

more sets against Hooper than anyone else who met him in the Tournament. Ross Gore and Wood both failed from want of condition, and Hooper and Parker were left to play out the final.

The first set was easily won by Parker, whose severe forehand drives often scored outright. After a game or two in the second set, Hooper followed his returns to the net, and thereafter had matters all his own way, particularly as Parker could not stand the running about through lack of training. The coolness, accurate placing, and fine lobbing of the winner, were much admired.

Harman and Wilding won the Doubles for the fifth time, but they were very hard pressed by the Gore Bros. and the Marshall Bros., both these matches running into all five sets.

The Ladies' Championship was won by Miss Hitchings, of Napier, and the Doubles by Misses Lean and E. Black.

The moral to be drawn from this Tournament is the absolute necessity of being in good training. Speaking of Hooper's

play, a writer in the *Weekly Press* said: "Above all, he was in excellent condition, a point in which several of his opponents failed conspicuously. It ought to be recognised by this time that it is impossible to keep at full pressure through five, or even three hard sets unless a player is in very fair condition."

In 1895 the Tournament was held at Wellington for the first time, and luckily for its success, "Wellington weather" was conspicuous by its absence. All the best players having entered, some fine matches were expected, and in the main these expectations were realised. Hooper was, unfortunately, not very well at the beginning

of the Meeting, but as a set off against this, he had a very easy draw, and reached the final without any difficulty. On the other side of the draw, Collins, P. Marshall, Parker, Harman and H. Gore were clustered together, and Parker had to beat Harman, Gore, and Collins in succession before qualifying for the Final with Hooper. The match between Parker and Collins was probably the finest exhibition given at the Tournament. The latter started in irresistible form and soon rattled off the first set, his superb volleying being the theme of admiration. In the second set Parker got into his



Slack,

A BACKHAND VOLLEY BY PARKER.

Auckland

drive and passed Collins on several occasions. The latter, being outclassed in baseline play, made desperate efforts to get to the net, and the second and third sets were very closely contested, though Parker just managed to win them both. In the fourth and concluding set Collins seemed tired, and his play lost its sting, Parker winning the last five games in succession.

In the final Hooper began cautiously, and soon won the first two games. Parker quickly drew level, and after a ding-dong struggle, he won the first set by six games to four. In the second set Parker was at his best, and Hooper could only make two games,