

BILLIARDS.

DONT'S FOR PLAYERS.

The following "Dont's" contain good advice:—

The cloth is cloth—not asphalt. Don't imitate the Hon. M. Scott—the table is not a putting green.

If you cut the cloth, ring up Heiron and Smith (don't say "I'm sorry") and ask them to put on a new cloth at your expense.

Your opponent's flukes count to him, and likewise, for the same reason, yours count to you.

Always tell your opponent how to play the shot, or how it ought to have been played—it's worth 30 in 100 to you.

If the balls are running well for your opponent, mention the fact frequently, and, of course, loudly, because neither he nor the spectators may be aware of it.

To improve the polish on the wood-work, leave your cigarette alight on the cushion rail.

When you fail in a shot, blame the table, the cushion, or the balls—it can never be your own fault.

If you don't score in the first five or six strokes, change your cue—it must be bad!

Unless you can give Belfield 40 in 100, do not give a start to anyone until you know their game. You won't get a start then.

When returning a ball to a player, imitate Cotter or Roy Hill—it's good for both the ball and the cloth, as well as showing what an independent fellow you are.

Don't leave any chalk in the cups.

But do aim straight, play the strength, and—don't boast—"Sydney Referee."

The young Australian champion, George Gray, will shortly make his public debut in the Old Country. For the opening games his opponent will be George Nelson, champion of Yorkshire, with whom he has been booked to tour the large cities of the county of Broadacres and adjoining Lancashire. In the latter county he will probably be pitted against Diggle at Manchester, and the result of this game will be his "reference" to the English billiard world. Word comes from Leeds (where George is putting in eight hours daily at the table) that in a game of 750 against Nelson, he went out in nine sticks, averaging 83, his principal runs being 345 and 156. It must have been breaks of this magnitude that induced his manager to put the boy against such an expert and seasoned player as Diggle.

In John Roberts' reminiscences he attributes the defeat of his father by William Cook in their famous match for the championship in 1870 to an offer made by Lord Dudley (ancestor of our Governor-General) while the match was in progress to give him £1000 if he won. The offer made Roberts anxious, and defeated the well-meant intention of the generous donor. The late King (then Prince of Wales) was present at the match, which started at 8.27 p.m., and did not finish until 1.38 a.m. Cook won by 117 points in 1200 up.

CYCLING AND MOTOR NOTES.

The great cycling road race, Warrnambool to Melbourne (165 miles), will be decided on Saturday.

New figures have been established for the world's 100 miles unpaced record recently set up by Leon Meredith, and New Zealand or Australian riders who henceforth attempt to secure the Dunlop Rubber Company's prize for beating the record will have something harder to accomplish, provided, of course, the company decides that the prize is for the 100 miles record and not for Meredith's individual figures. In the Bath Road 100, held last month, F. H. Grubb from scratch did the distance in the fine time of 4hr. 50min. 49 3-5sec., as against Meredith's time of 4hr. 52min. 4-5sec. Grubb used an 88in gear and had to dismount twice to avoid cattle on the road. Of course Grubb's time was accomplished in actual competition, while Meredith journeyed alone, but he was unpaced, and apart from the fact that Grubb was competing in a race, the conditions were the same.

The West Australian test race from Beverley to Perth, to select the W.A. representative for the "Warrnambool," was held under most unfavourable weather conditions, heavy rain making the course—at the best a very severe one—a heart-breaking one. Forty-six riders braved the elements and the heavy track, the ultimate winner being C. J. Senior, off the 30 minutes' mark. J. McSweeney (24min.), after catching Senior, had the misfortune to puncture, and finished second. C. Howard ran third. The winner covered the 116 miles' course in 7hr. 10min., which was the fastest established, Senior thereby winning fastest time prize and the right of officially representing W.A. in the forthcoming "Warrnambool." All the prize-winners rode "Dunlops." The heavy na-

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ture of the course may be gauged from the fact that last year A. Planata covered the 116 miles in 6hr. 30sec. Senior, J. Webb and J. McSweeney will compete in the big Victorian event on Saturday.

According to a cablegram from New York last week, Barney Oldfield, one of America's leading racing motorists, drove his 200 h.p. Benz a mile on a local track in 49 4-5sec., the performance being claimed as a record. It may be a record for the track upon which the ride was established but it is far from being the world's best, for Oldfield's drive is a long way behind Hemery's flying mile at Brooklands (England) in 31.05sec., recorded on November 5, 1909. Even if it be from a standing start, Oldfield's time does not approach Hemery's 41 1-5sec. standing start record, established on the Brooklands track last November.

ATHLETICS.

AUCKLAND AMATEUR ATHLETIC AND CYCLE CLUB.

The annual report of the Auckland Amateur Athletic and Cycle Club, to be presented to the members at the annual meeting to-morrow evening, congratulates the members on a successful season. "Although the club has suffered a slight financial loss on the year's work," says the report, "yet the interest taken by competitors and the general public showed a marked improvement, and certainly augurs well for a new lease of life and a renewal of former prosperity as regards amateur athletics in this province. The season was chiefly notable by reason of the fact that the New Zealand championships were held here on February 26, 1910, but owing to the wretched weather the gathering resulted in a severe financial loss to the centre. The spring carnival, held on December 4, 1909, though showing a loss of about £13 financially, was encouraging as re-

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