

NOTES OF THE WHEEL

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO DEVOTEES OF THE BICYCLE.

Effect of the New Amateur Rule—Local Talent is Discouraged—National Assembly's Outside Interests—The Collins Law.

Effect of New Amateur Rule.

In the amateur branch of the sport the N. C. A. has made liberal rules which permit amateurs to travel unlimited distances to race meets and allowed them to have their expenses paid by their clubs and to have paid trainers. Already this broadening of the amateur has had the effect of creating a distinctive amateur class in the cast which approaches closely to the lines of the old Class B amateur without the same advertising features. In this division are found such speedy and prominent young men as Kramer, Hausman, Collett, Ruiz, Lake, Schofield, Wahrenberger, Bedell, Nye and others, who will travel the New York state circuit and perhaps the grand circuit almost as regularly as the professional riders themselves, competing in all the best amateur races and winning national reputations. With such constant training and practice they will become almost as fast as their companions who ride for cash prizes. Competition among them and the local amateurs who ride with them at the various meets will be as keen as among the pros, and sometimes, as was the case at Manhattan Beach, these amateurs will be the star performers at a meet.

Racing enthusiasts throughout the country hope for and anticipate with pleasure a return of the amateur club rivalry which lent such keen interest to cycle racing in the early 90s, and are heralding as a significant sign the large entry lists in the amateur events in the North Atlantic and New England states, claiming that never before were there so many amateur racing men.

Other Interests Are Larger.

It was a very common opinion last winter that the national assembly made a mistake at Providence in February in voting not to relinquish the control of the sport. It is too late now to correct the error until next winter, when, judging from the present outlook, it will be done if the delegates have the best interests of the organization at heart. If the league had left the professional end of the sport severely alone it would not have been in the present dilemma, but now it will probably be unable to let go of one horn without letting go of both. Many blame professionalism for the present lack of interest in the sport, asserting that the public has become too blasé and cannot be drawn to a track any more by local talent, nothing but the best of the national or international stars and enormous purses being sufficient attraction. Professionalism has been cleaner under L. A. W. control than it was before, and the rights of the public have been better defended. It will need a strong hand to govern the sport henceforth and to protect the various interests as disinterestedly as the league has done, notwithstanding the charges of personal interests of those selected to officiate in various capacities. However, if the professionals want to manage themselves or be managed by the more powerful track owners, the league has nothing to lose but the notoriety of being its foster parent, whereas it has much to gain by promoting the other branches of the pastime to which it is supposed to be devoted.

Discouraged Local Talent.

One effect of the liberal amateur rule to be deprecated is the tendency to discourage local talent through the presence at the big meets of that new class of "pures" who have national reputations for speed and endurance. Lesser lights of the amateur field will hesitate to enter against these men in



COLLETT.

all but handicap events. Such a result seems to have occurred in Philadelphia, where the amateurs have refrained from entering the Woodside Park meet scheduled for June 28, for the reason, as they say, that Kramer, Collett and Hausman are traveling with the crack professionals and are scooping in all the good prizes in the amateur meets. As this is the first N. C. A. meet in Philadelphia, and a number of race meets under L. A. W. sanction are on the tapis in the vicinity of Philadelphia for July 4, which offer good pot-hunting chances, the blame for the slender entries cannot be laid entirely to the presence of the prominent circuit-chasing amateurs. The "pures" of the Quaker City would

not court suspension by the league until after the Fourth of July any way, and naturally they wish to see what will be the effect of this first introduction of "outlaw" racing in the stronghold of the league.

The New World's Records.

Major Taylor will certainly have to do some faster work than he has been doing against the Butler boys and Charles Church if he hopes to stay in condition to end the present season with such a string of world's records as he made last fall. Already McDuffee is credited with having deprived his dusky brother leaguer of two of his most important records at New Bedford, Mass., on last Saturday, when he rode a quarter in :22 and a half in :45 flat, clipping two-fifths of a second from the former and four-fifths from the latter record. McDuffee's time for the mile, however, exceeded Taylor's record by 2 4-5 seconds. According to the racing rules of the L. A. W., times for intermediate distances are not allowed, and therefore, as McDuffee originally started for the mile record, which he failed to land, his times for the quarter and half cannot be allowed as records. To secure these records it is necessary to make



CHURCH.

a separate trial for each, a provision to obviate the possibility of error in timing the intermediate distances.

The Collins Law Misunderstood.

