

"I had now defeated every champion in Europe, and it goes without saying that this was a performance unrivalled in the history of cycling.

After conquering all in France, Belgium, and Italy, Clarke went to Germany. The German riders claimed that on their own ground they would reverse things. To the utter amazement of Clarke on his arrival at Berlin there were some 6000 to 7000 people on the station. Clarke was asking M-Fairlane, his manager, where the Emperor was. He was very much surprised on being told that the crowd was there to see him, as his reputation had preceded him from Paris. The Berlin racing was a repetition of the Paris successes, only, as a matter of fact, he was even more successful in Germany. Besides winning other match races he defeated all the local champions, and won the Grand Prize of Berlin. For this performance he was complimented by the Crown Prince of Germany, and presented with a pair of diamond cuff links by the Princess. This prize he still possesses. Clarke while in Germany competed in five match races and many other events, and was never once defeated, another performance which will stand as a record for some considerable time.

As the time was drawing near for the American racing season Clarke had to turn down numerous offers of visiting Russia, Austria, and Italy, and set sail with manager M-Fairlane for America after one of the most successful and sensational racing seasons ever enjoyed by a foreign champion. Australia will be pleased to know that he left a name exceeded by none for fairness, and was tremendously popular with all the crowds before whom he performed. In appearance money and prize money Clarke won over £2000 for his four months' campaign on the Continent.

MEMORIES OF FAMOUS JOCKEYS.

ARCHER'S "DEMON RUSH"

"Bend Or's Derby was my greatest race," remarked Fred Archer a few months before a revolver shot put a tragic end to his brilliant career in the pigskin.

Indeed, no one who saw that historic race can ever forget the thrill of it. At the bell, Robert the Devil held such a commanding lead that it seemed as if nothing short of a miracle could rob him of it. "Bend Or's beaten!" The cry rose from ten thousand throats. Then the miracle happened. Rositer, now sure of victory, turned in the saddle to glance back at his beaten rival. That glance was his undoing. Archer saw his chance, came up with that "demon rush" of his, and amid a delirium of frantic cheers, snatched the verdict by a short neck. Life holds but few such moments as this!

George Fordham, one of the greatest jockeys of all time, confessed that he had three golden days in his calendar. One when, on the outsider Sabinus, he won the Cambridgeshire by a head, and put £2,000 in his pocket; the second, when he won what everybody considered a hopeless race for the Two Thousand on Petronel; and, greatest day of the trio, when he captured the "Blue Riband" on Sir Bevis at 20 to 1, after waiting nearly 30 years for this crowning gooderun.

BOY DERBY WINNER.

Harry Custance, the third of this famous trio, always declared that the race that gave him the greatest pleasure was his first Derby, won when he was still in his teens. It was the purest accident that he rode at all. Mr. Morry, owner of Thormanby, the favorite, had sent all the way to Poland for John Sharp to ride his horse. Sharp travelled 2,000 miles to Epsom post-haste, only to be told by Mr. Morry that he had changed his mind. The lad Custance, who knew the horse so well, was to wear his colours; and when Thormanby entered past the post an easy winner, and his jockey pocketed a £1,000 fee, Custance was in no mood to envy any King.

Tom Cannon, one of the finest horsemen who ever drew breath, had many such days in his calendar, for he swept the turf-board of all its prizes; but the victories that pleased him most were those of Enthusiast, in the Two Thousand; Thurio, in the Grand Prix (which, by the way, he won five times); and Economy, in the Manchester Cup—all won under sensational conditions by superb jockeyship.

"Morry" Cannon, clever son of a clever father, has confessed that the

BILLIARDS.

THE MASSE-STROKE.

(By AN EXPERT.)

The countless variations of the usual in billiard strokes only serve to place the attractiveness of the unusual in a brighter setting. One may admire the high velocity of the forcing shots, the tender touches applied to the close cannon and top-of-the-table movements, or the generalities of medium-pace effects in the customary run of the breaks. These things form the tools of the billiard workman who has no pretence to handle the many ornamentalities which his trade yet owns. Fifteen years ago the masse shot was comparatively unknown in England. The use—or misuse—of the "push" at covered positions of the cue-ball kept it apart from the six-pocket table, and familiar only to the American and Continental strict cannon form of game. But when the "push" stroke was declared null and void (the greatest service which the Billiard Association has rendered to billiards), the turn of the masse shot came. Its manifest good qualities gradually overcame the conservative tendencies which still lingered in favour of the "odious push"—to the betterment of English billiards and the greater efficiency of its chief exponents.

