

THE
SWIMMING
MAGAZINE.



AUGUST, 1915.

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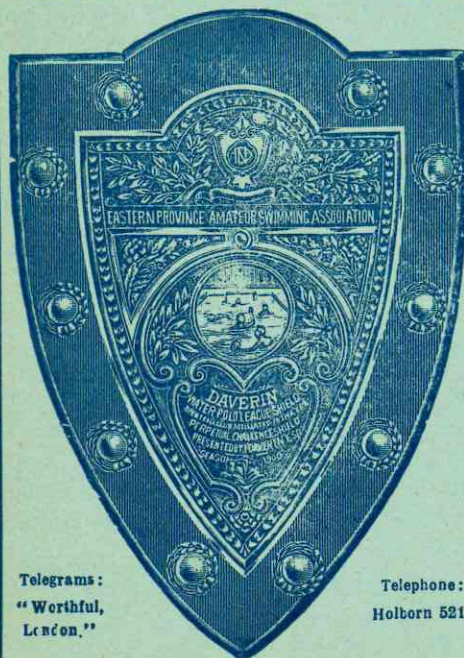
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No. 3. VOL. II.

AUGUST, 1915.

A NAVAL HERO.

LIFE SAVING IN THE DARDANELLES.

NOTABLE LESSON TO SPEED SWIMMERS.

THERE has been much gallant work done by our sailors and soldiers during the present war, but we doubt if, up to the present, anything so magnificently heroic has been recorded as the brilliant rescues effected in the Dardanelles by Petty Officer T. E. Duncan, an old member of the Birkenhead Swimming Club, and one who has been most enthusiastic in the teaching of life saving and the encouragement of the art of swimming amongst the young. Prior to the war Petty Officer Duncan had been for years a member of the Mersey Division of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and was one of the gallant lads who delayed the German capture of Antwerp. Fortunately he escaped internment in Holland, and has since been serving at the Dardanelles with the Naval Brigade.

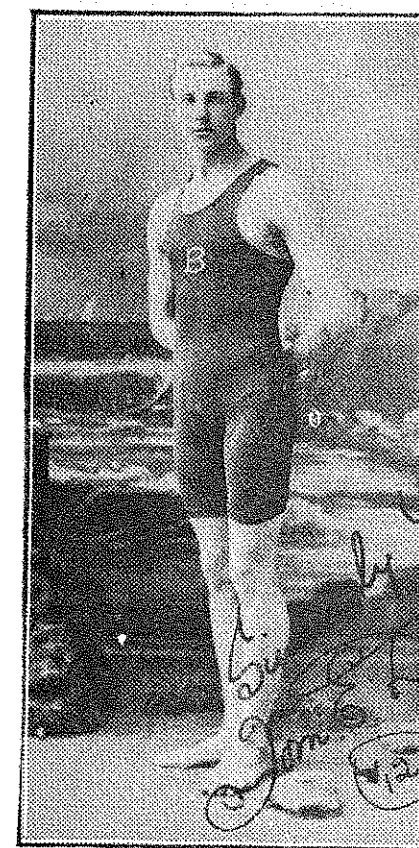
Here it was, on the occasion of the historic landing, that he gave fame to his name. He was among the first landing party and escaped injury by a miracle, for hundreds of his fellows were shot down near him, but he came out unscathed and was on shore in the Gallipoli Peninsula when the *Majestic* was torpedoed and went down.

Then came his chance to perform brilliant rescue work and to give lustre to himself by using to the advantage of his fellow-beings the knowledge he had gained in the swimming and life saving classes he had attended in happier times on shore.

Immediately the *Majestic* was seen to be in trouble he piped a boat's crew and shoved off to the scene. Before they reached her the ship had turned turtle and most of her company were in the sea. Duncan stripped on the way out and was soon overboard. Although choked with fuel oil and thus being rendered violently sick, he kept aiding man after man. Some of the men could

swim a little, and as soon as he realised that he went after those in difficulties and had to fight several times because others wanted to hang on to him. And all this time the enemy kept on firing.

The first man he claimed had his head cut open and gave little trouble. Judge Duncan's surprise, when later on he found



Petty Officer T. E. Duncan.

that he was a fellow-townsmen, Stoker Lynes, and that he had worked at the same place as Duncan not so very long ago.

Duncan was at length picked up by a French picket boat and transferred to the *River Clyde*, where buckets of hot water and plentiful soaping had to be used before his own boat's crew could recognise him, so plentifully covered was he from head to foot with the thick black oil fuel which had spread over the ocean when the *Majestic* turned turtle. His case is one which should be read with pride and pleasure by every swimmer, and especially by those who take an interest in the art from the life saving point of view, a view which at times by some is rather divided, but during the progress of this war we have had many object lessons of its special value, as the many brave deeds will prove when these are fully recorded.

Owing to the courtesy of the Liverpool *Echo* we are in a position to give a photo of our hero, and are glad to note that Mr. John Hodgson, that well-known swimmer and water-polo player of Liverpool, and facile writer, has made Mr. Duncan's heroism known far and wide in the press. We trust that this hero will return safe and well to receive our greetings and congratulations, and that the powers that be will give him the reward he so justly deserves. He has proved his worth and we should see that his magnificent action is properly recognised. We must do our best to attain this object.

With reference to above, the hon. representative of the Royal Life Saving Society for Liverpool and District, Mr. A. Radcliffe, has three sons serving with H.M. Forces, and lost one who had been honoured for his bravery, writes as follows:—

"Petty-Officer Thomas Elder Duncan acted as hon. treasurer of the Birkenhead Swimming Club for seven or eight years, and in March, 1910, as a pupil in a Winter Club Class I conducted, obtained the R.L.S.S. Proficiency Certificate and Medallion.

"The same year he was the club reserve man for the National Life Saving Competition, and was one of our team for the 'Darnell' Cup.

"He acted as reserve man each year for the 'National,' and also 'Darnell' Cup team, and was one of the four who obtained third place in the latter competition in 1911.

"I most decidedly attribute his coolness and decision in the performance of rescue work, to the hard training necessary for these Life

Saving Competitions, as the qualities displayed were those born of implicit confidence in the accuracy of his knowledge and training.

"Let this be an instruction to all swimming clubs—to make a point of training a team. Even if the men have no earthly chance of success, the training is invaluable.

"More than once I have heard Duncan and other members of my classes wonder if it were not a waste of time, to acquire the knowledge of life saving. They even went to likely places looking for someone obliging enough to need saving, but nothing happened, and they were despondent.

"This case, however, is more than a recompense for all the time and effort spent in the work of the Society, and I am quite reconciled to the following in a letter he wrote to the secretary of the Birkenhead S.C.

"A strange fancy came to me as I was swimming towards the poor beggars—I thought that on the upturned keel of the *Majestic* I could see 'Old Daddy Radcliffe' calling me on."

"Duncan is a fine, breezy, cheery fellow, and always willing to make up a squad for life saving practice—whether for team work or any class that was working. He formed one of the B.S.C. Squad entered for the Colonel Hall Walker Challenge Shield in 1910-1911; he also took part every year since 1911 in an inter-club gala, between Port Sunlight S.C. and Bournville S.C., his speciality being back-stroke and life saving.

"I am of an opinion that Duncan's achievement will greatly stimulate life saving work here; the juniors will profit by his example and strive to emulate it. Such work is most beneficial to the Society which taught and trained him, and I trust he will be fittingly recognised. No honour is too great for the courage and skill he displayed in the face of great dangers."

The story of our hero points a moral to every swimmer. We could name hundreds who were of the same opinion about the waste of time in learning the correct movements which have been found so useful in this and hundreds of other instances. Those of our readers who have read their *Swimming Magazine* regularly will have noticed that a great proportion of those who are regarded as exceptional swimmers have been the worst of life savers, simply because many of them regarded the practice of life saving drill as beneath them.

ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND.

Instructing the Blind to Swim and Save Life.

Principal—Guy M. Campbell, F.R.G.S., Vice-President R.L.S.S.

In the year 1879 Mr. Guy M. Campbell was appointed to assist his father, the late Sir Francis Campbell, in the teaching of the scholars at the Royal Normal College of the Blind at Upper Norwood, an institution founded by Sir Francis in 1872. Sir Francis, who had lost his eyesight through an accident, was intensely interested in the work he undertook and particularly requested his son to study all forms of physical training which might be undertaken by or be beneficial to the blind.

As a result Mr. Guy M. Campbell, who is popularly referred to as "Guy," made himself expert in gymnastics, athletics, cycling, skating, swimming and life saving, all of which subjects he successfully taught the blind students, with the result that from a swimming and life saving point of view the college students have gained up to date 35 certificates and 16 medallions. Five of these were obtained by the first blind people who ever qualified for ability in saving life from drowning.

Mr. Campbell joined the Royal Life Saving Society in June, 1893, and has been an active worker in connection with it ever since, was chairman of the Central Executive for over ten years, has been elected vice-president, and has received many distinctions, including the Distinguished Service Medal. He was one of the founders of the Royal Life Saving Lodge of Freemasons, in which he has held the highest offices. It is worthy of note that with regard to the revision of the various handbooks of the Society Mr. Campbell has been upon every committee and has frequently argued that the blind should be expected to perform the same tests as those who can see. That point should be particularly noted by those who are blessed with perfect sight.

