

Mrs. J. Hadlop, wife of the Prime Minister's private secretary, was among the guests in the enclosure to witness the unveiling of the Queen Victoria Memorial.

New Zealand papers are asked to announce the death, at Southsea, on May 16th, of Mrs. Albert Picman, daughter of the late Alexander Elphinstone, Cawston Glen, Hants; and of Charles Graham Neale, only son of Charles J. Marsh, L.R.C.P. and M.R.C.S., after a long illness at Penn Hill, Leovill, on the 11th of May.

The Primate of New Zealand and Mrs. Neville, who arrived in London last week, have made their headquarters at the Worcester House Hotel, South Kensington. The Primate's visit to the Old Country was taken partly with a view to consulting with the architect of the proposed Cathedral for Dunedin, and partly in order to attend the Coronation, for which the Earl-Marshal will assign seats in the Abbey to the Primate and his wife.

After the Coronation they have many invitations to visit friends in various parts of England, including one to the Primate's cousin, Lady Hopkinson, wife of the Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University.

During the present week the Primate and Mrs. Neville have had their time fully occupied with social engagements. They were among the distinguished company present at the Earl and Countess of Lonsborough's garden party, at the Earl's seat, "St. Dunstan's," Regents Park, given in honour of the Kaiser and Kaiserin on Tuesday afternoon.

One of the most picturesque incidents of this gathering was a performance before His Imperial Majesty by a boy fiddler, who until recently had picked up a scanty livelihood by playing in the streets of London. The boy, David Paget, was recently awarded first prize in a competition held for street players, and he appeared before the Royal party yesterday in the clothes he wore during the latter days of his street peregrinations. Paget played two selections, and was warmly congratulated by the Kaiser upon the skill which he displayed.

Paget was one of some 20 street performers who were gathered together for a competition at the Apollo Theatre. Sir Alexander Mackenzie, who was present, expressed himself delighted by the boy's playing, and an enterprising agent at once offered Paget an eight weeks' engagement. Before he became a "star," Paget stood outside places of entertainment, and played to queues.

On Wednesday the Archbishop and Mrs. Neville dined with the Archbishop at Canterbury, and attended an "At Home" given by Mr. Harris at Queen's Gate.

To-night the Primate and his wife are due to attend a reception, at which they are to meet Mr. and Mrs. Asquith and many other political notabilities.

The Hon. Dr. Findlay had the honour this week of being the guest at a dinner at the House of Commons given by the Scottish Liberal Association to Sir Edward Grey, Mr. Walter Runciman (Minister of Education), and himself. After dinner the topic of discussion was Imperial Federation and Home Rule all round. Sir Edward Grey and Mr. Runciman both delivered strong and direct speeches on the necessity which will arise of granting Home Rule to Scotland, England and Wales at least when Home Rule had been granted to Ireland. Dr. Findlay was asked to speak upon the topic from the colonial point of view, and took the opportunity of reviewing what Home Rule, or self-government, had done in New Zealand and other overseas States, and explained what he believed to be the growing sentiment of Imperialism. He spoke for half an hour, and had a fine reception.

Dr. Findlay takes the chair at the London School of Economics next Wednesday at a lecture by a Cambridge Don, and he lectures there himself on "Citizenship of the Empire" on May 31.

One of the Reasons why Armaments Grow.

In connection with the war scares that periodically plague civilization there is one fact upon which it would be hard to lay too heavy an emphasis. In every country it is easy to find a large number of persons who benefit directly from the manufacture and use of armaments. Putting upon one side the members of the military and naval professions, who see in war their chief hope of advancement, we find a large and influential body of civilians whose financial interests would be seriously affected by an era of peace. There can be no definite statistics of influence, but in such a country as England, where a governing class or caste may be said still to exist, it is possible to get some indications of the power actually exercised by those whose incomes are directly dependent to a greater or less extent upon preparations for war or upon war itself. Some tables prepared by the "Investor's Review" help us largely toward such an estimate. The "Investor's Review" examined the list of shareholders in three of the large armament-making companies, choosing for the purpose Vickers, Sons, and Maxim, John Brown and Co., and Armstrong, Whitworth, and Co. On these shareholders' lists were found the names of three dukes, two marquesses, 120 earls and barons, or the wives, sons, or daughters of earls and barons, 32 baronets, 30 knights, 13 members of the House of Commons, 10 justices of the peace, four financiers, and 17 journalists, including newspaper proprietors. Now this list of worthies represents a political influence of the most formidable kind, and it is an influence that can not possibly escape the bias of pecuniary profit, and there is no bias so subtle or so strong. These lists contain the names not only of those who largely help to decide the issues of peace and war by their direct participation in government, but also the names of newspaper proprietors, who can create a public sentiment that is either provocative or conciliatory. It is safe to assume that the majority of men will do whatever it seems to their material interest to do, and it is thus evident that those who advocate a decrease of armaments are heavily handicapped by those others who depend upon armaments for their income and who are thus in a position to protect their own investments.

A Disadvantage of German.

You can do much with German language, but you cannot really swear in it, as you can in English and Italian. There is nothing much beyond a Thousand Pots or Thunder and Lightning, which are not wicked enough for comfort. So we may excuse the evening contemporary which quoted in all seriousness the letter to the "Times" as from one Colonel Donner and Bitzen. The good man was doing his best to swear in English print; but when it comes to swearing, the German language is not in it. The fact is the Germans have wasted their profanity in ordinary conversation, and use it on the most ordinary occasions. "Du lieber Gott!" "Ach, Herr Jesus!" and so forth are the common exclamations of the Germans. Translated into English they grate on the reverent consciousness—until the moment comes when something calls to the profane substratum of the enraged man. And then the Englishman has his reserved stock of swearing.

