

NOTES OF THE WHEEL.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO DEVOTEES OF THE BICYCLE.

No Reciprocity in Bicycles—For the Touring Bicyclists' Protection—Has But One Leg Yet Is An Expert Rider—Various Topics of Interest.



No Reciprocity in Bicycles.
THE secretary of the treasury has sent to the state department a decision on the question of a reciprocal tariff arrangement by which it was desired to admit free of duty bicycles accompanied by their riders. Some time ago the League of American Wheelmen called the attention of the state department to the fact that in several countries of Europe touring bicyclists were allowed to carry their wheels from one country to another, but this concession was confined to the countries which had made a specific agreement to that effect. The United States is not a party to this agreement, and the League of American Wheelmen ascertained that a similar concession might be obtained for them in case the United States should extend a reciprocal privilege to Europeans. The treasury officials have declared that under the tariff law they have no authority to take such action.

Against the Cold Shower.

"No healthy person, much less a sickly one, should ever dash cold water upon his body." This is what an English writer, devoted to the study of personal as distinct from public hygiene, tells riders of the wheel who have labored under the impression that the cold shower bath was the proper thing following a ride.

According to this man of science, the whole effect of the shock is positive injury. "The people whose systems are strong enough to react from the shock may think they are benefited," he says, "but they have simply been strong enough to recover."

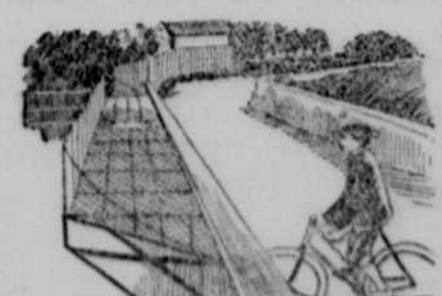
Many people have testified to the health-giving properties of a cold shower, but this man rejects it all, declaring that the cold water attacks the vitality of the body at the outset, driving the blood from the surface and concentrating it unnaturally on the interior. This, for the time being, produces a tremendous pressure and subjects one to serious diseases.

Good News for Tourists.

Informal announcement has been received that the Swiss, Belgian and Italian governments have decided to admit touring L. A. W. members across their frontiers without requiring the payment of duty or the deposit of money at the customs station. This privilege will be formally proclaimed as soon as necessary papers are executed and filled by the officers of the L. A. W. Sample membership tickets have been forwarded to Paris, Berne, Brussels and Rome for distribution among the customs stations, so that an L. A. W. membership ticket can be recognized by comparison with the one on hand at each station.

Wheelmen's Protection.

The touring cyclist runs many risks; but nowhere, probably, was there a more terrible death-trap than the Ramingio bridge, on the road from Nice to Mentone, in Italy. This bridge, which spans a chasm between twenty and thirty yards deep, is the meeting place of two parallel roads, which approach at right angles and with a somewhat steep descent. Consequently cyclists and vehicles which approach the bridge incautiously and were not able to turn with sufficient promptness came into violent collision with the parapet and were not infrequently hurled over it into the chasm beneath. In less than three years over a hundred persons—among them twenty cyclists—have in this way been either killed or seriously injured. The French government has at length undertaken to make such changes as would obviate the serious danger. Seeing, however, that the necessary measures would not be completed in less than four or five years



A PROTECTION NET.

the Touring Club de France has had constructed a protecting net-work in the manner shown in the accompanying illustration. Strong iron supports are let into the masonry of the bridge and over these is stretched copper-wire netting capable of supporting the weight of two horses, should they be thrown upon it. The work was finished last spring. Five days after its completion a cyclist came into collision with the parapet of the bridge, his machine was smashed and he was hurled into the netting and escaped unharmed. Several other persons have since been similarly saved from disaster.

Paths Along Country Roads.

