

a view to a three point win declared. Parnell had thus but 125 to get to pull the game out of the fire, but after Murray (34) and Sale (24) had gone nobody looked like making the runs, and eight wickets had fallen for 97 when the bell rang.

Ponsonby gave Eden a three points beating, winning by 50 runs. Ponsonby's first innings realised 117, Eden replying with 73. Ponsonby's second venture totalled 75, Eden being asked to make 120 to win. It was quite beyond them, only 69 finishing the innings. The batting throughout was very poor.

When North Shore II. made the good total of 168 against Grafton II. and the latter had lost two wickets for 23, it looked as though the Shoremen would win. There are some sterling bats in the Grafton Eleven, and some excellent batting was shown, Graham making 60, Hill 67 not out, Howell 54, and Robinson 37. The total reached 286, and the victory makes Grafton a certainty for the championship.

Eden A beat Parnell II. by 39 on the first innings with scores of 123 and 97 for three (innings closed) to 84, and 115 for eight.

At Christchurch the last round in the first grade cricket championship was commenced on Saturday. Riccarton, playing against St. Albans, made 257 for seven wickets (A. Armstrong, run out, 97, F. C. Fryer, not out, 78). In the match Linwood v. Sydenham, the former made 169 in their first innings (J. Wheatley 50), Sydenham replying with 69 for four wickets. West Christchurch, playing against East Christchurch, made 258 for nine wickets (C. F. D. Cook 100, H. B. Whitta 66).

A Christchurch High School boy named Crawshaw on Saturday made 212 not out against St. Albans.

William Bestwick, the Derbyshire fast bowler, has been tried in connection with the death of a man on January 26, at Heanor, in Derbyshire. It appears that Bestwick had been heard to declare that Brown, the deceased, was always tracking him down. The allegation on the part of the accused is understood to be that Brown, who is a miner, waylaid him on the Saturday night, and, running into his own house, emerged with a table-knife, with which he attacked Bestwick. The suggestion is also that in the struggle which followed Bestwick obtained possession of the knife and struck back in self-defence, occasioning the injuries to which Brown succumbed. There were terrible wounds about the head and neck, these having evidently been caused with a knife. The injuries were of such a character that death appeared to have occurred very speedily. Bestwick's wounds, although serious, were not regarded as being of a vital character. The deceased, a widower, was 37 years old. Bestwick, who is a married man, lives with his parents at Heanor. He was acquitted on the grounds of justifiable homicide, he having acted in self-defence. W. Bestwick, who for many years past has been prominent as a bowler for Derbyshire, last year topped his county averages with a record of 111 wickets at a cost of 18.18 runs apiece. He is 31 years of age.

A. Cotter, the Sydney fast bowler, is developing hitting powers which the cricket public so highly approve of. Last week in compiling 152 in an hour and 25 minutes against Waverley, he hit sixteen 6's and six 4's, or 120 by boundary strokes, 96 being from hits over the fence.

J. R. M. Mackay, the Sydney cricketer now in South Africa, is not to go to England with the African team. This seems only right, as he has only been in the colony a few weeks. J.R.M.'s latest innings at Johannesburg, of which particulars are to hand, were—102, 99, 49, 11, and 104. So that he is giving Rand bowlers a sample of his quality.

Writing to Mr. Raphael, hon. sec. New Zealand Cricket Council, Mr. C. E. de Trafford, who captained the English teams, says:—"I know you have had a hard and difficult time in making all the many arrangements that were necessary for the success of our tour, and I should like you to feel that we appreciate very much all that you have done for us. Please convey to the New Zealand Cricket Council and cricketers of New Zealand our most grateful thanks, and our appreciation of their many great

kindnesses to us. I must congratulate the council and players on their victory in the last test match, and on the way they played up and won the match. It was most gratifying to find in all the teams we played against such thorough good sportsmen as our opponents. I hope the time will not be long before we are able to return some of the hospitality to you all at Home, and give you as hearty a welcome as we have received from you."

