

LAWN TENNIS.

Intercolonial Lawn Tennis.

Invitations are to be sent to the New South Wales and Victorian Lawn Tennis Associations to send teams of six men to New Zealand to play matches about Christmas. Failing this, they are to be asked to induce individual players to come. The Victorian Association has invited New Zealand to send a team to Melbourne to compete in Mars-Buckley match, but the management committee of the New Zealand Association decided last week that it would be unable to comply with the request. Further consideration is to be given by the committee to a letter from the Tennis Association of Australia, which discusses the probability of a team of four English players coming to Australia to compete for the Davis Cup, and afterwards extending their visit to New Zealand.

ATHLETICS.

American Representatives in Davis Cup Contest.

The American team to play England in the preliminary tie for the Davis Cup consists of W. A. Larned, Heals Wright, J. H. Hackett, and F. B. Alexander. W. A. Larned is the oldest and most experienced of the American players. He held the Singles Championship in 1901 and 1902, and was at one time quite invincible, but is now classed below Ward, Wright and Clothier. Heals Wright was American champion in 1903, but was easily defeated by Clothier in the challenge round in 1906. Wright is an expert at the American service, and the low volleying game. F. B. Alexander stands with Wright and Larned in the first class in the American handicap lists, and H. Hackett stands with R. D. Little (last year's Davis Cup representative) in class 2, to which class one owes 2-0 16. Alexander and Hackett held the Eastern Doubles Championship for 1906, but were defeated in the final for the open championship by Heals Wright and Holoome Ward, the famous Davis Cup pair. However, as Ward has now definitely retired from the game, Alexander and Hackett are probably the strongest pair in the United States. With the exception of Ward and Clothier, the team as a whole is probably the best that could be picked. Hackett and Alexander, it should be mentioned, were asked to play in the Davis Cup competition last year, but could not make the trip.

Whangarei Chopping Match.

The various chopping events were decided in the Settlers' Hotel paddock, Whangarei, before a crowd of about one hundred people, including many ladies. Great excitement prevailed, the partisans of the various competitors wildly cheering and encouraging their favorites. The arrangements were in the hands of Dr. Spod, Messrs I. Johnson and P. Smith (judges), Dr. Baxter and Mr. T. Webb (timekeepers), Messrs P. Mulhern and L. Webb (handclappers), Mr. Johnstone acting as starter. The proceedings opened with an exhibition chop, in which log by Maurice Griffin, of Mangakarama (winner of the recent contest). His performance was greeted with loud applause. In the match for a £20 purse, between B. O'Sullivan, of Tasmanian, and W. Mackey, of Whangarei, O'Sullivan conceded Nash ten seconds' start, quickly overhauled his opponent, and proved the winner in 14.10. The logs were 15in. upright. The last event was a handicap underhand chop with 15in. horizontal logs. There were four entries, Maurice Griffin (Mangakarama), B. O'Sullivan (Tasmania), George Mackenzie (Whangarei), and C. Mackey (Whangarei). Griffin had to concede three seconds' start to the others. The prize was £5 cash. Griffin succeeded in cutting his log through first, in 15 3/4secs. He received a great ovation on this splendid performance. The others finished in the order named: O'Sullivan 2, Mackey 3, Mackenzie 4.

PAKURANGA HUNT CLUB.

The Pakuranga Hunt Club met on Saturday at Pigeon Mountain, Pakuranga, where there was a fair attendance of followers. The hounds were thrown out on Mr John Fitzpatrick's property, and soon put up a hare, which after a good run, in which Messrs Campbell, Roberts, Gies, and other proprietors were traversed, a kill was registered. Two other runs were also had, the last being easily the best of the day, lasting for three-quarters of an hour. Amongst the present were: Mrs B. D. O'Rourke, Misses H. Gorrie, West, Messrs B. D. O'Rourke, J. Dalton, Jack Fitzpatrick, Alf. Hallaway, W. Dalton, Willie, Roy Harris, G. Wilson, Ben Myers, R. F. Kinloch, C. Wallace, H. Nolan, John Bell, Gorrie, Harris, Cam. Selby (acting-huntsman), Frank Selby, Isaac Gray, Grant, Chm. Selby (acting-huntsman), Frank Selby (whip).

SWIMMING.

Burgess again failed in his attempt to swim the Channel on August 22nd. He gave up after getting within 1 1/2 miles of Gravelines, after being in the water 2 3/4 hours.

Assassinated Rulers.

HOW THEY DIED HAS BEEN DONE.

