ATHLETICS AT UNIVERSITY

Charter Day Indoor Events Prove to Be Unusually Good.

SOME EXCELLENT SHOWINGS MADE

Promise of Good Results in the Outdoor Contests—Eastern 'Varsity Crews in Active Preparation —A. A. U. Moves.

In the realm of amateur sport the event of the week just past was the indoor athletic contest held at the University of Nebraska on Tuesday afternoon. The meeting was one of the events held to celebrate Charter day, and was attended by a large number of spectators, including undergraduates, alumni and other visitors. The meeting formed the final contest in the series of indoor athletic meets that have been held at the University of Nebraska during the winter, and proved to be the means of establishing many new records for the university.

In the final contests on Tuesday there were eight events and three exhibition games. The events were the same as those that formed the preliminary trials through the winter, and only those who had ranked first, second and third in the preliminary trials competed in the finals. There were a half dozen valuable trophies awarded, and more that are yet to be competed for were exhibited.

The results, which were uniformly good, were as follows:

Standing Broad Jump—Swallow, 9 feet, 10¾ inches; Lemar, 9 feet, 9½ inches; More, 9 feet, 7½ inches.

Standing High Jump—La Selle, 4 feet, 4 inches; Swallow, 4 feet, 3⅛ inches; Jewett, 4 feet, 2⅛ inches; Andreson, 4 feet, 2 inches.

Three Standing Broads—Swallow, 28 feet, ½ inch; Lemar, 27 feet, 11 inches; Andreson, 26 feet, 11 inches.

Standing Hop, Step and Jump—Pillsbury, 26 feet, 2 inches; More, 25 feet, 8 inches; Swallow, 24 feet, 10 inches.

Twenty-five Yard Dash—La Selle won from Andreson and Pepoon; time, 3 3-5 seconds.

Horizontal Bar Jump for Height—Andreson, 7 feet, 11¾ inches; Swallow, 7 feet, 10¾ inches; Kellogg, 7 feet, 10 inches.

Horizontal Bar Vault—Jewett, 6 feet, 6½ inches; Andreson, 6 feet, 1¾ inches; Swallow, 6 feet.

Running High Kick—Jewett, 8 feet, 8 inches; La Selle, 8 feet, 7 inches; Rochon, 8 feet.

In addition to these events there were three interesting exhibition games. Three innings of a new indoor sport, recently introduced by Physical Director Hastings, called volley ball, were played between two teams from the university, one chosen from the faculty, the other from the student athletes. The faculty team won after an exciting contest by the score of 14 to 13.

A basket ball game of two seven-minute halves was played between the regular university team and a team composed of the best five unattached basket ball players. The university team won by the score of 6 to 4. In the first half each side scored two points, but in the second the university team scored four points to their opponents' two.

An exciting game of indoor base ball was played between two strong teams, the one representing the athletic team of the university, the other the Pershing Rifles of Lincoln. The Rifles won by the score of 3 to 1. For the victors the scores were made by Mansfield, Robbins and Stebbins, while McGuhan alone scored, for the losers. The athletic team took three innings and the Pershing Rifles two innings. The teams were made up as follows: Athletic team: Ryan, La Selle, Rhoades, Hart, C. C. Campbell H. R. Campbell, Waterman, Rochon and McGuhan. Pershing Rifles: Brown, Mansfield, Hende, Stebbins, Rody, Ouray, Hail, Rain and Lorve.

Cornell has done very well during the last week in having selected Glenn S. Warner as head coach for the Cornell foot ball team of 1898. As captain of the '94 team and as the coach of last season's eleven, which all but defeated the invincible Pennsylvanians, Warner has proved that Cornell can turn out foot ball coaches of no mean ability. Coach Warner is to take charge of the candidates for the Cornell team on September 10 and he will be assisted by ex-Captains Wyckoff, Beacham and other Cornell foot ball stars. The rise of the foot ball teams from Ithaca has been slow but steady and with corresponding advances during the next few years the Cornell foot ball elevens should be almost as sure winners as the Cornell crews have been for some years.

Apropos the coming meeting of the eastern foot ball rules committee the following interview with J. H. Sears, a former member of the committee, is of some interest: "In my opinion few radical changes will be made in the rules this year. The committee is a very conservative body. It takes a unanimous vote to pass any innovation, or, in fact, make any changes. I think that Mr. Dashiel, the delegate at large, will have a number of valuable suggestions to offer at the meeting. His long experience as umpire at the big games makes him invaluable as a member of the committee, for he knows perhaps better than anybody where the present rules are at fault."

