

FOOTBALL.

French Rugby Victors.

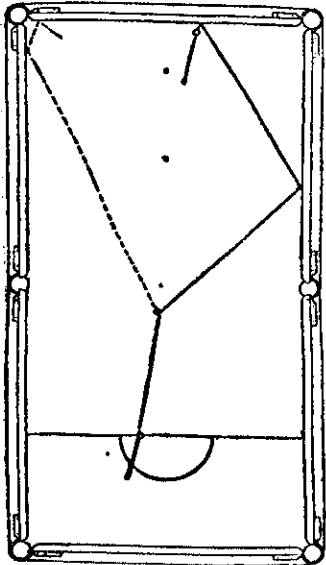
An international Rugby match was played at Colombes, Paris, on January 2. In spite of unfavourable weather conditions, the match attracted a gathering estimated at 10,000. For the first time in the history of these international contests, the match resulted in a victory for the French team over a British team. No finer match has ever been seen in France. The French team was composed of the most expert players in the country, and their victory, which was hailed with wild enthusiasm, proves the remarkable progress which is being made in the game on that side of the Channel.

The Scotsmen, preceded by a piper in Highland costume, appeared on the ground amid great cheering punctually at half-past two, and the Frenchmen came out a few minutes later.

Scotland kicked off at 2.45. France started one man short, one of the players arriving late. McCallum gained the first try, which was not converted. The French at first remained on the defensive, but soon carried the attack into the enemy's camp, and a successful movement ended in a try being obtained by Laterrade, which Decamps converted. The French continued to attack with renewed vigour, and frequently menaced the Scottish goal. Failliot scored another try, which was not converted, and almost immediately afterwards Peyrouton gained a third try, which Communeau also failed to convert. Scotland then resumed the offensive, and despite the stout resistance of the home team,

position of the red ball. If the player desires to put the red nearer the ball A, he screws thinly and slowly into the right top pocket with left "side" on his ball. On the other hand, if he is playing up to ball B he makes a stronger stroke off the red, using check "side" to carry his ball into the left top pocket, and doubling the coloured ball through baulk. Nice power of cue and a snappy delivery, as the cue-top meets the cue-ball, are needed of the player.

Upon the second diagram is given a charming variation of the drop cannon, which gathers the three balls at the head of the table for top-of-the-table procedure. At nearly every session of a professional match it may be seen in



An attractive two-cushion cannon occasionally employed by the professional to establish the favoured "top-of-the-table" position.

course of progress. The red ball has come too far down the table to make the long losing hazard a simple affair, and not far enough for the player to obtain a simple single-strength shot at the middle pockets. Therefore, to steer the balls where he prefers them most to be—along by the top cushion—he plays a thin, glancing shot off the red with left or right "side" (in the instance shown left "side" is used). The coloured ball is sent over a top pocket, and the cue-ball cannons stealthily upon the object white by way of a top-side and the top-cushion.

score gained a try, which Turner converted. This was the final addition before half-time, and the score then stood at 11 points to 8 in favour of France.

Frantic cheers were given by the British as well as by the French spectators. During the interval the piper again paraded the ground, and was accorded a great reception. In the second half the Scots again began with a vigorous attack, but the cleverness of the defence, especially that of Glane and Combes, prevented scoring on several occasions when the visitors looked dangerous. Ultimately Pearson scored a dropped goal. The French retaliated quickly with a try, scored by Failliot, which Decamps converted. The concluding part of the match was very fast, though perhaps less brilliant than the earlier stages. Abercrombie gained a try, which was protested against, but which was awarded by the referee. It was not converted. A splendid contest came to an end with the score:—France, 2 goals and 2 tries (10 points); Scotland, 1 goal, 1 dropped goal, and 2 tries (15 points). The victors and vanquished were both tremendously cheered as they left the field.

The Toll of Football.