At the annual meeting of the Gloucestershire County C.C. Mr. G. L. Jessop described the present County championship system as an anomaly, and said it would continue to be so until each County played each other. Whether it would come to pass he did not know, but as at present constituted the championships did not run on proper lines. In allotting points for wins and deducting for losses, as at present, if one county won fifteen matches, and lost one, and another county won one and drew fifteen, the latter county would be champions, which was absurd. The present system placed a premium upon drawn games, and drawn games were the bane of first-class cricket. No county, however, for ten years had paid so little attention to draws as Kent, who had never played for a drawn game, notwithstanding that they were several times in danger of losing the championship. Mentioning that a meeting of the M.C.C. had been held and nothing done, Mr. Jessop suggested five points for a win and two deducted for a loss, as in the second-class championship. Whether Gloucester held the position of ninth or third it did not matter. So long as he had anything to do with the county they would not play for a drawn game. Once, he mentioned, they last year tried to win and lost, and were severely criticised for not saving the game, but he would do the same again.

Cricket is evidently gaining ground in America. An invitation has been extended to the Kent Eleven by the Associated Club of Philadelphia to play a series of matches in America in the autumn. The programme, it is stated, will consist of three matches at Philadelphia, and one at New York against the Metropolitan Cricket League. A team of Philadelphia cricketers intended playing a series of matches in Hamilton, Bermuda, in the latter part of last month. It is also probable that a team will make a tour under the auspices of the West Indian Cricket Association in the spring.

BILLIARDS.

(By "Pyramid.")

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

WHERE TO PLAY BILLIARDS.

B. FORD'S Waiemata Billiard Club, B. Custom-street, Auckland. Open to play all-comers on 100 Break.

BARTON, MCGILL AND CO., Billiard Table Manufacturers (Gold Medalists), 422 Queen-street, Auckland. Requisites always in stock.

VICTORIA BILLIARD SALOON, oldest and finest saloon in Auckland. Has been thoroughly renovated; three first-class Billiard Tables, where you can enjoy a game.—Segedin and Ostoja, Proprietors.

VULCAN LANE BILLIARD SALOON. Proprietor: F. WILLIAMS. Billiards, Pyramids, Snooker, or Pool.

RODGERS' Esk-street Billiard Saloon. —Four First-class Tables. Next to Dexeher's Hotel, Invercargill.

T. A. BROWN, Tobacconist and Hair-dresser, keeps best brands of Smokers' Requisites. First-class Billiard Saloon at back of shop.—Victoria-street, Hamilton.

COFFEE PALACE BILLIARD SALOON (close to McMahon's Hotel), Whangarei. Two Fine Tables; nicely-furnished room, where visitors can have a quiet game with best attention.—S. CALKIN, Proprietor.

OPOTIKI BILLIARD AND TOILET SALOON—Well-kept Room, two First-class Tables. Quietness and order maintained. Note address, satisfaction guaranteed.—HARRY LARMER, Tobacconist and Hairdresser, Proprietor.

RANFURLY BILLIARD SALOON—Two First-class Tables. Visitors can rely on strict attention. Snooker, Pool, etc.—C. H. HUNT, Proprietor, 116 Ridgway-street, Wanganui.

Writing to the "Referee" from Christchurch, "Snooker" says that good things are said about the skill

of the local cueist, J. Cullimore, who runs up the century with much frequency in Christchurch. When Memmott was in Christchurch recently Cullimore met him on several occasions, and with a concession of 600 in 1500, downed the Australian champion. Bragge has also suffered defeat at Cullimore's cue on a couple of occasions recently.

A meeting of delegates from the various amateur sporting clubs in Christchurch is to be held to make arrangements for carrying out a New Zealand Amateur Billiard Championship. Leaders in amateur circles, such as Messrs. Green (secretary of the N.Z. A.A.A.), Atack, Dickson, Lurtjohan, and Heiron, are working the affair up. Their idea is to form centres in each province, and when the local champion is proved, to hold a New Zealand Championship in one of the four large centres. The idea is a good one, and from my knowledge of the enthusiasm of the gentlemen behind the movement, its success is assured.

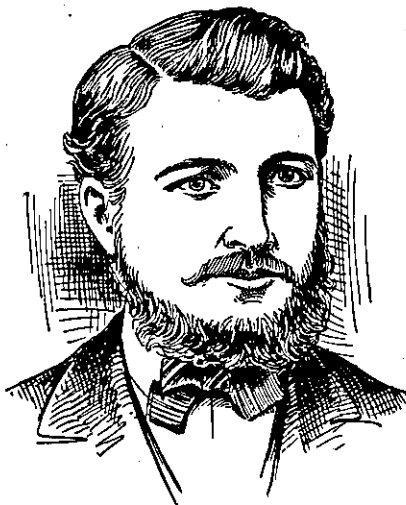
The Australian champion, Fred Weiss, has issued a challenge to play any man in the world—Dawson or Stevenson preferred—a match of 1000 cannons for not less than £100 aside, the winner to take all gate receipts, after expenses for hire of hall, etc., have been paid. Each cannon to be made from ball to cushion first; i.e., after striking the first, or object, ball, the cue ball must then come in contact with a cushion before making the cannon. When Roberts visited Australia a well-known sport offered to back Weiss to play him 1000 cannons, on the same conditions, for £500, but there was no response.

