

BILLIARDS.

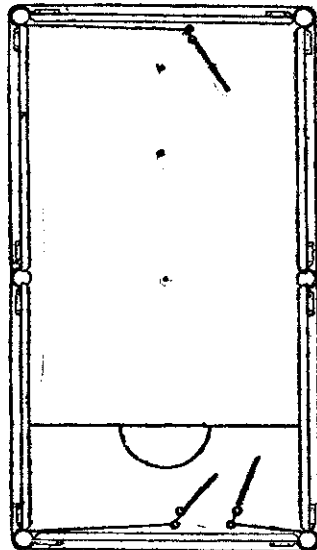
By AN EXPERT.

The public should be grateful to the Billiards Control Club, says a writer in the "London Daily Telegraph," in its determination to revive the professional billiard championship, which has lain dormant for five long years now. It always provided the keenest and best sport of the year. But for the championship games, Stevenson might now be struggling to reach the top of the tree instead of being securely settled there for three or four years. They gave him his opportunity, and he duly made his stolidly clear. In a general way, the professional player, like the man of business, is unwilling to open avenues to the rising generation whereby they may jump over his head. Stevenson might well have been excused had he followed the example set him by others, and kept the championship in the background. It is to his credit and sportsmanlike instincts that he is asking for a revival of the championship. He makes this plain by stating he has left some date open next spring for this especial purpose, and that he will be ready to meet all-comers for the title. He will do so under the scheme which, I understand, is to be submitted by the Billiards Control Club. Here then we have a definite foundation for a championship. The younger players, Inman, Reece, Aiken, Williams, and the rest, will have the opportunity they have so frequently asked for of meeting the star artists on level terms. If this competition materialises, and there is every reason to presume that it will surely do so, it will more than justify the creation of the Billiards Control Club.

Speaking of the terrific heat, which prevailed in London during the match between Dawson and Mack, the Manchester professional, the same writer says: "It is as well that the game was being played with bonzoline balls, as ivories, unless wonderfully well seasoned, are

very prone to get out of the true in these circumstances. The composition ball, bonzoline or crystallate, is a boon to billiard-players generally, and absolutely essential in India, South Africa, and Australia. It is not affected by changes of temperature like the natural articles, which have frequently been known to go "crooked" in a single night. The attention that is due to a good set of ivories can only be appreciated by the loving care bestowed upon them by those who know their worth.

Composition balls are more elastic than those turned from ivory, and of a perceptibly, if only slightly, greater weight. It is from these two causes that they throw the square angle most billiard players may know. But they roll wonderfully true, even if needing different handling to the ivory. To some extent the game, as played with composition



Screw losing hazards, the cue-ball traveling closely by the end cushions into the corner pockets.

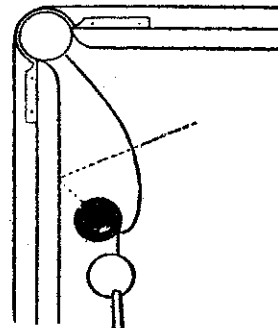
balls, differs from that dictated by the softer and more delicate ivory. It requires considerable practice before the player can accustom his touch to the change from one article to the other. The trouble lies in the increased width of the angle given to the cue-ball, and the density of the balls' centre. There is not the same tendency to give to the impact of the player's ball as with ivory. Yet there is much to attract the billiardist about the behaviour of these truly rolling composition balls. He will find that the ivory touch is not best suited to them, and the heavier cue, which should theoretically be used, none too easy to become accustomed to. The subtleties of the pine are not so easily rendered in lending to bonzoline balls, a fact of which we were frequently reminded by Dawson in the game I have mentioned, as in dealing with ivories. But for the plain game they cannot be excelled."

Herewith I present a selection of the most taking shots handled by Dawson,

when, after five days' very unprofitable toiling, he came to his form. Up to this time he had appeared wholly unable to accommodate himself to the composition balls. But with the coming of a better time, his work was marked by some consistently heavy scoring and a top-note in the shape of a 365 break. At first he was regularly over-screwing the cue-ball and making too deep a contact on the object-ball. The good professional is, however, nothing if not observant, and, therefore, going back to his experience to help him out of his difficulties. He must be essentially, of an adaptable nature, so as to cope with the constantly varying nature of the materials he is asked to play with and upon. So it was that Dawson gradually and surely mastered the composition balls, and the torrid atmosphere of last week. He cut down Mack's very long lead in undeniable fashion, and, generally from the time of his improvement, played like the great player we know him to be.

