all these points of the Irishman's style are absolutely fascinating to the spectator. If there is a weak spot in his attack or defence it has certainly not yet been discovered. As for his strategy—though strategy might seem to be almost superfluous in a player who can hit the ball wherever he finds it to any spot he chooses—it embraces all that is known of the art of the game.

The modern volleyer he can meet and defeat with his own weapons, but when opposed to so prudent and accomplished an exponent of the all-round game as his last adversary, he shows that his resources are not confined to this favourite stroke. The championship round tended to prove that it is still hopeless for any man to aspire to the first position unless he can play a strong game from the back of the court, and prevent an opponent from profitably running up to the net on a weak return. Something more than steady and

accurate play, even though it be combined with extraordinary agility and endurance, will be required by the man who, on even terms, wrests the championship from its present holder. In congratulating Mr Pim on his fine victory, we rejoice that lawn tennis has in his year appeared not only not to pause in its development, but to make a distinct and considerable step in advance. The enemies or despisers of lawn tennis, if any such survive, might have learnt from his exposition at Wimbledon how great are its capabilities, and the example of his splendid skill can hardly fail to assist in popularising the game by first ennobling it."

A PORTRAIT is also given of Miss Dod, the lady champion, who has only once been defeated on level terms since she won the championship in 1887. The great feature of the lady champion's play, apart from its inherent excellence, is the coolness of her demeanour in court. Nothing seems to flurry or disconcert her, and she hits with the same freedom, and uses the same clear judgment, whether the game stands at 40--0 against her or in her favour. The closer the game is the more steadily and accurately does she play, and if she feels any of the excitement which a lover of the game must feel, it is most studiously veiled. Besides being such a skilful lawn tennis player, Miss Dod is an ardent cyclist and a worshipper at the shrine of golf. Rumour has it that she intends to compete for the ladies' golf championship, and that if she does she will not come out very far down the list.

A NEW SOUTH WALES team will visit Melbourne next month to play a series of matches against Victoria. The team will be picked from the following players, who have signified their intention of visiting the sister colony if desired. It is not improbable (writes a Sydney enthusiast) that the Cornstalks might continue their tour and turn up at the Championship Meetings in New Zealand. One or two members have talked about such a proceeding. As this will be during the tourist season it is very likely they will do so. Any of the following may therefore be looked for:—H. S. Fox, S. A. Tiley, A. Lee, R. D. Fitzgerald, A. Noble, L. A. Mansfield, P. B. Colquhoun, G. H. Wickham, E. B. Dewhurst, F. A. Waller, and A. H. Windeyer, of Goulburn.

The excuses of tennis-players are numerous. One gentleman who was not getting on very well during a thunder-

storm (without rain) explained that he lost a certain set because a flash of lightning came and singled the ball as he was volleying it.

CANTERBURY.

At the annual meeting of the Lyttelton Lawn Tennis Club, held in the Colonist Hall, there was a good attendance, the lady members being well represented. The Club is in a good financial condition. The following officers were elected for the forthcoming season:—President, Captain Clarke; Vice-presidents, Messrs Schumacher, Hildyard, and E. U. Just; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr T. W. Lewis; Committee, Messrs Malcolmson, Piteathly, Murphy, and Stokes.

NELSON.

The members of the Cable Bay (Nelson) Lawn Tennis Club, entertained their friends at the opening of their tennis season the other Saturday. Unfortunately, rain fell all the morning, but about one o'clock it cleared up, so most of those invited put in an appearance. On arrival at the Bay the 'boys' received their guests, providing afternoon tea which was very acceptable after the long drive. As the ground was too soft to play tennis, the visitors wandered about and inspected all the sights. In the evening an impromptu dance was arranged, and like most impromptu dances, was a great success. Every one, of course, was in picnicking costume. As it was Saturday night they broke up early and reached home just before midnight, after having enjoyed themselves immensely.

WELLINGTON.

In Wellington the boom in tennis promises to be as brisk as elsewhere. Here, as everywhere, there is as yet little to report. The opening of the Thorndon courts took place on Saturday, 28th, the afternoon being exquisitely fine. Afternoon tea was dispersed by the ladies. Amongst those playing were:—Mesdames Barron, W. Johnston, Hardy, Misses Trimmell, Koch, Barnett, Heywood, Hart, Johnston, Gore, Cooper, Izard, Grace, Barron, Kennedy, Smith Campbell, and Pike, Messrs Kibble, Barron, Woolridge, Goring, Kennedy, Simpson, Parker, Brandon, Watkins, Fernie, Hursthouse, Brown and Pollen.

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