Alexander Moffat, who is Princeton's representative on the committee, says that the principal fault with the rules is lack of clearness in the way they are worded. He further says that on some points, as, for instance, the calling of a game on account of darkness before it is finished, there is nothing to go by except precedent and the individual judgment of the officials. The exact point to be covered by the authority of each official, Moffat believes, should also be more plainly set forth. He shows that in the case of "interference in the center" it has been a common mistake for the referee to penalize for the offense, whereas there is nothing in the rules that authorizes this. The umpire, not the referee, should judge such cases of fouling. Moffat contends that the committee should take some radical measures to abolish close formation plays. Regarding the proposition to allow the quarter back to run with the ball, Moffat says the matter should be carefully considered. He is not in favor of changing the system of scoring, and believes that a goal from the field should continue to be the most valuable play to be made.

There are many kinds of rumors afloat regarding the possibility of a Cornell-Yale-Harvard boat race yet being arranged for this spring. It is to be noted, however, that most of the talk comes from New York and New Haven. In the meanwhile the Cornellians are making plans for a regatta among all the leading crews save those of Yale. Incidentally Coach Courtney is instructing the young Cornellians how to row. At Yale Coaches Cook and Kennedy are at work on twenty-five candidates for the 'varsity crew and on forty-five freshmen who are ambitious to row on their freshman crew. They broke all records at Yale during the last week by getting out into open water for practice. Usually it is the first part of March before a Yale crew is able to get out on the water, while the Cornell crews are seldom able to get out before the last of March.

The training of the University of Wisconsin crew has begun. Preparations are already on foot for the race on the Hudson with Cornell, Pennsylvania and Columbia, which it is confidently expected the Wisconsins will be invited to enter. Besides this race plans have been talked of to secure a race with the Yale crew, if possible, and to secure a race with Pennsylvania on Milwaukee bay during the carnival there in June.

Many students and graduates of Columbia are wondering why the coaching of the 'varsity and the freshman crew candidates has not been entrusted to Walter B. Peet, who turned out the winning crew at Poughkeepsie in 1896. As a matter of fact, Peet was asked not only to coach last year's eight, but also this year's candidates, and refused because he was not assured of absolute control of the oarsmen. He was asked to assume charge of the crews, but to act in accordance with the instructions of a rowing committee, which believed that Columbia should adopt a stroke which would be a combination of those taught by Courtney, Cook and Lehmann.

The New York Commercial Advertiser has its hammer out to hit athletic leaders acting in an unsportsmanlike manner at several of our colleges on the head, and in a recent issue it did rap some of them very hard, as is shown by the following clipped from that paper:

"It is very interesting to see Yale and Princeton, or Princeton and Harvard, or Harvard and Yale play foot ball. But with Pennsylvania barred out of the foot ball schedule and Cornell out of the rowing world, the interest in contemporaneous sports would be largely lost.

"As repeatedly made plain, the present disposition of the Yale, Princeton and Harvard athletic councils to outlaw Pennsylvania and Cornell can have but one effect. It will redound to the injury of sport at New Haven, Cambridge and Princeton. The fact that Pennsylvania has the greatest foot ball eleven in the United States, Yale's great work against Princeton nothwithstanding, and Cornell the champion crew, are facts that cannot be gainsaid.

"When Yale, Princeton and Harvard have satisfactorily and conclusively beaten Cornell and Pennsylvania at their own game it will be time enough to talk about relegations to the ranks. As matters now stand, the assumption of superiority in college sorts of the older colleges is ridiculous. Incidentally, Yale has placed herself in anything but a pleasing light in her attitude to Cornell.

"It is all very well to talk about the exigencies of diplomacy and prestige in sport and that sort of thing, but the idea of challenging a champion crew and making your own conditions will impress the impartial onlooker as being rather strongly tinged with humor. And right on top of this, Yale appears as the ringleader in a movement to bar Pennsylvania out of foot ball."