After the death of his father Mr. Campbell became the Principal of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, and has continued the good work so ably initiated by him, and done much to increase the popularity of the great establishment at Upper Norwood. As a worker on committees his services are

invaluable, for he has the happy gift, when opinions differ, of drafting just the kind of resolution which will bring them into unison. Among his many other qualifications he is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, for he has travelled much, and we could write a long history of his work, but our chief aim is to draw attention to the good he has done for swimming and life saving as apart from competitions and his loyal service to the Royal Life Saving Society.



Platoon Commander Guy M. Campbell.

WITH THE THAMES CAMPERS.

BRIGHT DAYS ON THE RIVER.

Visits of Famous Swimmers.

EVER since the Thames Camping and Boating Association established its island home at Walton-on-Thames, about twenty-six years ago, its quarters have been a resort of famous people in the swimming world. They have come from abroad, the Overseas Dominions, and from all parts of the United Kingdom, especially at that time when the annual King's Cup Galas of the Royal Life Saving Society were held, and have been made most welcome, where they have enjoyed this secluded spot so close to London and such a swimmers' open-air paradise. There is no spot in England which has so frequently been visited by swimmers of note, where hearty friendships have been made, old time struggles recalled and plans made for the future.

Here it was that the idea of the formation of the International Swimming Federation was fully discussed and in fact the foundation meeting was held under most hospitable surroundings, under the shade of the big trees and the spacious tents on the banks of the river. A better place could not be found for such a purpose, as the meeting ended in a general dip, when most of the campers and the visitors entered the water. At this meeting there were French, Belgian, Dutch, German, Italian, Swedish, British, and Australian swimmers present. Nearly all the big cities now daily referred to in the war news were represented, but we need not pursue this point further at the moment as it may lead us from our theme.

For nearly a quarter of a century "old Plum," known to some only as Edward J. Plumbridge, the old Tunbridge Wells Cygnus captain, who steered his team to victory in the water polo championship of England in 1893, and secured his international cap against Scotland the same year, has been a camper and has kept an "Auld Lang Syne" book which brings back many memories of great swimmers who have slept beneath the canvas on the island. It also reminds one that this resort may be truly regarded

as a haven of rest, bathing, boating, and washing up, for every visitor is expected to turn to, if only to clean the knives and stoves and get his fingers well blacked for the rest of the week.

There are at present camping on the island many well known swimmers and water polo players connected with the Cygnus, Amateur, Surrey County, and other prominent clubs, among them being George Amor, G. Potter and his sons, J. Edwardes-Stevens, the famous championship and international water polo referee, William Henry, chief secretary of the Royal Life Saving Society, all of whom owe allegiance to the Amateur Swimming Club; Ernest White, W. Croxon, Fred Cook, J. Allington, who with "Plum," make the voting strength of the Cygnus Swimming Club.

Among names in the "Auld Lang Syne" book are to be found those of Charles S. Smith of Wigan, the famous international goal keeper, R. A. Crawshaw, Manchester Mayfield, Joe Wilson of Nottingham, William Watts of Sheffield, W. H. Broom of Manchester. The brothers Benjamin, Cygnus, F. Baxter of Manchester, F. G. Wraith, Derby, past presidents of the A.S.A.; George T. Evershed, W. H. M. Marx, past presidents of the S.C.A.S.A.; H. Johansson of Sweden, Miss Greta Johansson of Sweden, winners at the Olympic Games of 1908 and 1912, Miss Belle White, National Graceful Diving Champion; Miss Minnie Wylie and Miss Fanny Durack, the famous Australian lady swimmers, Harold Hardwick, Cecil Healy, L. Boardman, F. E. Beaurepaire, E. Finlay, King's Cup winner, all of Australia; W. J. Stratton, of New Zealand, an old member of the Zephyr Club, Zoltán Halmay, champion of England and Hungary, Pontus Hanson and Robert Anderson, Harold Julin, Eric Tjader, all Swedish champions at various periods; the presidents of the German, Dutch and French Associations, as also the team of German champion divers who took part in the Royal Life Saving Society's Gala in 1907, and many others, which phrase includes

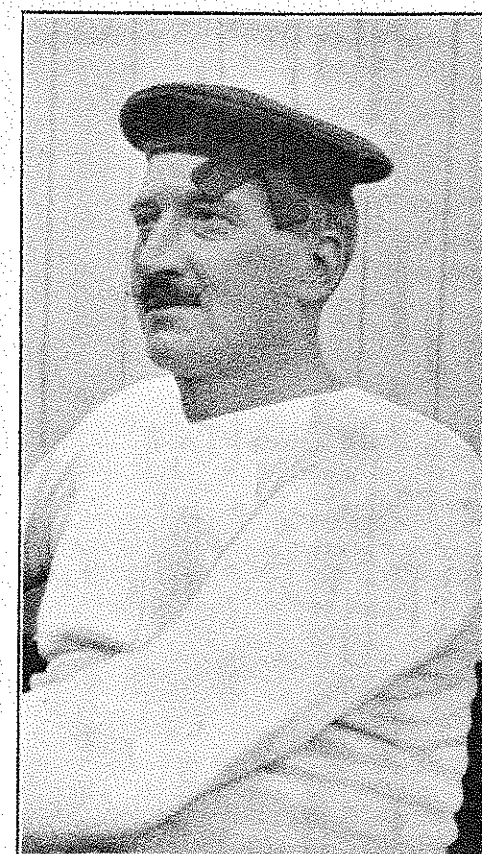
such a magnificent diver as George W. Gaidzik, of Chicago.

The first well-known name in the book is that of Tom Wootwell, the world-wide performer. Then we came across that of J. A. Jarvis, of Leicester, whose memorable defeat of Tyers in the mile championship at the West India Docks, and consequent coming into prominence, will never be forgotten by

day after a disappointment." He was then champion of England and the remark had reference to his defeat in the King's Cup race at Highgate the previous afternoon. Two years later (1906) Cecil Healy wrote "Ditto! Ditto! Jarvis, old Boy. I would much prefer to drown a man than rescue him, in a race at any rate." Healy had come from Australia to compete for the King's Cup and fared the same fate as Jarvis. Anyhow he made up for it all by having a good time and proving himself a right loyal friend and a sportsman, for he is undoubtedly a fine speed swimmer and has taught us a lot in that line.

There has been no great swimming function held in or near London for years past which did not cause a great assembly of swimmers at the Camp. The Sundays after the great galas at Highgate became known as "King's Cup Sundays" at Walton, when the camp proved a veritable Tower of Babel, so many languages being spoken, as all the foreign, Colonial and provincial visitors were entertained. Many of these have written in Plum's book such remarks as "Just like home," "The camp quite spoils one for civilised life," "Real South African reception," "The first Sunday in this country that we did not wish we were in Holland." This last was of course written by Meijer, the famous Dutch swimmer. There are also many notes of appreciation in languages other than English, and J. Edwardes-Stevens adds to the joy of the occasion by bursting into Scotch poetry, which probably had the effect of causing him to become a sojourner ever since. The amateur boatmen have had some fine experiences (most swimmers are amateur boatmen) when landing or embarking and have had to be rescued from a full clothes ducking, for the boats, unlike a bus or a car, will not remain stationary at one's beck or call. When Healy was last at the camp, some six years after his previous visit, he wrote in the book that he was "none the worse for wear." This remark applies very forcibly to all the campers, including "Old Plum," who is known familiarly as the "Ancient Mariner." He delights to wear a seaman's cap with the ribbon tickling the bridge of his nose.

Many of those mentioned in this article are or were in the fighting line in one place or another, but though one thinks of the doings that are now one hopes that the friendships that have been made at the camp may be speedily rejuvenated.



"PLUM," "THE ANCIENT MARINER."

Who sails the pure and limpid stream.

those of his generation, particularly as this event took place in the presence of their Majesties the King and Queen, the Right Hon. Lord Desborough, president of the Royal Life Saving Society, and Lord Knutsford. It was on this occasion that Percy Cavill of Australia took part in the mile championship in which many nationalities were represented and it was at this gala that the Swedish divers first made their appearance in England and showed their now historic diving. Jarvis was at the camp a few years later, when he wrote in the book "A pleasant

THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY.

A RECORD MONTH IN THE WORK. INSTRUCTION IN THE NAVY AND ARMY.

THERE was a large attendance of members at the Central Executive Meeting held on the fifteenth of last month, nearly all who are not serving with the colours being present. A special feature of this meeting was the Chief Secretary's reports on the examinations of candidates during the month. These reports disclosed the gratifying fact of a record list of candidates for the various awards granted by the Society, which included two Diplomas, one for a Candidate in Wellington, New Zealand, and the other for a lady at Ealing. The number of those who passed the tests for the Award of Merit was also in excess of that of any list previously submitted, the total number of awards granted for the month being 1,911. This is particularly interesting, having regard to the fact that many thought the teaching of life saving would cease during the war.

The awards granted last year for the same period were five hundred less. In a like measure the Hon. Treasurer had an interesting report to submit with regard to financial matters which proved the month to be the best since the beginning of last year.

