

Advantages of New School of Fencing



FENCERS from America who visit the Olympic games at London next year will find an entirely new school of fence prevailing among the wielders of the rapier abroad. The new wrinkles have been developed in part by Prof. A. Rouleau of France. One of his cleverest pupils is Miss Clifton-Hadden, whose poses are given here.

She made her debut three years ago at the international fencing tournament and has since been looked upon as the most scientific woman fencer in the world. Being an extreme student of the new school, it is worth while to follow the principles which she gives of the art in Hadminton.

In the old style the fencer faced his opponent squarely with the breast full on, leaving a big space for the point of the foil to land on. In the new method the right side only is presented to the opponent, striving as small a mark as possible to hit.

This is effected by pointing the left foot to the left and keeping it flat on the ground, while the right foot is pointed directly to the true front. The heels are together and the arms folded behind the back.

Both knees are next bent, the right foot being advanced straight to the front, four or six inches, the body being balanced evenly over both feet. Then, finally, the right foot is again advanced a similar distance and the left leg is straightened and braced.

The advance with the right foot about six inches is also practiced in moving forward the whole body to reach an adversary dodging backward out of range, the left foot almost simultaneously following the forward move of the right.

A counter move with the legs used in the same way gives the reverse, the proper execution of which is highly important. These movements are executed without the weapon in hand and with the hands folded, wrists turned in, behind the back.

The fencer in taking the floor or strip gives the salute to his opponent and this leads up to the guard, a position from which all attacks are made and defenses or parries delivered. It will be observed that the right foot is here advanced, the body being equally balanced over both feet.

The right elbow should be about seven inches from the body, the foil and forearm in one continuous straight line, the left arm and hand on one continuous gracefully curved line, for beauty effect of course.

The illustration showing the lunge the new method is very simple. The right foot being again advanced, the left leg is straightened and the right arm extended fully. At the same time a hit is made at the adversary with the foil, which should form a continuation in line with the extended arm. At the exact moment the lunge is made the left arm should be lowered as a counterbalance to the forward arm and advanced body.

This was a point hardly ever considered

by former fencers, for when they lunged the left arm was kept bent at the elbow, making a very awkward movement. When the left arm is lowered according to the new school is permitted a very easy recovery from the lunge to the guard. That is, the left arm is thrown up and the right foot is withdrawn about fourteen inches, bringing the right arm and foil back to the original guard position ready to meet any counter attack or to begin a fresh one.

It is necessary not only to practice these positions with the right foot but also with the left, so that the muscles of both arms and legs may be equally developed, otherwise an unequal development might follow. It is also good to go through these motions alone, and for this purpose, in order to see that everything is carried out as it should be, a chalk line can be drawn on the floor to aid the right foot in advancing to the true front. The best plan for a beginner is to study in front of a looking glass.

The parry is the technical term for the defence against an adversary's attack and one of the most vital points in the whole game. One should never forget the reverse movement, while at the same time the point of the foil wards off the lunge of the opponent's foil.

In the parries as well as in the attack the learner will soon see how greatly the wrist is called upon in fencing. When once the fingers have properly, yet lightly, grasped the foil handle, their position never changes, but the suppleness of the wrist is responsible for the ever changing position of the foil.

RUSHING BRITISH STADIUM

New Olympic Games May Have Two Thousand Entrants.

MANY NATIONS WILL TAKE PART

Sweden Will Be a Dangerous Competitor and Even Argentina Will Send Men—Better Accommodation for Athletes.

Though the London Olympic games are fully nine months off the stadium at Shepherd's Bush is nearly completed and most of the important arrangements as to teams and other matters are perfected.

As regards the training of athletes on a large scale an innovation will be introduced in the dressing room accommodations. Each team will have a room to itself. Something new is promised too in the arrangement of the events for each day and there will be no blunder as at Athens, when a runner came on the ground day after day to find their contests indefinitely put off.

There will be no clerk of the course, so the story goes, and it will rest with the man himself to look out for his particular contest. The events will have a time schedule on the program and those with trial heats will be similarly arranged, so if a competitor is not there to answer to his name the competition will proceed without him.

