

for a period of 23 days between December 18 and January 10.

Tennis players in Wellington are beginning to concern themselves about the Day's Bay courts, as, owing to the negotiations entered into by the Eastbourne Borough Council for the purchase of the Ferry Company's steamers, nothing definite is known as to whether the association will be successful in getting another lease. The management Committee of the W.P.L.T.A. should once more take up the question of securing permanent courts for the association—an urgent matter.

Official openings set down for Saturday last were Hutt (whose courts are the picture of perfection this season), Mirafid, Paketoa (Mitchelltown), and Tararua (Carterton). Bidwell Street, much weakened these days, holds its opening function on October 26, while Lyall Bay has selected Labour Day (October 28) for the ceremony.

AUCKLAND.

(By "Footfault.")

The Coming Season.

During this month "energetic and capable" secretaries will be busy sending out notices of the opening day to members, and invitations to past patrons and friends. I was going to say players would be looking lovingly on their new requests, but I'm afraid this will not be the case with all, as the recent dock strikes have somewhat upset the shipments of tennis goods. Many of the local houses have not even yet received advice as to when their goods will be arriving.

On perusing the dates of tennis tournaments held during the season in the Old Country, one finds that they start the last week in March, and go right on till the second week in October without a break. Things are very different out here, as, although tennis is flourishing, there are not yet enough players to warrant open tournaments being held in other than the chief towns.

Last season was not at all pleasant from a weather point of view. Although one or two clubs opened early in October, the fine spell was only temporary, and it was well into November before any of the local courts were really fit to play on. Even then the weather could not be relied on for more than a few days at a stretch. Though we can scarcely expect it, there is nothing to prevent us hoping a fine season, and if by some providential miracle we should get it, it is fairly safe to say that by the end of the season the game will have improved in this country more than any previous season.

The hard court is the only begueter of the true bound, and the true bound tends to produce freedom of style.

Last season wet courts necessitated a cramped style. With the advent of an exhibition game by the English Davis Cup players, tennis in this city will boom more than ever.

A most important rule was passed last season by the English Association which clearly defines the amateur status. It reads as follows:—"No money, cheque, order for money, or order for goods in any form shall be offered or given as a prize; and the amount actually paid for a prize shall in no case be below the advertised value of the game." A deal of correspondence has taken place in the English papers over this new rule, and latest files show that at the annual meeting, which takes place in November, much interest will be taken in the voting on an alteration allowing for orders being given for prizes as heretofore.

This season the Association has adopted a new ball made in Melbourne by the Dunlop Rubber Co. From tests given by several of our leading players during the winter months these balls come out with flying colours.

The Dunlop Rubber Co. presented the Association with a shield, which has been allotted to competition between teams (consisting of two players) from each town club. This competition should prove most interesting, and should go a long way towards improving our players' standard.

The Association has several times discussed the question of securing courts of its own. Many suggestions have been made, but so far nothing has taken any definite form. What I consider the one most suitable is that the Eden Cricket Club and the Association endeavour to come to some arrangement whereby courts could be laid down on the land recently acquired by the former. It is well known that the Melbourne Cricket Club have tennis and bowling greens

adjoining their cricket field, and I understand that they find it works splendidly. Why not try it here! It's no use trying to secure space on any public reserve.

The Davis Cup.

In view of the coming contest for the above cup, the following article in the "Lawn Tennis and Badminton" should be of great interest:—

"It must be gratifying to the L.T.A. to note the favourable reception of the names of their team, and the general satisfaction expressed with the results of their efforts in regard to the Davis Cup tie and the subsequent tour of Australia. The British Isles may have had better teams in the past, notably when the Doherty's and Smith and Risleley were available, but these were exceptionally happy times, and not for several years has such a promising choice been made as that of the present, as C. P. Dixon, J. C. Parke, A. E. Beamish, and F. E. Lowe are a quartet of striking possibilities.