The trouble over the standing of basket ball teams that refuse to pay the assessment levied by the Amateur Athletic union has now broken out in Milwaukee. During the past week Harry McMillan of New York, president of the Amateur Athletic union, made a flying trip to Milwaukee and held a conference with President W. M. Bell of the Milwaukee Athletic club, and Walter Lingter, vice president of the central division of the Amateur Athletic union, over the alleged discrimination against the basket ball team of the Milwaukee Athletic club in its failure to register. The conference was a heated one. President Bell insisted that there had been discrimination against Milwaukee basket ball teams for failure to register, while other teams throughout the country had not been similarly dealt with, though the same negligence had been shown. An understanding was arrived at whereby Milwaukee teams will receive just consideration in the union. "The trouble," said Mr. McMillin, "cannot be settled at present. At the last meeting of the Amateur Athletic union it was decided to impose a fee of $1 on each member of the teams belonging to clubs sanctioned by the union, and that provision must therefore be lived up to until the next annual session, which will take place in the fall of 1898. I can see that the difficulty arises from the fact that there are not a sufficient number of basket ball teams in the various cities that belong to the Amateur Athletic union to permit of contests between clubs that are required to register with the union."

The latest branch of amateur sport over which the Amateur Athletic union has assumed jurisdiction is that of billiards. Just how successful the attempt of the union to control the billiard championship games will prove may be demonstrated early in April, when the national championship games will be played in New York. The following letter to The Bee from Alfred H. Jones of St. Louis is self-explanatory:

After February 15 all billiard tournaments must be given under the sanction of the Amateur Athletic union. The Amateur Athletic union billiard championships will be held in this district by some prominent club. The sport of amateur billiards has been greatly retarded because of the fact that it has had no governing body, and a great many abuses have crept into the game for this reason. The question of the Amateur Athletic union taking control of billiards has been considered for some time, and at the earnest requests and solicitations of the most prominent amateur billiard players, the Amateur Athletic union has decided to take control. Championships of each district for the Amateur Athletic union will be held, and championships of the United States will be held as soon as the district championships have been settled. Clubs desiring to hold the district championship of this association should confer with Alfred H. Jones of the registration committee for the western association, St. Louis.

The national billiard championships for 1898 will take place in New York, beginning April 4, under the auspices of the Knickerbocker Athletic Club of New York. The rules to govern the district and national championships will soon be completed and published. The game, no doubt, will be fourteen-inch balk-line.

BASE BALL OUTLOOK BRIGHTENS.

Omaha Fanatics Cheered Up Very Little, but Still Hopeful.

It has now been two weeks since any one prominently connected with the Western league has ventured an ebullition with regard to the eighth franchise. It is still proposed that it shall remain in Omaha as far as any evidence to the contrary is concerned, but the local fans would feel a whole lot easier in their minds if the recommendation of the committee was ratified without delay. The silence of Manager Schuman and the continued delay in final action by the league are difficult to comprehend, except on the supposition that the magnates are holding off in the expectation that a well sustained delay will bring about some substantial inducement. That the league must act soon is apparent, as the schedule meeting occurs at Kansas City February 24 and the location must certainly be settled beyond question before that important document can be constructed. In the meantime it is stated that Messrs. Schumann and O'Brien are at work securing new players, but their efforts have resulted in nothing particularly notable up to date.

Tim Hurst has been trying to trade off a few of the surplus outfielders St. Louis is overloaded with for Tommy Tucker, but O'Brien could not see it that way and in conversation with Hurst he declared that Tucker would surely play first base and manage the Omaha team. That is the first intimation that has been received here that Tucker was to officiate in the capacity of manager, but there is no apparent reason why he would not be a fairly successful manager.

Although more important happenings have conspired to occupy public attention during the week, it is apparent that there is more lively interest in base ball in Omaha just now than has been in evidence in several years. The town was never really enthused by second rate ball, but with the prospect of a good team and a place in a league that is certainly putting up a fast article of ball, the old spirit is reviving to an extent that promises success for the new enterprise. This is the more gratifying on account of the fact that developments in regard to the new club are so slow in maturing. As soon as the franchise is located here beyond any possibility of interference and the work of preparing the grounds and getting together the remainder of the team is fairly under way the game will again become a topic of universal interest and the game will boom as in the good old times.

Frank Houseman has not yet succeeded in inducing Tim Hurst to consent to his transfer to Omaha. Houseman is one of the men whom Manager O'Brien wants on his staff and he is also anxious for the change, but Hurst is holding off and the question is not entirely settled. The local public is generally disposed to regard Houseman as one of the best infielders in the business and the Omaha management would undoubtedly make a popular move in securing him. It is incidentally stated that Hurst and O'Brien have agreed on a series of exhibition games between Omaha and St. Louis at the latter city. Hurst expects to return from the training quarters about April 1 and stay at home until the season opens. He has also arranged for exhibition games with Minneapolis and Milwaukee.