The Collins uniform law governing the riding of bicycles in New York state has already given rise to a number of disputes, principally through a misunderstanding of its provisions and ignorance of the fact that it annuls all town regulations which conflict with its articles. The New York city police are slow to absorb the fact that the state law was more powerful than the older laws of that city, and are inclined to hold that the Collins measure applies only to the country and not the metropolitan districts. Arrests have occurred in some of the smaller towns, and cyclists have been fined for violating town ordinances which are more stringent than the new state law, and the L. A. W. divisions have threatened to institute suit to test the strength of the uniform state law. The chief object of the law is to prevent the persecution of cyclists through differences between the ordinances of various towns within the state and by its simplicity to make all bicycle riders familiar with the requirements. It is a just measure, and it is to be hoped that other states will soon see the advantage of securing similar uniform laws.

Three-Cornered Matches in Europe.

Three-cornered match races are very popular in France and other continental countries of Europe this season, and the best of the European sprinters are taking part in them. Fully 4,500 spectators attended a match contested at Lille, France, by Jacquelin, the champion sprinter of France in '96; Myers, the Dutch favorite, and Courbe. The race was run in three heats, the first of which was won by Jacquelin, while Courbe ran second and Myers in third. The second heat was a loaf until Courbe stole a march on his opponents and led them across the tape by ten lengths, while Myers defeated Jacquelin for second by half a length. In the third heat Courbe tried the same tactics, but Jacquelin was watching for him and followed closely until the home stretch, when he out-sprinted Courbe by a few inches, Myers running third at one length.

A Good Proposition.

Recognition of the number of working women in New York has been shown by the proposition to build a large hotel for them, which will accommodate one thousand guests. It is to be built practically for those who are "supporting themselves as artists, litterateurs, teachers, clerks, and in similar pursuits." The hotel is to be fitted out with all modern conveniences—ample parlors, reading, music and sewing rooms, restaurants and tearooms. Board is to cost \$3 a week, and rooms from \$3 a week upward. This hotel, if it is built, will in its fullest measure fill a long-felt want, and doubtless among all the women working in the city there will be a thousand who will gladly flock to it for the shelter and protection it will afford them; but there will always be some other thousands to whom life on so public a scale would no doubt be a great cross, if not an actual impossibility.—Harper's Bazar.

Love's Imposition.

From the Detroit Free Press: "Why, darling," exclaimed the pretty bride of three weeks, as she rushed to embrace her husband, "How good it was of you to skip baseball once and come home early. You're just too sweet." And he accepted it all without saying a word about there being no game.

THEATRICAL TOPICS.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS OF THE PLAYERFOLK.

Fanny Ward is Becoming Aged in Appearance—Anna Held an Adept at Advertising—Lillian Russell and the Race Track.

Fanny Ward, who used to look so cute and winning, when perched as Cupid on a half moon at the Garden theater, and whose meteoric career in London has enveloped her in a blaze of diamonds if not of glory, is said to be becoming aged. All that a rich man's money can do in the way of affording stage opportunity has been forthcoming, but money cannot buy perpetual youth. Fanny looks peevish, petulant and but little like her old self, but she lives like a prince. One of these days it will not matter.

Anna Held, who knows the value of a careful, rational, healthful life, is about as level-headed and keen-witted as they make them. She never loses a trick when it comes to keeping herself before the public. Her capture of the first prize at the recent Battle of Flowers in Paris, was a clever coup. Her carriage was trimmed with nothing but orchids—the most expensive of flowers—involving an outlay of hundreds of francs, and her costume, while simple, was the perfection of quiet elegance. The combined effect, together with her own personal charm, gained victory over thousands of contestants, including all the famous beauties of Paris.

Miss Attalie Claire used to be an opera singer of whom prima donnas possessing greater celebrity than had fallen upon her were always deeply and painfully jealous—when she told it. She married a rich young man and retired for several years. Then Attalie suddenly came to the front, accusing hubby of running around with a little blonde damsel from somewhere over in Jersey. While this little affair was steaming along at express train speed, the husband found a young man connected with one of the



ATTALIE CLAIRE.

leading law firms of New York, who said he was giving legal advice to the aggrieved wife. In the shuffle the infant that had been born during the years of wadded happiness was carried off, and there were fine ructions in the newspapers. Later on, the husband was once more in the newspapers in a very prominent way, and the whole story of Attalie's marital infidelities came up again. Still, she isn't getting a large number of perceptible engagements. Perhaps the stage is undergoing a revolution in these matters. The time has arrived maybe, when it takes something very far superior to mere notoriety to force an opening in theatrical life. I say maybe.

