

from making the attempt. It can be done, however, without any danger to the cloth in the following manner:—

Lay the cue full length on the table, then take the butt into the hand, holding it in the usual way, but so that the butt is not more than three inches away from the table. Place the first and second finger of the other hand over the cue near the tip, as though you were playing a ball through your fingers on the cushion. But, on no account raise the tip from the cloth, drag it backwards and forwards along the cloth, in addressing the ball in the usual way. Hit moderately hard, depending of course on the distance you want to jump. If you hit your ball truly in the middle you can jump it perfectly straight. Of course this shot cannot be done if you are near a cushion. "New World of Billiards."

The snooker tournament which is the subject of much concern with patrons of the Ponsonby Billiard Academy is to commence on Monday next when some very close and interesting games should result.

The Irish Championship was once again secured by A. T. March—for the third time. The gallant representative of the Green Isle will give a good account of himself in London, and anyone must play well to put him out of the hunt. He is a fine player, whose break propensities range anywhere within the century disc.

Playing a match against Cecil Harverson it is announced that the world's champion, H. W. Stevenson, created an English red ball record in an effort of 354 off the red. Only in February last this marvel made a handsome break of 798, being but 4 points short of his world's record break of 802. Harverson generally receives a start from Stevenson of 2000 in 9000.

Tom Reece has had revenge on Stevenson, who gave a start of 4000 in 20,000, and was defeated by no less than 3662 points. Stevenson's display throughout was patchy. In several sessions his play was of a mediocre class, while in other sessions it was brilliant, especially in his breaks of 315 and 374. Reece played splendidly, and accounted for the biggest break in the match—a lovely 413.

ATHLETICS.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST ATHLETE.

AN AMERICAN TRAINER'S OPINION.

"Every generation," says Mike Murphy, the famous Pennsylvania trainer, "has seen the development of a wonderful track athlete and competent judges have been at loggerheads as to who was the greatest of them all. In my career as a trainer of athletic teams and athletics I have met and known hundreds of stars of the cinder path, and for me to pick the greatest, which at first glance would seem a hard proposition, is made much easier than an analysis is made of the records of the past and present track men.

"There have been Sheridans, Grants, Tewsburies, Garrels, Gilberts, Drays, Hillmans, Flannigans and Roses, but none of these men in my estimation class with one youngster whom I trained for four years, and who, in every athletic competition was always at the top.

"During my training period at the University of Pennsylvania, before severing my relations there to go to Yale, there came to me one day from Wisconsin a tall, beautifully proportioned, light haired boy who had a reputation in that section as a hurdler. This man was Alvin C. Kraenzlein, the man I select as the greatest athlete I ever knew.

"Not only was he a great hurdler, but an athlete in every sense of the word. He could play baseball, football—in fact, would have been a star at any game in which he participated, but during his career at the University of Pennsylvania he did nothing but track work.

"It was on my recommendation that he decided to abandon all other branches of sport and stick to that track squad, owing to the fact that I did not want him injured, he being my most valuable asset in the intercollegiate championship. Never have I seen or trained an athlete who was as tractable as was Kraenzlein. He was always in condition, had no bad habits, and ready and willing at any

time to do all in his power to land a victory for his team.

"He ranked head and shoulders above any man the college world has ever produced in track sports and won more prizes and points for his alma mater than any man who has ever competed in the intercollegiate world."

MARATHON RACES CONDEMNED.

Writing of the Marathon craze one American writer states:—A glance at what former Marathon heroes have done is sufficient proof of the statement that Marathon running is now in a precarious condition. Shering, the winner of the Marathon at Athens in 1906, deserted the amateur ranks in order to accept a large gift of money as a testimonial from his Canadian friends. Dorando, the Italian hero of the 1908 Olympiad, virtually became a professional the day after he had the honor to stagger first into the great stadium. He was followed into professional ranks by John Hayes, the American, who was later adjudged the winner. Then Tom Longboat, the famous Canadian Indian, the winner of innumerable Marathons in this country and Canada, succumbed to the temptation. He was followed by Simpson, also a Canadian Indian, who finished well toward the front in the London Marathon. Now it is reported that Syanberg, the Swede who finished fifth, has decided to abandon the amateur ranks.

How to prevent the mercenary debasement of this race is the problem that the Olympic council must solve. It is evident that no rules can be devised to check the evil, and it is doubtful if sentiment would be strong enough to have any influence on the athletes when confronted by the temptation. If the members of this council could be induced to drop the event, the evil complained of would be at an end, but since this country is the centre of the Marathon professionalism, it is doubtful if the foreign delegates would see the evil as it is seen in this country. Another evil of almost equal magnitude is the spread of the Marathon craze among the boys and young men of the country. It is extremely doubtful if half the men and boys now training for these runs are fitted either by nature or training to compete in them. An inexperienced man has no business in taking up Marathon running without the advice of an experienced trainer. What makes the danger the more acute is that many of these runs are promoted by individuals or organizations, and for the sole purpose of advertising themselves. The benefits to be derived by the athletes is either secondary or not considered at all. In some cases hundreds of young boys are running distances of from 10 to 15 miles. Mr. C. Murphy, the famous coach of the American team, and who probably knows more about the evil effects of this sort of athletic dissipation than any other living trainer, is very bitter against this sort of thing. In discussing the subject with the writer he declared emphatically that five miles was the limit that any school or college boy should run unless he were able to devote his entire attention to it.