In a review of the football season of 1910, prepared for a New York medical society, Dr. M. J. Clurman of New York, declares that the "familiar tree of college athletics would be greatly benefited by the lopping off of one distorted and unhealthy branch, football." He finds that despite the much vaunted new rule, there were 19 deaths and 400 injuries during the last year, while "almost every man who played is physically weaker for the severe stress of the game." Dr. Clurman advocates the adoption of sports which have less of violent exercise in them for a few picked men, but abundant exercise for all students of a college or university. He continues: since 1905 there have been 113 deaths from football and 900 serious injuries. What possible argument could be advanced in favour of football to offset these greivous figures? After all, the affection for football is exactly the same as that which the ancients had for the gladiatorial contests and which the Spaniards have for the bull fight. A football game is mostly a prize fight multiplied by 11. There is tremendous fatigue connected with the playing of the game and severe physical stress develops various forms of heart disease. After the season is over the hearts of the players, I find, having no longer such a severe stress upon them, undergo changes accompanied by fatty degeneration. While this criticism might be advanced against several other sports, it preeminently applies to football."

The Gutter's Epitaph.

The gutter is now as obsolete as the feather ball which it superseded. It has achieved its work and has passed away. But what a mighty work (says the "Times") it has been if our analysis of it is correct! It has made golf, or at least the game which calls itself golf and resembles golf more than it does any other game, possible, or at least not quite impossible, in almost all parts of the world. In Bermuda you play it, or did play it a few years ago, on a course chequered with patches of onions or of lilies, from which you had to lift the ball and drop it on the nearest point of wild vegetation which bore some colourable resemblance to turf. In Jamaica you play it on a course which, except in times of drought, at least grows some vegetation, though it is certainly not grass or turf, as we in England know it. At Las Palmas in the Canaries you play it on a course where there is not a trace of vegetation of any kind to be found, and where the greens are only distinguishable from the rest of the course by being assiduously rolled and levelled. You play it round and about the Pyramids in very much the same conditions. Even in England you often have to play it on a course which players of the older Scottish school would have regarded as totally unfit for the game. Of all this and of much more, if our hypothesis is correct, the gutter, if it could speak from its grave, might say—"Quae regio in terris nostri non plena labori! But that must be its epitaph, not its living boast. It has gone, and its place has been taken by the rubber-cored ball. Of the immense and far-reaching influence of this ball on the further evolution of golf we cannot here speak. It requires an epic to itself, and it has not, perhaps, yet won its way to that heroic age which justifies epic treatment.

With Rod and Line.

THE COMING OF THE TROUT.

By MAJOR BOYD-WILSON

TROUT are now so abundant in nearly every river and stream in New Zealand, and continue season after season to afford such excellent sport, that it requires a strong effort of the imagination to realise that only 44 years have elapsed since the first trout was hatched in the virgin waters of the Dominion. The introduction of salmonidae to Australasia will long rank amongst the highest achievements of acclimatisation, and a short retrospect of the early efforts to introduce trout and salmon may prove of interest not only to the fishermen but also to the naturalist and general reader. Before the advent of the trout, fresh water fishes were sparsely represented in New Zealand, the only indigenous species being the eel, the smelt, and a species of native grayling, besides some small fry such as bull-heads, etc. The early settlers soon recognised that the riverine system of their adopted country seemed to be admirably adapted to the well-being of trout and salmon, and as early as 1852 an attempt was made by a Mr. Boccus to transport salmon ova to Tasmania. At that time hardly anything was known of the transportation over long distances of fish ova, and the method adopted by Mr. Boccus was somewhat primitive, as it consisted of placing each ovum in separate meshes of a fine gutta percha sieve; the sieve was then immersed in water, which was changed every six hours, but no provision was made to keep down the temperature of the water by ice, so it is not surprising to find that by the time they reached the Tropics the ova had all expired. Mr. J. A. Youl was one of the first to bring scientific methods to bear on the problem, and it is largely owing to this gentleman's perseverance, in the face of almost insuperable difficulties, that success was ultimately attained, and trout and salmon ova successfully introduced to the Antipodes.

It was in 1854 that Mr. Youl commenced in England experiments designed to discover how long the development of ova could be delayed by artificial means, and the result of six years' work was the discovery that at a temperature of 35deg Fahr. ova would retain a healthy vitality for 140 days from the date of fertilization.