PHYSICAL ADVANTAGES OF THE MASSE.

In the cult of the masse the personal factor counts for much. The taller run of players derive an advantage in the execution of this class of stroke by reason of the height to which they can conveniently raise the cue while keeping the cue-ball right under their eyes. The medium-height—5ft. 6in. to 5ft. 8in.—group of professional experts comprises the most effective scoring forces now known to the game. Most can claim considerable ability—with Stevenson and Reece demanding special attention—in transmitting the whirly-curly masse effect to their cue balls. But the extra inches owned by George Gray, the young Australian, enable him to give a display of masse strokes that have proved especially gratifying to the spectators attending the matches he takes part in. A concluding exhibition of fancy-stroke play holds all the most satisfying morsels among the masse touches. Good as young Gray has proved himself to be, and smart as the majority of his contemporaries are in the same direction, none have yet shown quite the same command over a massed ball as the ex-amateur cham-

best of all the horses he has ridden to victory was Flying Fox; and his proudest moment was when the Duke of Westminster's famous racer won the Derby of 1899 for him, after he had the mortification of being "placed," and only just missing the Blue Riband on eight occasions.

WON BY A NECK.

John Watt's most glorious hour was when Persimmon, in gallant response to his urging, crept up inch by inch to St. Frusquin, and after one of the closest struggles ever witnessed, just got his head in front and won the Derby of 1896 by a neck, amid such a storm of cheering as Epsom had never heard.

"The scene which followed," says Thormanby, "defies description. The vast crowd seemed suddenly to have gone mad. Hats were thrown into the air, handkerchiefs, sticks, and umbrellas were frantically waved, and three hundred thousand throats shook the air with the vibration of their stentorian cheers."

Charles Wood's most thrilling moment was in the Derby of 1884, when he ran that memorable and exciting dead-heat on St. Gation with Harvester; and O. Malton's, when on Jeddah, the despised outsider, who started at odds of 100 to 1 against, he showed a clean pair of heels to seventeen rivals, and won the most sensational Derby on record—that of 1899.

But every jockey of any note has had those "crowded moments of glorious life." Tom Loxton, when he steered Donovan and Dinglass to victory at Epsom; his brother, Sam, when he won Lord Rosebery's second Derby in 1895 on Sir Visto; and J. Roff and W. Butlock, when they secured their first victories on rank outsiders, which started at odds of 100 to 8 and 1, respectively. After all, his first Derby must always be the crown of an English jockey's life; and whatever he may say, he can know no prouder day than that which chronicles it.

pion, M. A. Lovejoy, getter known, perhaps as the discoverer of the craze cannot a few seasons back.

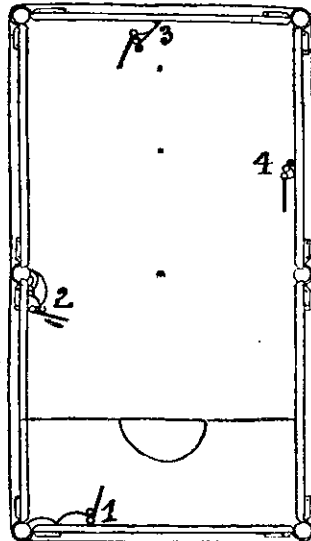
A "SCREW" SHOT IN DISGUISE.

Standing a full 6ft. in height, Lovejoy, has, by reason both of a lengthy reach and an overlooking standpoint to his ball, cultivated the masse to excellent purpose. He has availed himself of his natural gifts to show more of the pos-

than the fingers, and with greater dexterity.

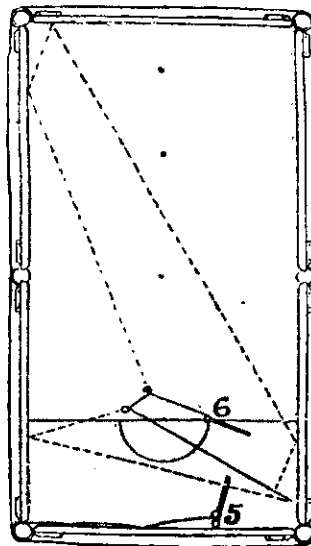
SIX ENTERTAINING STROKES.

