

Sports and Pastimes.

BILLIARDS.

BEST OF ALL PRACTICAL STROKES.

There is no mistaking the exacting quality of the long losing hazard played from out of the D. It is all very well to note the ease with which the expert cueist—usually, but not always—gets through with this awkward proposition to the average run of players. To emulate their good example is another and different matter, for the chief requisite in the making of these long shots at the top pockets is good technique in the form of a steady stance and nice, free delivery.

These two essentials of the billiard-playing art came more to the surface in these most difficult of all losing hazards. They often cause the breakdown of their lord and master, the "thousand break" prodigy, George Gray.

First, it is the nice gauging of the "angle," then the smooth, fluent swing driving the cue into and "through" the cue-ball, and the swinging half-ball contact, which should err on the side of a thickish rather than of a thinish character. This last recommendation may be said to apply to all classes of collisions between the balls with the thin, feathery "clippings" as the only things apart.

advise an impartial one of either top pocket, as the long losing hazard operator who merely affects a right-handed or a left-handed (as the case may be) efficiency is badly restricting the scope of his powers. The billiard table is ever holding out a two-sided argument to those who come to it for recreation.

One must learn to play both to the right and to the left. The two strokes are alike in all respects; but there may be some peculiarity connected with the player which will affect his powers unless he becomes acquainted with it. The majority of right-handed players are more effective when playing in a right-handed direction than if shooting to the left. This shortcoming is noticeable in players who do not keep the cue nicely under and between the focus of the eyes, namely, beneath the centre of the chin, just as young Gray does.

Remember, to aim so that the "angle" is made on to the top cushion, or receptive "shoulder" of the pocket. This is important and in keeping with the uniform procedure of a celebrated professional who makes his dispositions for the centre of the pocket, and then moves his ball a trifle "wider" to get in touch with the top cushion "shoulder," which has the effect of practically doubling the size of the pocket to the oblique approach of the cue-ball in these particular strokes.

ATHLETICS.

WORLD'S PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONS.

WHO ARE THEY?

Several runners in various parts of the world claim to be professional champions of the world. How, when, and where some of them got the titles it is hard to say.

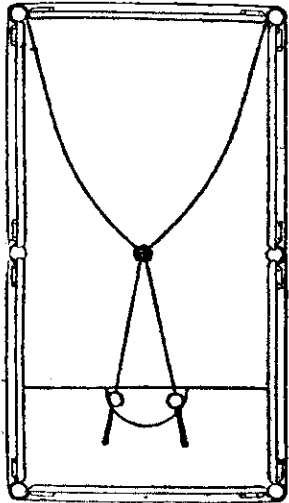
Nat J. Cartmell, the American ex-amateur champion, writes interestingly on the subject to the athletic writer of the South African "Cape Argus." He says:—"Having read of R. E. Walker's defeat in his match over 100yds with Jack Donaldson, I am writing to inform South African runners, promoters, and followers of professional foot-running that I am willing to run any man or men a series of races over distances from 130yds to 500 yds., the undisputed championship of the world to be involved in the result of the series.

"Knowing that professional running is dead in America, and almost dead in England, I am sending this announcement to you, believing that the sport is in good favour in your country with all sportsmen.

"I am the 220yds. world's professional champion and record holder for the distance, having won this honour from Arthur Postle on December 18, 1909, at Stoke-on-Trent, England. On this day I did 21sec over a curved track, defeating my opponent by 4yds. I also claim the 440yds. championship, to which I am entitled, because of my clean cut and decisive victory over Postle, who at the time of my victory in the 220yds. held the quarter-mile championship, and publicly announced his unwillingness to run me another greater distance than 100yds. I have heard that Jack Donaldson also claims the quarter by virtue of his win over Holway and Postle in a 100 yards race. My claim is, in my opinion, stronger than Donaldson's. At any rate, I am willing to defend my just claims to the 440 yards, as well as the 220 yards professional championships.

"Together with my willingness to defend the 440 yards and 220 yards titles, I also wish to announce to the public that I am now ready and anxious to run any man in the world any distance not less than 130 yards, and not greater than 150 yards, for the sprint championship of the world. My ambition is to win an undisputed right to the title of world's champion, for all distances, from 130 yards to 500 yards.