Cycle paths constructed along the line of country roads will be pushed more vigorously in 1899 than ever before.

fore. From the practical experience thus far gained it is shown that the best surface for cycle paths is composed of a thin dressing of crushed sandstone. This material packs easily, forms a smooth, elastic surface, with just enough grit to "bite" the tire and prevent slipping, resists the formation of mud and for ten months in the year supplies an ideal wheelway. It is superior to the cinder surface in that the latter sticks to the rubber tire and is easily picked up and loosened by passing wheels, and in dry weather is blown off and scattered by strong winds. A cycle path should not be less than five feet (better six feet) in its narrowest part.

Some Questions Settled.

The action of the officers of the National Cycle Track Association in joining hands with the L. A. W. for the object of running a circuit of race meets next season settles beyond dispute the talk of the association aiming to control cycle racing. The owners of large bicycle tracks promoted some big races this season, but it is reported that few owners cleared expenses. This circumstance has led the Track association to appeal to the racing board of the league for a circuit of dates in the spring and fall. The consent of the L. A. W. is assured, and some great racing is anticipated. The L. A. W. divisions propose to promote state circuits, so that the amateur and professional riders will be brought together. The L. A. W. has become convinced that state circuits are most successful to promote the sport, and every effort will be made to foster such races this year.

One Leg and an Expert.

The most expert of all one-legged cyclists is Charles Kilpatrick of this city. Six years ago Kilpatrick was an umpire in a western baseball league. While running for a train one day he slipped and fell under the wheels and had his right leg cut off above the knee. His recovery was rapid, and in time he attempted to ride a bicycle. Meeting with success on the first trial,



CHAS. KILPATRICK.

he kept up the practice until he could do almost any known trick on the machine. Finally friends advised him to go about the country giving exhibitions of his expert and fancy riding. His success was remarkable from the first, and has been extremely gratifying since his wife joined him in his act three years ago. She was the first woman to do fancy riding on a safety bicycle, and now she is almost as finished a performer as her husband. Both are accomplished, and in England, where they are now filling an engagement, they are great favorites with the amusement-loving public. Kilpatrick's most daring feat was performed several years ago when he rode down the capitol steps at Washington.

Against the Chronic.

Chief Consul Conway Sams of the Maryland division of the L. A. W., has decided to present an amendment to the constitution of the league at the next meeting of the national assembly, in relation to the eligibility of candidates for executive offices. The amendment is as follows: No person who is a party to a contract with the League of American Wheelmen shall be eligible to the office of president, vice president, secretary or treasurer of the organization. This change will have a direct bearing upon the candidacy of chronic office-holders.

Indianapolis Is Favored.

All talk about the National meet being awarded to Boston or any other eastern city is wasted energy. The meet will be awarded by the executive committee of the L. A. W., and the reason Indianapolis is proceeding with its arrangements for the meet may be inferred to be that it is aware that the sentiment of the executive committee is at present in favor of Indianapolis. Boston has made no formal application, and all the talk may be construed as simply a preliminary bid by Boston for the meet of 1899.

The Gear Case.

A St. Louis firm has been incorporated for the purpose of manufacturing gear case aluminum bicycles. The gear case, which bids fair to become popular next season, will be part of the frame. The principal feature of the wheel will be the gear-case frame in one continuous casting free from all joints.

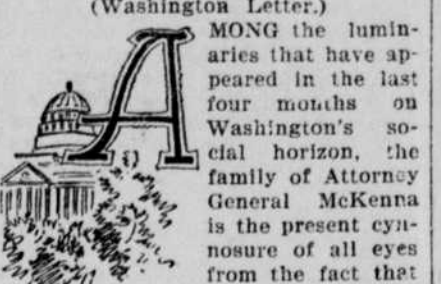
Brown Is a Stayer.

Dr. Brown, the Cleveland racing physician, whose career on the track seemed of short duration after three unsuccessful seasons, and who made a grand record on the national circuit extension, will enter the lists in '99 as a prominent factor in the race for the championship.

LIFE AT THE CAPITAL.

NEW SUPREME COURT JUSTICE AND FAMILY.