Our friends will be interested to learn that a large number of classes are being started at the Navy and Army training centres, as the resuscitation methods are particularly useful for the recovery of patients from "gassing" or electric shock.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The report of the South Australian Head Centre is good reading, for Mr. H. R. Stirling, in his first year of office, has been able to secure the Semaphore, Glenelg, Henley Beach, North Adelaide, South Adelaide, Gazeka, O.B.I., Electric Supply, Tramways, Ainley, Pengelly's Wallaroo, Mannum and Hanley Bridge clubs as members, with a total membership of 1,100, and also the support of 178 individual members of the Centre. The Patron is His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Galway, K.C.B., D.S.O.; the Mayor of Adelaide, Mr. A. A. Simpson is Vice-Patron, and Mr. H. Chesson, M.P., the President, while the Vice-presidents are the Hon. R. P. Blundell, Mr. E. H. Anstey,

M.P., Mr. E. W. Langdon and Mr. T. E. Yelland. Messrs. C. Kellett, S. J. H. Williams, W. H. Judd, T. C. Kellett and H. R. Stirling are the Executive Committee, and Mr. T. A. Bradley is Hon. Treasurer.

The enlistment of the best swimmers has, of course, retarded the work of the Centre, yet although only in its infancy it was able to instruct a large number during the past swimming season in Australia, but many of the candidates have been unable to present themselves for examination, owing to the demands made on their time by the military authorities. Still 25 awards were made, these being 14 Proficiency Certificates, 10 Bronze Medallions and the Hon. Instructor's Certificate.

The first annual life saving display and examination took place at the Unley Baths, Adelaide, on February 26, when 12 awards were gained and a competition in life saving for teams of four was carried through, the winning team being captained by W. Judd.

In order to encourage others to learn, the Society erected two dressing-sheds at Glenelg and there gave life saving and swimming lessons regularly every Saturday afternoon. As the result many have been taught to swim and have been given special certificates of ability. The Society's Instructors taught 25; the North Adelaide Club over 100, 60 of whom passed for the learner's certificate; Henley Beach club, 25; Semaphore, 20, and the other clubs between 10 and 25 each. This is excellent work, and highly to be commended, especially as nearly all these budding swimmers have been instructed in the land-drill and are capable of passing for the Elementary Certificate. But the most pleasing item in the report is the long record of rescues of persons from drowning by members of the Society. Mr. S. J. H. Williams saved no fewer than nine, this bringing his record of rescues up to the remarkable number of 61. This gentleman is a member of the Executive and holds the Bronze Medallion of the Society. Others deserving of mention are Messrs. C. A. Bartlett and A. H. Earl, both Bronze Medallion holders. About a dozen other cases have also been reported.

In conjunction with the South Australian Swimming Association the Centre held two championship carnivals and the annual "Swim through Adelaide" with pronounced success.

It is hoped that the large number of members who have joined the colours will find their knowledge of life saving and swimming of great help to them in the arduous duties in which they are engaged, or may be called upon to perform. One of the first to leave was T. Pollock, who went with the Army Medical Corps attached to the First Australian Expeditionary Force. Mr. Pollock gained his diploma at Dunfermline, Scotland, and later left for South Australia.

MANCHESTER BRANCH.

The coming of age of the Manchester Branch of the Royal Life Saving Society recalls the fact that Mr. J. H. Fisher was the first chairman, and that Messrs. F. Baxter and J. Derbyshire were joint hon. secretaries at the start; that Messrs. R. A. Crawshaw and J. Bebbington followed them in office in 1896; that Bebbington was sole hon. secretary in 1897-8, and that Mr. W. H. Broom, whose portrait we gave last month, then accepted the office and has remained there ever since.

Mr. Fisher did splendid work in the early days of the Branch, getting the best swimmers of the day and Mr. J. D. Henderson's girls' team of life savers, from Heywood, to give displays to the clubs in the City area. J. D. Henderson himself also did much work with his team throughout the district, and for four or five years instructed the Salford Police, with the approval and sympathetic help of Mr. J. W. Hallam, the Chief Constable. Mr. T. Aspinall did useful work with the Farnworth Police and Mr. R. A. Crawshaw taught the first class of the Manchester City Police, a body which is a strong asset to the Branch, whose privileges now include free admission to any of the Manchester Baths to all those who are members of the Police Force or Fire Brigade and who are Proficiency Certificate holders.

Sergt. R. Stott, who for years was the hon. sec. of the Police Swimming Club, greatly assisted the Branch, not only by organising classes, but on the executive and also as an examiner.

Looking through the records of the Branch we find that in 1895 Mr. R. Race, headmaster of Cheetham Higher Grade School, joined the executive and has not failed to submit a class from his school annually for

examination. Mr. W. Nelson, headmaster of the Royal Deaf School, Old Trafford, is another master who encourages the work, and his staff vie with each other to produce the best classes for awards. Mr. J. L. Paton, M.A., Manchester Grammar School, has had an annual class for some years, and gives the Branch permission to have the awards distributed on the School Prize Day.

Special mention should be made of Mr. T. W. Grundy, of the Bolton (High Street) Baths, who, in addition to training several hundreds for ordinary classes, has also specialised for the higher awards and holds the record as an instructor of diploma candidates, after being himself qualified.

For the past dozen years Inspector D. Egan, of the Salford Police, has encouraged his men to learn, while Sergt. F. H. Worsley, who is now serving with the 20th Service Battalion Manchester Regiment, has for years been a prominent teacher of the Manchester Police, and also instructor to the Manchester Citizens' classes. Naturally, he has formed a class in his battalion.

ULSTER BRANCH.

It is gratifying to know the Ulster Branch have been able to carry through successfully two of their competitions this year, notwithstanding the unusual circumstances at present existing owing to the lamentable war and the lack of swimmers to take part in the contests. The Workman Shield Competition, which is conducted on the speed principle, is open to terms of two, and the following conditions have to be fulfilled, which requires some training and stamina. Each member of the team swims 90 yards breast-stroke; 90 yards any stroke; 90 yards back-stroke without using arms; carry a subject 15 yards by the four methods of life saving as taught in the handbook, and swim 15 yards, dive from the surface, pick up a 3-lb. weight and carry same to the starting point. The winners cannot again compete as one team. Victoria A.S.C. (Messrs. J. Bell and E. Whithers), 12 points, proved to be the winners. Belfast A.S.C. (Holders), 2nd, 22 points, and Donegal A.S.C., 3rd, 25½ points. The entries were not as numerous as in former years, but after due consideration the executive decided to carry on the competition if the clubs showed interest in the work of the Society, as life saving did not come under the heading of "sport," but was a necessary and humane work.

THE LADIES' SECTION.

By our "Lady Dorothy."

HINTS FOR SUMMER GALAS.

ENTERTAINMENT OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

THE Dartford Ladies hit on an excellent idea when they decided to hold a swimming gala to entertain the convalescent soldiers of their district. There is not a club in the country which could not do the same thing at very little cost. There are two ways of doing this—to promote a big gala in the largest obtainable bath, and to hold attractive events, charging fairly highly for spectators and advertising freely that the show is in honour of wounded soldiers who will be present. Civilians will take tickets if the programme is specially attractive, and many will go only to see the soldiers enjoying themselves. The other way is to hire the bath, one afternoon—get it free of charge if the bath authorities are amenable to persuasion—then gather one's club members together and entertain the soldiers to the very best of your ability.

A band would be a great addition if it could be afforded, though if not there are always amateurs to be found who are willing to help.

If it is permissible the soldiers themselves could also have races and competitions. They are often only undergoing some treatment which does not in the least prevent them from swimming.

A ladies' fancy and comic costume race is quite amusing—again letting the soldiers judge. A Thread the Needle race would also be feasible, the members swimming a length with pieces of the cotton and presenting them to a corresponding number of soldiers lined up on the side or end of the bath with needles. The soldiers would thread them, and the swimmers race back to the starting point.

A ladies' polo match entertains the Tommies immensely—as, even if they don't play, they can follow the game from their knowledge of football—and they are sure to take sides and get quite enthusiastic over the shooting of goals. Really comic or obstacle races would be quite good, in fact, anything attractive which goes with a swing. It should always be remembered that one is enter-

taining the soldiers and not giving the club members a fête.

At an Honolulu meeting Miss Lucille Legros won the 220 yards race, 3.34.2, and the 50 yards in 32.2. Miss Ruth Stacker, a well known swimmer in those parts, did not compete.

There were eight entries for the 100 Yards Northern Counties Breast-Stroke Championship and all started. The event was held at Altrincham Baths, and the local member, Miss A. Wilkinson, won in 1.30.2. She won her heat after a hard fight with Miss Lucy Moreton, Blackpool, the holder. The latter put up a good tussle for the final, but was finally beaten by two-fifths seconds. Miss D. Cretney was third in 1.32.4.

The Swansea Ladies are not holding a gala this year, though they hope to play one or two polo matches. Many of the members are doing useful war-work, but they are fortunately able to find time for occasional dips at Langland Bay and at the baths.