Taking the strokes shown on the diagrams in their numbered order, No. 1 presents a losing hazard into a corner pocket, entered after the cue-ball has once struck the cushion en route. Stroke 2 is of a threefold character. Lovejoy's control over his ball is such as to enable him to send it into the middle pocket direct or by one or two cushion contacts. Stroke 3 shows a masse back from the cushion, giving the cue-ball the line to cannon upon the object-balls. Stroke 4 again indicates a cushion-cannon, whereat the player's ball is given a new line of approach by a neat masse effort. Stroke 5 describes a losing hazard, played some three-fourths the length of the bank-end cushion, in which the cue-ball twice strikes to line of the cushion before arriving at the pocket opening. Stroke 6 is not of the masse order. It is fantasy pure and simple, holding, however, a certain measure of instructiveness. The run of the cue-ball can be traced by the continuous line extending to the two object-balls, and back to the side-cushion. This is brought about by the use of strong "screw" and a thinish contact on the first object-ball, which leaves the "screw" or "back-spin" unimpaired, and free to exert its full force when the second object-ball is met. The result is a spectacular displacement of all three balls, leading to their gathering together near the right bank-pocket.



Some extraordinary masse shots which the ex-amateur champion, W. A. Lovejoy, specialises in.

sibilities attaching to this by no means perfected stroke than any other English billiard player has so far contrived to do. The manner in which he has contrived to make the cushion-rail an accessory to the accomplishment of some most exceptional losing hazards is represented upon the two diagrams shown herewith. But the rigid lines describing these pay scant justice to the circumlocutory action of the cue-ball in delivering the ideas of its striker. The combination of "back-spin" and "side" brought into play by striking the ball with a descending cue-point and at a tangent induces a swerving effect of the now well-known nature. A great amateur authority (Mr. R. H. Rimington-Wilson) once described the masse as a member of the "screw" stroke family. This description lacked nothing in correctness nor imagination. It is a "screw" in very close disguise, to be best compared with the swerving-ball demonstrations the hand-stroke performers give. The squeezing of the ball between the cue-tip and the bed of the table is equivalent to the pressure it receives from the thumb and second finger of the hand-stroke player. And a pre-



Two further Lovejoy examples of stroke possibilities.

cely similar development occurs in either case. But the cue can do more

Australia's Mammals.

The mammals of Australia are very unlike those of any other part of the world, consisting chiefly as they do of marsupials, which, with the exception of the Dipelphidae (Opossums) and the Caenolestidae (small rat-like creatures of South America), exist only in the Australasian region. The only mammals not marsupials, found in Australia, are the dingo, a few bats and rodents, and aquatic creatures such as the seals and whales. The term marsupial has been applied to animals possessing pouches, although in some instances this is not too well-developed. The young of all the marsupials are born in a very rudimentary condition, absolutely helpless in fact. They have to be transferred to the pouch by the female, attached to the nipple in the pouch, and the milk pumped into them by the contraction of the muscles overlaying the mammary gland.

The best known of the marsupials are of course the kangaroos, characterised by the great development of the hind limbs as compared with the fore. The true kangaroos vary in size from quite tiny creatures up to the great grey kangaroo, which may measure over five ft. from the nose to the root of the tail, while the latter appendage itself measures almost as much. The tail is used to balance the creature when sitting in an upright position, and as an aid to slow progression. When feeding and moving slowly both the fore legs and the tail are brought into use, serving to support the body while the hind legs are brought forward, but when moving fast the fore legs are not used at all, and the tail does little but touch the ground between the huge jumps. Kangaroos feed entirely upon grass, herbs, and other vegetable matter. In their native state they congregate in droves, and like sheep appear to choose a leader which they follow.

A Joke on the Jokers.

One finds a queer admixture of pathos and humour in obscure corners of the Yankee Press at times. Such is the story of six Ohio navvies who thought to play a brutal old joke on the pet dog of one of their number. With almost inconceivable callousness they tied a stick of dynamite to the creature's tail and ran away, expecting to see the dog scamper away and get blown to pieces. But they miscalculated the nature of the poor brute, probably judging it by their own standard. The affectionate cur ran after its brutal master. They dashed into a shed and slammed the door to, but it crawled in after them under the door. As they tried to scramble out, the dynamite exploded. Shed and dog were blown to smithereens, and all the jokers were seriously injured. There should be a statue erected to the memory of that dog.