

fellow and stabbing him as he went by.

"But those fellows were all great boxers," he said. "They studied the game from its scientific standpoint. Any of them could time a blow to the fraction of an inch.

"That is what our present boxers lack—ability to time blows. How many of them are at all certain where their glove will land when they let it fly? And how many of them can avoid a blow by a slight movement of the head or body?"

"But it will all come back," declared Root. "We'll have another period of great fighters. All we need is time to develop them. We must first overcome the idea that slugging is boxing. When we do this, and those boys with talent are willing to undergo proper instruction, we will experience a revival of the old order of things when science was a more valuable asset in the ring than mere brute force"

**KNOCK-OUT BLOWS.**

**MOST VULNERABLE PLACES.**

A writer in the London "Times" discusses the various kinds of knock-out blows, and draws morals from the Carpentier-Wells fight. Of the blow on the jaw he says:—"Apart from courage, men vary in their sensitiveness to this type of knock-out blow. The apparatus affected is situated just above where the lower jaw hinges on to the head, and the thickness of the bony plate between the jawbone and the internal ear is not the same in all cases; nor is the exact relationship between the jaw and the base of the soul."

**"SOUL OF MAN IN HIS STOMACH."**

As for knock-out blows on the body, the writer says:—"The heart may be stopped or slowed, and the blood vessels diluted owing to the slackening of the walls, if certain nerves are stimulated. These nerves are most readily excited by blows in certain places—for instance, the neck and 'the mark' as boxers call the portion of the stomach just below the breast-bone (though the whole of the latter region is more or less vulnerable). The alchemist Van Helmont placed the soul of man in his stomach, not for the obvious reason, but because he was apt to lose consciousness if hit there, and he would doubtless have regarded the downfall of Wells as a proof of his theory. . . . It is not merely that breath is knocked out of the body; one breathes to re-aerate one's blood, and in these circumstances the flow of blood through the lungs is greatly diminished, as well as the flow through the brain, and a brain which is not supplied with blood cannot keep the muscles taut.

**WELL-ARMORED CARPENTIER.**

There is a very great variation among individuals in the reactions to blows in these regions. Some people are affected by a degree of violence which leaves others unscathed, and that this difference is physical as well as moral can be proved by feeling the pulse and observing whether the face turns pale. Negroes are much more vulnerable to blows cutting off the brain's blood supply than to attacks on the jawbone. A professional prize-fighter does his best to develop his neck and body to protect the nerves in these regions, but apart from the actual sensitiveness of the nerves a thin neck and a long thin stomach do not afford a good foundation whereon to build. To see Wells and Carpentier in the ring suggested a liner and a battleship."

**GENERAL NOTES.**

The arrival of Arthur Pelkey, the American heavyweight, in Australia and his "discoverer," Tommy Burns, is eagerly awaited by boxing enthusiasts on the other side of the Tasman. However, it need hardly be mentioned that Pelkey, to use an Americanism, does not "cut much ice" with fight fans in the States, his most recent defeat at the hands of "Gunboat" Smith being the subject of much caustic comment by American boxing critics. It will be remembered that Tommy Burns made no secret of his opinion that Pelkey would account for "Gunboat" Smith, but once again the predictions of the world's ex-champion were much astray. But Burns, although a great fighter in his time and therefore supposedly a good judge of fighting material, is apt to wax a trifle too enthusiastic over his dis-

coveries in the boxing line. It was Burns who at one time boosted George Memsic's claims to recognition as a star lightweight, and pointed out the Chicago Bohemian as a sure future champion of that class. But Memsic slumped disastrously and never came within several miles of the goal. Also it was Tommy who made himself responsible for the debut of Jack Lester as a "formidable white hope," and aided in the shipping of the said young man to Australia, where Burns confidently predicted his protege would clean up everything in sight. Instead of cleaning up, Lester was sent to the cleaners, being whipped in turn by Johnny Thompson, Bill Turner, Jack Howard

O'Rourke. He made a good showing among the other novices, and was said to have had much the better of Palzer to whom first honours were awarded. But on being offered a second chance with Palzer he refused to accept for reasons best known to himself. New York expert opinion classed Pelkey as a big-strong chap who could punch hard and wasn't lacking in gameness, but with everything to learn from a scientific standpoint.

Between his appearance in the Gotham tourney and the tragic bout with Luther McCarty which resulted in the latter's death, Pelkey accomplished nothing of consequence in his

efforts. The fight game isn't what it used to be years ago. It was a sport then. To-day it's business. The reason for this is that there are too many in the game and some of the boys fight for a paltry sum, making it almost impossible for a real fighter to get big purses. Naturally a majority of the lads will get disgusted with the money they are getting and will go into retirement. If this be the case, then the big fighters will be in a position to demand large sums for their services. I intend to be in the best of shape when I meet Kilbane again, and I feel perfectly confident that I can make a successful 'come back.'"

Georges Carpentier has announced that he is prepared to fight Sam Langford in May, and the match has thus been definitely arranged. Carpentier's contest with Kid McCoy takes place on March 14 in Paris.

