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SWIMMING
MAGAZINE.



JULY, 1916.

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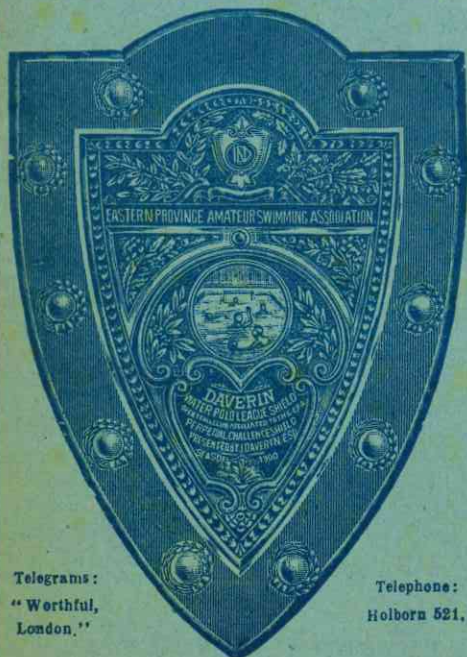
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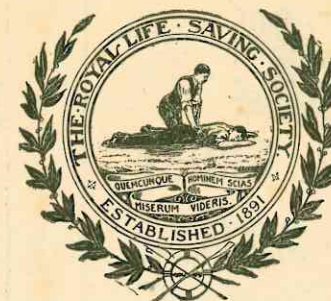
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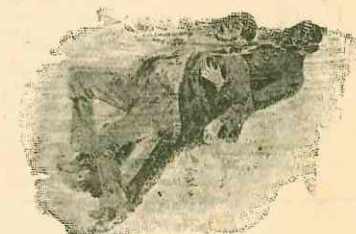
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NAVAL SWIMMING INSTRUCTORS.

A PLEA FOR THEIR APPOINTMENT.

ALTHOUGH naval regulations provide for the teaching and practice of swimming, there are many aboard our ships at the present time who cannot swim. Of that there is abundant evidence. Water is the essence of a sailor's life, and he should be as competent in it as upon it, but his training in the first mentioned respect is very lax and tardy. Once at sea it is, of course, very difficult, in fact well nigh impossible, to arrange for regular practice. Consequently his training should be done ashore, and preferably before he joins the Navy or mercantile marine. To that end we should all strive for compulsory instruction in swimming and life saving in all schools. Had this been in vogue five years ago we should not have seen non-swimmers drafted to ships from our naval land training establishments, and should have had a high standard of swimming in the Navy, a service which, before all others, calls for a good knowledge of the art of natation. The qualifications required from youths who go through the regular course of training in peace time are exceedingly slight, in fact of hardly any value at all, and no general encouragement is given to the sailor to perfect himself in the art. There are naturally isolated ships where great interest is taken, but we are assured that in the majority of them there is no systematic work at all. Bathing parades are all very well in their way, but they are not training parades, and until these be instituted and carried on regularly, sailors as a class will be backward in the knowledge of even the rudiments of the art so useful to them in times of stress. Some wonderful escapes by non-swimmers from disaster have been reported to us, but there must be hundreds of instances during the present war where lack of ability has meant loss of life.

The appointment of a proper naval swimming staff would largely reduce such loss,

and be useful to every sailor man because he would then have to pass a more critical examination before joining a ship, and would have to possess a certificate of high character instead of simply being registered as able to swim a few yards.

But the wiser and more economical plan would be compulsory instruction, which, when once obtained, would never be forgotten, and might often prove of inestimable benefit as a means of averting danger.

Sailors are a happy race, and many of them do not value the importance of swimming as a means of escape from imminent peril. But when death stares you in the face, how much better to know that you possess a knowledge which may prove of good service to you, and also perhaps be the means of saving the lives of others.

Of course many of the sailors in the Grand and other Fleets are highly competent swimmers, and a goodly number of them hold the Awards of the Royal Life Saving Society. These must know full well and realise the danger of others going to sea without having been given proficient teaching in swimming and it is from this class that the instructor should be drawn. Their selection should not be a matter of much difficulty, but they should possess merits of a high order and certainly be capable of passing the tests for the Award of Merit of the Royal Life Saving Society, as well as have had plenty of actual experience in salt water swimming, not only on a fair tide, but also in rough and broken water. But the youths handed over to them should already be able to swim, and as we have pointed out, the only way to ensure this is to provide national instruction for the young, and that work could be undertaken by the retired swimming instructors of the Navy, who, by the time they left the Service, should be among the most competent teachers in the country, full of ripe experience in many waters.

THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY.

PLEASING REPORTS FROM OVERSEAS DOMINIONS.

ENTHUSIASM OF THE BELGIAN SWIMMERS.

THERE was a representative gathering at the monthly meeting of the Central Executive of the Royal Life Saving Society, held at Headquarters, 8, Bayley Street, London, W.C., on Thursday, June 15, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. R. Leggatt, one of the vice-presidents of the Society.

A personal message of regret from Mr. William Henry, the Chief Secretary, for his absence through illness, was conveyed to the meeting by Mr. Archibald Sinclair, acting secretary, and the latter was instructed to forward from the Executive to Mr. Henry a sincere expression of sympathy and the keen hope of speedy recovery. The chairman mentioned that the services which Mr. Henry had rendered for so many years had been invaluable and they all regretted that he was undergoing such a severe trial. Mr. Henry has been ill since the beginning of April, but is now making good progress.

Several reports from Overseas Head Centres were read to the meeting, notable among them being interesting ones from Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania. The Executive were also gratified with the report of work done in Salisbury, Rhodesia, and also in the Western Province Branch, Cape Colony.

Particular attention was drawn to the fact that under no circumstances can examinations for the Bronze Medallion be allowed until candidates are fifteen years of age, the rule being clear and explicit on the point.

The awards passed were:—Award of Merit, Sam Blatherwick, Sheffield, Miss Margery M. Ward, Cheltenham, Miss Ethel Johnson, Sheffield, and Miss Ellen Webster, Keighley; Instructor's Certificates, 11; Teacher's Certificates, 3; Bronze Medallions, 56; Proficiency Certificates, 110; Elementary Certificates, 31. Total, 215.

Mr. John Brearley was appointed official examiner for the Derby Schools Swimming Association, in the place of Mr. Ernest Hallam, who has joined His Majesty's Forces. Mr. Brearley, who is a head master, holds the Proficiency Certificate, Bronze Medallion, Teacher's Certificate, and Hon. Instructor's Certificate of the Royal Life Saving Society, and is also in possession of two certificates of the Royal Humane Society.

An Hon. Associateship of the Society was conferred upon Mrs. Rosamond Catherine de Mouncey, of West Perth, for excellent work done in the State schools of West Australia.