"Unless a recent defeat has been administered to the American, C. E. Holway, the 130 yards title rests on his head. However, in my opinion, he will not hold it long, hence my desire to run for this championship. For me to defend the titles of 440 and 220 yards champion and run for the 130 yards



The best of all practice strokes—the long losing hazard into the top pockets played from the D with the red ball on the middle spot.

It stands to the credit of the long losing hazards that they have the support and good word of the veteran master of the cue, John Roberts, who recommends them as an almost infallible remedy to wear off the rust of want of practice or to polish up the defects of the aspiring novice. All your faults are glaringly exposed, first in the action of the cue-ball, and then in the behaviour of the red ball. The one movement will, on analysis, be found to coincide with the other.

In your heart of hearts you will know without any telling, when you have served your apprenticeship to this spectacular shot, whether the cause of failure is your own. The precision of stroke is so needful, and the play of the cue, as it is sent out on to the ball so descriptive, in itself, of what will ensue, that before the cue-ball reaches the stationary red ball you instinctively grasp what has happened. The feel of the stroke, that indefinable something known to every pretty good player, reads you the result of your effort while your ball is en voyage.

To appreciate the long losing hazard at a first-hand acquaintance, place the red ball upon the billiard spot and operate from within the bounds of the bank half-circle, or D, with the white playing ball. If you are using ivory, place the cue-ball some 4½ inches from the extreme corner spot on the face of the D on the side you may elect to play from. Mention of this reminds me to

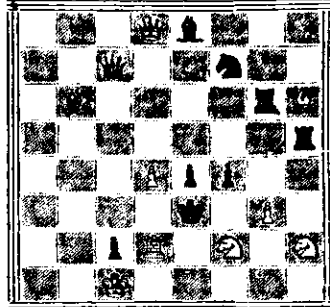
CHESS.

All communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor, "The Weekly Graphic and New Zealand Mail," Box 164, Auckland.

The Auckland Chess Club meets on Monday Thursday, and Saturday evenings, at No. 24, His Majesty's Arcade, Queen-street (2nd floor).

Position No. 92. (By W. T. PIERCE)

Black.



White.

White to play and mate in two.
Notation: — 3Qb3, 2q2kt2, 1b4R, 3Ppp2, 4k1P1, 2pR1K1Kt, 2K5.

Oxford Congress.

Game played in Class II. "Queen's Gambit declined."

White.	Black.
Rev. A. Baker.	Mr. H. Briggs.
1. P-Q4	P-K4
2. P-QB4	P-K3
3. Kt-QB3	P-KKt3
4. B-B4	B-Kt2
5. P-K3	Kt-K2
6. Kt-B3	P-QB3
7. R-B	Kt-Q2
8. B-K2	Kt-B3
9. P-K5	Kt-R4
10. BxB	KtxB
11. Kt-K5	P-B3
12. Kt-Kt4	Kt-Kt
13. P-KB4	P-KR4
14. Kt-B2	P-KB4
15. Kt-Q3	Q-B3
16. Kt-K5	Kt-K2
17. Q-Kt3	P-KKt4
18. P-KKt3	PxKBP
19. KtXP	Kt-Kt3
20. Kt-B3	P-Kt3
21. K-Q2	B-Kt2
22. KR-Kt	R-Q
23. P-B5	P-QKt4
24. KtXKtP	PxKt
25. QxPch	R-Q2
26. KxKt	Q-K2(a)
27. P-R6	BxP
28. RxB	K-B2(b)
29. Kt-K5ch	K-Kt
30. R1B6)P	Resigns.
(a) If 26. QxR, then 27. Kt-K5, Q-B3! 28. QxRch, K-R; 29. QxB, etc.	
(b) If 28. R-Kt2, White has a beautiful mate in two.	

Notes.

By winning the recent cable match, Great Britain becomes possessor of the Newnes trophy, having won on three successive occasions.

The Auckland Chess Club "opening night" takes place next Saturday, when all lovers of the game are invited to be present. A feature of the evening's amusement will be a lightning knock-out handicap.