Willie Ritchie and Ad. Wolgast, former champion, will meet some time in March in a ten-rounds no-decision contest, to take place at Milwaukee (U.S.). As the fight will not be refereed, the world's lightweight title will be jeopardised only by the possibility of a knock-out. Sporting writers are wondering whether this acceptance of Ritchie's is another dream of the champion's, and they are speculating as to whether he will really fight, or whether he will hurt another toe or foot.

A recent cable announced the fact that "Snowy" Baker had concluded terms with Willie Ritchie, champion lightweight boxer of the world, to visit Australia after he meets Harlem Tommy Murphy in their twice-postponed match, through ailments with which Ritchie was troubled. On the date originally set down it rained heavily, and the fight in a roofless structure was consequently not to be thought of as a money-getter. Postponed till next day, an undreamt obstacle stood in the way. Ritchie's nose had suddenly become too bad to permit of his facing the ordeal, and he produced a medical certificate to that effect. This was after he heard it was necessary to weigh again. Something went wrong with one of Ritchie's legs before the date to which the contest was put off came round. What the nature of the affection was the cable man did not tell us (remarks W. F. Corbett in the "Sun"). Australia will be glad to entertain Ritchie. He is a good fellow, and a clever boxer. We will welcome him also because we have some material to pit against him, and one man, Herb McCoy, may make the American's feathers fly a bit. But I will never feel sure about seeing Ritchie this far from home until he actually arrives amongst us. Those high-up American boxers take a whole lot of catching. What the deal will cost Mr. Baker has not been made known, but I would stake guineas to gooseberries that it is in the neighbourhood of £3000 and expenses.

Dan Dailey, the American heavyweight, who loomed into prominence chiefly as a result of scoring a knock-out victory over Al Palzer, has since defeated Fred McKay, of Winnipeg, Canada. The bout was stopped in the fourth round because of Frank Klaus, who refereed, on orders from Sheriff Judd H. Bruff. McKay was helpless. In the third round Dailey floored McKay for the count of nine with a right uppercut and followed this up by knocking McKay down again with a blow to the head. The bell saved McKay from being counted out. McKay's seconds dragged him to his corner and made an effort to revive him, but when the bell sounded for the fourth round McKay arose in a daze. In a second Dailey was upon him and with one punch put him to the floor. It was Dailey's fight from the start, the Canadian being on the defence all the time.

There is heated controversy in three countries as to whether Jack Johnson, Jim Johnson, or Sam Langford should be acclaimed champion of the world, while there is Joe Jeannette in the background to challenge any white hope should this doughty trio default. In France itself there is insistent demand that Georges Carpentier shall be crowned world's champion. This claim is based upon the fact that Jack Johnson has not defended his title, that Gunboat Smith was given a verdict over Sam Langford, that it took Gunboat Smith four rounds to knock out Bombardier Wells, while Carpentier polished him off in 1min 13sec.



A VETERAN AUCKLAND CRICKET ENTHUSIAST—MR. ROBERT LUSK.

and Langford, and going over the knock-out route in each instance. When Burns was booming Lester he was every whit as eloquent in his praises of Jack's wonderful abilities as he has been in his recent outbursts of Pelkeyism.

It isn't very long ago since Burns and Pelkey were abusing each other through the press, Arthur making accusations of fake work in connection with that little six-round go between them at Calgary (U.S.), and Burns stigmatising Pelkey as a "beastly ingrate," or words to that effect. Then came a reconciliation, and the present partnership between the pair, a sort of mutual admiration party with Burns as chief spokesman, and Pelkey playing chorus. The ex-heavyweight champion doesn't hesitate to declare that by dint of long and steady practice with him Pelkey has developed the best left hand ever possessed by a pug, not even excepting that of the dusky gent who robbed Tommy of first chop honours. Pelkey made his debut in New York on May 27, 1911, when he appeared in the heavyweight tournament promoted by

profession, for the bout with Burns had too much of a "business arrangement" air to be taken seriously, and a couple of other contests with mediocre performers brought him no fame. The McCarty battle didn't last long enough to furnish a line on Pelkey as he is to-day, and wasn't even a proof of his ability to hit hard, for there was no conclusive evidence that Luther's demise was due to the effects of a blow administered by his opponent. Lastly his defeat by "Gunboat" was another mediocre display that has to be entered up against his indifferent record.

Abe Attell, for 12 years king of featherweights, was asked the other day to give his opinion of the featherweight champion, and said:—"Johnny Kilbane, the present leader of the featherweights, is one of the best mitt artists that ever held the title. He has been deeply criticised by many for not meeting good men, but these are scarce among the feathers at the present time. I was made the target of abuse because I fought whenever and whoever I pleased, provided the money was in sight for my



A WINNER AT THE RECENT TE KUITI AND ROTORUA RACE MEETINGS—Mr. A. Ormsby's ch g OBDURATE, 3yrs, by Obligado —Sweet Alice. Owner holding horse.