Mr. Robert Sandon, one of the vice-presidents of the Society and past chairman of the Central Executive, as well as holder of the Distinguished Service Medal, stated that his club, the Amateur, of which he is Life-President, having frequently made visits to Belgium for friendly water polo matches and inter-club contests, was now assisting Belgian swimmers in London in getting recreation at the club's old headquarters, the Fitzroy Baths, Tottenham Court Road, London, and has also interested them in the study of the methods of rescue and resuscitation. At a forthcoming examination of candidates for the Awards of the Society one of the aspirants for honours would be the president of the Antwerp Swimming Club, who since his sojourn in this country has received the certificate of the Royal Humane Society for a gallant rescue. The Belgian swimmers now in this country are being marshalled by the Amateur and they are displaying much enthusiasm in the study of the best methods of rescue and resuscitation. Many of them who attend the classes have been wounded, and are only just now convalescent.

QUEENSLAND HEAD CENTRE.

The Queensland Head Centre held a grand carnival at the Booroodabin Baths, on April 3, in the presence of the Governor, Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams, G.C.M.G., C.B. Numerous competitions were decided. That for the Courier Shield, open to State schools, was secured by the Valley, the Walker and Hall shield for Secondary Schools went to Nudgee College, A team, the Barry Cup for affiliated ladies' clubs to the Valley Ladies, and the Barry Rosebowl for affiliated men's clubs to the Commercial S.C. F. W. Springfield won a breast and back stroke race, and in company with his brother, E. Springfield, a rescue race. A breast and back stroke race for schoolboys was won by M. Hall, Gregory Terrace School, C. Stewart, Grammar School, being second, a diving competition by the same youth, and a plunging competition by J. Brett, Valley, who plunged 58 feet.

After the gala His Excellency the Governor congratulated the instructors on the display. He also congratulated the competitors on acquiring a knowledge of life saving, and said that if they were called on to carry into effect what they had learnt, he felt sure they would do their utmost in saving life and show what training they had received at the hands of their instructor. His Excellency dwelt on the carelessness or wilfulness of some people who got into dangerous places, and thus not only endanger their own lives, but also the life of their rescuer. It was a common thing to see people go from the towns to the seashore and venture into the most dangerous places. At the seaside they should have those places marked, and a bylaw passed prohibiting persons from bathing whether they liked it or not. In these times we could not afford to lose a single life in Queensland. Bathing where there was a dangerous undertow should also be stopped. His Excellency especially congratulated the Ladies' Club and thought they swam better than the majority of men.

* * * *

Mr. J. J. Betts, the newly-appointed hon. secretary of the Centre, is the holder of the Elementary and Proficiency Certificates, as well as the Bronze Medallion of the Society, which he qualified for in London about six years ago, and was winner of a special prize for distance carrying in the third method of rescue at the Bow Baths. His training was done at one of the L.C.C. Evening Classes. Since reaching Queensland Mr. Betts has gained the Hon. Instructor's Certificate and the Award of Merit. As Physical Director and Instructor of Gymnastics at the Brisbane Gymnasium and the principal Colleges he has excellent opportunities of fostering the study of life saving and has already secured many promises of teams from the Secondary Schools for instruction next season.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

An excellent report has come to hand from the South Australian Head Centre, whose headquarters are at Adelaide. The clubs affiliated number thirteen and of these there are 1,324 members. During the season five public exhibitions were given by members of the Society and classes were held at the various club sheds, the largest being at the North Adelaide and the Gilberton Clubs.

Members of the former club were most enthusiastic and secured Awards of the Society. The latter club held their classes in conjunction with the local Boy Scouts and six classes in land drill and water work were carried out.

The examinations for awards resulted in twenty-eight passing, the total being made up as follows:—Proficiency Certificates 14, Bronze Medallions 12, Teacher's Certificate 1, Instructor's Certificate 1.

Classes for teaching swimming were also very successful, and the North Adelaide heads the list with a total of sixty taught to swim this season, Gilberton comes next with fifty-six and the other club results were South Australian twelve, Glenelg ten, Tramways eight, Pengelleys five.

A patriotic carnival in aid of the South Australian Soldiers Fund was held on Feb. 28, when there was an immense crowd present. The principal event was the Public Schools Team Championship, held for the first time. The race was won by the Lefevres Peninsula State School, who hold for a year a fine silver shield presented by Mr. J. H. Clouston, of Port Adelaide, as a perpetual trophy. There were eleven State schools represented and all competitors were under fourteen years of age.

The fourth annual swim through Adelaide was held on Saturday, February 19, and for this race there were seventy-four entries. Forty-nine completed the course. A number of school boys competed, and one of them, E. D. Pratton, who is only fifteen, proved the winner. B. Woodroffe, who was second, is under eighteen; L. Morgan, who came in third, is only sixteen; and E. C. Stodart, fourth, is also under eighteen. The distance is a mile and three hundred yards, and over this course E. Suhard, Glenelg Club, made the fastest time, 30.49.

The Centre has again received the Government grant of £100, and now has a substantial balance in hand to carry on the good work.

Up to date 283 members have joined His Majesty's Forces, one of them being Mr. H. B. Stirling, the Hon. Sec. of the Centre and also of the South Australian Swimming Association, to whose untiring energy much of the success of the Society is due. Mr. W. Ashworth, c/o James Marshall & Co, Rundle Street, Adelaide, has been appointed to carry on the duties in his absence.

TASMANIA.

The first annual competitions of the Tasmanian Centre of the Royal Life Saving Society took place at the Sandy Bay baths on Saturday, March 25. For the past six years, the Misses Barnard and Pocock have, under the direction of the Victorian branch, been teaching the life-saving methods to members of their swimming classes, and during that time their pupils have gained 200 of the Society's Awards of Merit. In April of last year these ladies applied to the headquarters and obtained permission to establish a Head Centre in this State. His Excellency the Governor consented to become vice-patron in Tasmania, and Alderman Williams became the president, the Misses Barnard and Pocock being appointed Honorary Associates. Since the establishment of the Centre in Tasmania free instruction has been provided to all applying for it, and many men, boys, and girls, in Hobart have already been put through the course. Branches are to be established in all parts of the State as soon as instructors can be found.

The results of the chief events at the carnival were as follows:

Life-Saving Competition (girls under 15).—Marmie Brownell. Life-Saving Competition (boys under 15).—A. Hodgkinson.

Dr. Ireland's trophy for Life-Saving.—Stella Honey.

Land Drill and Resuscitation (in pairs).—Misses G. Crisp and B. Bayley, 171 points, first; S. Honey and R. Johnston, second; F. Reid and L. Bliss third.

Open Life - Saving Competition. — C. Rodway.

The judges for the life saving and resuscitation were the Hon. F. G. Tudor, Dr. Ireland and Mr. L. Rodway. The Hon. F. G. Tudor, who is president of the Victorian Head Centre, commented very favourably on the way in which the candidates did the work and said that the surface diving was of a higher standard than in Victoria.

The result of these competitions is that since holding them the Centre has had numerous enquiries from leading citizens of Hobart for information.

Up to the middle of April the Centre had passed thirty-six candidates for the various awards. Messrs. Neil Gibson and Arthur Hodgkinson, both holders of the Proficiency Awards, have given very valuable service in teaching although they are both under sixteen years of age, and have been untiring

in their efforts at both morning and evening classes.