In the San Sebastian Tournament the

championship, a series of races would necessarily have to be arranged, into which I will gladly enter, provided the world's undisputed sprint titles are without doubt at stake.

"When Jack Donaldson was in England last year, he made known his willingness to run me a 220 yards match. But his challenge was issued while he was training for a match with C. E. Holway. I wanted to run a real champion, and fearing the outcome of my match with the fast American, I refused to consider his challenge. Later, my judgment proved good, for Donaldson was defeated, and the running game in England received another shock. (Donaldson has since defeated Holway and has the undoubted right to call himself champion.)

BOXING.

Paris Boxing Mad.

Society in Paris in boxing mad. Audiences are about half and half, men and women. Full dress and extremely decorative gowns are almost as necessary as of the opera.

Some ten years ago "salon de boxe" were already quite the go. Young society "bucks" who were proud of their physical prowess, entered the padded square and took part in many "elegant" mills, in which the opponent half the time was a huge American negro. As the social hero rammed in a solar plexus or gave the black a whirling uppercut, his best girl, in the front row, near his corner, burnt her gloves applauding.

Since then there has been a slight change. The presence of the society chag in the ring isn't necessary to give a battle the upper crust. "La Boite" is much more fashionable, it would seem, than in the gala night when Signorina Watchermaycaillum sings at the opera. Any Friday night at the Cirque de Paris, when Sam McVea, Joe Jeanette, Harry Lewis, or any of the pugs, white or black, are on, one will find more bazaar-wagon and private carriages blocking the avenues of the neighbourhood than about the most favoured theatre in town. The list of those present includes the Baron So-and-So, the Duchess "de Brie," and all the rest of them, and by consulting the social register one will find that half the aristocracy were out.

High Speeds on Railways.

With regard to the maximum speeds obtainable on railways, it may be of interest to mention the speed tests carried out in Germany between the years 1901 to 1903 on the line between Marienfelde and Zossen, a line worked electrically, the distance experimented over being about fourteen miles long, and the line being practically level and straight. Speeds up to 97 miles per hour were reached, when the tests had to be abandoned owing to the failure of the permanent way. On the completion of the strengthening of the track a speed of 130.5 miles per hour was recorded in the latter end of 1903. This appears to be the highest speed ever recorded on any railway. On special occasions the Philadelphia and Reading Railway, with their "Atlantic tiera," have averaged the speed of 81.3 miles per hour for a distance of 55.6 miles, while the speed of 100 miles per hour has been reached for single miles. During a trial run on the Munich-Augsburg line, on the Bavarian State Railways, the locomotive hauled a train weighing 150 tons at a mean speed of 80.8 miles per hour. During a considerable time a speed of 96 miles per hour was attained. This is probably the highest speed ever recorded in Europe with a steam locomotive. Numerous examples could be given of trains which require to travel at speeds between 70 and 80 miles per hour for portions of the journey in order to run to schedule. Generally, speaking, the speed standard of the majority of railways has risen almost insensibly, and one may reasonably assume that this state of things will continue.—Charles F. Deaper, in "Cassier's Magazine" for December.

final scores were:—1. Capablanca, 9½; 2 and 3. Vidmar and Rubinstein, 9 each; 4. Marshall, 8½; Neimzowitch, Schlechter and Tarrasch, 7½ each; Bernstein, 7; Spielman, 7; Teichmann, 6½; Janowski, 6; Maroczy, 6; Duran, 5; Burn, 5; Leonhardt, 4.

The winner's play has more than fulfilled expectations. The young master has conducted himself in this great struggle like a veteran, adopting the utmost caution and steadiness when facing opponents of great reputation, and making sure of his points without any apparent effort when players not absolutely of the first rank were pitted against him. The opening rounds left no doubt that a new master of very exceptional powers had arisen, and with further experience may be expected to reach the very foremost place.

The N.Z. Chess Association's championship trophy arrived a few days ago from England, and was greatly admired at the Wellington Chess Club, where it has been on view since.

Solution to Position No. 92.

1. R-B4