"Since he was first chosen as international, Dixon, with his first experience of America to help him, has ripened his game considerably, and stands out as the best singles player of the day in England, and a man who, on his Davis Cup form at Folkestone, ought to have won the championship, or at least to have severely pressed the holder of the title. Of Parke it may be said that he is a better tactician and master of more strokes than was the case when he first went to America with J. G. Ritchie in 1908, he having benefited by recently enjoying more play in the top class than usual. Beamish, as he illustrated in the Davis Cup doubles with America last season, is capable of a great deal, and of late has revealed signs of eradicating his annoying tendency to complete collapses in singles, whilst he has undoubtedly strengthened his doubles game in company with Parke. Whether Lowe will be called upon for the Davis Cup tie or held in reserve for the subsequent tour is a matter for conjecture, and it is quite a debatable point as to whether Dixon, despite his doubles success of last year with Beamish, would not be well advised to leave the four-handed game at Melbourne to Parke and Beamish, and concentrate his attentions on the singles, lest in the heat of Australia he might run the risk of overtaxing himself. At present there is a consensus of opinion that Parke should be the second string for the singles, but much depends upon the condition of our men after the long sea journey and the form in the preliminary practice.

"Unless Norman Brookes, Australia's sole selection, has a surprise in store and calls up one of Australia's rising players, of whom A. B. Jones may be mentioned, the probability is that he will again rely upon the assistance of A. W. Dunlop and R. W. Heath. That Dunlop is still taking the game seriously is indicated by the announcement that he and Brookes contemplate a world's tour in 1914, whilst Heath is entitled to further consideration by reason of his victory over W. A. Larned in the last challenge round, although it is common knowledge that the famous American was handicapped in this match by serious indisposition, and the result could not be accepted as a conclusive guide to contemporary form. Were the services of A. F. Wilding available, we should not feel sanguine as to the success of the British Isles team, but, under existing conditions, they appear to have a good sporting chance of re-capturing the trophy Brookes and Wilding won at Wimbledon in 1907. In many ways this would be a fine thing for the competition, as next year, with the contest played on this side, we should doubtless once more welcome the presence of the American players, and look with confidence to the entry of France, and probably that of Germany, whilst it is thought that South Africa may enter the lists. With all this in prospect the game would enjoy a record year, and Wimbledon a record "boom," especially if Australia were among the challengers.

"Meanwhile it behoves everyone to approach the forthcoming challenge round in a sporting spirit, and not to be prepared to shoot our team if they fail to win. On this point the "Evening Standard" has taken a line of criticism that appeals to us in quite the proper strain, and is worthy of reproduction, as follows:—"As the forthcoming tour has wider interests than the winning of the Davis Cup, it is to be hoped that the British Isles team, composed of C. P. Dixon, A. E. Beamish, J. C. Parke and F. E. Lowe, will not be unsportingly condemned if their best efforts in this direction should fail. The tour has a sporting mission apart from the issue of the

Davis Cup tie, and the L.T.A. decided some time ago to send a team to tour through Australia in the interests of the game at large, and the criticism based on the contention that no team at all should go out unless a Davis Cup victory was a practical certainty, calls for condemnation on sporting grounds. Actually the present team is one of great possibilities. Should Australia successfully defend the cup against it, the holders will deserve every credit, as, after all, the British Isles, with its thousands of players, will stand or fall by four of its first half-dozen, against a country of comparatively limited resources. This is no mean consideration, especially as Australasia may not have the services of A. F. Wilding, and it should not be taken for granted, in view of the ability and experience of our team, that the absence of Gora and Roper Barrett will make all the difference between victory and defeat. We want no apologies for a reverse before the battle is fought, nor do we need to shed tears if we are beaten in what, after all, is a sporting match, which both sides cannot win. There is satisfaction in the fact that we are not shirking the issue."

The Champion and His Business Claims.

A. F. Wilding, the champion, whose retirement from serious lawn tennis has been announced, has written to "Fry's Magazine" as follows:—

"The rumour to which you refer is unfortunately very near the truth. In the strict sense of the word it is now incumbent upon me to retire from serious first-class tennis. Those only who have experienced it are capable of understanding how much time, trouble, and energy is necessary to win or retain the lawn tennis championship. Roughly speaking, players competing for highest lawn tennis honours can be placed in three categories:—

"1.—The fortunate ones who have no care in the world but their favourite game.