The Misses Henry and Johnstone, both first class swimmers, have taken the whole of the Awards up to the Award of Merit and intend next season to enter examination for the Teacher's and Hon. Instructor's Certificates.

The following members of the Glodwick Ladies' Swimming Club, instructed by Miss Edith Armstrong, also a member of the Club, have passed for the Proficiency Certificate and Bronze Medallion of the Royal Life Saving Society: Mrs. Mary Clemenishaw, Misses Minnie Etherington, Clarice Bradbury, Eliza Moss, Doris Bradbury, Maggie Hilton, Ruth Newton, and Lily Taylor. Mr. W. H. Broome, of Bolton, and Miss Daniels, of Hyde, were the examiners.

At the tenth annual meeting of the Northampton Life Saving Society, held on June 2, under the chairmanship of Mr. F. J. Butlin, the President, it was reported that 232 awards had been made during the past season and that since its inception the society had made 1,701 awards, these being 276 for passing Royal Life Saving Society's tests and 1,425 swimming certificates. But, unfortunately, the society being unable to provide adequate accommodation for classes last year, no school section, scout or junior sections were opened, and no registered clubs admitted. The Committee have invested £10 in the War Loan. Mr. F. J. Butlin, who was re-elected President, emphasised the necessity of public baths, submitting that it was a disgrace for a town of over 90,000 inhabitants not to possess them. When reproached upon the matter he told his friends it was evident the majority of the members of the Town Council did not believe that cleanliness was next to godliness.

Among callers at Headquarters during the past month has been Corpl. C. J. Walton, of the South African Force, who was on short leave from active service. Corpl. Walton was closely identified with the foundation of the Eastern Province Branch of Cape Colony, and until the outbreak of war was its Hon. Secretary. He informed us much to our regret that D. C. Robertson, another well known enthusiast, had died of fever while on active service in German East Africa.

The British Columbia Chief Centre has been largely depleted of its male members, but classes for juniors who are candidates for Elementary and Proficiency Certificates are being carried on. Meanwhile the ladies are active in the promotion of swimming and life-saving, and at a recent gala organised by them in Victoria City, Mrs. Hibberson and Miss Bone gave a realistic exhibition of the methods of rescue and release. During the course of the gala, which was held under the auspices of the Victoria Ladies' Swimming Club, Mrs. Catterall, who is the president, handed to Mrs. Armstrong, Miss Hennessy, and Miss Drysdale the Bronze Medallion of the Royal Life Saving Society, and also announced that Mrs. Hibberson had been awarded the Hon. Instructor's Certificate, this being the third member of the Club to achieve such distinction, the others being Miss Hardie and Mrs. Van Donge.

The good work done in Salisbury, Rhodesia, has resulted in 34 Elementary Certificates, 28 Proficiency Certificates, 12 Bronze Medallions and 1 Hon. Instructor's Certificate being gained during the past season. It is now the cold period in Rhodesia, and active swimming work will not be resumed until September. Meanwhile Messrs. Bater, Bowley, Brown, Shepherd and other enthusiasts are endeavouring to interest the authorities and to start numerous classes. Their energy has already worked wonders.

We regret to learn that Messrs. H. G. Greenless and Beck, both members of the Durban and District Branch of the Royal Life Saving Society, have been wounded in East Africa.

The examinations recently conducted by the Society show a large increase in the number of lady pupils, particularly in the Award of Merit Class, for which numerous entries have been received from the Training Colleges. The value of the knowledge to those who are studying for the position of Games Mistress cannot be over-estimated, for the gaining of the Award of Merit is a practical testimonial of ability to teach swimming and life saving. The growth of interest in the girls' schools is largely due to the appointment of Games Mistresses who have passed the Society's examinations,

and who carry their influence with them wherever they go.

Among the ladies who have recently passed for the Diploma of the Royal Life Saving Society is Miss Mary Isabel Tanner, of Harringay. This young lady qualified for the Proficiency Certificate and Bronze Medallion in 1909, being then a member of the life saving class connected with the Park Ladies Swimming Club. In 1911 Miss Tanner, while at a seaside resort, had the good fortune to rescue her own brother from drowning, and a spectator reporting the occurrence to the Royal Humane Society, the certificate of that body was awarded her. In 1910 she put through a squad for Proficiency Certificates and Medallions, thus qualifying for the Hon. Instructor's Certificate, and last year the young lady was successful in passing the examination for the Award of Merit. Then she studied and practised assiduously for the Diploma, the highest Award the Society can make, and gained it a couple of months ago.

While home on leave Corporal H. Houghton, Liverpool Regt., dived repeatedly into a deep pond in search of a little boy named Glover who had fallen in and disappeared. Eventually the boy was found apparently dead in the mud at the bottom of the pond. Houghton, however, resorted to prolonged artificial respiration and saved his life.

The late Lord Kitchener, when assistant to Lieut. Conder, Royal Engineers, in mapping Palestine, pluckily rescued his comrade from drowning.

We are repeatedly receiving requests for information as to how the surface dive should be performed. The dive must always be commenced from the breast stroke, after two or three strokes along the surface and to accomplish it neatly it is essential to throw the legs up above the surface of the water. As the body gains momentum downward it is straightened out. When making this dive the eyes should be kept open in order to observe the object, as many who attempt to pick up something from the bottom often miss it if they rely entirely upon the sense of touch.

Bootle Swimming Club had a splendid gala in aid of the "Roll of Honour Fund," over £40 being realised. A ladies' handicap was won by Mrs. Rowell, Bootle Secondary School beat the 12th Company, Boys' Brigade, in a team race, Pte. Keegan, late Manchester Regt, wounded at Neuve Chapelle, was first in a race for wounded soldiers, Lance-Corporal J. Shaw secured the championship of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, Miss Cranston the diving, and the Bedford School boys an Elementary Schools Squadron race. Twelve ladies gave a good exhibition of life saving, and showed no mercy when relieving one another from the grips of the drowning swimmers. After showing the various methods up to the Medallion standard, they gave a short exhibition of double somersaults, etc., before leaving the water.

An exhibition of swimming given by Mr. J. Lamont, principal of the Scottish College of Swimming, Glasgow, was highly instructive and interesting. The veteran, although 70 years of age, showed a grace, suppleness, and skill which were really nothing short of marvellous. It says a good deal for the patriotism of the Scot to come all the way from Glasgow to assist in the good cause without remuneration.

During the evening the Mayor, who was accompanied by Mrs. Pearson, Miss Pearson, Councillor Cassady, the Deputy Mayor and several Town Councillors, paid fitting tribute to the care and attention of Mr. W. J. Gray, the Superintendent of the Baths, and his wife, both of whom are deservedly popular, and also very rightly remarked that:—"A good many people thought that in consequence of the war and in view of the events of the past week we had no right to do anything but look gloomy, but an event of this kind was a healthy, rational form of amusement, and was helping along a good cause."

