

BILLIARDS.

(By "Pyramid.")

[The writer of this column will be glad to answer any questions on the game.]

WHERE TO PLAY BILLIARDS.

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BILLIARD SALOON AND BATHS, Pitt-street, are now open under new management.—ALF. SMITH, Proprietor.

In answer to Mr. J. P. Mannock's suggestions to alter the rules of billiards so drastically, "Ivor," of the London "Sporting Chronicle," says:—"I do protest against safety-misses being ruled out altogether. With regard to the raising of the scoring to three points for all hazards made off the object-white ball, I am in complete agreement. That is only common sense, seeing that the different strokes must be as simple or as difficult from the white as from the red. But when it comes to replacing the white on the table after it has been holed I am at once in disagreement. Some of the most beautiful shots in the game are made when it becomes a necessity to "save the white."

The same writer goes on to say that he has known John Roberts fetch down the house at the old Egyptian Hall with some of his ricochet "top-side" sparklers when the object-white had to be got away from the pocket, whereas, under the proposed new rules, cushion shots, double-kisses, and tricky run-through strokes would all be practically knocked on the head, while in their place would be a constant potting the white, to have it replaced on the baulk line.

With regard to Mannock's suggestions, there is naturally a good deal to be said on both sides (writes "Hazard" of the "Australasian"), and, as our own rules are identical with those of the British association, the discussion now taking place must affect the future of Australian billiards just as it affects the game elsewhere. As all the authorities appear to agree on making a uniform value for hazards, the chances are that in this respect at all events Mannock's suggestion will soon be adopted. The silly but deep-rooted prejudice about potting an opponent's ball would then die out.

Young Willie Hoppe is now the undoubted champion at the American and Continental style of billiards. Recently he defeated Maurice Vignaud at Paris for the title, and on his return to America was immediately challenged by George Slosson for the title at the 18-inch baulk line, one shot in, game. The 19-year-old lad won by the large margin of 500 to 392. Over 3000 people witnessed the game, Hoppe averaged 10 40.40, with runs of 56, 45, and 42, to Slosson's 8 32.45, and runs of 61, 53, and 30. The championship emblem, valued at 500 dollars, and the gate receipts, which amounted to over 5000 dollars, went to the little champion. It may be that Jake Schaefer will now challenge Hoppe, but it is doubtful whether the old veteran would be able to hold the youth, who has been quite a marvel ever since he was ten years old.

Charles Memmott plays Frank Smith for the championship of New South Wales on June 11. A close game is expected.

HOCKEY.

The first round of the Association matches was concluded on Saturday, and it seems as if Auckland A will again score in the senior championship.

The Auckland A versus Auckland B match resulted in a win for the former by five goals to two.

United beat University seniors by three goals to one.

There seems to be a wide difference between the junior teams this year. St. George's A beat College Rifles B by 13 points to 2, while College Rifles A beat St. George's B by 17 points to nil.

The University seniors seem to be too light for the heavier senior teams. They made a good fight of it against Auckland A, but have played most disappointingly since.

Moana beat L.C.R. at Remuera on Saturday by four points to nil. The L.C.R. had the misfortune to have to go into the field minus their four strongest players.

Misses Alison and Prime played well for Moana.

Misses R. Sellers, E. Schischka and Walters played splendidly for L.C.R.

Kopana beat Te Hui a seven to nil. For the winners Miss Dobbie played a splendid game as fullback.

Kopana A juniors beat Kopana B by eight points to nil. For the winners Misses McIntosh and Clark played about the best.

CRICKET.

It has been stated that a flaw has been found in the title of the Melbourne C.C. to their cricket ground. If this is so it means a heavy blow to the club, which has spent many thousands of pounds on improvements.

The battle between the Melbourne C.C. and the State Board's control still continues. The latest is that the Sydney player Waddy has cancelled his agreement with the Melbourne Club, but the other players somewhat foolishly have refused to do so, and have been disqualified.

At last there is a chance of a district scheme being adopted in Victoria. For some time the advantages which have been obtained in Sydney by the idea were told to the authorities in the Southern State, where the game was not making such good progress as in New South Wales. The Melbourne Club, however, was always a stumbling block. The executive committee of the association has drafted a scheme which includes all the clubs except Melbourne. The clubs which have seceded from the association can either come in or stand out. The competitions differ from those in Sydney, inasmuch as the premier club in each grade will exchange places with the lowest club in the grade next above it.

Sensational bowling was done in a match at Brisbane on May 26 between Queensland and Trumper's team. Rain during the previous few days made the wicket very bad, and in 50 minutes Queensland was dismissed for 16. C. Barstow, the last man in, was top scorer with 3. Cotter took 3 for 4 in 7 overs and Hopkins 7 for 7 in 6.3 overs. Trumper's team made 68 (Trumper 30, being the only double figures), McCaffrey secured 6 for 26 and Barstow 4 for 32. In their second innings the Queenslanders made 68 (Cooper 23, E. K. Armstrong 10 not out). Cotter (5 for 21) and Hopkins (5 for 36) again bowled unchanged. Trumper's team won by 10 wickets, the match being over in one day. The smallest total on record in a first-class match is 12, by Oxford University v. M.C.C. and Ground in May, 1877. The match at Brisbane was, of course, not a first-class one.