Debutante Teas and Coming Out—Postmaster General Gary's Home Life Among His Eight Children—Graceful Miss Flora Wilson.



(Washington Letter.)
AMONG the luminaries that have appeared in the last four months on Washington's social horizon, the family of Attorney General McKenna is the present cynosure of all eyes from the fact that the judge is in a state of transition from cabinet officer to associate justice of the Supreme bench. Mr. McKinley and his attorney general are warm personal friends, of which fact the president has given substantial evidence, first in taking Mr. McKenna into his cabinet and now in nominating him to fill the place vacated on the Supreme bench. Of all the favors within the gift of the chief executive, this is the greatest. It is a life position with a salary of \$10,000 a year and one of the highest dignity and honor. Three of the present members of that august body—Chief Justice Fuller and Associate Justices White and Peckham—owe their seats to Ex-President Cleveland, who would have put his secretary of the treasury—James G. Carlisle—into Field's place had Field resigned, as was his original intention, during the Cleveland administration. Field, who was appointed to the Supreme bench by Lincoln in 1863, from being one of Cleveland's most ardent admirers became one of his bitterest antagonists and withheld his resignation, knowing what gratification it would give Cleveland to be able to confer the place upon Carlisle. Carlisle's loss, however, is McKenna's gain.

Miss Hildegard, the youngest member of the family, is still a school girl,



MISS FLORA WILSON.

and, following in her sister's footsteps, is a boarder at the Convent in Georgetown. She is an unusually handsome girl, and although she is a good student, frequent home-comings are now uncommonly attractive, with their peeps into the world of official society in which she will have no part for some years. The only son of the family is in the army and is at present attached to General Brook's staff in Chicago. Though they are conspicuous figures in the social life of Baltimore, and promise to be equally prominent in that of the capital, the Garys are yet a thoroughly domestic family in the sense of being entirely devoted to one another. One of the difficulties they met with in selecting their Wash-



MRS. JOSEPH MCKENNA.

ington house was in finding one spacious enough to accommodate not only those members of the family who are still at home, but likewise those that have married and set up hearth stones of their own. This applies to five of the Postmaster General's eight children, his four daughters having been married within the last two years. Fortunately they are all married to Baltimoreans and continue to live in their native city, one of the daughters, Mrs. Eugene Levering having planted her home tree no farther from the parental shelter than across the street. It is a peculiarity of the old Maryland fam-

ilies that they dwell in one place forever, and that their servants live with them from generation to generation. One dusky old attaché of the Garys even went so far as to adopt their cognomen and proclaimed himself Andrew Gary.

Their loyalty to their own city and its proximity frequently takes the Garys over to Baltimore, where they have a town house, as well as a country home, whence come twice a week the flowers that make a bower of their house here.

Of the three daughters who are still at home Miss Lillian is engaged to be married, which means among other things that all the duties that go with the distinction upon being Miss Gary are shortly to devolve upon Miss Jessie. Miss Madeline is already in society, so there are no debutantes in the Gary family.

Postmaster General Gary's family is like that of Senator Gorman, whom Dame Rumor whispered he would like to succeed, inasmuch as both are rich in daughters, there being six in the latter. The youngest, Miss Mary Edna Gorman, was introduced to society here three years ago, and very much resembles her clever father in her clearly cut features and shapely head.

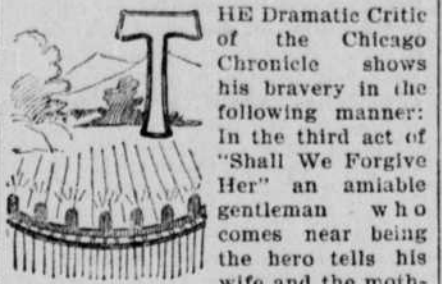
An unusually interesting figure among the ladies of the present cabinet circle is the daughter of the Secretary of Agriculture, Miss Flora Wilson.