A cable states that Reece has made a break of 1825 including 899 consecutive cannons scored off what is known as Lovejoy's anchor stroke. No particulars are given as to who his opponent was, or if it was merely an exhibition of what could be done with the balls placed in a certain position. Of Reece an exchange says that one would almost imagine that young Tom Reece had debated with himself, and decided to startle the billiard world, and render this season the most memorable in the annals of the game. If such were the case, it may reasonably be said that he has succeeded in his desire, and he is to be congratulated upon the excellence of his design. Turning back the pages of this young professional's career, one cannot help but conclude that his powers with the cue are remarkable, and have not yet reached

their limit of progression. Born at Oldham on August 12, 1876, Reece has been responsible for some excellent work on the board of green cloth. As far back as 1900, he had already won many money matches in the North of England. He played several games of minor importance until, in September 1902, he met and defeated ex-champion Chas. Dawson, in a game of 9000 up, at the Exchange Hotel, Manchester, Reece, who received a start of 3500, won by no fewer than 1612 points, and with many "century" breaks he put up an excellent run of 315. In October, 1904, against Harverson, in a game of 16,000 up, and receiving a start of 1200, he won by 445 points, and made breaks of 224, 220, 295, 240, 243, and 232, besides many "century" breaks. In a game against Inman on February 2, 1906, at the Liverpool Motor Show, he put up an excellent 382. He has, however, exhibited phenomenal form during this season. In January last, receiving 1000 start in 8000 from Diggle, one of England's best performers, he won by 1106, and amongst many fine breaks were 271, 272, (50 cannons), 219, 379, and 474. In a game against Stevenson, Reese, on January 11 and 12 last, made a record break of 501, and later, in Burroughes and Watts' tournament, again against Stevenson, he made a handsome compilation of 627, and next he compiled a phenomenal break of 1269, comprising a sequence of 521 cannons, thus creating a double world's record in the total and cannons. This break was made during a match of 16,000 up level, for £200, against Melbourne Inman, at the Grand Hall, Leicester Square. Now he has beaten this by no less than 556. Such an exhibition, though wonderful in its way, must be intensely wearisome to watch, and it is possible the stroke may be barred.

The match of 8000 up between F. H. Weiss, the ex-champion of Australia, and T. Aiken, the champion of Scotland, would have been even more interesting than it proved had not the mistake been made of playing too long a game (says the "World of Billiards"). Neither of the men, admirable players as they are, is speedy in his methods, and 7000 up would have been an infinitely better game for them. The consequence was that some of the sessions were very protracted. A break of 364—his record—on the first day of the game enabled Aiken to secure a long lead, but Weiss gradually overhauled him, and began the last day's play with an advantage of 413 points, though both men were so very far behind their proper quota that it appeared

We take pleasure in publishing the following interesting letter from Mr. James Summers, who also very kindly sends his photograph:



"Indigestion and liver complaint troubled me greatly, and the money I spent on various medicines was only wasted, as they did me no good. A friend asked me why I did not take

AYER'S Sarsaparilla

I thought that if I did the result would be the same as with the other medicines; but, to my great surprise, after taking a few doses I felt really better, and I continued until I had taken, in all, seven or eight bottles. I was then able

to digest my food, and it made me feel like a new man. I now always have with me a supply of Ayer's Sarsaparilla."—JAMES SUMMERS, North Terrace, Adelaide, S. A.

Of course you cannot enjoy good health if your stomach gives out. You must have an appetite, must digest your food, and must keep your liver active. Muscular strength, nervous strength, desire to be active, and a feeling of general good health may be yours by keeping your liver active and your blood pure. Ayer's Sarsaparilla strengthens the stomach and aids digestion.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla will do all this for you, but you must insist upon getting "AYER'S," for it is stronger, contains more valuable ingredients, and cures more quickly than any other kind.

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

Ayer's Pills keep the liver in a healthy condition.