AUCKLAND HARRIERS' CLUB OPENING.

The Auckland Harriers' Club held their opening run on Saturday, a good number of enthusiasts taking part in the afternoon's spin. It was intended to hold a paper chase, but owing to non-arrival of the bags and paper this was abandoned. A run was then decided upon, the route covered being from the Domain to Orakei and back again, via Ayr-street and Beach Road, Remuera. Very good headway was made by the runners considering that this was their first gathering, and the movement gives promise of becoming exceedingly popular among long-distance athletes. Next Saturday the club will hold another run, which it is anticipated will be largely attended.

R. E. Walker, the South African sprinter, interviewed by Reuter's representative, stated that he would sail for England on April 29. He will meet Kerr, the Canadian champion, in the English Championships at Stamford Bridge on July 3, and will then proceed to America and Canada, where he will meet Rector and many other American sprinters. He will race Kerr again in Canada.

Walker is confident that he will beat all his opponents, declaring that he has improved his time since the Olympic Games.

After leaving Canada he will visit Australia, and will possibly settle in England. He is determined to remain an amateur.—London "Sportsman."

The Australian Athletic Championship meeting will be held at Brisbane on August 18 and 21.

In the six day's team race concluded at New York on March 13 the winners were Cibot and Orphee, representing France. They won by 13 miles and 1 lap, covering 732 miles 6 laps in the six days.

Says an American file. The Records Committee of the Irish Amateur Athletic Association have passed the following records: 16lb. hammer, 9ft. circle, 4ft. handle, both hands—179ft. 10in., at Queenstown, August 13, by John Flanagan; 56lb. for height—16ft. 2in., by Col. Walsh, August 13, at Queenstown.

AQUATICS.

WORLD'S SCULLING CHAMPIONSHIP.

TO BE ROWED AT WANGANUI.

The sculling championship of the world and £500 a-side has been definitely fixed to take place at Wanganui. There was a probability that the contest would be decided at Akaroa, but owing to the risk of rough water it was thought that Wanganui would be more suitable. The present champion arrives in Wanganui early in the week and he will occupy the same training grounds as on the former occasion.

CHALLENGE YACHT RACE.

The challenge race between the yachts Kotiri (J. B. Johnston), Ngatira (J. W. Frater), Rangatira (W. R. Ingram), and Aorere (E. C. Blomfield) was sailed on Saturday, and resulted in very keen competition, the boats changing places at various stages of the contest. The fact of there being only 3min. 53sec. difference between the first and last boat to finish demonstrates how evenly the yachts were matched.

Punctually at two o'clock a start was made, the Kotiri getting a break of a length on Ngatira and Rangatira, with Aorere 1½ lengths away. The Rangatira was the first to reach the North Head, but dropped back on the run to the black buoy in the Rangitoto Channel, which was first rounded by Kotiri, followed by Aorere and Ngatira with Rangatira close up last, only 40 seconds behind the leading boat. On the way to the green light buoy in the Channel, Aorere reduced the distance between her and the Kotiri, and was in the lead passing the buoy. The Brown's Island buoy was the next point to be reached, and the boats arrived in this order: Aorere, Kotiri, Ngatira, and Rangatira, only 57 secs. separating the four yachts. From here up to the finishing point the race was of an exceedingly interest character, the finishing times being:—Kotiri, 4hr. 44min. 49sec.; Ngatira, 4hr. 46min. 51 sec.; Rangatira, 4hr. 47min. 32sec.; Aorere, 4hr. 48min. 42sec.

The officials for the race were:—Starter and judge, Mr. W. A. Alexander; umpire, Mr. C. P. Murdoch; timekeepers, Messrs. J. C. Hewson and A. C. Bartlett; mark timekeeper and hon. sec., Mr. C. Richardson. The sailing committee consisted of the officials and Mr. G. Broome.

The Manukau Yacht Club are holding their 13th race of the season on Saturday, while on the following Saturday the final contest will take place, the latter bringing the season to a close.

Things are booming in the sculling line in New South Wales just at present. Thoroughgood and Pearce are in active preparation for their match for the Australian championship; the South Grafton sculler, J. Mitchell, has been matched to row George Day, who recently defeated F. Ford for a £100 purse.

In a match between G. Wray, of Hawkesbury River, and A. Haydon, of Balmain, for a stake of £50 a-side, Haydon won by three-quarters of a length, after a splendid race.