Her position is identical with that which the late Miss Herbert filled with so much grace during the last administration. Since the death of her mother, which occurred six years ago, Miss Wilson has presided in her father's home, supervising his domestic interests and welfare, and that of her brothers, and filling the role of hostess on social occasions. In addition to these exacting duties, Miss Wilson held the position of librarian, and taught literature in the Iowa State College, whence she was graduated in 1892. She is deeply interested in the development and progress of women, a believer in their higher education, and an advocate of their rights, and is herself a living demonstration of the fact that the currents of a public career and a private life may run side by side in perfect harmony. The women of her state

THEATRICAL TOPICS.

CURRENT NEWS AND GOSSIP OF THE STAGE.

The Degeneracy of the American Stage—Even the Vaudeville Business is Said to be Getting Worse—Some Opinions From the Pen of Hillary Bell.



THE Dramatic Critic of the Chicago Chronicle shows his bravery in the following manner: In the third act of "Shall We Forgive Her" an amiable gentleman who comes near being the hero tells his wife and the mother of his child in plain set terms to go to the dickens—a minute before having professed the most passionate love for her—and Providence with a merciful sense of the fitness of things strikes him blind. It should have struck him dead. But that would have made a fourth act superfluous and the audience would have been avenged too soon. Besides in this sort of British drama the only object clearly aimed at by the dramatist is to make the women in the audience cry and the men feel like licking somebody. In "Shall We Forgive Her?" the chief novelty is that it is not the villain who is most contemptible. We do not so much desire with a wild and passionate yearning to strangle him as to kick the alleged hero. Just think of a man who is ready to turn his wife and a young baby out of doors and abandon them forever simply because some time or other in the past the woman has not been all she should have been! There is no doubt about her good behavior as his wife, no doubt about her real goodness in the present, and all he has to excuse him is the scandalous tongue of another woman whose word is patently not worth taking. Another pitfall in the shape of the man whose very life she had saved at the risk of her own stands calmly by while sentence of worse than death is being passed upon her. It is not within the power of any dramatist to write a very strong play around such a theme, and whoever the gentleman is who wrote "Shall We Forgive Her?"—his name is not on the programme—cannot complain of us saw that his offense is greater than his heroine's in writing clean against nature. The story of the play is that of a woman who has, through no real fault of her own, fallen into the clutches of a rascal, breaks away from her evil associations and marries a respectable, if very lily-livered, individual. Then the aforesaid rascal turns up and blackmails her. Her husband, instead of protecting her, turns her adrift, but in the end, having had a few everlasting truths pounded into him, is reunited to her. How she could ever tolerate him again we don't know. It is unnatural stuff like this that makes the theater-goer of today tired. Yet as the play is acted at the Schiller theater by a company of very fair strength it undoubtedly interests the audience episodically and while denying most of us a chance to sympathize with anybody of importance still in its way entertains. The play is carefully staged, as indeed, we are prepared to find, when Jacob Litt is the producer. Everything that scenery and orderly stage management can do for a performance such as this has been done.

Where can be found a second Le Clercq, or scholarly Skinner, or graceful Kingdon, or stately Dreher, or adroit John Drew? Ada Rehan grew up, so to speak, with those players, and was in exact harmony with their school. She is in the place now of one who has climbed a steep ascent and looks back mournfully at the spots where her comrades fell. She is the last rose of Daly's, left blooming alone, for Mrs. Gilbert is in the serene and yellow.

George Le Roy Holland, commonly known as George Holland, is the eldest son of the late George Holland, comedian, and brother to E. M. and Joseph Holland. He was born in this city

July 6, 1848, and educated partly here and partly in New Orleans, La., where for a number of years the senior Holland was a great favorite. His first professional engagement was with Laura Keane, at the Chestnut Street theater, Philadelphia, Pa., in 1869. Since then Mr. Holland has acted with almost every notable star, and in all of the principal cities of America, as well as in London, Eng. His engagement there with the late E. A. Sothern lasting for sixteen weeks, at the Haymarket theater. In 1887 Mr. Holland settled in Philadelphia, acting for a few weeks each year with the late Mrs. John Drew, at the Arch street theater. In 1891 he became lessee and manager of the Girard Avenue theater, and for



GEORGE LE ROY HOLLAND.