Tim Hickey now avers that the Western association circuit is a settled thing, with Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, Peoria, St. Joe, Burlington, Ottumwa and Rock Island. This comes pretty near being an Iowa league, but most of the Iowa towns are base ball crazy and ought to finish way ahead financially.

The favorable opinion of A. C. Anson, which is shared by pretty near everyone outside of Chicago, was emphasized by his refusal to be the subject of a benefit. Anson very sensibly declared that he was neither a beggar nor a pauper, and that there was no reason why he should be given the testimonial proposed. It is just such a position as any one would expect Anson to take who did not look at him through blue spectacles and it certainly settles his title to respect.

The Lincoln correspondent of the Sporting News suggests that the managers of the Omaha club will draw a considerable support from Lincoln this summer on account of the low rates that will prevail on account of the exposition. This is a point that has not been taken into consideration by the management, and it is decidedly of interest. The writer says: "The announcement made through the press dispatches of the past week that Omaha would be a member of the Western league during the season of 1898 has been the main topic of discussion among Lincoln fans during that time. Lincoln lovers of the great national game are highly pleased that Omaha may have a team in the Western league, as it is getting base ball nearer home than it has been since our city retired from the Western association. On account of the Transmississippi Exposition, which will be held in Omaha this summer, Lincoln people count upon a season of very cheap rates between the Capital City and the metropolis, and therefore expect to have frequent opportunities of seeing a good game of base ball occasionally at a nominal price. With nearly 300,000 people to draw from, Omaha ought to be a good location for a Western league team as good as any in the circuit. If the management is successful in corralling a good team there will be little doubt as to the financial success of the enterprise. The Lincoln fans hope base ball in Omaha will prove successful, and many an enthusiast will take a run over to Omaha to see a game. For example, when Milwaukee plays in Omaha and the pitcher is Barnes, won't he be a drawing card from Lincoln? And if they should happen to be there on a holiday, it would mean a still larger depopulation of the Capital City. Lincoln fans do not forget Kid Speer and Freddy Barnes. They are too largely responsible for the landing of the pennant in 1895. It will be a gala occasion to have the opportunity of seeing those favorites at the points again, and I fear the Lincoln contingent that happens to be in Omaha that day will be rooting for the Brewers."

Diamond Dust.

This will be Dan Brouthers' twentieth year in professional company.

The champion Boston team and the Princeton Tigers will play three games this spring.

The latest deal proposed is McAleer of Cleveland and a bonus for Jimmy Ryan of Chicago.

The terms of L. W. Lippert, late of the Burlington club, have been accepted by Pittsburg.

Bill Everitt and George Decker will fight it out for the first base position on the Chicago team.

Manager Manning has signed a second baseman in Johnny O'Brien who was with Providence last year.

Manager O'Brien is alleged to have bought Steve Griffin from St. Paul to play an outfield position in the Omaha team.

The Peoria club lost $4,000 last year, but the same officers have been elected and the stockholders are ready to try again.

Harry Sonier, who made a creditable record with Des Moines, has been added to the pitching corps of the Minneapolis team.

It is said that McKinney of Grand Rapids has been signed by New Bedford. Thought our mutual friend, Michael O'Brien, had him on his list.

Manager O'Brien will give a Chicago amateur named Sickles a trial this spring. Sickles is said to be the best amateur pitcher in Chicago.

In eighteen games Hughes, the California pitcher signed by Hanlon, had a batting average of .362. Chance, the catcher purchased by Chicago, batted .407 in fourteen games.

It is said that Buck Ebright will make a stab at fame as manager of the St. Joe team. While Buck can scarcely be rated as another Anson, his previous experiences ought to amply qualify him to fill the bill at St. Joe.

Western league games certainly ought not to lack ginger this year. With Tommy Tucker, George Tebeau, Perry Werden and Jack Glasscock all playing first base there ought to be enough vociferation to satisfy any ordinary array of bleachers.

A Grand Rapids dispatch intimates that Messrs. Schuman and O'Brien are using the base ball craze in that city as a lever to induce the Omaha street railway company to show a little more interest in the location of the franchise here. It states that if the Omaha company will agree to extend its tracks to provide adequate facilities the franchise will be located here and that this is the point on which the decision hinges.

WHEEL RACERS AND THEIR PLANS.

Lehr Wants to Try Nat Butler Again —Linton and Michael.