Chesterfield Swimming Club received 202 subscriptions last year as against 334 the previous season, but this is not to be wondered at as over seventy active members have joined His Majesty's Forces. This depletion of active members, however, prevented the club from holding its annual Bank Holiday Carnival, much to the regret of the club patrons. The Competitions for the Fearnough Life Saving Cup and the Spooner Challenge Cup were also left in abeyance. But the Junior Competitions during the season for the Swimming Clubs Shields took place, the honours

falling to the Central Schools boys and girls respectively. Twelve schools were represented in the competition and there was a slight improvement in the swimming. The Ladies' section has a membership of 82 as compared with 128 last season. The total contributions made by the two sections of the club to War Charities is £54 9s. 0d. Grants have been made to the Borough War Fund £5 0s. 0d., the Red Cross Hospital £2 2s. 0d. and the Chesterfield Hospital £2 2s. 0d. The club's finances are in a healthy condition, £50 having been invested in the War Loan, leaving a bank balance of £47 5s. 11d. The Ladies' section has a bank balance of £28 5s. 5½d.

The Richmond Swimming Club will hold an entertainment in aid of the "Star and Garter" Fund for Disabled Sailors and Soldiers at the Richmond Public Baths on Wednesday, July 12, when included in the programme will be a two lengths (66½ yards) amateur military handicap, open to troops in Richmond Park and district, an invitation scratch team race for boy scouts, a special ladies invitation handicap, a two-lengths invitation schoolboys handicap, team race between the regular and special constables of the V Division of the Metropolitan Police, a team race between the H.A.C., London Scottish and 25th London (Cyclists), a water polo match between the Hon. Artillery Company and the London Scottish, and several exhibitions. Entries close on Wednesday next to the Hon. Sec., Mr. C. L. Newman, 24, Larkfield Road, Richmond.

The first of the series of galas to be held under the auspices of the Ladies' Committee of the Southern Counties Amateur Swimming Association, on behalf of the British Sports-women's subscription to the Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors and Soldiers, took place at the Dartford Public Baths on June 21, and was an unqualified success, every available spot being filled. Chief among the events was a 120 yards ladies' inter-team handicap which Dartford, who had an allowance of 0.28, won by four yards from Clapton Ladies, 0.2, in 1.44.2. The Barry Ladies, 0.22, were third, Beckenham Ladies, 0.21, fourth, and the Fulham Ladies, 0.9, fifth. The limit allowance was 0.28. In a 60 yards scratch race for soldiers, victory went to Pte. Kendall, in 0.40.4, Gnr. Anthony being second, and Pte. Spencer third.

THE LADIES' SECTION. REMARKABLE SWIMMING IN AUSTRALIA. FORTHCOMING RED CROSS GALAS.

FOR some reason that is not apparent, the English Amateur Swimming Association does not recognise a quarter-mile record for ladies, though it passes records at a furlong, half mile and mile. Neither does the International Federation take this distance into consideration. But in America and Australia the performers are duly credited with the value of their swims, as should be the case here. The longer distance records for ladies have not been adjudicated upon by the Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur, their last report, made up to March 31, 1914, only including the 100 yards, 100 metres, 300 yards and 300 metres times, but the English governing body gives the British up to a mile except the quarter. In the absence of official returns it is, therefore, difficult to estimate the high value of the swimming of Miss Fanny Durack, of Sydney, New South Wales, the world's lady amateur champion, but some idea of it can be gained from the following list of her performances. Her officially recorded times are—Fifty yards, 29; seventy-five yards, 49.4; hundred yards, 1.6; hundred and ten yards (one length of the Domain Baths, Sydney), 1.16.1; hundred and fifty yards, 1.54.1; two hundred yards, 2.39½; furlong, 2.52; three hundred yards, 4.12; three hundred metres, 4.43.3; quarter mile, 6.3.2; half mile, 12.52; thirteen hundred and twenty yards, 19.31; mile, 26.8. The quarter mile in 6.3.2, the latest of her brilliant performances, was accomplished at the Domain Baths, Sydney, which are 110 yards long, at a gala given on April 1 in aid of the blind soldiers of Australia. Miss Durack had only Miss Amor against her, and that young lady was soon outpaced, being beaten in the end by about seventy-five yards, by the Australian Mermaid, who has swept all before her for the last six years or so.

This wonderful Australian girl has beaten every swimmer that has been opposed to her since she deprived Miss Wylie, of Sydney, and Miss Dorothy Hill, of the Australian records. Less than a decade ago Mina Wylie conquered Fanny Durack more than once in free style swimming, while the

champion was too good for her opponent in the breast stroke. Now the position is reversed, for Fanny wins the free style and Mina is nearly always victor in the breast stroke.

Miss Durack won her first State championship in 1906 at the age of 15. Curiously enough, it was a breast stroke race. Miss Dorothy Hill was then the free-style star, and broke the world's record (1.20) the same day. Miss Wylie was second in both races. The present champion defeated Miss Hill the following year in the 150 yards championship, although the latter won the 50 and 100. In 1908 the diving event only went to Miss Durack, while Mina Wylie won the sprints except the 50 yards, which was gained by Gladys Tate. The champion again won the breast-stroke and diving in 1909, but was second to Gladys Tate and Mina Wylie in the sprints. So the events were decided from year to year until 1911 and 1912, when the champion's free-style position became unassailable. She has since gained all the State, Australasian, and world's championships held, and each year has startled the swimming world by phenomenal record-breaking feats. In 1912 her remarkable 100 yards was executed—then 8 sec. better than the next best girl swimmer. In 1913 the 29 sec. for 50 yards, in 1914 the most remarkable mile figures were made; in 1915, 200 and 500 yards times were lowered; and this year two—almost three—world's records were smashed to bits within a space of four days. Truly, she is the Queen of Swimmers.

Both Miss Durack and her great rival, Miss Mina Wylie, are very enthusiastic in the cause of life-saving, and do good work in Sydney and its vicinity. It is pleasing to know that nearly all the great lady swimmers of the world are keen in the cause, and ever ready to lend a helping hand towards the advancement of the aims and objects of the Royal Life Saving Society. One has only to look at the ever increasing roll of lady members of clubs who have passed for the Award of Merit to realise how valuable in the interest of the promotion of the art is the care and attention which ladies are now giving to the cause of life saving.

Latest advices are that the 2.53 for a furlong by Miss Durack on February 14 was in the Australasian Ladies Championship, and not in the New South Wales Championship which was decided at the end of March, and won by Miss Durack in 2.52, this being a second better than the time reported last month. We are also informed that Miss D. Shoppee, of the Metropolitan Club, won the diving Championship of the same State, Miss E. Townsend, the hundred yards Championship of the Schools in 1.22.3, and the Misses M. Winn, L. Fevver, E. Townsend, S. Cambridge and I. Amor, of the Metropolitan Club, the 250 yards team Championship of New South Wales, Sydney, represented by Misses M. Wylie, B. Lovelace, M. Lovelace, V. Grover and M. St. Louis, being second. The time registered was 3.56.1, which is reported to be an Australian record.