It is very sad to have to record the death of Miss Jessamine Sharpe, who died at Burnley on Tuesday, June 29, the day after attempting a back dive into a tank containing just under 4ft. of water.

Miss Sharpe was for a long time professional instructress to the Invicta Ladies' Club at Woolwich, where she was extremely popular. She passed for the Certificate and Medallion of the R.L.S.S., and gained her diploma in 1909. She was an exceptional all-round swimmer and took part in the swim through London. During her travels she did much for the R.L.S.S. Last season she went to the Hampstead Baths as instructress, and in October she left to join the revue, "Have a Plunge." She gave exhibitions of diving and swimming in the final scene, and it was left to her to do what she thought would most please the audience. At the

close of her performance at the second house at the Burnley Empire, she voluntarily essayed a back dive. Owing to the shallowness of the water this was naturally extremely dangerous and Miss Sharpe came into violent contact with the bottom. She was removed by motor ambulance to the Victoria Hospital, where her injuries proved fatal, and she died the following evening. Every one who ever met her will deeply regret the loss of Miss Jessamine Sharpe as a friend, and the swimming world will miss a keen and sporting enthusiast.

It is difficult to understand that a diver of Miss Sharpe's capabilities and knowledge should attempt such a risky feat. She was always urging people against reckless diving, and has written on this subject. Besides this she disregarded all the warnings the R.L.S.S. have issued on the subject, and one cannot but imagine that when she went up to the board she did not intend to do a back dive. The effort was in response to the applause of the audience, and one of Miss Sharpe's fellow-performers believes she meant to attempt a side dive but changed her mind. As she was trying the complete backward dive, which involves a semi-circle being performed in the water she naturally came straight down on her hands which could not break the fall sufficiently.

In the ordinary way, when one hears of people being injured when trying impossible dives one generally attributes it to ignorance or pure bravado, but for any one who knew Miss Jessamine Sharpe they cannot but feel that for some reason, which we shall never know, it was a most unfortunate accident.

The new open-air swimming bath in the Park, Bradford, is the subject of much discussion in the local press. Several people advocate in favour of more days for mixed bathing, and others are keen to encourage mixed spectators. With all the accommodation there is at their disposal, it is felt that the Corporation should place the bath on a paying basis by encouraging spectators in the same way as they encourage swimmers. They should make it a popular meeting place for every one—either to swim or to watch the swimmers, with a view to popularising this most health-giving of sports.

Then, again, the ladies feel very keenly the limited time allotted to them. They point out the preponderance of the female population over the male, and appeal for a little

more encouragement to their swimming by the granting of greater bathing facilities. It appears that at present the ladies' day is very overcrowded, and that it is necessary to wait a long time for dressing accommodation. It is also felt that the mill-hands, shop-assistants and business women have far too little opportunity to use the bath, as they go *en masse* in their somewhat limited leisure hours, and the consequent congestion necessarily causes delay and an overcrowded bath in which to swim. From all quarters come these complaints and I am sure that a corporation which is so progressive as to build such a luxurious bath, will certainly rearrange its time-table.

Instead of the annual gala the Mermaid S.C. held a summer meeting at the Hampstead Baths. It was an impromptu affair—there were no advertisements and no programmes. The charge was sixpence to spectators and competitors alike, and the large gallery was crowded. The object was to hold some of the club championships and to encourage the junior members by promoting events for them. The meeting opened with the 100 Yards Club Championship for the Anderson Bowl, which was won by an ex-junior, Miss Enid Harrison, in the quite creditable time of 84 seconds. The schools team race is a popular event which rouses much enthusiasm amongst the private schools in Hampstead. The winners were St. Margaret's, who hold the cup for the third time in succession. The open scratch race for girls under 12 was a great success. There were 13 entries and 2 heats. Miss Eileen Armstrong won the Cathcart Diving Trophy from Miss D. Marx, the holder. These two have long been rival divers in the club. The junior captaincy resulted in a win for Miss W. Calkin. The test is very excellent for an all-round competition for girls under 16, and may serve as a guide to other clubs. Since its inauguration it has been subject to revision many times and is now found to be a very fair test which is not too long or difficult for juniors, and is, in consequence, very popular. It consists of 4 parts, the first a 30 yards race, then diving from the tank level, 5ft. board, running low spring-board and one optional. The third test is motionless floating for 30 seconds, and the last a 60 yards race, the first length breast-stroke and the second on the back. Each part has a maximum of 20 points, so that the diver or floater stands equal

chances with the swimmer. In the 30 yards race the winner receives full marks, and each of the others is docked 2 marks for every second after. In the 60 yards it is the same, except that the penalty is 1 mark per second.

Miss Eileen Lee, the 19-year-old daughter of a Teddington lock-keeper, has surpassed all other feats of lady swimmers in the Thames by completing the distance from Richmond Bridge to the Tower Bridge, 16 miles—946 yards, in 4hr. 4min. 45secs. There was a spring tide, the stream slack, the water cold and rough in places, so that river swimmers will realise what a very fine performance this was. Miss Vera Neave and Miss Rose Pitanoff have put up river records, but Miss Lee swept these away in the course of her swim. She swims a strong right hand over-arm stroke with a screw kick, and is well on the surface of the water all the time. This is remarkable, as other long distance swimmers state that unless they swim trudge their under-arm gets cold and useless. Miss Lee, however, appears to get great power from her under-hand drive, and this, with her remarkable screw kick and well defined timing, have achieved for her world-wide fame.

We are pleased to be able to record the fact that the Gala in aid of Mr. Harry Read proved a complete success in every respect. The swimming amongst the children was exceptionally good, and it received splendid support from the teachers and the children of the district in which Mr. Read laboured for the art of swimming for over fourteen years. We also desire to record our appreciation of the support accorded by the Otter S.C., the Amateur Diving Association, the Amateur S.C., the Cygnus S.C., and the Royal Life Saving Society, whose members contributed not only to the major portion of the programme, but also to the general fund, which, after paying all expenses, has left a balance amounting to £25, for which Mr. Read requests us to return his grateful and heartfelt thanks to all who have so willingly helped him in his trouble and affliction. We also desire to express our gratitude for the support we have received in response to our appeal. Mr. Read would personally have communicated with all friends who lent their aid but, as previously explained, that unfortunately is impossible.

NOTES ON NEWS.

Items of General Interest.

In previous years it has been customary for the English A.S.A. to hold district competitions in order to pick out teams for the final of the National Schoolboy Championship, but this year each district is holding its own competition. That of the Southern District was decided at the Regent Street Polytechnic Baths, at the beginning of last month, and was won by H. Thomson, W. Thomson and Hall, of the Richmond British Schools; Kensington School, represented by A. Leat, V. Webb and Hamilton being second, and J. Walters, F. Cavil and W. Miller, of the Trafalgar School, Twickenham, being third. Richmond's time for 150 yards, each boy swimming 50 yards, was 2.37.1, that of Kensington 2.40.4 and that of Twickenham 2.42.3. Each competitor was under fourteen years of age.

Sidney Eve, of Australia, has recently opened the Palm Beach Baths in Alameda, California.

In handing the Royal Life Saving Society Medallion to Patrol Leader G. Reedman, the Derby District Commissioner, Dr. H. H. Bemrose, reminded those present that the Latin motto on the medallion had very much the same meaning as the Scout motto: "Be prepared."

Flight Lieut. W. K. Warneford, a cousin of the late Lieut. Warneford, V.C. was the Hundred Yards Champion of Crewe 1913-14.

It was on May 3, 1810, that Lord Byron, with Lieut. Ekenhead, of the frigate *Salsette*, then lying in the Dardanelles, swam from Sestos to Abydos, in emulation of the legendary feat of Leander, who was nightly wont to swim from Abydos to Sestos to visit Hero, a priestess of Venus. The distance across is about a mile, but the set of the current caused the swim to extend to about four miles, accomplished in an hour and ten minutes. Lord Byron was also famous for other good swims, one of them being from the Island of the Lido to Venice in 1818. He was then in the water four hours and twenty minutes and had on a pair of trousers.

As regards the authenticity of Leander's swims across the Hellespont and back Byron said, "that a young Greek of heroic times, in love and with his limbs full of vigour, might have succeeded in such an attempt, is neither wonderful nor doubtful. Whether he attempted it is another question, because he might have had a small boat to save him the trouble."

A splendid open-air bath has been opened in Lister Park, Bradford, and Yorkshire swimmers now have one of the best in the country for open-air galas. The course is 50 yards long by 20 yards, and the depth varies from 3ft. 4ins. to 6ft. 10ins. It is surrounded by trees and a shrubbery, there is a café with balcony, diving stages, etc., special dressing rooms for competitors at galas, seating accommodation for about a thousand people, and standing room for about another thousand. It will assuredly become one of the most popular natatorial resorts in the north of England.

We regret that Mr. Harry Hill, for ten years hon. sec. of the Grimsby and Cleethorpe Amateur Swimming Association, was killed in a motor cycle accident on the last Saturday in June.

Holbein calls our system of racing "hurricane swimming," and, says he, "much good that would be to a fellow if he were capsized in the middle of an estuary."