Some new rules will be in force. In the high jump a man will have to land plumb on his feet and he will have to keep his pins after alighting. Falling on all fours, as a majority of jumpers do, will be deemed a foul. Putting the shot, or as the Englishmen call it, the "weight," in another event where strange conditions will appear. Heretofore in England the contestant in executing his preparatory movement was allowed to rest the missile against his neck, on his shoulder, and oftentimes he was permitted to start the "put" from behind the shoulderblade. Any of these conditions will be barred in the Olympic games. The putter will be required to keep the weight on the chest and the slightest deviation from the rule will earn him a foul. Furthermore, it is proposed to improve the method of the arm movement. For a number of years at the English meets it was a common occurrence to see men give the "weight" a "bang" to the ground.

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trophy to be awarded to the nation securing the most events.

The exact conditions governing this prize have not been determined. It may take in contests like motor racing, yachting, golf, tennis and shooting, or be confined to the stadium events alone. The prize is a bronze statuette of Pallas Athene. It was presented by Comte Eugene Brunetta d'Usseau. Another beautiful prize has been presented by Mme. G. de Montgomery for the throwing of the discus, Greek style. It is in the shape of a challenge cup of rich design and can be held by the winner until the Olympiad of 1912.

But by far the most valuable and artistic prize yet presented to the committee is the International Fencing Challenge cup, a gift from British wielders of the foil. It is a counterpart of the famous Porthos vase, which now occupies a prominent place in the bronze room of the British museum. The vase is a pure specimen of Ionic Greek decorative art.

Lord Desborough of Tynslow, a great sportsman himself, is chairman of the British Olympic committee and is shouldering most of the work. He is getting fine help from Rev. S. de Courcy Laftan, who, in turn, has an able assistant in Captain F. Whitworth Jones.

HACK DODGES ANOTHER MATCH

Big Russian Begins to Look Like a Quitter.

LONDON, Oct. 25.—George Hackenschmidt, the "Russian Lion," whom Joe Rogers of New York expected to wrestle here, has crumpled out of the match made for him by his manager, Charles Cochran, and Tom O'Rourke of New York, acting for Rogers. It was a bitter disappointment to O'Rourke, who brought his protégé from the United States purposely to wrestle "Hack." Cochran has split with the "Russian Lion" because of his "throwing down" of O'Rourke and is no longer looking after his interests.

Hackenschmidt's only excuse for declining to meet Rogers on the mat was that if he wrestled him he would have to meet a dozen others who are here clamoring for a match. He is planning a tour of the United States next spring and a defeat now would, of course, knock his scheme into a cocked hat. Maybe that is why he refuses Rogers.

Cochran has what he thinks a world beater in Zybisco, champion of Switzerland. Hackenschmidt has repeatedly dodged a match with Zybisco, and it is open talk here in sporting circles that the Swiss would probably defeat him if they ever stopped on the mat together. O'Rourke has challenged Zybisco for Rogers and a match is almost a certainty.

SWIMMING GAME HOT IN GOTHAM

All the Experts Ready for the Next Big Matches.

NEW YORK, Oct. 25.—The winter swimming game will soon be at hand. As usual the New York Athletic club will be the leader in the water sport, but the regiments of New York and Brooklyn threaten to take away a few of the prizes. The thirteenth regiment of Brooklyn last year made a good start and turned out a relay team that was far from being bad. This winter Major Turpin, president of the athletic association, has made plans for a series of swimming meets between the National Guardsmen, and the Twenty-second and Seventy-first of New York are to have swimming teams.

The New York swimmers will not be seen in company with the middle of December, when the monthly meets will be started. As the United States is anxious to make a clean sweep in the swimming races at London next summer, the closest attention will be paid to the development of long-distance men. Champion Daniels will doubtless be able to sweep everything before him in the short-distance events.

The Olympic committee has about decided to hold several swimming meets throughout the country for the purpose of picking the men for the London games. The New York Athletic club, in New York; the Chicago Athletic club, in that city; the Missouri Athletic club of St. Louis and the Olympic club of San Francisco will hold carnivals in the spring, and the winner will be taken to the Olympic games.

BURNS AND JACK JOHNSON

Coast Sports Hope to See This Pair Hook Up Soon.

BIG MATCH FOR NEXT SPRING

Coffroth and Rickard Are Bidding for it Now and a Fine Pot Seems to Be in Sight for the Men.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 23.—There is a constantly growing impression that a fight between Jack Johnson and Tommy Burns is an assured thing inside of the next four months, always providing that the match between Tommy and Gunner Molt in England comes off and that the former retains the heavy-weight title. Burns has consented to meet the big negro after the fight with Molt.