Five years his management was noted for the wonderful success achieved. This season Mr. Holland determined to return to acting, and he was at once engaged by Charles Frohman and David Belasco for the principal parts in "A Night's Session" and "The First Born," in which characters he has again achieved distinction as an actor. Mr. Holland is an actor of wide experience, great technical knowledge and much polish, and his skill as a stage manager won him much renown while engaged in managerial work in Philadelphia.

No new glory in vaudeville. Anna Held has not been boiled in milk this year. No Fregoli, nor Biondi, Chevalier, Martinetti or Sandow. Have we completed our studies in the museum of natural curiosities? Are there no freaks left? Albert Blal, exhausted by his search for novelties, has pulled down the curtain on himself. Oscar Hammerstein sits weeping by the wayside.

Beyond the Hungarian woman's achievements in vocal art we have discovered no triumphs in music. Lillian Russell, the most celebrated of comic singers, has not taken a new husband nor created a new part this season. Lulu Glaser, Nancy McIntosh, Dorothy Morton and Camille D'Arville have done nothing to hold their artistic standing. Even the lately imported Galey Girls were not up to standard in physical beauty, terpsichorean grace or lyric charms.

Three performers, and three alone, have impressed their individuality strongly on the public this winter: May Irwin remains as amusing as if she had a good farce, Julie Opp has established a reputation which is wholly independent of Pinero, and Marcella Sembrich, singing old scores, has won new renown in them.

Who can imagine the divine Sarah playing in the role of a girl of the working class who has developed into an anarchist of the Louise Michel type? Yet this is just what Mme. Bernhardt did at the initial performance of Octave Marbeau's "Les Nauvais Bergers" at the Renaissance theater in Paris. And while Mme. Bernhardt is



BERNHARDT PLAYING THE ANARCHIST.

criticized for her descent to a dangerous socialistic role when she acts as "spokeswoman for the ferocious theories of the mob," the Paris critics declare she delineated the character with more than usual talent.—New York Evening Journal.

May Irwin is five feet around, Julie Opp is six feet high. They are the long and short of the acting interest of the winter. No Bernhardt, no Duse, no Coquelin, Rejane, Mounet-Sully, Irving, Tree or Hare. Without great talent a season is barren in histrionic interest.

Where is Georgia Cayvan, whose nicely modulated emotions used to pulsate the Lyceum with respectable passion? Where is Herbert Kecey, who was beautiful to look at, if not always interesting to hear? Where is W. J. Le Moyne, whose humor was eccentric, but sound? Where is Fritz Williams, whose mirth was confidential and engaging? Where is Grace Henderson, whose villainy subsequently turned out to be genuine? The New York season seems to be barren of good things.—Hillary Bell.

The Drafting Question.

Charles A. Comiskey, president of the St. Paul club of the Western league, is quoted as saying: "I am sure that the Western league will not accept the amendments imposed upon the minor leagues in regard to the drafting of players at the recent Philadelphia meeting; for, while the major league may have seemed to favor us in that they granted the two points we asked for—restricting the number of players to be drafted from any one club to two each year, and not allowing a man to be subject to draft until he has been in our league two years—these favors are more than offset by the conditions imposed in the way of giving the National league and American association a right to reclaim a 'loaned' player on thirty days' notice. Why, we would a great deal rather leave the rules as they were than to allow them to do that. With that rule in force they could wreck one of our clubs any time they wanted to and force us to do what they wanted in the way of deals. I do not fully understand whether the National league and American association insists on this clause before it grants us the concessions we asked for, or whether they have simply requested us to make the concession in regard to loaned players; if the three changes have to live or die together I am by all means in favor of letting them die, and I think the other members of our league will think the same way about it."