The reason I thus speak indefinitely is furnished by Mrs. T. Benton Leiter, of Chicago, who has recently been playing engagements in some vaudeville theaters hereabouts. Mrs. Leiter announces herself on the bill as "the Chicago society leader," although when she led Chicago society, or where she led it, nobody seems able to define it well to find out. Anyway, it would be well for Mrs. T. Benton Leiter to go back to the West and resume her occupation of leading. She won't do as a feature of stage life. She is rather pretty in a vague, colorless way, but that is her only claim to recognition as an actress. She broke into the profession through the newspaper stories which told how L. Z. Leiter, her husband's relative, had pranced and clowned the air and made other violent demonstrations when she married the family. But I don't think she will adorn the theater for any length of time. She does not "deliver the goods," and there isn't

enough metropolitan interest in Chicago society leaders to warrant her retention as a freak.

The peerless Lillian Russell, who seems to grow more radiantly beautiful as the years roll past, is once again to be found at the race track pretty much every afternoon, sending swill bets into the ring and sometimes making the bookmakers wish they were dead or very far removed from the scene of her operations. Lillian is a heavy bettor upon the horses, and some of the inside information that reaches her is evidently of a very valuable kind, whether it comes from the stables or some peculiarly gifted clairvoyant. One would be surprised to know how many women frequenters of the race tracks about New York insist upon securing advice from the for-



MRS. LEITER.

tune tellers. It doesn't seem to occur to these feminine sports that if people who take their fees could really foretell the outcome of one or two races a day, they would go out of the business of consulting the stars and become plungers on their own account. Persons who become racing mad, although they are credited with being a pretty smart lot, are in reality the most easily gulled human beings in all the world. They will take tips from negro first-class boys who don't know the first thing of what they are talk-

BASE BALL TOPICS

CURRENT NEWS AND NOTES OF THE GAME.

Boycott the Hums—Hoodlums Have No Place in Base Ball—They Disgrace Their Clubs, Besmirch Their Fellow Players and Are Objectionable.

It would be a good policy for clubs to adopt to employ players that by their character and habits could commend themselves to the patrons of the game, and to refuse to employ the hoodlums of the profession no matter how effective they might prove as ball players. I know and every one else knows that a skillful ball player who is a decent man becomes a favorite and a drawing card for any team, while the hoodlum no matter how good a player he may be can never secure a place in the affections of the patrons of the game, writes James Andrews, in the Sporting News.

The managers may tell you that what the public want is successful ball playing, no matter by whom it is done. That is only partially true. The public does want successful ball playing undoubtedly, but it also wants somebody to do it on whom it can lavish its praises and bestow its admiration and affection. No matter how good a player and a loafer he can never occupy the same position in the good graces of the patrons of the game that he could if he were a gentleman. Why won't the managers get together and boycott the hoodlum element and force it out of the business? They are the people to do it and if they would only nerve themselves up to it their patrons would rise up and call them blessed. The managers are continually doing many things in many ways to make the game attractive and pleasant for their patrons. Here's a good place to remove one of the most objectionable features of the sport. Let us all hope they will. Amen.

Magnate's Methods.

The Cincinnati Enquirer the other day published what it regarded, we dare say, as a good story, at the expense of the much berated official averages. As a matter of fact it was not so much of a reflection upon the figures as upon those who control and manipulate them. Incidentally the tale also exposed once more the methods employed by some of the magnates who are supposed to have the fate of the national game in their hands. Here is the tale:

"There is not much reliance to be placed on some of the official averages. For ways that are dark and tricks that are vain the average League magnate is peculiar. Padding a player's average with the aid of the official scorer is a new way of booming a player who is to be put on the market. Earle Wagner last night owned up that Gene Demontreville's batting average was 'boosted' the last season he was with the Washingtons. 'He batted along at about a .285 clip,' said President Wagner. 'I wanted to trade him off or sell him. So I had our official scorer boost him up. He gave him about forty extra hits. This put his average over 300 per cent. Hanlon tumbled that he had been gold-bricked about two weeks after the trade. He spoke to me about it. I told him that Demontreville was just about a .285 hitter. Then I told him about the boosting plan. He laughed and said: 'That's on me; I want to get rid of Demontreville, and I'll do the same thing.' I think that kind of work is perfectly legitimate. I don't mean that it is right to add hits to his scores, cold turkey. What I mean is to give everything doubtful a hit. That is, if a player fumbled his grounder, don't give the fumbler an error, but make it a hit. That was the way Demontreville's average was boosted. I am not the only manager that ever had a player's average boosted."

Umpire Connolly.