It was in playing the class of stroke illustrated upon the annexed diagrams that Dawson was mainly at fault in the earlier stages. Those pretty little screw-shots, which send the cue-ball off at right angles along by the line of a cushion into a corner pocket, require deft cueing. Loaded with pocket "side," which is invariably check "side," it goes swishingly into the netting, making a swift descent on meeting the pocket "shoulders." These are represented as well as one may do by the colourless medium of the first diagram. The simplest strokes to be found of this kind occur when the cue-ball lies further away from the pocket attacked than the object-ball does. The great thing here is to be able to divide the object-ball by the eye, so as to give the cue-ball its correct send-off. If you take the ball's facing centre for a direct return, and a half-ball contact for a right-angle rebound, you must work at intermediate contacts for intermediate results. As a rule, however, the thin contact, say, about quarter-ball, will meet most of these positions when the cue-ball lies furthest from the pocket. When it is nearer there, the contact must inevitably be thicker than half-ball, which is the regulation stroke when the balls are in line, and, therefore, equi-distant from the pocket.

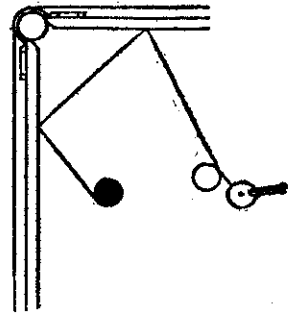
It is not the thin half-ball strokes



Masse losing hazard played by Gray. The Queenslander is considered to have no equal as a player of this difficult

which present the real difficulties of composition balls. These are rather to be found in the stumped or follow-on thick contacts. In this connection, and that of screw losing hazards into the corner pockets, I can advise a profitable survey of the second diagram, and how the good player can attain the degree of contact

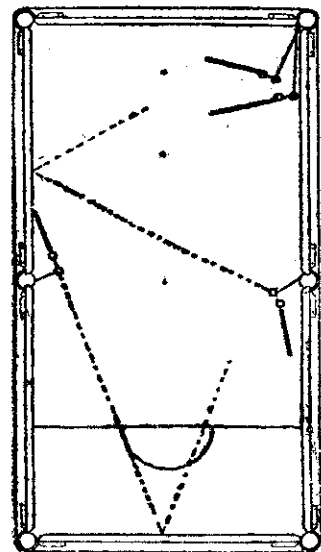
while yet giving the cue-ball the same direction. Take the two middle pocket strokes on the second diagram. The losing hazard into the middle pockets is made by either a thin or thick contact, according to the direction and disposition of the played object ball, although a fullish contact must be made when its first movement is towards bank. At the top right-hand corner there are shown two examples of screw losing hazards. With the object-ball lying very near to the cushion check "side" is essen-



Difficult masse cannot played by Gray. stroke.

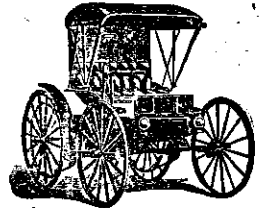
tial to take the cue-ball into the pocket. But with the object-ball well away from there, and the centre of the pocket clearly open to the cue-ball, running "side" is more profitably used. These and similar strokes Dawson manipulated with ease and certainty once he became in touch with his task.

The following diagrams illustrate two difficult masse shots played by the lad, George Gray in a match with Fred Lindrum, junior, at Sydney, Lindrum conceding Gray 4000 in 14,000. Young Gray, who hails from Queensland, toured New Zealand towards the end of last year with his father, and made a number of friends.



The continuous line ——— shows the movement of the cue ball, and the inter-sected lines the course of the object ball.

THE HOLSMAN AUTOMOBILE COY.



HAVE YOU EVER WISHED FOR AN AUTOMOBILE

- Best is built high enough to travel country roads like a carriage.
- Will climb any ordinary hill travelled.
- Has no divided rear axle.
- Has no differential gear.
- Has no friction clutch.
- It is no foot levers to bother.
- It is air cooled and will not freeze.
- Has solid rubber tyres.
- Is built like a carriage.
- Looks like a carriage.
- Rides like a carriage.

THE HOLSMAN AUTOMOBILE

Full particulars on application to—
W. J. COLES & CO., 183 Hereford St.
CHRISTCHURCH
 Sole Agents for N.Z.

HEARNE'S BRONCHITIS CURE.

Those who have taken this medicine are amazed at its splendid healing power. Sufferers from Bronchitis, Cough, Croup, Asthma, Difficulty of Breathing, Hoarseness, Pain or Soreness in the Chest, experience delightful and rapid relief; and to those who are subject to Colds on the chest it is invaluable, as it effects a complete cure. It is most comforting in allaying Irritation in the Throat and giving Strength to the Voice, and it neither allows a Cough nor Asthma to become chronic, nor Consumption to develop. Consumption is not known where "Coughs" have, on their first appearance, been properly treated with this medicine. No house should be without it, as, taken at the beginning, a dose or two is generally sufficient, and a complete cure is certain.

Small Size, 2/6; Large Size, 4/6 Sold by all Chemists and Medicine Vendors, and by the Proprietor, W. G. HEARNE, Chemist, Geelong, Victoria. Forwarded to any Address, when not obtainable locally.