The Maratea has been sold by Mr. E. Davis to go to Lyttelton, and will be sailed down to her new home.

The Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron and the Devonport Yacht Club will hold a combined meeting in the squadron rooms this evening, for the purpose of considering the question of taking united action in regard to the prevention of the wholesale stealing from yachts and pleasure craft.

The Ponsonby Cruising Club held their last race of the season on Saturday, the course being from St Mary's Bay, round Saltwater buoy, round Brown's Island buoy, and finish in Drunken Bay. The following boats started:—Ronaki, scratch; Alva, 4½ m.; Glady, 8m.; Ranees, 11m.; Rhona, 12m.; Hetty, 16m. The finish resulted: Alva, 4h. 18m. 52.; Ronaki, 4h. 20m. 39s.; Glady, 4h. 21m. 54s.; Ranees, 4h. 24m. 51s.; Hetty, 4h. 29m. 14s.; Rhona, 4h. 30m. 56s. On corrected times, Hetty was first, Ranees second, Glady third, and Alva fourth. Mr. W. Wilson, vice-commodore, acted as starter and judge.

A handicap race was held by the Richmond Cruising Club on Saturday, the usual course being followed. The entries and handicaps were:—Tiro, scratch; Valdora, 2½min.; Mowai, 2½min.; Rose, 6½min.; Mei, 11min.; Nyanza, 12min.; Seabird, 10min.; Sceptre, 9min.; Maro, 13min.; Ivy, 14 min.; Crescent, 20min.; Ramati, 27 min.; Anita, 30min.; Isabel, 30min. From an excellent start Ivy succeeded in getting away first. The finishing times were as follows:—Tiro, 3hr. 59 min.; Valdora, 3hr. 59min. 15sec.; Mowai, 4hr.; Ivy, 4hr. 3min. 30sec.; Maro, 4hr. 4min. 40sec.; Mei, 4hr. 10min.; Seabird, 4hr. 11min. 10sec.; Ramati, 4 hr. 24min. On time allowance Ivy was first, Maro second, Valdora third, and Mowai fourth.

A motor launch race was held on Saturday by the Manukau Yacht Club, the following boats taking part:—Freda, scratch; Edith, scratch; Mikado, 2min.; Manui, 2min.; Emerald, 3 min.; Runi, 8min.; Raumati, 9min.; Thistle, 9min.; Rongl Tai, 12min.; Grace, 14min.; Siola, 16min.; Mildura, 18min.; Huia, 26min.; Tasma, 26min.; Startle, 28min.; Clematis, 30min. After an excellent race, Mr. D. A. Sutherland's Freda (scratch) won the event.

The Waitemata Dinghy Sailing Club brought their season to a close on Saturday afternoon, when a ladies' race (tiller handled by ladies only) was held over the club's usual harbour course. The entries were:—Olivine (Miss N. Tapp), Dixie (Miss Upton), and Rita (Mrs. Fenn). The weather was not altogether favourable for the occasion, but nevertheless the dinghies were handled by the ladies in a very praiseworthy manner. Dixie led her opponents until the first buoy was reached, where Olivine took command and was never troubled, the result being:—Olivine, 1; Dixie, 2; Rita, 3.

The twelfth race of the season was sailed off by the Manukau Yacht Club on Saturday, when despite the strong sou'-westerly an interesting contest eventuated. The following was the list of starters:—Anahera, scratch; Heather, 1min.; Manola, 3½min.; Edith, 8min.; Viking, 8min.; Clematis, 12min.; Wave, 17min.; Elsie, 23min.; Edna, 27min.; Mahinga, 32min.; Helen, 33 min.; Signal, 36min.; Amua, 38min.; Petrel, 39min.; Mana, 60min. Amua was soon in the lead, and not being headed over the concluding stages, won from Helen, with Spray third, Manola fourth, and Edith fifth. The last to finish were Anahera and Heather. Points in this race count for the handicap cup. J. Skinner sailed the winner.

CYCLING AND MOTOR NOTES.

NOVEL METHODS OF OBTAINING MOTIVE POWER.

A means of obtaining motive power from the action of the sea has been invented by Mark Saunders, of Timaru, ironworker, who is applying for patent rights. The specifications are of a simple and easily understandable nature, which differentiates them from most patents specifications. They state that a pipe, or a number of pipes, each tapering towards one end, is, or are, arranged with their larger ends so disposed as to be mainly below the level of the water. These pipes are then inclined upwards to their back end, and are made to extend in a direction corresponding to the direction of movement of the waves, so that such waves in their motion will pass up into such pipes. As each wave passes into the mouth of the pipe it will imprison the air within such pipe, and compress and drive it up the pipe and into a compressed-air tank connected with the pipe. At the same time this water will be delivered from the back end of the pipe into a trough or flume arranged to receive it, and by such flume be conveyed by gravity