Thomas H. Connolly, one of the umpires of the National League and American Association, gained his knowledge as an official in the New England League. He was born Dec. 31, 1870, at Manchester, Eng., and there obtained his schooling. At the age of 13 he came to this country, going to



THOMAS H. CONNOLLY.

relatives at South Natick, Mass. From 1886 to 1892 he worked at shoemaking at Natick. Becoming interested in the national pastime, from 1888 to 1892 he managed the Natick team, and very successfully. In 1892 he turned his attention to umpiring. He was appointed a substitute umpire of the New England League by Secretary J. C. Morse, but did not get a fair chance to display his ability in that line. It was through the earnest solicitation of Tim Hurst that Connolly was afterwards appointed regularly on the staff. After six weeks' experience he was so disgusted he wanted to quit, but being urged to stick, he went back to his post, and from that time his suc-

LEANDER RICHARDSON.

cess was unquestioned. He remained with the New England League long enough to endear himself to the public, the officers, managers and even the players, which is the greatest encomium that could be bestowed upon him. Early last year considerable influence was brought to bear upon President Young, and he appointed Connolly to the official staff of the major league. He has tact, judgment, firmness, a good voice and knows his business.

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Classes with the Best.

Louis Criger of the St. Louis team, classes with the best backstops of the National League, yet this is really his second season in fast company. His throwing is a feature of every game in which attempts are made to steal bases when he is catching. He gets the ball away from him quickly and it is not unusual for the base runner to find Second Baseman Childs or Shortstop Wallace waiting to tag them out. Criger excels in capturing high fouls and is more than a fair batsman. He was born at Elkhart, Ind., 27 years ago. He began his baseball career with the Kalamazoo club of the Michigan League in 1894. He joined the Fort Wayne club of the Interstate League in 1896 and was transferred to the Cleveland club the next season. He has earned the favor of the fans of St.



LOUIS CRIGER.

Louis by his clever and consistent work and has already established quite a following.

Dreyfuss Tricked.

One of the mysteries of the National League meeting was the manner in which the schedule was secured and published by Murnane, Vila and Mills before it had been adopted by the Cincinnati club, was the only man who was directly accused of giving out the schedule—and but few believed that he did. Now comes Mr. J. Earl Wagner, of the Washington club, who tells the true story of how the leak occurred. At least, the Cincinnati Times-Star quotes Mr. Wagner as saying:

"President Dreyfuss, of the Louisville club, was talking with several newspaper men and unwittingly took the schedule from one pocket and placed it in his overcoat pocket. A minute later he walked to the coat room and had his overcoat checked. One of the scribes noticed the number of Dreyfuss' check and when he had gone to another part of the hotel his coat was secured by one of the writers on a pretext, the schedule extracted, copies made, and the document replaced before Dreyfuss called for his coat. To this day Dreyfuss does not know that he supplied the best baseball scoop of the year."

"That is the true solution of the mystery is very probable, owing to a peculiar fact. The prematurely published schedule contained a changed July date, which was changed only in the copies of Messrs. Brush and Dreyfuss. This was to Mr. Dreyfuss convincing evidence that Mr. Brush's schedule was used, as he (Dreyfuss) said his schedule never left his possession. He will be surprised when he learns how he was tricked after all.

Diamond Gifts.

The Cincinnati team and the Cincinnati scribes are at loggerheads. A number of the players do not speak to any of the Porkopolitan writers as they pass by, and even Manager Ewing has closed the information book to several scribes. Lively situation!

During a Cleveland-New York game Tommy Tucker was fined \$5 and ordered to the bench by Umpire Andrews for kicking. Tucker grabbed Andrews by the throat and was about to assault the official with his fist when Quinn and Dowd pulled him away.

Manager Selee is still making efforts to brace up Boston's pitching department. His latest acquisitions are an inexperienced left-handed lad from South Bend, Ind., named Harry Bailey, and another green one named James Grossart, hailing from Homestead, Pa.

In the eighth inning of a Washington-Boston game, with two on bases, Barry hit to deep center. The safety would have gone for a home run or three-bagger. Barry made the circuit of the bases and was declared out for cutting first base, thus depriving him of a hit.

A Cincinnati paper is taking a popular vote on the question who should manage and captain the Cincinnati team next season. Bob Allen, of Indianapolis, is the choice of a majority for manager, and outfielder Miller for captain. "Buck" Ewing has the least following. Evidently he has lost caste in his home.

Nearly every member of the Boston team is complaining of the long season. They say that six months with 154 games is too much of a good thing, especially for men who are expected to go in every day and work hard for victory. Other people work hard also all the year round for much less money!—Ex.