The Serpentine Swimming Club always includes several clothes races in its programme, and thereby sets example to other clubs. The annual contest across the Serpentine for prizes presented by Lord Howard de Walden was decided on the first Saturday in July, and was won by F. W. G. Fairhall. The competitors had to swim about 120 yards in complete walking attire of the minimum weight of 6lbs.

It is reported from Los Angeles that Ludy Langer swam 220 yards at the Los Angeles Athletic Club on June 17 in 2.27. This is said to be a world's record, but according to the Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur, the world's record up to March 31, 1914, was 2.25.2, by C. M. Daniels, New York A.C., at Pittsburg on March 26, 1909. The British record is 2.28.3 by F. C. V. Lane, of Australia, at Weston-super-Mare, England, in 1902.

Louis V. Cowan, killed in action in Flanders, won the 100 Yards Junior Championship of Scotland in 1912, and the next year was in the Edinburgh Warrender's racing team, which won the Scottish team championship. Cowan, who was only 18 years of age, played for the club's water polo-team, which managed to reach the final of the Scottish Water-Polo Championship. He joined the Royal Scots (T.F.) at the outbreak of war.

An interesting account of an impromptu gala at the front has been sent home by Pte. Bathgate, of the 2nd Gordons, who won an open 100 yards and had his prize, twelve francs, presented to him by the Prince of Wales.

St. Paul's beat Harrow easily in the annual swimming matches. F. H. Newman, St. Paul's, who seems to be a promising youth, winning the 100 yards and diving; L. N. Gaskell, St. Paul's, the 50 yards, and St. Paul's the team race. The only win by Harrow was in the plunging, in which V. A. T. Llewelyn proved successful.

There have been several regrettable deaths through drowning in the Thames and other rivers during the past month and in almost every instance it was proved that the victim was unable to swim. In one case we wot of it was well known to the boat proprietor who let out a punt on hire that his customer, who was afterwards drowned, could not swim a stroke. The management of a pleasure punt is by no means easy, and to let one out to a non-swimmer, knowingly, savours of culpable negligence.

The Tynemouth Amateur Swimming Club, of North Shields, is doing excellent work in the matter of teaching boys and girls to swim. The club has a fine open-air bath, and there during the summer months the swimming masters devote several evenings each week to the instruction of hundreds of children and in the course of a generation have taught many thousands. It is no wonder, therefore, that nearly all the youths in the northern harbour borough can swim.

We regret that W. A. Curwen, the old Liverpool swimmer, to whose work at Wheeling Park, Virginia, we referred last month, has been suffering from appendicitis. Latest advices are to the effect that he is much better.

The Americans use the term "Entry Blank" for what we call "Entry form."

Accrington Borough Club has been holding swimming entertainments chiefly for military men. It has over forty of its own members serving, and since the war broke out has been able to raise over £50 for military charities. At its gala in June it invited the wounded soldiers to be present and made them honoured guests of the club. This work of an individual club should stir up the various district associations to organised encouragement of military swimming and military championship competitions.

Almost every other association is doing something to encourage sport among those in military training and to provide recreation to relieve the monotony of field exercises. One of the foremost in this work has been the Southern Counties Cross Country Association, who have provided contests week after week ever since the war started. But our various British Swimming Associations seem inert and helpless at a time when their influence should be most felt.

Charles B. Durborow made a swim in June from Walnut Street Wharf, Philadelphia, on the Camden side of the Delaware river, to a half mile below Market Street Wharf, Chester, then turning round and swimming back for nearly two hours, covering an additional distances of $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles, or $22\frac{3}{4}$ miles in all, in 8hrs. 27mins. There was fierce wind and rain, and the waves were so high that the accompanying boats were almost swamped. The longer the swimmer kept up his powerful double over arm stroke the worse the storm beat, and he did not accomplish the full task he had set himself, which was to make a round trip from Philadelphia to Chester and return, and then go down again until he had covered about forty miles.

The Central A.A.U., of America, has adopted rules whereby a swimmer must first of all win a junior championship in any particular style before he can enter for the senior championship, which is equivalent to saying that Hatfield would have to win a junior back-stroke before he could compete for the senior even though he was holder of all the other senior speed championships. American writers say, "This is decidedly a great boost for the game," but we fail to see it.

At a meeting held at Honolulu on June 11, Duke Kahanamoku swam 50 yards in 23 secs. and 100 yards in 53.1, and a dead heat in 220 yards with Edward Cunha in 2.29. Out of seven starts Kahanamoku took six firsts and one second. If the time returned be correct, his 100 yards performance is a new world's record, the previous best being 53.4 by the same swimmer in Australia.

We regret to state that Sergt.-maj. F. Robb, of the 1st Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, has died of wounds received in action in Flanders. He was a great worker in the cause of the R.L.S.S. and taught many classes for its awards; his last class was at Malta just before the war.

We are pleased to state that Mr. W. A. H. Buller, of the Otter S.C. and the Southern Counties A.S.A. Executive, who is out with the Dardanelles Expeditionary Force, has been instrumental in saving two lives from drowning. When we last heard he was fit and well.

We learn that the Swedish Swimmers at Stockholm are organising a tour to Norway and Denmark about August 15, when Christiania, Bergen, and Copenhagen will be visited. The team will include all the best Swimmers and Divers, also Water Polo Players.

Mr. A. R. C. P. Handover, a member of the Central Executive of the Royal Life Saving Society, has joined the 3/4th London Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C. Territorials. An article on the importance of abdominal breathing in "Motionless Floating" by Mr. Handover appeared in our May number.

Mr. H. Culmer, of the Highgate Life Buoys, was walking on Southend Pier on July 3, when a boy fell out of a boat. Culmer at once went to the rescue and was fortunate enough to save the lad. This is another act of heroism to be added to the Highgate Life Buoys' long Roll of Honour.

We regret to learn that Lieut. James Hunt, the old international water polo player, has been wounded at the Dardanelles. Lieut. Hunt, who used to play for Manchester Mayfield, was in the international team against Scotland in 1891-3-4-5 and 6 and was captain in 1895. He was on active service in the Boer War.

Mr. J. Cloystal, the hon. secy. of the Longton Swimming Club, has joined the Royal Garrison Artillery.

The Swimming Instructors of the United States have an Association of their own.

It is reported that Max Ritter, who often represented Germany in international water polo matches, has joined the New York Athletic Club.

A bath was opened in Bagnio Street (late Bath Street), Newgate Street, London, in the year 1679. It was made for King Charles II., and the flooring was of marble with sides of Dutch tiles. The water was obtained from a spring, but the bath was not of sufficient size for a swim it being only 7 yards by 3. An old bath still in existence in London is the Roman Bath in Strand Lane, Strand, which is said to be over 2000 years old. The water comes from a spring and is discharged into a more modern bath reputed to have been built by the Earl of Essex during the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

The *London Teacher* of July 9, in an article on "London Schoolboys on the Field of Honour," says,

"Many boys owe their lives to the excellent tuition that they received in swimming whilst at school. Two 'Ben Jonson' lads were saved after the sinking of the *Hogue* by swimming for two miles. A Broad-street school boy received the bronze medal of the Royal Humane Society for saving life in a shell hole. A North End-road school boy went down with the *Irresistible*, but owing, he says, to having learned to swim at school, was picked up by the *Queen Elizabeth*, after keeping afloat for several hours."

Lance-Corporal William Cutlin, 20th Service Bat. Manchester Regt., recently rescued a child from drowning. He is an old member of the Salford Swimming Club, Swedish Drill Instructor at Heaton Park, and holds the Royal Humane Society's certificate for saving a lad in 1907.

We have had the pleasure of a call from Mr. Percy Evans, vice-president of the Victoria Head Centre, Melbourne, who is visiting London on war work and in his spare moments is gaining knowledge of English swimming baths and swimmers.

Inspector Beamish, of the Bath City Police, an ardent supporter of the Royal Life Saving Society, has presented a silver cup to the Boy Scouts of Bath, for annual competition in life saving drill and swimming.

Under the will of the late Mr. Edmund Wilson a certain portion of his estate has been set aside to provide instruction in swimming to the youth of York. At the present time the income from the estate will provide for the payment of about £60 per annum and for the present year the Corporation of York has allocated £15 each to the York City A.S.C., York Yearsley S.C. and the York City Police S.C. for the provision of instructor or instructors, subject to the approval of the Corporation. The swimming clubs have it therefore in their own hands to either make or mar a very wise and at the same time inexpensive scheme.

Some of the supporters of the Hammer-smith Club are against carrying on even the junior section this season, but the wiser methods have determined to go on with the work and the opening meetings have proved unqualified successes. Boys will grow even in war time, and the committee has realised the necessity of furthering their physical welfare by every means possible. One of the advantages the boys have is the frequent opportunity of seeing Mr. J. H. Derbyshire performing in the water. They also are frequently the recipients of his experienced advice.

The Mansfield (Nottingham) Club is catering for military swimming, and although many of its best swimmers have joined the colours it is still able to put a good water polo team into the water. Its first match of the season was played against the 21st Battalion Royal Fusiliers, and was won by the club by four goals to one. But the Fusiliers beat Mansfield in a team race.