The first shipment that Mr. Youl made was in 1860. He shipped by the s.s. Curlew, sailing on the 26th of February, 30,000 salmon ova; an arrangement of swing trays was fitted up, gravel was laid in the bottom of each tray, and on the gravel the ova was placed; a stream of water, cooled by contact with ice, was made to flow over the ova, and 15 tons of ice were stacked in the ice-house of the steamer. The supply of ice was insufficient, and by the time the steamer reached latitude S. 20deg. 52min., the last of the ice had melted and with its melting the last of the surviving ova expired. Although unsuccessful in its main object, this shipment showed that it was possible to get ova alive through the Tropics, and so impressed were the Governments of Tasmania, Victoria, and Southland (New Zealand) with the possibilities of acclimatising salmonidae that they voted £3000, £500 and £200 respectively to be expended on further attempts to bring out salmon ova. Mr. Youl was appointed to supervise the work in England, and breeding ponds were constructed on the Plenty River, in Tasmania for the reception of a successful shipment of ova.

Mr. Youl, anxious to do all in his power to make the next shipment a success, visited fish-breeding establishments in Scotland and Ireland, and studied the methods by which they then sent ova over short distances; he also went to France for the same purpose, and then, for the first time, saw a method of packing ova in damp moss. The result of all his researches pointed to swing trays with a cooled stream of water passing over them as promising the best results, and 80,000 salmon ova were packed in

this manner, and sailed in March, 1862, in the s.s. Beautiful Star. As an experiment, Mr. Youl packed 300 ova in damp moss contained in a small pine box perforated top and bottom. The voyage was less successful than that of the Curlew two years before, for an alarming proportion of the ova died through concussion caused by the rolling of the vessel, and the ice melted at an unprecedented rate, the last of the ice disappearing in lat. S. 22 degrees, and with it all hopes of any ova reaching Tasmania. The wooden box when examined was found to have been the most successful method, for the ova packed therein had travelled much better than that on the trays, and only the melting of the ice caused the death of those thus packed. The failure of this shipment caused much disappointment, and everybody except Mr. Youl over-looked the significance of the moss packing. So convinced was that gentleman that he was on the track of the right method that he continued experimenting in 1863. The Wenham Ice Company courteously placed some of their ice houses and refrigerators at his disposal, and he procured 5,000 fertilized salmon ova, which he packed in wooden boxes filled with sphagnum moss. These boxes were placed amongst blocks of ice, and both ice and boxes buried under two feet of saw-dust. The boxes were opened at intervals ranging from 65 to 120 days from the time they were packed, and the surprising and satisfactory discovery made that the ova were alive and healthy, in spite of having had no water running over them; a good proportion of the ova eventually hatched out.

The result of the experiments came as a great surprise to the scientific men in England, and Mr. Youl was now confident that success would at last attend his attempts to send living ova to Australasia. The experiments had created some sensation at home, and when Youl was looking out for a ship to carry his precious freight, Messrs. Money, Wigram and Sons, in a most generous manner placed a space of fifty tons in their clipper-ship, Norfolk, at his disposal, free of charge. 100,000 salmon ova were packed in pine boxes perforated at top, bottom and sides, in sphagnum moss; above and below the moss were layers of crushed ice. At the last moment Mr. Youl received two most important gifts. One was from Mr. Francis Francis, who sent two lots of trout ova (fario Atsonii), one taken from Mr. Spicer's mill at Alton, on the way, the other from Mr. Thurlow's mill at High Wycombe, Bucks.; while Mr. Frank Buckland collected ova from Admiral Kerpels water on the Itchen, and forwarded them to Mr. Youl as a gift from the Admiral. The combined number of these ova was 3,000, and it is from this ova that the original Tasmanian and New Zealand trout are descended.

The Norfolk made a prosperous voyage and arrived at Melbourne on April 15, 1864, and an examination of the boxes showed that a large proportion of the ova was still living. The boxes and ice were at once transhipped to H.M.O.S. Victoria, and on the 20th April she dropped her anchor at Hobart town with the valuable freight which had been the subject of so many hopes and fears.

The boxes were ferried up the Derwent, and carried strung on poles, to the breeding ponds on the Plenty which had so long been waiting for them. The ova were carefully unpacked and placed in the ponds, and on the 4th May, 1864, the first trout that had ever existed south of the line, was hatched, and that date may, therefore, be regarded as the birthday of Australasian trout. My next article will deal with the introduction of trout from Tasmania into New Zealand, and will show how they were gradually acclimatised in this country. Note.—I have received in compiling this sketch from Spachman's "Trout in New Zealand" and Arthur's "Brown Trout in Otago,"

(To be Continued.)