August Lehr, the German champion bicycle rider, who has been in this country for a few months, is going back to the fatherland during the coming week, with the intention, however, of returning to this country during the coming season. He has been considerable elated by his victory over Nat Butler at Belleair, Fla., recently, but he seems to realize that he did not meet the American sprinter at his best. The two are to come together again in the American style of race, paced by tandems, next May.

Tom Linton, the Welsh middle-distance rider who has come to this country after the scalp of his countryman, Michael, is said to be in perfect physical condition, according to a physician who recently examined him. There will be considerable interest in a meeting between the two Welshmen, not only on account of their reputations, but also because of the fact that they may be considered rivals from boyhood days. Both were born in the same little Welsh town. Both learned to ride together. As lads, they played together, for their homes were less than 100 feet apart. But with racing came rivalry and rivalry blossomed into grudges. Michael early developed championship qualities and was a successful racing man when Linton was merely a novice. But the latter, who has much of the bulldog in him, persevered until it came to be a saying that any sports man was as game as Tom Linton. Under the watchful eye of his brother Arthur, now dead, as a victim of too much racing, Tom "came fast" until he even defeated Michael. To do this again is his chief object in visiting America. He came here once before to do it, but Michael's presence was required in Wales, so they did not meet on the path.

Physically the riders are very different. Michael measures five feet, one and one-half inches, while Linton is four inches taller. The little one weighs 103 pounds and Linton 129. The length of Michael's leg is thirty and one-fourth inches and of Linton's thirty-three and one half. Michael's chest expansion is only one and one-half inches, and Linton's four. The calf and thigh measurements of the midget are respectively twelve and one-half and eighteen and one-half inches and of Linton's fifteen inches and twenty and one-half inches.

The American Cycle Racing association is planning no less than nine big middle distance races this year between Linton, Michael and Taylore, the best three men in the country at the game. They will race together three times and each will ride against the other in three. They will be the middle distance races of the year, par excellence.

Linton has given it out cold that he will not ride on small tracks indoors. He says that it affects his head and he will insist that all his races take place out of doors on big tracks.

The vast place that bicycle racing has assumed in the sporting life of the country is indicated in the annual report of Chairman Mott of the League of American Wheelmen racing board. During 1897 over 8,000,000 spectators witnessed races paying $3,600,000 for admission. The number of meets was 2,912, where 17,316 races were given, participated in by 9,000 racing men. These men received racing and pacemaking prizes to the value of $1,645,020, giving the promoters a margin on the meets and incidentals of $1,089,180.

A new style of pursuit racing has been introduced in Europe. The idea, which originated with a racing man, provides a fast and exciting contest. The conditions are that a number of fast riders be placed around the track, equal distances apart, and at the report of the pistol each man must start with the object of overhauling the rider in front of him, who, when caught, retires. There is a time limit, and the rider covering the greatest distance in that period, without being overhauled, is declared the victor.

The winnings and earnings of the leading French riders, some of whom will come to this country within the next month or two, clearly show that cycle racing was profitable to them, at least last year. Morin and Bourillon each made $12,000; C. Haret made $6,000; Champion, $3,000; Piette, $2,600; Nieupont, $2,400; Jacquelin, Ruinare, Taylore and Domain about $2,000 each; Stein, $1,750; Boulay, Felix-Henry, Solon and Guagnard, $1,600 each; Bourotte, $1,200; Gras and Le Veler, $1,000 each; Prevat and Germain, $600 each.

American racing men are demanding so vigorously that the League of American Wheelmen should take some steps to provide for representation in the international races to be held in France this year that it is assured that representative American racers will be entered. Last year America was one of the very few countries which were unrepresented at the big races at Glasgow.

PALAVER WITH THE PUGILISTS.

Corbett Keeps Up His Assaults on Siler—Parson Davies' Trust.

Pompadour Corbett for a moment has given up his jabberings at Fitzsimmons and is now abusing George Siler, the referee at the late unpleasantness at Carson City. By the medium of innuendo and indirect hints he allows you to draw but one inference, and that is that Siler deliberately entered into a conspiracy with Fitz to give Corbett the frappe end of it in the decision at Carson City. If Corbett is to be believed, Siler was too slow in the sixth round of that affair at Carson.

The record is against the pug. Any number of sports kept tab with their watches when Fitz slipped to his knees. They say that he was down exactly seven seconds and Siler counted eight as he was rising to his feet. In regard to this little incident Siler is reported to have said that in that sixth round Corbett said "Count faster; count faster," apparently showing that he had less confidence in himself than was generally supposed.