At the West End Baths, Greenock, two nights a week are given up to the ladies, Tuesday and Thursday, and the numerous bathers on these occasions testify to the pleasure and benefit of the exercise. The lady members of the Baths now number well over three hundred, almost equally divided between seniors and juniors, and including several private schools, both in Greenock and Kilmacoll. No merrier sight can be seen than that presented by the salt-water swimming pond, thronged by happy-hearted girls, and "the racket is only equalled by the parrot-house at the Zoo," says a Scotch reporter. Their comfort is most carefully looked after by the Bathmaster, Mr. Jas. Anderson and Mrs. Anderson. At a recent meeting of the ladies' club held at these baths, Mr. Ryne Orr, the President, handed Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Crawford Patterson, and the Misses Campbell Patterson, Jean and Elizabeth Blair, Leslie, Fleming and McCowart, the Proficiency Certificate and Bronze Medallion of the Royal Life Saving Society.

A perpetual silver cup has been presented to the Blackpool ladies' section of the Blackpool Club by Councillor R. Fenton, for a race in the open sea. It will be open to all lady members of the club, including school girls, who are to be admitted to membership at a nominal fee. Life saving classes for juniors and ladies have been started under

the supervision of Mr. W. Speak, the secretary of the club. Among recent purchases by the committee is that of a boat, with a view to still further encouraging the practice of sea swimming.

Miss Eileen Lee, of Teddington, who last year swam from the Tower Bridge up river to Marble Hill, Twickenham, and then back to Kew Bridge, added further to her laurels on June 3. She entered the Thames two hundred yards below Greenwich Hospital and swimming on the up tide with a perfect over-arm stroke at 30 to the minute, reached London Bridge, five miles from the start, in 1½ hours. In exactly two hours she passed Vauxhall (8 miles), and although receiving little assistance from the stream, was abreast of Putney Pier (12½ miles) in 3.11, Hammersmith Bridge, two miles further on, was passed in 4.21, and at this point she complained of cold, but warm tea proved beneficial, for again settling down she reached Kew Bridge (18 miles 3 furlongs) in 5.5. The tide had now practically stopped, but Miss Lee continued to Church End, Isleworth (19½ miles), her time at this point being 5.47. Returning with the tide, she swam back to the Bull's Head, below Barnes Bridge, where she entered the boat, having covered 23½ miles in 7.1. During next month it is Miss Lee's intention to swim from Southsea to Ryde and back.

One of the Victorian Ladies' Clubs still holds out against the admission of men to galas. At its formation the New South Wales body experienced somewhat similar trouble, as one portion of the Sydney Ladies' Clubs (known as the Sydney Ladies' Private Club, to distinguish it from the section that joined the Association) refused to come into affiliation when the N.S.W.L.A.S.A. was formed. Ultimately it went out of existence, and the Association now controls all amateur ladies' clubs. The decision to admit men, however, caused no dissension among the active swimmers, although officials disagreed very strongly on the matter. There used to be this kind of objection in England, and it took some years before officials would sanction such meetings, but the introduction of mixed bathing soon settled the question.

One of the best and most promising of the young lady swimmers in Australia is Miss Elsie Venning, the fourteen-year-old daughter of Mr. F. O. Venning, well known in England as one of the old Neptune divers, but who has been resident in Australia for some years. Mr. Venning was stationed at the City Council Bath, Brisbane, for a period and there undertook the duties of hon. secretary of the Queensland Head Centre of the Royal Life Saving Society. But he is now at a charming spot on Maroochy River, where a delightful swimming place lies at his door, and Brisbane swimmers visit it in much the same way as London club men and Oversea representatives go to the Thames Camping and Boating Association's headquarters at Walton-on-Thames as the guests of Mr. William Henry or Mr. Eddie Plumbridge, both of whom make that place their summer resort.

But Mr. Venning, who has often visited the Thames Camp, tells me that the scenery up Machoory River is much grander. He is located in the banana and sugar cane growing district and is leading the open air life that every swimmer loves. When he wrote his young daughter had just finished up the season, during which she had won the 30 yards junior, 100 yards breast stroke, 220 yards, and three miles ladies' championships of Queensland, as well as the 50 yards and 100 yards test races prior to the Australasian ladies' championships in which she was Queensland chief representative at Sydney, finishing third to Miss Fanny Durack and Miss M. Wylie. Some swimming for so young a girl. But she has been winning races since she was eight years of age. Now she stands 5ft. 3ins., has a chest measurement of 39ins. and weighs 8 stones 9 lbs.

The stroke Miss Venning uses is similar to that of Kahanamoku, except in her distance swims, when she uses the double overarm, scissors kick, with three leg threshes at the finish of the kick. Apart from her ability as a speed swimmer Miss Venning is also a good diver and capable exponent of scientific swimming. She also holds the Elementary and Proficiency Certificate of the Royal Life Saving Society and has done much good work in instructing school children. It is her intention later on to undergo examination for the higher awards of the Society, her ambition being to gain the Diploma.

Owing to a rule of the Queensland Ladies Association, which debars juniors from competing in the 50 and 100 yards ladies' championships, Miss Venning could not compete at those distances, but as she won both the test races, the case for the rule has not been very ably demonstrated.



*Miss Elsie Venning,
Lady Champion of Queensland.*

Elsie, who was born in England, used to belong to the Clapton Ladies and the Neptune Ladies' Clubs, her mother being hon. secretary of the latter. So she belongs to a real family of swimmers. Her brother Frank, who is twelve years of age, holds the schoolboy championship of Queensland, and has won many events, while her sisters Lily and May are also good swimmers. Indeed Lily was giving exhibitions at three years of age.

The ladies' bath diving championship of the Amateur Diving Association was won by Miss Belle White, Miss E. Armstrong, Mermaid Swimming Club, being placed second, Miss E. Harrison, Mermaid, third, and Miss D. Marx, Richmond, fourth.

The Ladies' Clubs in the various States of Australia are gradually forming their own Associations. The Victorian is the latest to be placed on a sound basis. At present it consists of only six clubs, but it has accepted the offer of the New South Wales and Queensland Associations to carry out the Australian Ladies Championships of the season 1916-17 in Melbourne.

* * * *

The Ladies' section of Torquay Leander Swimming and Life Saving Society held the opening dip on Torre Abbey Sands on the first Saturday in June. Led by Mrs. C. W. Dyer, the captain, and Miss Freda Clarke, vice captain, upwards of fifty members went for the swim, the arrangements for which had been made by Miss Ethel Heaviside, the new hon. secretary.

* * * *

The Gloucester City Ladies Swimming and Life Saving Society held a gala early last month in aid of a fund for purchasing baths and a water heater for the 2/5th Gloucesters, and so well was it supported that there is likely to be a large profit. Lady Bruton, the Mayoress, presided. The ladies of Cheltenham and Gloucester had a team race which the Misses Davis, Green, Clark and Pates, the home team, won rather easily. Miss M. Minchin won a diving competition, and the Crypt Grammar School, represented by P. W. Robinson, H. Nest, D. Heslop and S. Norman, beat Sir Thomas Rich's School in a team event. There was also a water polo match, a club handicap and a skilful display of life saving by Miss E. Smith. All the swimmers gave their services, there being no prizes, so the gala was a special effort, and will not interfere with the ladies' annual gala, which will be held at the close of the season as usual. Unfortunately, through an oversight, the amusement tax was not provided for, so that it is impossible for the Society to deduct the expenses of the gala from the takings, the whole of which will therefore be devoted to the patriotic object for which it was held. The funds of the Society will thus be severely taxed.