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Sports and Pastimes.

FOOTBALL.

WHY THEY KILL PLAYERS IN AMERICA.

PUNCHING AND KICKING.

SEVENTY-SIX killed and 208 badly injured, a number being maimed for life. That was the casualty list of the American football season for the six weeks up to the end of November last. November sees the end of football in the States. Later on the weather is too hard. In 1908 only 18 were killed and 135 badly damaged, so it is plain that the game becomes steadily more strenuous every year.

American football, as a matter of fact, is a far more brutal sport than prize-fighting. No wonder, then, that several of the largest and most important Universities have taken the strong step of banning the game entirely.

SEVENTEEN CARRIED OFF IN ONE MATCH.

For it is not in professional matches that these terrific accidents occur. On November 9 last there was a match between Harvard University and the Government Military College of West Point, an institution resembling the British Army College at Sandhurst. In the second half of the game, Mr. E. A. Byrne, one of the West Point team, went down unconscious. His father, who was among the spectators, rushed up. His son was dead. His neck had been broken.

In another game—this, if you please, between the Wesleyan University at Schenectady and the Union College—17 players in all were carried off the field unconscious. Five were very badly injured, and had to be taken away in ambulances.

Every scrimmage, said one onlooker, was a scene of indiscriminate punching and kicking, against which even the stout armour worn by all American footballers was powerless.

An American football team, when they enter the field, resemble nothing so much as a company of divers on dry land. They wear huge head protectors with ear guards, and steel pads to save the nose. They have their armour over the chest, the abdomen and legs, with wrist guards and wooden splints round the ankles. They wear also boots with spikes, the sight of which would throw the average British referee into a fit.

Of course, football came to America originally from England, but no one would ever recognise the present code of American football rules as having anything whatsoever to do with the original British ones.

Some say this is because the whole American football season lasts only six weeks, while in England the game ambles on peacefully for nearly six months. Therefore, the Americans have to make up in violence what they lose in time.

But the real fact of the matter seems to be that nothing would ever induce the average American football player to accept and abide by that most vital of all the rules of true football, namely, the off-side rule. At first the British off-side rule was left in, but as every American who could possibly play off-side without being seen insists upon doing so, the American football legislators were at last reduced to legalise certain kinds of off-side play.

Here was the beginning of trouble, and since then the football law-makers in America have been adding rule after rule till the code is almost as formidable as the much-debated British Budget Bill.

The Americans after they took to teams of only 11 aside, tried the extraordinary experiment of having eight men in the "rush line" and only three backs. The ball would be put in play by a man who passed it between his legs to the "snap back," and so at once put all the forwards off-side.

We have neither time or inclination to bore our readers with the complicated rules which attempted to put a stop to this sort of thing, nor the endless dodges of American football lawyers to evade these laws.

Sufficient to say that American football to-day is not a game, but a battle, a matter of flying wedges, of furious single-handed combats.

Each captain directs his men by a ser-

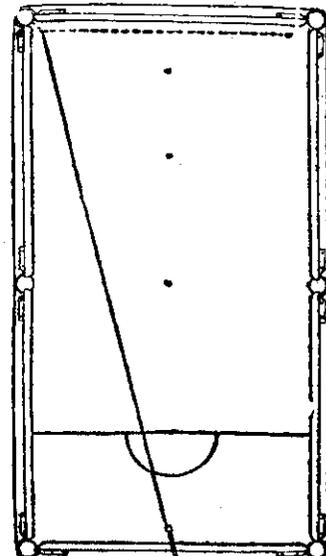
vice of secret signals, which are so difficult and complicated that the team must spend days and nights of study and practice in acquiring them. The two worst features of the game are, first, the practice of allowing a member of one team to hold one of his opponents who has not got the ball, and, secondly, of permitting substitutes to take the place of injured players. There is no need to point out why these practices are so bad. Every player will see for himself how ruinous they are to true football.

BILLIARDS.

TARGET PRACTICE.

At this time, when the enrolment of the territorials is just almost completed, it may be appropriate to show the billiard table as an equivalent of a rifle range. The act of striking the cue-ball is similar in all respects to a rifleman "loosing off" his weapon. Both the cue-man and the rifleman sight—or they should sight—along the line of the instrument they handle. In either case this should be straight or true to the proverbial one-thousandth part of an inch. This truth of formation may be accepted as general with the rifle, but seldom to be found in billiard cues. Even those which some of the professional experts rely upon to display their knowledge, touch, and skill are level on one line only. This means that the cue—like the rifle—has to be regularly set in one given position before it can perform its office according to the dictates of the wielder. A good eye and a steady hand are of little avail unless these qualities are assisted by a mathematical correctness of cue or rifle-barrel. Lacking such accessories, their efforts may best be described as a mere "ploughing the sands."

Billiard-playing is a mere matter of correct sighting, or aiming, combined again as with the rifle—the ability to poise the cue at right angles in a level line, and so deliver it at the cue-ball. No lateral or vertical disturbance should be observable, unless the cue be pried above a cushion, when a certain depression of the cue-head and height of plane of the cue-butt are rendered necessary. Having set the cue in the proper position, the difficulty now is to retain it there. Several factors may run counter to the player's desires. If his "bridge-hand" be not firmly placed and nicely shaped, if he is unsteady upon his feet, so that the legs sway, or, worst fault of all, his body move, and sets the whole playing structure out of gear, the best aim it is possible to take will be set at naught. The rifle-shot has, of course, the same troubles to overcome. He must be, too, a pattern of rigidity when taking his aim. The rifle must be pointed unwaveringly at the



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