The reported attempts on the life of the young King of Portugal so soon after the awful death of his father and brother at the hands of the assassin reminds us of the long list of crowned heads who have met with violent deaths. In reviewing the number of so-called political assassinations or attempted murders of rulers and royal personages in modern times, one cannot help being struck by the preference which seems to be displayed for the pistol over the knife or the bomb. King Humbert, Shah Nasr-od-Din, of Persia, King Alexander and Queen Draga of Serbia, Prince Milosh of Serbia, and no less than three Presidents of the United States, namely, Lincoln, Garfield, and McKinley, all succumbed to pistol bullets. Alfonso XII, the Duke of Aosta, while King of Spain, King George of Greece, King Frederick William IV. of Prussia, King Louis Philippe of France, Emperor Alexander II. of Russia, Napoleon III. of France, King Leopold of Belgium, the late Queen Victoria, the present King of Wurtemberg, and Edward VII. have been shot at, some of them on several occasions.

Only one, however, sustained wounds, he being the late Emperor William, who for several months in 1878 was prevented from transacting the business of the Government owing to wounds he received at the hands of the would-be assassin, Nobiling. President Carnot died from a knife thrust, as did Charles III., penultimate sovereign Duke of Parma, while Empress Elizabeth of Austria, was killed by a dagger in the form of a sharp-pointed file. Passante's memorable attempt on the life of King Humbert, shortly after his accession to the throne was made with a knife, and would undoubtedly have cut short his reign did not his Prime Minister, Cairrol, thrust himself forward, and shielding his sovereign, received a wound in his side.

Isabella II. was wounded by the poignard of an unfrocked priest, while entering the Church of the Atocha, not long after the birth of the Infanta Isabella, and Francis Joseph was severely injured by a stab between the shoulders shortly before his marriage, and undoubtedly would have been killed had it not been for the devotion of an aide-de-camp, a young officer of Irish parentage, of the name of O'Donnell. Only one monarch has been killed by a bomb, Alexander II. of Russia, whose younger son, the Grand Duke Sergius, was also blown to pieces about two years ago at Moscow.

Attempts to kill the present King of Spain have been made on at least two occasions, once in Paris, and again at the time of his wedding, bombs being used both times. They were likewise used against Napoleon III. and King Louis Philippe. These three sovereigns escaped unhurt, but numerous other lives were sacrificed by the outrages. Thus far only two real attempts have been made to assassinate a sovereign by wrecking a railroad train. On one occasion the baggage train of Alexander III., of Russia, was blown to pieces near Moscow, in the belief that it was the Imperial special, while in the other instance the train on which Alexander, his Empress, and his children were travelling was dived at Borki, and tumbled down a steep embankment. Many of the members of the suite and of the Imperial retinue lost their lives, but the Emperor himself and his wife and children escaped injury beyond bruises and shock in a manner that can only be described as miraculous.

Poison, a favourite agent for cutting short the lives of rulers, apparently no longer finds favour with regicides, and the only case in modern times was an attempt to kill Czar Alexander III. by means of poisoned gloves, which cost the life of one of the members of his suite, Count (Morosoff, whose gloves were mistaken for those of his sovereign.

DEATH INSTRUMENTS DESTROYED.

Superstition is largely responsible for the extraordinary care which is taken after any of these assassinations of rulers or of members of the reigning houses of the old world to destroy the firearms or the knives that have been used by the assailants. It is a custom of ancient origin and extends not only to the weapons of regicides but also to the surgical instruments employed by surgeons in treating the injuries of the victims of these outrages or in post-mortem examinations and embalming. In olden times the weapons and instruments used to be filed to powder or ground to pieces.

When, however, the priest Martin Merino, attempted to murder Queen Isabella of Spain in the manner that I have described above, it was found that the blade of the poignard which he had used was of such exquisitely tempered steel that it resisted every file and stone. This was related in the newspapers, and the superstitious Spaniards became so excited that the Cabinet was forced to take steps for the destruction of the knife by sulphuric acid, to allay public feeling and to remove the impression that there was something ger. Since then sulphuric acid has always been used to destroy such weapons.

It was used for the destruction of the sharpened file with which Empress Elizabeth was assassinated, and of the surgical instruments employed by the physicians who made the postmortem examination, the weapon being destroyed in the presence of the Austro-Hungarian envoy in Switzerland, and of other representatives of the Emperor of Austria who had been summoned to Geneva. In the same manner the agency of sulphuric acid was used at Lisbon to put out of existence the firearms that brought about the death of King Carlos and the Crown Prince of Portugal, the instruments used by the surgeons and those employed in the embalming the bodies. Thanks to this, there is no chance of their falling into the hands of dealers in curios or of their being placed on exhibition in a museum or travelling show.

CARRIAGE STEPS DANGEROUS.

It is possible that both King Carlos and the Crown Prince might have escaped with their lives at Lisbon had the carriage in which they were riding been constructed after the model of the equipages used by the present King and Queen of England and by the late Queen Victoria. It is related that the regicide who accomplished the most deadly work sprang to the step of the carriage from which he repeatedly shot while Queen Amelia vainly endeavoured to dislodge him by striking him in the face with a bouquet which she held in her hand.