* * * *

Before holding any Red Cross or similar galas club executives should make themselves acquainted with the provisions of the amusement tax and the regulations as to deduction of expenses.

It had been arranged by the Park Ladies' Swimming Club to hold a gala at the Tottenham Baths on July 6, in aid of the Prince of Wales Hospital at Tottenham, but as on the date fixed it was found that the Beckenham Ladies were also holding a gala the meeting has been postponed for a week. This will be the third year in succession that the Park Club has run a gala for this particular hospital, which is a most deserving institution, up to date in all its arrangements and serving a large industrial district. By means of the two previous galas the generous ladies of the Park Club and their friends have been able to contribute over £100 to the Hospital's Fund.

* * * *

One of the chief events will be a district competition for a Cup presented by the Governors of the Hospital to the Park Ladies for excellence in Life Saving, the present holders of which are the Park Ladies Club. There will be exhibition swims by Miss Vera Neave, Miss V. Johnson and Mr. Frank Giles, a display of high diving by that accomplished lady diver Miss Belle White, scientific swimming by members of the Royal Life Saving Society, team, club and comic races by ladies, and a couple of polo matches in which ladies and gentlemen's teams will engage. Altogether a good programme and one which we hope will materially aid the Park Ladies in their benevolent work.

* * * *

There appears to have been some hitch over the proposed gala of the Bedford Ladies Club (London). It was proposed to hold it on the second Saturday in July, but at the time of going to press arrangements had not been completed. The lines upon which it is proposed to hold the gala were particularly good, and the ladies who had interested themselves in the matter have not given up hope of carrying out one of a successful nature before the end of the present season. Their desire is to have an open air gala and not one in an enclosed bath.

* * * *

The Southern Ladies will hold a Gala at Westminster Baths on July 1, when there will be a forty-four yards (one length) scratch race for Colonial soldiers now quartered at Westminster, a water polo match between teams from the Royal Naval Depot at Crystal Palace, a Southern Ladies' Clubs' handicap team competition, and a special eighty-eight yards handicap for speediest lady swimmers in the South of England.

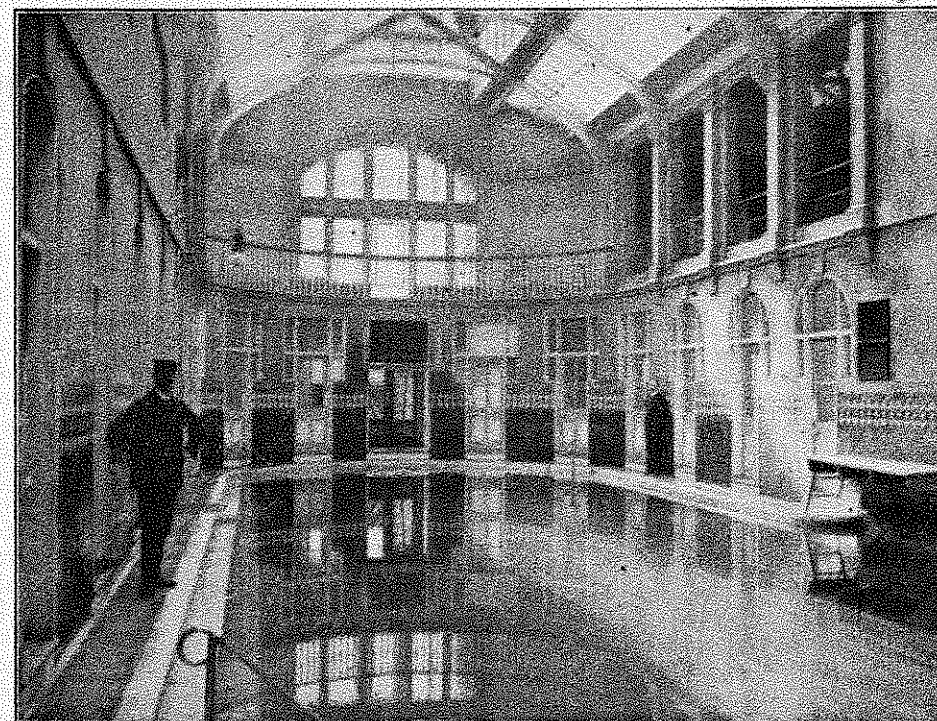
THE CITY OF BATH AND ITS BATHS.

By William Henry.

AS its name implies this is a city of Baths, with elaborate appliances fitted for the treatment of the invalid in quest of health. Its natural hot springs were known to the ancients probably as far back as 800 B.C., and later to the Romans. They used these curative waters in the first century, and for some 400 years before they were

the individual to health and strength, as well as the Roman and Palladian architecture, he may consider the city of Bath and its natural hot springs as a gift of Providence for the practice of the art which he loves.

From my point of view as a swimmer, I regard Bath in that particular light, for it is in this city a swimmer may enjoy a holiday,



The Swimming Pool at Bath.

pushed out by the Saxons, during which period, as at Rome and other centres occupied by them, they built palatial baths, portions of which still remain to indicate the fact that bathing in those days was regarded as a primary factor in life's routine.

Various writers of modern times have described Bath as "The city of the warm Vale." "The Premier Spa of Britain for two thousand years." "The Old Garden City." "The City of Palladian Art." but as far as I can gather none seem to have regarded it from the swimmer's point of view, who, in addition to admiring the warmth of the vale, the splendid spa and the hundreds of appliances contained therein for restoring

not only during the summer but also in winter under exceptionally comfortable conditions, and have the advantage of perfecting himself not only in swimming but also in diving and life-saving. Those swimmers who are fond of warm water, have two covered baths which are filled direct from the natural hot spring, and as this water is used for almost all kinds of muscular ailments and for restoring the digestive organs to their natural healthy condition, he thus secures an advantage not to be found all the year round in any other city of the United Kingdom.

During the summer there is the River Avon, on the banks of which Mr. G. P.

Beamish, who is the Chief Inspector of the City Police, and member of the Central Executive of the Royal Life Saving Society, has erected, at his own expense, the only permanent diving stage in the United Kingdom which is in accord with the conditions and the requirements for the conduct of competitions in connection with the Olympic Games and the National Diving competitions of the R.L.S.S. for ladies and gentlemen. Beneath this stage there are dressing rooms, and at the side, banked seating accommodation for about 1000 spectators, all of which cost upwards of £300, which Mr. G. P. Beamish has dedicated to the art of swimming and diving. This diving stage and the River Avon in its vicinity may be used from May 1 to the end of September free of charge to all Boy Scouts, but by other persons for half a crown a season, and I feel sure that when normal times ensue, this spot, so nicely and quietly situated that few people in Bath are aware of it, will be in considerable demand by those who desire to perfect their ability. I have also no doubt that the users will be only too glad to record their thanks to Mr. Beamish for his public-spirited gift.