The bidding for the fight, if it is finally agreed upon, will probably be between Jim Coffroth of Fresno and Tex Rickard, who, it is understood, wishes the battle to boom Ely, Nev. It is reported that Coffroth

is willing to dig up \$35,000 for the bout; but as Rickard wants the fight badly he may go still deeper.

Burns considers Coffroth's tentative offer a good one; but naturally if any one comes up with a higher bid James will get the go by. As far as the other promoters are concerned, Tom McCarey of Los Angeles is surely out of the race, for the Gans-Memick fight put him in pretty badly. It cost him \$10,000 and after the purse had been paid he netted only \$85. He thinks that bouts of that kind don't pay.

Gardner and Jimmy Burns.

CHICAGO, Oct. 23.—The probabilities are that Jimmy Gardner will be the boy selected to fight Jimmy Burns for the lightweight championship title. Mark Shaughnessy, who is here from the coast, seeking an opponent for Jimmy, would like to hook up with McFarland, but the weight limit stipulated did not suit "Fackey." If, however, suits Gardner, so there will be no hitch on that score.

Gardner also talks of fighting Young Ketchell, but the latter has been matched to fight Joe Thomas, and there is no chance for him there. A fight between Gardner and Burns would give the fans a better line on the gift-champion's fighting abilities than did his contest with Gans. The Lowell boy can box rings around Burns, and barring a lucky punch beat him handily.

More Fights at 'Erisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 23.—Admirers of pugilism here are rightly elated over the news that the Board of Supervisors has decided to allow twenty-round bouts to go on again, and that they will grant licenses to only a few of the fight promoters, those who have pulled off bouts, which were fought on the level. The club managers, who are to receive these licenses are Jack Gleason, Alec Greigains, Eddie Graney and Morris Levy. Gleason will get the November permit, which will allow him to pull off the twenty-round fight between Joe Thomas and George (Young) Ketchell at the baseball park on Thanksgiving day, afternoon, November 23.

Match at Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, Md., Oct. 25.—The Eureka Athletic club of this city has arranged for a fifteen-round bout between Matty Baldwin of Boston and Kid Sullivan of Washington for the night of October 25 and the bout promises to be one of the best fought in the east in some months. The Baltimore sports are looking forward to the bout with much rejoicing, for it will be the first time

that Baldwin has fought in the Monument City, and they expect a great battle.

Matty is considered to be one of the shiestest men in the east, and fighting at about 130 pounds, as he stipulated before making the match, he will be in just the right trim.

Davenport Club's Card.

CHICAGO, Oct. 25.—A bout between Packey McFarland and Kid Herman, the two best lightweight that Chicago possesses, is what the Tri-City Athletic club of Davenport, Ia., is fishing for now, to take place about the middle of next month. Herman's manager says that if the club will give him an idea of what arrangements as to weight and posting of forfeits they desire, he thinks the match can be closed.

Kaufman Goes West.

NEW YORK, Oct. 23.—Disgusted by his failure to get matches in the east for his new heavy-weight, Billy Delaney started west with Al Kaufman last week. Their first stop will be in Denver, where there is a chance for a match with Jack (Twin) Sullivan, Reddy Gallagher and Otto Floto. Managers of rival clubs in the Colorado city are expected to bid for the contest, so that a good purse may be offered. Sullivan, according to a letter to Delaney some days ago, was about to start for Denver to learn what would be offered for the bout. If a match with the twin falls Delaney will try to get John Willie or Marvin Hart for Kaufman.

There is no chance in the east for a big man to fight," said Delaney before he left.

The authorities won't stand for them and the clubs don't seem interested in them. These six-round contests that you have had here have educated the public up to fast slugging battles, in which the big men usually don't shine.

Delaney's experience has been that of all the other big men who have tried to get on fights here. Even in Philadelphia, where the authorities will permit heavy-weights to fight, the clubs take little interest in them. A featherweight slugging match seems to be more attractive than a bout between big men who have sense enough to box more calmly and slowly with some thought about the science of the game.

Russ Hall Ready.

Russ Hall, who is running the "Butte" team, did not play this season because of a twisted knee, but says he will be there next year with the goods.



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