Caserio, when he murdered President Carnot, at Lyons, with a knife thrust, was able to accomplish his object by jumping on the steps of the Presidential carriage. In the first two attempts to assassinate King Humbert the criminal in each instance jumped on the steps of the sovereign's barouche, and when ex-Lieutenant Roan, of the 10th English Hussar Regiment, struck the late Queen Victoria across the face with a rattan cane—a blow so severe that she retained the scar until the day of her death—he jumped on the carriage steps. This resulted in the adoption of an entirely different style of carriage for the Queen. The would-be assassin of the late Shah of Persia made use of the same means to reach the ruler on the Persian monarch's first visit to Paris.

Innumerable other cases in modern and ancient times, comprising the murder of Henry IV. of France and the attempted assassination of Louis XV., of the same country, show that whenever any attempt has been made on the life of the sovereign when out driving, the carriage step has almost invariably played an important role by enabling the assailant to get within striking distance. That is why the carriage used by King Edward and Queen Alexandra is not only very high from the ground but it has no step visible for entering or leaving the conveyance. There are steps, but they are folded inside the carriage door and let down only when needed.

It is said that King Carlos and his two sons were armed, and that the Crown Prince killed one of his assailants and wounded another before being laid low himself. Rulers habitually go armed, though the Portuguese Crown Prince's first son of royalty to have turned his revolver to good account. True, there are

stories of Alexander III. and of the present Sultan of Turkey having shot retainers, mistaking them for would-be assassins, but these rumours have never been authenticated. King Edward, it is well known, carries a pistol. That he used to go armed when still Prince of Wales was shown on one occasion when he was riding in Hyde Park. A horse which had bolted and run into the railings had sustained such injuries as to make recovery impossible. As it was suffering, riders who had assembled on the spot decided that it should be put out of misery, and called on a policeman to shoot the animal.

The policeman declined on the ground that he was unarmed, and added that he had no authority to shoot the horse, even if a pistol were to be furnished. The Prince of Wales, who was looking on thereupon took a small revolver from his pocket and shot the horse, revealing the fact that he was the only man present who carried a pistol.

The Kaiser is never without his revolver. He is extremely skillful in the use of the weapon, and his Jager, or body servant, who accompanies him everywhere, inspects it every morning to make sure that it is in perfect working order. Firmly convinced that he is going to die by the hand of an anarchist, this having been prophesied to him long ago, he is determined to put up a fight for his life, and to have at any rate, the satisfaction of inflicting some injury on his assailant. Nor can anyone blame him or the rulers of Europe for thus going "heeled." They are aware of the constant peril of attempts made on their lives, not merely by anarchists and revolutionists, but also by cranks of the character of the assassin of President McKinley and the experiences of the last 40 years have furnished numerous proofs that not even the most careful elaborately organised system of protection on the part of military guards and police can keep the executive of a country from the reach of a would-be assassin from the reach of a would-be murderer. If rulers usually go armed it is not only for their own sake, but likewise for that of the people over whose destinies they preside, since the murder of the head of the nation invariably leads to a disturbance of the normal course of events. Indeed, it is incumbent on them to take every possible measure that they can devise to protect themselves from the danger of assassination.

Mathematics is called an exact science, presumably to distinguish it from sciences that are inexact. At all events, science, which in the general acceptation of the term is properly defined as an inquiry after truth, does undeniably make mistakes now and then. Take for example the case of the widespread human ailment called malaria. Not long ago it was discovered that the germs of the malady were carried by a certain species of mosquito called Anopheles—a grey, night flying mosquito, with a remarkably deep singing voice. It was proved that this insect, by the help of the little hypodermic syringe that it bears, inoculates people with the microbe of malaria; and immediately it was assumed that all epidemics of the disease were attributable to the marauding vocalist. Recently, however, it has begun to dawn upon scientific investigators that perhaps this idea was not strictly correct; for, if it was so, how would it be possible to account for the frightful epidemics of malaria that have broken out from time to time in districts where there were almost no mosquitoes. Investigation has shown that great epidemics invariably have been preceded by an upturning of virgin soil over wide areas for purposes of cultivation; a fact which leads to the conclusion that the previously undisturbed earth was full of the microscopic protozoa long ago identified as the germs of malaria. Under such circumstances the dry microbes are set afloat in the air, and, being taken into the lungs, or swallowed with food or drink, find their way into the blood of the victims. The result is the same whether they get into the blood in this manner or through the agency of the mosquito. Much digging incidental to building operations often starts small epidemics of malaria in cities in various parts of the United States, and it is notoriously a fact that the workmen under such circumstances are frequently attacked in squads by the malady. Accordingly, it would appear that, though Anopheles is undeniably guilty, there would still be plenty of chills and fever, even though the last mosquito were driven off the earth.