In addition to having the benefit of acquiring the art of diving and the privilege of a swim in the river, the Corporation of Bath has provided an open air pool, situated close to Pulteney Street, known as the "Cleveland Bath." This bath is filled with fresh water, and is free to all who care to use it, it has all the necessary fittings for the comfort of the bather, and during the summer is regarded as the headquarters of several town clubs, including the Bath Dolphin and Y.M.C.A. S.C.'s, besides which, one or two days a week are set apart for mixed bathing. Curiously enough, mixed bathing is permitted in the open air free pool, but not in the covered hot spring baths, except when specially engaged by private parties for that purpose. With the exception of what I may term as "The Beamish Bathing Station" none of the Corporation swimming baths are suitable for the practice of diving or for galas. Of course racing can take place in each of them, but as at galas spectators are generally expected, the covered baths are so constructed that only a few could find a place of vantage from which to witness the events on the programme. This is doubtless due to the fact that when these baths were erected

only the healing process was considered, for which purpose they are perfect, except for what I regard as suitable cooling down showers or sprays, which could be regulated at will from warm to cold, according to the temperament of the individual. As thousands of gallons of water run away daily unused it only needs to be pointed out to the able, genial and popular, director of the establishment, Mr. John Hatton, to have the omission remedied, and so increase the pleasure of a swim in the natural hot spring waters of Bath, which have to be cooled before a swim is at all possible.

As baths for teaching of swimming, nothing better could be desired, because the beginner or novice can take full advantage of the lessons and can listen with comfort to the directions of the instructor, Mr. S. Harford, who is a particularly able teacher and fully deserves the certificates of the A.S.A. and R.L.S.S. Mr. Harford is the official masseur and swimming instructor of the Corporation. He was awarded the R.L.S.S. Certificate and Bronze Medallion in 1904, and the A.S.A. Teacher's Certificate in 1912, he also holds the St. John Ambulance certificate. At the present time he provides instruction to the St. Christopher's College, St. Hillary's College, Wellesley House School, Green Park College, Bath Dolphin S.C., Bath Forum School, City Secondary School, Boy Scouts, King Edward's School, Y.M.C.A. S.C., St. Thomas's S.C. and numerous individual pupils, many of whom have been taught in three lessons. Having seen Mr. Harford at work in the swimming bath and had the benefit of his massage for three weeks, I can testify to his ability in both departments, and I thank him for the care with which he attended to my needs. I also desire to return my thanks to Mr. John Hatton, the director of the Baths, for the personal interest he had taken in my case, and for the favours granted. It is not often that one receives such kindly personal care and attention.

As regards the ladies they also have the benefit of expert instructions from Mrs. C. J. Payne on two days a week at the Royal Baths and the children have the same advantage at the Cross Baths on Thursdays, also at the Cleveland Bath. Mrs. Payne holds awards from the R.L.S.S. and the A.S.A.

Having regard to the kindly interest and courtesy one meets with in every department of this Great Spa, under Mr. Hatton's care, it is no wonder that he has been able

to render a record report to the City Baths Committee. Another fact worthy of mention is that over 10,000 wounded soldiers have been treated free of cost at these baths, yet the takings in the matter of cash have been the highest on record, which goes to show how much it is appreciated by the public in need of a cure. From personal experience I can say that I derived so much benefit from the curative treatment at the Baths, that it has enabled me to return home in a condition to carry on as usual, and I have not the least hesitation in recommending a visit to Bath to every swimmer as a particularly suitable centre for practice and training not only in summer but also in winter.

Lieut. Morter, 9th Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, plunged into the Thames near Kew Bridge and rescued a lad who fell in whilst playing and was being carried down the river.

Prof. T. H. Kendall has been appointed principal of the Venice School of Swimming, Venice, California. The Venice Plunge, where he undertakes teaching, is 100 ft. by 150 ft., ranges from 2 to 9 ft., and is filled with salt water. A class of volunteer life savers is to be started by Mr. Kendall with instruction twice a week in rescue and resuscitation methods, and also boat pulling in the surf. Among his pupils is Nellie Faley, a girl nine years old, who recently swam a mile in the bath in 46 minutes.

Southampton Amateur Swimming Club has already held one gala this year in aid of the Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, and Mr. C. F. Perry, the energetic hon. secretary, whose organising abilities are great, is hopeful of holding several more during the season. As president of the club they have that old and highly honoured sportsman, Dr. Russell Bencraft.

The Accrington Swimming Club has reason to be proud of Messrs. W. Westall and J. Heaton, both of whom have been warmly commended by their officers for bringing several drowning persons ashore at the place where they are stationed abroad. By means of their life-saving knowledge, acquired at the Accrington Baths, these plucky soldier swimmers were able to restore the drowning persons.

The officials of the Y.M.C.A., Victoria, British Columbia, are starting a "Learn to Swim" campaign, and with the co-operation of the Ladies' Swimming Club of that city hope to make arrangements for the use of the Y.M.C.A. Baths at regular times throughout the summer, for classes of instruction in swimming and life saving.

A proposal by Councillor Club that the standing orders of the Peterhead Burgh School Board should be suspended in order that he could move that the Board provide instruction in swimming for pupils attending the Board's school, was opposed by Baillie Philip, who contended that it was "not a life and death thing" and unfortunately the matter had to be shelved till the next meeting of the Board, a month of useful and invaluable instruction being thereby lost.

The suggestion is made that the Clubs in a district should combine during the war, and hold races or play water polo as an amalgamation. Mr. J. Barry Hopkins, the president of the St. James's Club, is the author of this, his proposal being that the St. James's, Cygnus, Barry, Barry Ladies, and Brunswick Clubs should join forces in order to keep swimmers in friendly intercourse and to encourage the art. One day would be devoted to the men's clubs, one to the ladies and one to mixed bathing.

It has always been claimed that the length of the bath is the sole determining factor in speed, due to the advantages gained in turning, but the Americans contend that a swimmer does not profit from the turns after he has attained a speed of about fifty-six seconds for a hundred and that when going any faster he actually suffers at the turn; also that in a small bath he gets more wash and is considerably handicapped in this respect.

Subscribers to the SWIMMING MAGAZINE, who have done so much to keep this journal going, are respectfully reminded that the third volume commenced in June last. They will greatly assist the future of this journal, which is the only one of its kind in the world, by kindly posting their renewal subscriptions to the Hon. Editor without delay.

(See notice facing page 40.)

American Records.

THE Americans are gradually closing up on all world's records, remarkable progress having been made during the past indoor season. The standard length of bath in the United States is sixty feet and records made in those of that size are accepted as American marks. But the International Swimming Federation, which is arbiter of the world's standards, does not recognise times made in baths measuring less than seventy-five feet.