A prize fighters' trust is the latest thing out and the only "Parson" Davies is at the head of it. When the "Parson" was here a few months ago the idea was budding in his brain and he let out a few links of it in confidence to the sporting editor. The idea has apparently sprouted now, for the "Parson" has gone to New York to interest O'Rourke, Brady and some of the rest of the managerial clan in the scheme.

The trust is to be confined at first to the heavyweights. The scheme in brief is to have the public raise a subscription—not more than $1 to be accepted from any one person—of $3,000, with which a suitable championship belt is to be presented to the winner. If a fighter retains it through three successive fights it is to be his property. The purse to be contested for is $5,000. Challenges must be accompanied by deposits of $2,000 and must be accepted within thirty days after issuance, the contest to take place not sooner than four months nor later than eight months afterward. All this is to be regulated by rules. If a man fails to keep an engagement he is to be blacklisted.

A report comes from the coast that Joe Choynski and Sharkey are matched to meet in San Francisco on March 11, but—Sharkey has apparently come under the ban at last, on account of his ruffianly ring tactics. He was to have had a go with big Jeffries a few days ago, but the authorities would not permit it, solely on account of Sharkey's rep. Under the circumstances, it is hardly likely that any club in the coast town will undertake to put him on.

Tut Ryan, the Australian heavyweight, who was looked upon as one of the best boxers that ever visited these shores from Australia, is at present on his way to his home, disgusted with the usage he experienced at the hands of the boxers in this country. Ryan was beaten in a ten-round bout by Gus Ruhlin at New Orleans a few months ago, after which he went to San Francisco, where he was matched to meet Joe Choynski in a twenty-round bout at the Empire Athletic club, of that city, for a big percentage of the gross receipts. This contest was to have been decided on Tuesday night. A week ago Ryan tried to put his trainer, Tom Lansing, to sleep with a sneaky punch while they were engaging in a friendly bout, but Lansing, seeing the vicious blow coming for his jaw, suddenly side-stepped and landed his right heavily on Ryan's jaw, knocking him out. Ryan then came to the conclusion that as Lansing was able to beat him, he would not be in it with Choynski, and he packed up his grip and sailed on the first steamer for his home. This, at least, is the tale that floats in from the coast.

Considerable interest is being displayed in pugilistic circles over the bill which Senator Gillespie has introduced in the legislature of Kentucky to pull off finish fights in that state. The ultimate fate of the act, however, is not likely to be favorable to pugilistic interests.

GENERAL SPORTING GOSSIP.

Revival of Interest in Billiards in Omaha—Tug-of-War Dies.

Billiard playing has not apparently held much public interest in the city of late years. By this is meant that interest has not manifested itself much in the way of tournaments, for there are any number of men in the city who daily with the cue at every opportunity. But it has been long since anything like the handicap tourney for the state championship which has been going on at Foley's has taken place. That fully demonstrated that there are a good many men who are as anxious to look at a good game of billiards as to play and that furnishes one of the best criterions of the popularity of the game. At every one of the games there was a good crowd of spectators and they invariably remained until the last stroke of the cue. The games themselves were of considerable interest as the playing was frequently of good character. At every one of them good shots were to be seen, and once in awhile one that was a good ways above the ordinary. Tom Foley deserves the thanks of the crank for the tourney. He put up the prizes, the first being a handsome gold medal and the other one of the best cues to be obtained.

Jake Schaefer made good his boast that he could beat George Slosson, the champion billiard player, by defeating him in the contest between the two recently in New York. To be sure, he did not pull out with much leeway, being only four buttons to the good, but that was as sufficient as a string. The game see-sawed enough to keep the spectators on the qui vive throughout the match. The best run was fifty-eight and was made by the wizard. His average was 7 11-27 and that of Slosson 7 9-20. The game was the new eighteen-inch balk line, 600 points. It was for $1,000, the net box receipts and the diamond championship medal.

The anticipation that the sporting element of the city would be given an opportunity of seeing more tug-of-war matches this winter seems likely to end in disappointment. The three which took place at Turner hall just whetted the appetite, which was further strengthened by several announcements that challenges would be shortly flying through the air. None of these have materialized up to date and there seems to be no indication that they will be forthcoming.