If the team which Mr. Warner has been captaining in South Africa were not particularly successful, they managed to have a very enjoyable time (says a Home paper), and what they lacked in victories they made up in great good fellowship. Mr. Warner, who was interviewed on his return,

spoke highly of Mr. Crawford, the Surrey amateur, whom, he declared, for his years disclosed unprecedented possibilities as an all-round player, while Mr. Fane's batting and Lee's and Blythe's bowling were quite exceptional. He (Mr. Warner) had read criticisms to the effect that the fielding of the English team had lost them the test matches, but that was not the case. Their principal weakness was their batting, their fielding, on the whole, being very good. Asked what excuses he had for his side's defeat in the Test matches, Mr. Warner said: "I never make excuses when I am beaten, and there is no doubt that on this occasion we met our masters. Cricket in South Africa had made tremendous headway, and on the Wanderers' ground at Johannesburg I am not at all certain that the full strength of England would beat the colonials. They are a splendid side in all departments of the game. Their batting to the last man is sound, and often brilliant, while their bowling is of infinite variety and their fielding magnificent." Asked whether he thought Test fixtures should be granted the South Africans in their next tour, Mr. Warner said he was certainly in favour of such a step. Phillips, the umpire, considered there should be a series of five tests, but he (Mr. Warner) thought it was due to them that they should be allotted three fixtures with England's full strength.

off the third race. Considering the fact that the track was rather heavy, the times given are extraordinarily good.

A new automobile electric starting and judging machine has been invented by Mr. E. S. Rowe, of Melbourne. Mr. Rowe has been in the game for twenty-five years, was a noted amateur runner, and is noted everywhere as a good all-round sport. His starting machine, which has been used with the greatest success in Brisbane, Newcastle and Sydney, as well as in West Australia, has given every satisfaction to the runners and the public. A. B. Postle, champion of Australia, considers it is the finest invention connected with the sport. The whole contrivance is worked by electricity. A small iron barrier is placed in front of each man on any mark, and is locked. The starter simply presses an electric button, which releases all the barriers simultaneously, at the same time firing the pistol and starting a clock. At the finish there is the ordinary tape in front of each man; but as soon as it is broken by the first man it sends his number up on the board, and if at night lights a lamp showing the colour of the winner; and it also stops the clock, thus giving the exact time for the race. It also shows all the places of the men up to five. With this machine all the runners get off the mark together. There is no fear of breaking and getting put back a yard, or of beating the pistol; also, there is no unnecessary delay in making a start. Records may often have been made by a man beating the pistol, but with this machine, since it both starts and stops the clock by electricity, the records, even in the sprints, may be trusted.

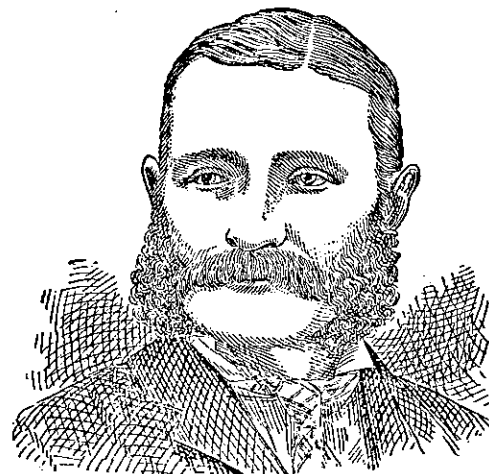
ATHLETICS.

The New Zealand runner L. C. McLachlan turned the tables on R. Hourigan in a match at Napier on Monday. It was for £50 a-side, the distances being 100yds, 130yds, and 150 yds. It will be remembered that when they met recently the Sydney man won. An account of the present match says that in the first distance both men got away well together, but McLachlan got more quickly into his stride, and soon had a lead of half a yard, which Hourigan reduced to about 6in at the half distance. McLachlan, however, drew away again in the last 20yds and won by nearly 2ft in the good time of 10sec. The second distance was a repetition of the first race, McLachlan leading by a foot for the first 20yds, when Hourigan drew level, but McLachlan had him beaten when 75yds had been traversed, and finishing with a great burst of speed won by 2yds in 13sec. There was thus no occasion to run

Mr. E. S. Marks, hon. secretary of the Amateur Athletic Union of Australasia, has received a cable from N. S. Barker, the Sydney University athlete, who represented New South Wales in the Olympian Games. The message gave the information that Barker had arrived in England. This means that Barker intends to compete in the English championships. An arrangement was made that he should cable his arrival in England if he intended to do so.

The 10 stone championship of England was fought just prior to the last mail leaving, when Jack Goldswain, the holder of the title, defeated Jabez White, of Birmingham, on points. Goldswain won the title some three months ago after a battle with Buckland, of South Africa; White was

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Prepared by DR. J. C. AYER & CO., Lowell, Mass., U. S. A.