The St. Pancras Borough Council has granted free admission to the King Street Swimming Baths to soldiers learning to swim and facilities for bathing to those able to swim. This concession was granted on the application of the officer commanding the 16th Service Battn. Rifle Brigade and Captain Raynor, 3rd Battn., 19th (County of London) Regt.

According to the latest information there are about 1,500 members of Scottish amateur swimming clubs serving with the Colours.

Professor Wilkinson, who is principal of the Bimini Baths, Los Angeles, California, who is a member of the Royal Life Saving Society, has made wonderful progress with his pupils. At a gala held at the end of May his junior class consisted of Cameron Coffee, a 3-year old lad; Elizabeth Jones, a little 5-year old girl; Jemima Walters, aged 8, and Farrell Creighton and Nita Warwick, both aged 12. Creighton, Walters and Warwick can each swim a mile easily. One of his best pupils is Miss Georgina Carmar, aged 17, to whom Wilkinson gave her first swimming lesson in 1912. Miss Carmar swam from San Francisco to Alameda, 6½ miles, in 3 hrs. and 7 mins. in cold, rough water on July 6, 1913.

The death in June last of W. Blew-Jones, a well known ex-captain of the Otter Swimming Club, who in 1883 won the 100 Yards English Amateur Championship at the old Lambeth Baths in 1.11, second to him being A. F. Bettinson, German Gymnasium, now manager of the National Sporting Club, reminded many of us of keen old-time struggles. A fortnight after his first Championship win, Blew-Jones finished second to T. Cairns, of Everton, now manager of the Westminster Road Baths, Liverpool, in the 220 Yards Championship, beaten by a yard in 2.59.4 which was then record time, and remained the best championship performance until 1889, when T. Jones, of the Manchester Swan, reduced it to 2.57½. In the succeeding year W. Evans, also Manchester Swan, won in 2.51.1; in 1892 Tyers took the record to 2.46.2, the same swimmer to 2.41 in 1894, and 2.38.4 in 1897. Then came along F. C. V. Lane, of Australia, whose time in 1899 was 2.38, and 2.28.3 at Weston-super-Mare in 1902, which still stands as British record. During the time that Blew-Jones was racing the Otter had its headquarters at St. Marylebone Baths, and it was at this period great trouble arose in the amateur world, culminating in the formation of the Amateur Swimming Union, as distinct from the Swimming Association of Great Britain, as the A.S.A. was then called. The Otter, Cadogan, Imperial, Ilex, Richmond and some half a dozen other clubs joined the Union and barred the members of all other clubs from competi-

tion with them, but a settlement was at length "arrived" at, and from that settlement has gradually risen the present A.S.A.

Mention is made in the preceding paragraph of the feuds which existed in the amateur world at the time the late Mr. W. Blew-Jones, of the Otter Swimming Club, was competing in championships. The resolutions and orders became so entangled and conflicting as to bring the government of amateur swimming into a state of chaos. A man declared a professional at one meeting would be declared an amateur at the next and the Otter Club headed the revolt over the always vexed question of bath attendants and bath superintendents being considered amateurs. For two years a desperate struggle went on, and an amateur desirous of racing often found himself in a fix. If he swam at one club's gala, he would be suspended by the S.A.G.B.; if he swam at that of another he would have punishment meted out to him by the Amateur Swimming Union. Mr. S. D. Muttelbury, the famous Cambridge oarsman, had the distinguished honour to be suspended by both. We don't suppose he now worries much about the laughable incident while doing his round as special constable, but at the time he was justly indignant. It was this ludicrous outcome of the fight that led to the settlement of matters in dispute, the agreement to terminate the war being largely brought about by the tactful work of the late Mr. Henry Benjamin, of the Cygnus Swimming Club.

BATH CLUB.

Ladies' Competitions.

THE Annual Ladies' and Children's Swimming and Life Saving Competitions at the Bath Club were this year held privately on Wednesday, June 23, and Friday, June 25. Excellent form was displayed and the results were very close, particularly so that for the "Maude Nathan" Cup, in which the figures given by the judges, Messrs. Guy M. Campbell, vice-president of the Royal Life Saving Society; H. J. Grimwade, Official Judge of the Amateur Swimming Association, were almost level. Indeed so close were they in their marking of points that the Referee added the two lists together and made his award that way.

The "Maude Nathan" Cup, presented in 1911 by the relatives of the late Miss Maud

A VISIT TO DROITWICH.

REMARKABLE BRINE BATHS.

By Robert Sandon, Amateur S.C.

MOST people in England have heard of the Droitwich brine baths, but comparatively few seem to have any definite ideas about them. This was indeed my own position until a short time ago, when I spent a short holiday at Droitwich and visited the baths on several occasions. It is pretty generally known that the water is excessively salt, and that it is reputed to be very beneficial to persons suffering from such complaints as rheumatism, lumbago, sciatica, neuritis, etc.

Droitwich itself is a small town, hardly more than a village, situated near Worcester in a delightful neighbourhood where apples, pears and hops are grown in large quantities. The town itself is of no special attraction apart from the peculiarities in some of the houses due to the subsidences of the ground, resulting in the houses becoming very much out of the upright.

There are two bathing establishments, the oldest containing one swimmer's bath and known as the Royal Baths, and the more recent up-to-date baths having two swimming baths, one for men and one for women, and known as the St. Andrew's Baths. The St. Andrew's Men's Bath is a good sized one about 30 yards long by 9 yards wide; the other men's bath is about the same size. There is no diving board because no one dives there. In fact, the expression "swimming" bath itself is quite inaccurate, as it is impossible to swim in the ordinary way. Naturally one would expect that with water of such great buoyancy swimming would be an easy matter. It is however quite the other way, swimming is difficult; on the other hand, floating is easy.

The brine is pumped up from about 200 feet down in the earth by a very interesting and very old pumping engine, to a storage tank from which it is delivered as required to either of the bathing establishments, or to works where salt is made therefrom as block, powdered or crystal salt. The brine as pumped up is stated to contain over 3lbs of solid matter to every gallon of water, nearly the whole of this being common salt (sodium chloride).

The first experience of a visit is decidedly unpleasant, and the lesson one learns then is so sharp that it is for ever borne carefully

Nathan, is only open to junior subscribers of over 14 years of age and under 21, and the conditions of the competition are: (a) one length breast-stroke (not racing, but graceful action and correct method); (b) one length back-stroke without use of hands; (c) life saving 60ft. (2nd method); (d) standing dive from low spring board; (e) standing dive from 5ft. board; (f) water wheel (twice round). As the result Miss Felicity Tree took the Cup, 141½ points; Miss Mary Hills was second, 135 points; and Miss Gladys Munday, third, 133½ points; Miss Beryl Barlow, fourth, 133 points. The other competitors were placed in the following order:—Miss Marguerite Barlow, Miss Beryl Cumberlege Ware, Miss Elinor Dodd, Miss Diana Hornby, Miss Vera Cotton, Miss Olive Tuckett, Miss Mary M. Evans.

In the Children's Challenge Shield Competition, open to junior subscribers under 14 years of age, there was also a very keen contest. In this the competitors had to: (a) Swim one length breast-stroke (not racing, but graceful action and correct method); (b) one width back-stroke; (c) one width life saving (2nd method); (d) one dive from side of bath. Miss Sybil Jecks won with 33½ points. Miss Sybil Bruce Dick was second with 33, and Miss Pamela d'Avigdor Nathan and Miss Sybil Dawson tied with 31 for third place. Next in order were Miss Sylvia Nairn, 30½, Miss Margaret Frupp, Miss Audrey James, Miss Gillian Nairn +, and Miss Betty Frupp +, Miss Helen Asquith, Miss Audrey Holman, Miss Cecily Shackleton.

The all important competition was that for the Ladies' Challenge Shield, for which each competitor had to satisfy the judges in the following:—(a) Breast-stroke swimming, two lengths (not racing, but graceful action and correct method); (b) running dive from low spring board (take off with both feet); (c) standing dive from 8ft. board; (d) motionless floating, horizontal or vertical, 30 seconds; (e) life saving 60ft. (2nd method); (f) propeller, along the bottom of bath (face upwards); (g) marching (along surface). Miss Tirzal Clifton, who won in 1912-13, and dead heated with Miss Antoinette Thompson last year, proved successful with 58½ points. Mrs. Aitken Dick, second last year and also in 1912, was again second, her points being 56. Miss Felicity Tree, 55½ points, was third, and Mrs. Edward Clive, 52½ points, fourth.

These are the only competitions that will be held at the Bath Club this season.

in mind. The lesson is this:—that the eyes, mouth and nose must be kept from contact with the water. Even one drop of the brine on the eye causes considerable pain, and if the eyes are immersed the pain is intense, while the unpleasantness of having the brine in one's nostrils or mouth is very great. This is recognized at the baths, as spittoons are placed around the sides of the bath at intervals, indeed at the St. Andrew's baths they are built into the walls, and beside each of these there is placed a towel to which the bathers can go to wipe away the silent tear which is so apt to form. Here we have one reason why no attempts are made to dive. Further the water is so dense that probably the actual sensation of striking the water in a dive would be unpleasant and even dangerous, but as I did not risk the experiment I cannot confirm this. Moreover, I believe the attendants have orders to prevent anyone from attempting to dive.