Tomorrow the annual exhibition of the Westminster Kennel club of New York will open. The club was founded twenty-two years ago and its bench show is the oldest and largest canine exhibition held in the country, although there are now 125 shows recognized by the American Kennel club. There are 1,700 entries this year, more than at any previous exposition and four times as many as competed at the inaugural show.

Fashions are constantly changing in dogs, as in most other things in mundane affairs, and this year the prize of place, so far as numbers go, is claimed by the bull terriers, of which there are 120 entered. Boston terriers, come next on the list, with 105. Next in numerical strength are the rough-coated St. Bernard's, with 103; bulldogs, with 102, and pointers, with 100 entries. As a contrast, there are but single specimens entered of those sterling old breeds, the Welsh and Dandie Dinmont terriers.

J. K. McCulloch of Winnipeg, the world's champion amateur skater, proved his right to the title a few days ago at the races of the National Amateur Skating association held at Poughkeepsie. He appeared in only one race, the 440-yard championship of America, but he won that handily. McCulloch is talking of coming to this country. He is a manufactur of skates at Winnipeg, but the Dingley bill and American hospitality are tempting him to move over the line.

EARLY TRAP SHOOTING EVENTS.

Promise of Good Sport for the Men Who Love the Gun.

The trap shooting season will soon be on in earnest and it promises to be prolific of good events. During the last year or two there have been many complaints that the entries were too largely confined to the professional marksmen on the pay rolls of various supply and gun concerns, and that the real sportsmen who shoot for their love of the pastime were almost entirely absent. Some explanation for this may be found in the hard times that have prevailed, but now that business is again on a satisfactory basis it is to be expected that this season the tournaments will receive a more gratifying patronage.

Among the tournaments which are already scheduled there are a number that are in easy reach of Nebraska and Iowa sportsmen and some of the cracks will undoubtedly figure in the scores. The first in sight is the Central Iowa Amateur tournament, which comes off at Stanhope March 22 and 23. C. W. Budd's big tournament at Des Moines April 19 to 22 will be a bigger attraction and will probably draw quite a representation of cracks from this vicinity. There is a big shoot booked at Independence, Ia., May 10, 11 and 12, and the Missouri state tournament comes off at Kansas City May 16 to 21. This is followed by the Nebraska state tournament, which begins May 24, and the Soo Gun club of Sioux City will give its fourth annual tournament June 21, 22 and 23.

Locally the only events of the week were a couple of races at the Council Bluffs grounds Thursday, which were decidedly interesting. The first was a four-handed race, in which Smead and Samaha of this city met Hardin and Beresheim of Council Bluffs for fifty birds per man, and for once the Iowa men came out on top. Hardin and Beresheim killed forty-seven birds each, while Samaha and Smead were compelled to knock off with forty-four and forty-three respectively. In the second race J. C. "Plumber" defeated "Ekalb" by 43 to 42.

Reports from along the Platte indicate that quite a number of ducks were seen at various points during the early part of the week. The game was scarcely numerous enough, however, to bring out any of the guns, and the cold snap that followed had driven the birds back to a warmer climate for the present.

There seems to be no chance that Fred Gilbert and Captain Brewer can be brought together. Gilbert insists on shooting at Watson's grounds and Brewer wants to locate the race at Long Branch or some other of the eastern grounds. As no one seems to want to shoot with Gilbert on his own grounds, it looks as though he would have to leave his gun in the bag.

John E. Wilson of Victor, Ia., is willing to back his 11-year-old son against any boy in the world under 12 years of age for $100 a side at fifteen live birds, twenty-five yards, three-fourths ounce of shot.

R. O. Heikes has accepted C. W. Budd's challenge to shoot for the Cast Iron medal, and has named February 22 at the date and Dayton, O., as the place for the match.

Chess.

The following study in problem construction, contributed by C. Q. DeFrance of Lincoln shows the variations which can be given to almost any position, apparently transforming it into an entirely different problem. The two problems below bear a strong similarity in relative positions and key moves, and the difference is very little more than a mere transposition of pieces. In speaking of the possible variations in problem construction, Mr. DeFrance remarks: "I got to wondering the other day if the time will ever come when every chess problem possible to be made will have been published. What with English, Russian, French, Italian and German magazines and other periodicals publishing problems every day, it would seem that at some time in the near future every available combination of pieces will have been used in problem-making. The more I thought over the matter, however, the more thoroughly did I become convinced that such a condition will not be reached in the lifetime of any person now living. I knew that many problems which appear unlike each other have very similar combinations and key moves. I knew that any problem whatsoever might by transposed and an apparently new one arranged. And this knowledge led me to investigate further, resulting in some discoveries which may be of interest to readers of The Bee who are interested in chess.