"2.—The business men who can always arrange their absence from their offices to suit them.

"3.—The business men who, though they can get away fairly often, are entirely dependent on circumstances as to when and when not they can absent themselves from the more serious affairs of life.

"In this latter category I unfortunately place myself. For example, it is quite conceivable that during the Wimbledon Week of next year it will be necessary for me to be up in the forest lands of Northern Sweden. If such should prove to be the case it would be useless to return to London a few days before the challenge round is played and hope to do oneself justice. I love the game far too well ever to give it up in the broad sense of the word, and hope to go on playing as long as I can hold a racket. Further, whenever time permits, I hope to take part in tournaments. But one point is quite clear, tennis has now to give way to business.

"With regard to defending the championship next year, it is a matter which rests entirely on the particular circumstances next July. If it is possible to get the requisite time for practice and training, I will enter the lists. But if, as is more likely to be the case, I am abroad and unable to spare the time to train and get in form there will be no challenge round as far as I am concerned. I am glad, Mr Editor, that you wrote to me, as it has given me the opportunity of explaining my position. It is far more satisfactory to explain the facts now than to retire from the championship at the last moment without assigning any adequate reason. Tennis is, without doubt, one of the finest games ever played, and I confess to a fondness for it amounting almost to a passion. But it must have occurred to everyone, even the most enthusiastic of us, that there are other things in the world besides this game.

"Further, these 'other things,' though they do not give us the same keen excitement and momentary enjoyment, are in the long run far more lasting and tangible. For this and other reasons too obvious to enumerate, I think business should come first and tennis after. During the happy years that tennis was the most important consideration in life I formed many friendships, which I hope will always endure, and encountered practically nothing but sportsmanship in the largest and truest sense of the word.—Yours very truly, ANTHONY F. WILDING."

Notes.

We regard this as a fitting time to remind club secretaries that our odium is open for the reception of club notes, which should be brief and to the point,

and written on one side of the paper only. We have heard players complain on the score that they see nothing about their clubs in the papers, and we generally refer them to their club secretaries, upon whom the responsibility rests. Country notes will also be welcomed, and we remind all correspondents that their communications for current issue must reach us by Monday morning's mail.

The will of the late Major Clopton Wingfield, who was credited with having invented modern lawn tennis, has been proved at £47,000.

H. L. Doherty has been showing great form at golf during the past season. He annexed the Mid-Surrey senior golf medal with a scratch score of 74.

H.R.H. the Prince of Wales is to receive instruction in lawn tennis from Tom Burke, the well-known professional.

PROPERTY SALE.

Messrs Buddle, Button and Co., solicitors to the trustees of the late Mr. D. L. Murdoch, notify by advertisement in this issue that they are offering for sale the beautifully situated estate and residence on the northern slopes of Mt. St. John. The property is six acres in extent and is one of the most attractive estates which have come upon the market. All particulars can be had on application from the solicitors, Messrs Buddle, Button and Co.

SLUGGISH LIVER CAUSED AGONY.

She Thought Her Case was Hopeless.

Terrible Pains Ended by Bile Beans.

Mrs M. O'Leary, of 2, Chancery Lane, Adelaide, says:—"The sluggish state of my liver caused me to be in continual ill-health; terrible pains shot across my temples, while backache also tortured me. Stopping at times was almost an impossibility while if I did get down, straightening up was absolute agony. On many occasions the violence of the headaches and the distressing pains at the back of the head made life almost unbearable. I became languid and weary, while nausea and sickness caused much unpleasantness. My whole system became thoroughly rundown, and I was in a shocking state.

"After using many remedies that were supposed to cure liver disorder and its symptoms, without obtaining any benefit, I thought my case was hopeless, I was delighted to find that in Bile Beans I had an excellent medicine which acted in a natural and easy manner. It only required a few doses of Bile Beans to dispel the headaches and nausea, and end all pains and sickness. As I continued taking this wonderful medicine, so my ills disappeared, and day by day I grew stronger and more energetic. A full course of Bile Beans restored me to perfect health, which I have now enjoyed for some time.

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