The buoyancy of the water is so great that ordinary swimming is next to impossible. For example, it is only just possible to swim the breast stroke. In doing this the stroke must be done very carefully, as the difficulty of keeping the feet under water to make a kick is very great. I found this very difficult, as I did also an attempt to perform the Propeller, which I can easily do in ordinary sea water. I came to the conclusion that in the position required to do the propeller, I could not get my hands sufficiently low in the water to obtain the requisite propelling power. The following experiments on the buoyancy of the water which I made are very striking.

First, I walked down the steps backwards, in the deep end and hooked my toes under the bottom step. The upward pull on my toes was now so great as to be painful, and when I released my toes I bounded upwards like a polo ball that has been immersed in a bath and released. I asked other bathers to do the same, and was amused to watch them and also to see their astonishment at the result.

Second. At the centre of the shallow end of the bath a steam pipe is introduced and horizontal branches lead from it below the surface all round the bath, to maintain the temperature of the water to 90° Fah. These pipes are necessarily covered by a wooden box to prevent direct contact with a bather. At the shallow end this covering box is only 2 feet below the surface. I found I could just sit on this box without holding, but

several others who were personally more buoyant than myself could not remain on it without holding themselves down, the buoyancy of the water floating them off.

Third. This experiment took place at the deep end of the bath. When floating upright I found it was difficult to maintain my position. The slightest movement from the strict perpendicular position resulted in the legs shooting upwards either in front or behind.

Lastly, I tried walking from the shallow end towards the deep end, until my feet left the bottom. I then raised my arms above my head, when the feet again touched the bottom, and I was able to walk some short distance further, when the feet again were lifted from the bottom, and I was left floating. The buoyancy of the water being so great it can easily be understood that everyone, whether swimmer or non-swimmer, can float with a considerable portion of his body above the surface and in almost any position. At a first visit this is the most striking and strange feature for a person accustomed to the sights of an ordinary bath to see a number of persons all floating comfortably and looking quite motionless while no one is swimming, has an almost weird effect.

As a swimmer, I naturally desired to move about and not remain motionless, and therefore I exercised my ingenuity to devise as many ways of doing this as I could think of without causing any splashing, which would be unpleasant for the other bathers if it was not for myself. I felt I was not very successful in this, but the following were my principal methods: (1) Sculling forwards, (2) sculling backwards, (3) propelling (which as I said before was not very successful), (4) dog paddle with using legs, (5) trudging very gently, so as to avoid any splash without using legs (6) propelling on breast backwards, (7) sculling backwards in a vertical position (8) the same forwards, (9) breast swimming without using legs, and (10) walking without touching the bottom.

With deep regret we record the death of Mr. W. Somerville Woodiwiss, J.P., member of the Porpoise S.C. and R.L.S.S. He was an excellent swimmer and gained his Diploma (with honours) in 1897, the first year this award was instituted. He has been a member of the Society ever since.

LOWESTOFT AND LIFE SAVING.

CURIOUS EDUCATIONAL METHODS.

AN APPRECIATION OF MR. A. G. CUTTS.

A LECTURE and life saving demonstration was given by Mr. William Henry, chief secretary of the Royal Life Saving Society, at South Lowestoft Baths on Tuesday, June 22, in aid of the Society's Funds, the meeting being under the patronage of Captain Ellison, captain-in-charge Lowestoft and Yarmouth, Lieut.-Col. Arthur Churchill and officers 1/25th Cyclist Battalion, London Regiment; Lieut.-Col. E. Mornement and Officers, 2/4th Battalion Norfolk Regiment. Mr. A. G. Cutts, the lessee of the Baths, lent them for the occasion and also officiated in most of the events. The methods of drill on land and water were explained by Mr. Henry as the past and present scholars of the Lovewell Road and London Road Schools went through them, and after that the lecturer gave a most skilful display of scientific swimming, which was watched with breathless interest.

After Messrs. H. Clarke and W. Leak had given an aerial display on rings and also performed other feats of a difficult character, there was racing and a water polo match, the latter between the Navy and Army, which the Navy won after a strenuous game by five goals to two. A three lengths (90 yards) scratch race by men of the London Cyclists, for prizes presented by Lieut.-Col. Churchill, was won by Lance-Corporal White by nearly half a length from Private Bartlett. Miss Crask won a two lengths race for ladies very easily, and B Company beat D Company in a Boy Scouts team race.

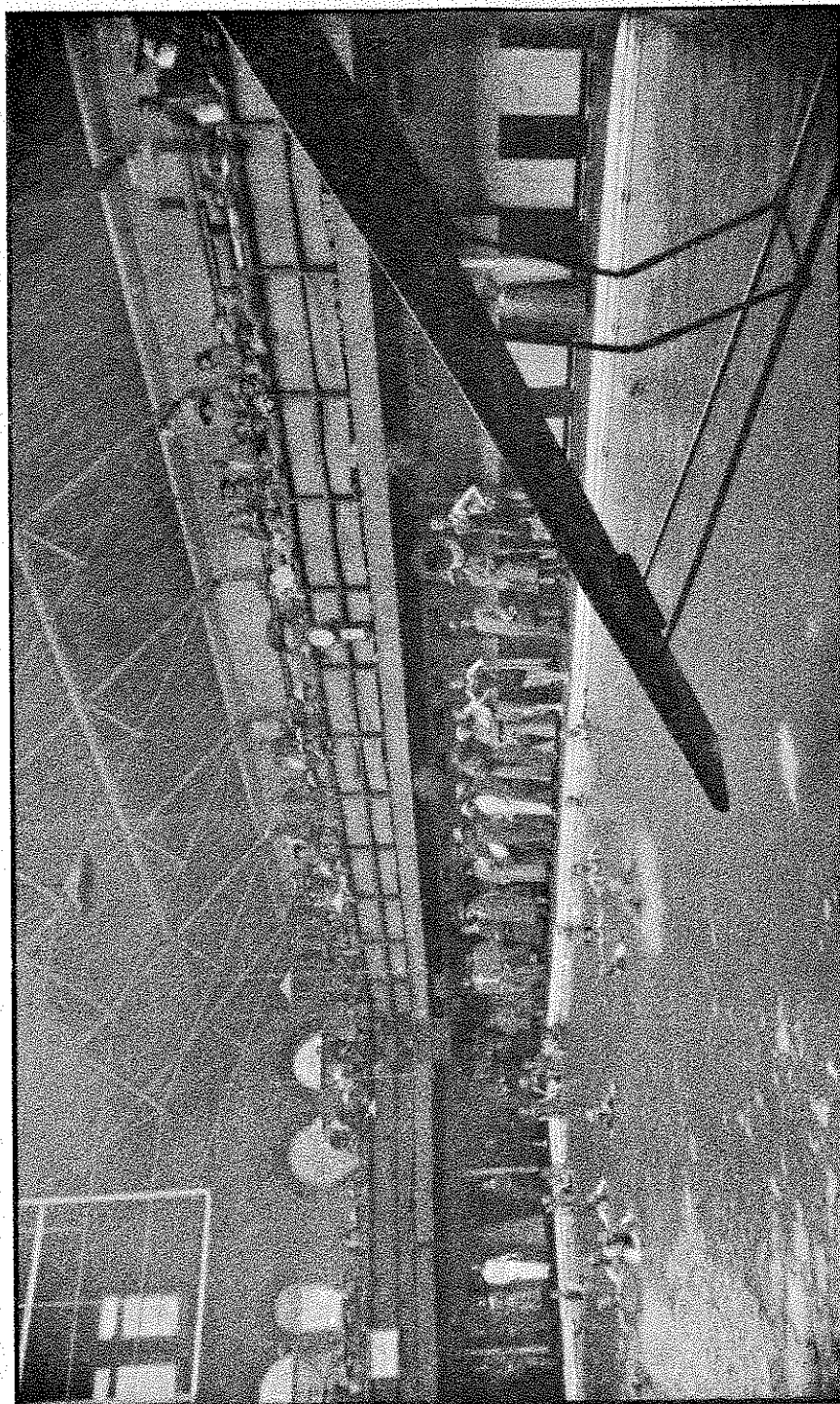
Opportunity was taken by Mr. Henry to explain the objects of the Life Saving Society. He emphasised the value of a knowledge of swimming in everyday life, and instanced the case of a sailor who held the Society's Medallion, and who, when his ship was torpedoed, swam about for as long as four hours, and was after all saved from drowning. After detailing the proper method of resuscitation under the Schäfer method, Mr. Henry added that leading medical authorities had informed the Society that the same method could be used for those who had been "gassed," and, at the end of his lecture, he highly complimented the young people who assisted him in the display of life saving

drill and remarked that they had done their share remarkably well.