"In the first place I assume that a good chess problem must have but one key-move and that usually one that neither checks the black king nor captures a black piece. Of course, if exceptionally fine combinations result from a key-move that checks or captures, it is proper, and the immediate result of such a move should be a sacrifice. Now, take any good problem of two or three moves; place the pieces on the chess board; then move every piece on the K side to its corresponding square on the Q side, and vice versa, both black and white; the same piece that was used in making the key-move before will be used for that purpose in the new problem; if the key then was B to KB 6, it will be B to QB 6 now. The new problem thus formed is really nothing but an anti-type of the old, and each combination of pieces made in mating will be but a reflection of one in the old problem. This rule applies to all problems, but where no pawns are used it is possible to so change the position of the pieces that the new problem bears scarcely a noticeable likeness to the parent, and yet preserves the combinations intact."

With the solutions next week the author will give an analysis of his method of constructing the problems below and other variations which would give them an entirely new appearance.

Problem No. 12; By C. Q. DeFrance. White to play and mate in three moves:

BLACK.

WHITE.

Problem No. 13: White to play and mate in three moves.

BLACK.

WHITE.

Problem No. 11, by La Rue Williams, was done as follows: (1) K to K 7, K takes Kt; Q to Kt 3, K to B 4; Q to Q 6, mate. or (1) K to K 7, K to B 5; Q to Kt sq, K to K 4; Q to K 3, mate. Solvers and their comments were as follows: H. B. Hammond, "Esta muy bonita;" C. Q. DeFrance, "It is a clever piece of construction and a good illustration of a judicious use of the king in mating."

F. J. N., Wallace Neb.—The solution to problem No. 11 of Queen to Knight's square results not in what you supposed to be a checkmate, but in a stale mate which is equivalent to a drawn game and which occurs when the king is not in check, but has no move which will not place him in check. Also the piece which you styled the rook is known as the queen.

Whist.

After many fruitless efforts the American Whist league trophy has been brought as far west as Chicago by the victory of the Chicago Whist club over Toledo by nine points in a recent tournament. Of the Chicago players Wood and Parry are considered the strongest players in their city, though they have never previously appeared in a team of four in a tournament. Toledo tried the same plan of combining two strong pairs to play in their team, but without equal success. With the trophy in so accessible a location as Chicago there is no reason why Omaha should not join in the fight with St. Louis, Minneapolis, Milwaukee and other cities to bring it still further west. There is certainly enough talent in this section of the country to keep the honor in circulation here and there is little prospect that it will be contested for by eastern players, as there seems to be a general feeling that they have enough to attend to at home. They promise, however, if there is no match within a few weeks, a delegation will come out to stir things up.

Among the many unmistakable signs of the great change which has taken place in the tactics of whist, says a writer in the New York Sun, none is more striking than the recognition of the fact that there are such things as "bad openings." When whist was played on the long suit theory there was only one possible opening from any given hand; the trump if you had five or more; the long suit if you had four or more. The composition of the suit selected did not enter into the question and players who held ace—queen or king—jack were told that such suits were very nice things to have and they were taught to get rid of them immediately by leading them. It never seems to have occurred to them that a suit which was a good thing to have might be a good thing to keep, especially when the rest of the hand suggested the probability of a rainy day. The number of tricks that were lost simply by leading away from tenaces compared with the number that would have been won by keeping them quiet until someone else led them, was never investigated. The first statistics on the subject were published in the Rochester Post-Express about a year ago and the matter has been fully investigated since.

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"Sh-h! Certainly not. He would hear the match. Come."

"Hang the stairs! How they creak!"

"Step softly. Don't stumble."

"Where are you?"

"Keep quiet. Don't breathe so loud."

"I-I cant help it. I can't hold it in."

"Sh-h-h!"

"Hang that infernal chair!"

"Now you've gone and done it! The baby is awake!"

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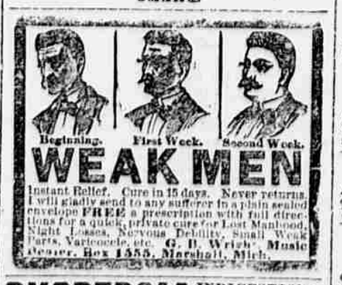

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