Subsequent to his visit Mr. Henry addressed the following letter to Mr. Cutts, and it was thereupon widely circulated in East Anglia. It read as follows:—

"I had an opportunity of watching your good work amongst the school children, and noted the thorough way that you imparted the knowledge to them. It appears to me that at present the more youthful ones are particularly fortunate, inasmuch that they are permitted to go to your baths and receive the benefit of you and your people's tuition. But, I am sorry that those who go to the higher-grade schools, or the private schools, have not the benefit accorded to them. It seems to me entirely wrong, because if it is right to discontinue the teaching and the practice of swimming, it would appear that it would be also right to cause a child to leave off the practice of reading and writing, because it has reached a certain age. Yet, because the teaching is of benefit, the reading and writing continue. In a like measure it should do in the matter of swimming and life-saving, for we here consider that children up to the age of 14 and 15 are only commencing, and if we are to be a nation of swimmers, capable of holding our own in case of accidents, the instruction provided to the youthful population should be continued.

"Recently I had an opportunity of witnessing the instruction in swimming being given to men who were preparing for the Navy and could not help thinking how unpatriotic the authorities were who allowed these men to grow up incapable of passing the elementary test required by our Navy. These men, instead of learning how to manage the machines of war, are spending their time preparing to pass the elementary test in swimming, and I contend that the authorities who object or put difficulties in the way of teaching swimming until the swimmer is of service to himself and others are not patriots. We have seen the advantage of the knowledge of swimming because of the greater number who have been rescued from men-of-war and other ships that have been sent to the bottom. In many cases the men have been



THE SOUTH LOWESTOFT SWIMMING BATHS

Where children of tender age are taught Swimming and Life Saving during school-time and mixed bathing is indulged in during all hours they are open to the public.

saved after being four hours in the water, and I know of a good many who are still serving their country, and that is where the patriotism comes in for the teaching of swimming. Instead of these men's lives being lost, they are still of service to their country."

We have had occasion before to refer to the good work which is being done in Lowestoft by Mr. A. G. Cutts. This gentleman is always ready to lend the baths for patriotic or benevolent purposes, and he provides teaching for hundreds of scholars and has presented silver medals to the schools for competition. At all displays given life saving by children have been prominent items of the programme. The Lowestoft Swimming Club, which has its headquarters at the Bath, has been able to give many notable exhibitions largely through his aid and the naval men on the station have also benefited by his kindness. It is the great delight of Mr. Cutts to show visitors round his baths, which are a model of cleanliness and good order. He has on several occasions been successful in saving life and helping in rescues, as befits the man who has done so much for the teaching of life saving in Lowestoft. Yet with all this work Mr. Cutts finds time to act as Parish Constable.

MILITARY TRAINING. SOLDIERS WHO CANNOT SWIM. Neglect of Duty by Education Authorities.

THE leading newspapers of this country, supposed to guide us in our ways, and to dictate to the "common herd" have, in their alleged wisdom, always tabooed swimming; with the result that the Education authorities of this country, being led by them, have given little thought to the value of the art. They have put into force the Baths and Washhouses Acts, they have through the various chairmen, Mayors or Lord Mayors, made pronouncements on the value of the time honoured phrase that "Cleanliness is next to Godliness," they have given silver cups for competition and have in honeyed phrases said that every child should be taught to swim. But silver cups and equally silver tongued speeches suitable for the occasion have done little towards the advancement of swimming and the teaching of life saving.

Most of the orators—some have done

excellent work and let us be the last to gainsay it—as soon as the oration has been finished have forgotten the onus that has rested on them to help carry out the views they have expressed as their own, and upon them rests the appalling figures which we now put before them for careful mental study and for hope of lenient justice to them in the Great Beyond. For to them is due in a large measure many of the great losses of life from drowning. It was up to them to see that the teaching of swimming was general. They had the opportunity and the power. The men who neglect those privileges entrusted to them for good are the men who must be sternly judged hereafter.

At a lake near London when about two hundred soldiers were sent last month for a bathing parade not more than fifteen could swim. At the roll call of a battalion when names were asked as to those who could swim not more than thirty-three per cent. were able to signify to their ability and not more than about a dozen were of any use as swimmers. These tests are better than all arithmetical statements by educational authorities. You can do anything with figures but you cannot get over practical tests in the water. Why were these soldiers not able to swim? Because their teaching had been neglected in their youth; because specialisation had been given to a few to the disadvantage of the many, and because, and this is the sum of the whole matter, there is not national education in swimming under a proper department controlled by men who know what they are about, without other teaching work to do, and with capable inspectors to supervise without fear or favour and pass only those as proficient who can really swim. A hundred yards pass is a farce.

The Baths authorities in America are fast outstripping us in enterprise. In an advertisement of the New Piedmont Swimming Baths, "Alameda County's Greatest Show Place," we find that the sea water is brought from outside the Golden Gate on a barge, which is 220ft. long, 48ft. beam and 12ft. deep. The barge is towed from outside the Golden Gate to Oakland Harbour, from which place the water is pumped to the baths. About 700,000 gallons of pure ocean water are brought up, sufficient to fill the pool three times and there is a reservoir at the baths with a capacity of 400,000 gallons.

NEW SWIMMING STROKES.**WHICH IS THE BEST CRAWL?****Good Exhibitions by Crawshaw and Unwin.**

THE English Amateur Swimming Association is now engaged in the teaching of advanced swimming strokes by giving demonstrations to schoolmasters through the agency of the various Schools Swimming Associations. The idea is an excellent one, because the teachers who instruct the young have unique opportunities of studying carefully the styles and methods adopted by the masters of English natation, and moreover have explained to them in lucid style and practical manner the chief advantages to be gained and the reasons for the various movements advocated to be used in place of those that were common when they themselves were taught.

The swimmer who has been giving most of this instruction is R. A. Crawshaw, who played water polo for England in 1892-3 and 4, each time against Scotland, and was captain in 1893. At a recent lecture and demonstration in the London district the principal points of Mr. Crawshaw were:

(1) In the old method of swimming on the breast, the body was generally held in a sloping position, the feet being a foot or eighteen inches below the surface, but all modern champions swim with the legs near the surface, the whole body being parallel with the surface of the water. (2) The arm stroke should not be a movement in a horizontal plane, but should go downwards as it moves sideways. He gave very good reasons for abandoning the wide sweeping movement of the arms, which carried them to a position at right angles to the body, the principal one being that the wide stroke increases the resistance of the water, and recommended a short, quick stroke that does not travel through a greater angle than 50 or 60 degrees. The stroke ends when the arms are brought into such a position that arms, body and legs are extended in a straight line. (3) The leg stroke is also a quick stroke, and should end as described in (2). The maximum driving force of the leg stroke is secured only when the kick is given with the entire sole of the foot pressing the water back. (4) Great importance is attached to the correct timing of the arms and legs, the combined stroke ending when the body and limbs are in a straight line. (5) the full effect of the stroke is seen in the long glide at the end of

the stroke. Mr. Crawshaw showed this by swimming two lengths of the bath, the first length (30 yards) being swum in five strokes and a "push-off;" the second, in four strokes, and a dive. (6) The glide is the resting part of the stroke, and should be taken with the face in the water, the head being in a line with the body and the arms extended forward, thus ensuring a minimum of resistance.

Illustrations of teaching with apparatus followed, and Mr. Crawshaw showed two discs of cork (2in. thick), about the size of dinner plates, their centres being joined by a piece of webbing about 15ins. long. These were used somewhat in the manner of swimming wings, the webbing being placed under the body, or serving as a support for the hands while the leg stroke is practised. The swimming pole was also used, but two rubber rings were substituted for the running noose, so as to aid in freedom for breathing.

Among others who are doing good work is F. A. Unwin, the back stroke champion of England in 1906-7-8-9. At the same demonstration he gave an exhibition of the most useful stroke for life saving. The arms were carried over the head at the moment when the leg kick was given, the body thus coming into a straight line for the glide, which was, as in Mr. Crawshaw's case, of great length and speed. Mr. Unwin then showed a crawl-stroke on the back, which was quite new to the audience. The stroke consisted of alternating arm movements and alternating foot movements, the right arm going with the right leg.

There were also several exhibitions of "crawl" swimming but they were all different in style. It is evident that a standard has yet to be reached. The controversy over the value of this stroke as against the Trudgen is now world wide, and the latest development in it is the argument by L. D. B. Handley, the American swimmer, that a stroke he terms the "Trudgen crawl" is the best, a stroke of a dual nature combining the scissors kick of the Trudgen with the thrash of the crawl.

A memorial to the late Mr. J. R. Taylor, a famous Yorkshire back stroke swimmer, was recently unveiled at Rotherham Corporation Baths. Mr. Taylor, who died on October 22, 1913, was in the British Olympic team of 1908, and won the Yorkshire 100 yards back stroke championship in 1907-9-10-11 and 12, also the 100 yards Yorkshire breast stroke championship in 1907.

The Swimming Magazine.

(Second Volume commenced 1st June, 1915.)

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William Henry
Editor.

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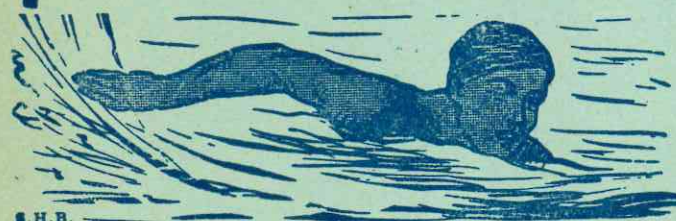
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