The following new American records have been made since the first of January last. Those marked with an asterisk were made over courses or in baths of seventy-five feet or over, and those unmarked in baths sixty feet long.

FREE STYLE SWIMMING.

40 yards, 20-yard bath—0.18.1, Perry McGillivray and M. McDermott, Illinois A.C., in Chicago. Former 0.18.4.

80 yards, 20-yard bath—0.41.3. Perry McGillivray, Illinois A.C., in Chicago. Former 0.43.

100 yards, 20-yard bath—0.54. Perry M. Gillivray, Illinois A.C., in Chicago. Former 0.54.2.

*100 yards, 25-yard bath, Herbert Vollmer, New York A.C., 54.4.

*150 yards, 25-yard bath—1.29.4. Herbert Vollmer, New York A.C., in New York. Former 1.32.2.

*200 yards, 25-yard bath—2.08.4. Herbert Vollmer, New York A.C., in New York. Former 2.11.1.

*220 yards, 25-yard bath—2.23.2, Herbert Vollmer, New York A.C., in New York. Former 2.25.2.

*200 metres (218.6 yards)—H. Vollmer, 2.23.2. 400 yards, 75-yard bath—5.09.2. Ludy Langer, Los Angeles A.C., in San Francisco.

*4.40 yards, open water, 100-yard course—5.31.2. Duke Kahanamoku, Hawaii, in Honolulu. Former 5.32.1.

*880 yards, open water, 110-yard course—12.01.1. Ludy Langer, Los Angeles A.C., in Honolulu. Former 12.06.

BREAST STROKE.

50 yards, 20-yard bath—32 seconds, M. McDermott, Illinois A.C., in Chicago.

100 yards, 20-yard bath—1.10.4. Michael McDermott, Illinois A.C., in Chicago. Former 1.13.2.

BACK STROKE.

40 yards, 20-yard bath—0.23.4. Russell Dean, New York A.C., at Annapolis. Equaling record.

*100 yards, 25-yard bath—1.08.2. Russell Dean, New York A.C., in New York. Equalling record.

RELAY RACING.

400 yards, 4 men, 20-yard bath—3.42.2. Illinois A.C. (Hebner, McGillivray, Raithel, Vosburgh), in Chicago. Former 3.45.3.

500 yards, 5 men, 20-yard bath—4.40.3. Illinois A.C. (Hebner, McGillivray, Raithel, Vosburgh, Jones), in Chicago. Former 4.53.3.

PLUNGING.

60 feet, 20-yard bath—0.18. Dave V. Smith, Illinois A.C., in Chicago. Former 0.19.3.

*75 feet, 25-yard bath—0.50.3. Dave V. Smith, Illinois A.C., in St. Louis. Former 0.52.

MEDLEY SWIM.

100 yards (5 different styles)—H. Hebner, Illinois A.C., 1.06.1. Former mark 1.14.

INTERCOLLEGIATE.

*Plunge—78 feet, Lehman, of University of Pennsylvania, in latter's pool.

*200-yard relay—Won by Princetown team in 1.44.2.

*100 yards—Herbert Vollmer, Columbia, 56.2.

HIGH SCHOOL.

*Plunge—78 feet, Roger Bird, Brookline (Mass.) High School.

*100 yards—56.4. Leo Handy, Brookline (Mass.) High School.

*220 yards—2.29.3. Leo Handy, Brookline (Mass.) High School.

*50 yards—25.2. T. Cann, Hamilton Institute, New York city.

WOMEN'S RECORDS.

*Plunge—60 feet 3½ inches, Miss Helen Auferheide, at Detroit.

*500-yard swim—8.5.1. Miss Claire Galligan, New York city.

Lt. A. E. Bagnall, King's Liverpool Regiment, who has been wounded in action, was formerly captain of the Edge Lane (Liverpool) Swimming Club.

NOTES ON NEWS.

Interesting Items from Many Quarters.

ONE of the most famous Clubs in England is the Amateur, which was founded as far back as 1868 by men who had seceded from an older club, whose members were not strictly carrying out the Amateur laws or racing in the spirit of them. This spirit of amateurism which animated the founders was also evinced in the Club's opposition of allowing any member to be an active member of another Club, House or provincial clubs excepted. This rule has lost to the Club several good men, but on the other hand the men who have joined have given all their enthusiasm to the one Club and the so-called "pothunter" has been rigidly excluded.

Before the recognition of Water Polo as a branch of sport, Swimming Clubs were almost entirely isolated bodies, the members of the different clubs being almost unknown to each other. In those days it was customary for the Amateur to organize or assist in organizing inter-club races and thereby bring about a more friendly feeling between the swimmers of the various clubs. To that end they held several races against the Regent, the Torpedo and South-East London Clubs, all powerful organizations at the time, but now long since defunct. Those with the South-East London Clubs were held for a period of no less than fourteen years. These friendly races were revived about 1900, the club chosen being the Northern Lights, a winter institution which combines in its ranks a number of swimmers whose ordinary club season ends about October. These races have been most enjoyable and are looked forward to with delight by members of both clubs, who after each race give a friendly entertainment to their visitors.

Even before any rules were recognized for playing Water Polo the game was a hobby with the Amateurs. As far back as 1884 the late Mr. G. R. Bettinson, an old Amateur, captained an all England team at Portsmouth, and the Club kept up its practice so well that when international matches were started in 1890 the Club had a representative

for the English Team, this being Mr. W. J. Carey. In the two following years it was represented by Mr. G. M. Haarnack, one of the finest goal-keepers who ever played for England. In 1895 Haarnack played against Ireland and the same year Mr. W. Holliday against Scotland. Three years later Mr. A. B. Cragg was in the English Team against Wales and Scotland.

The present Hon. Treasurer of the Club, Mr. William Henry, although not then a member, played against Scotland in 1890 and 1892, and was Captain in the latter year; the late Mr. J. E. Cragg, an exceptionally good player, was in the English team of 1891 against Scotland, and in 1894 Mr. P. H. Hughes played against Scotland and against Ireland in the following year. The Club records in the London League, Southern Counties, and Middlesex County Water Polo Championships are remarkable, in fact the only trophy the Amateurs have not held at one time or another is the English Championship Cup. In 1900 the Club created a record by winning not only all the Polo Championships limited to the South of England, but in addition the Team Swimming Championship of London.

One of the objects of the Club has always been the encouragement of Life Saving, and since the foundation of the Royal Life Saving Society a large number of the members have made themselves proficient in the methods of Life-saving and Resuscitation, classes having been held every winter for years past by Messrs. Robert Sandon, the esteemed Life President of the Club, and Mr. Sidney J. Monks, who is the Vice-Chairman of the Central Executive of the Society.

The Richmond Swimming Club has abandoned its races for the season, and is holding handicaps instead for scholars attending the schools in Richmond and the immediate neighbourhood for both boys and girls, as last year. No entrance fee is charged but scholars have to pay for admission to the baths.

Regimental Quartermaster-Sergt. Cecil Healy writes cheerfully from "somewhere" across the water, saying how greatly he would delight in another swim in English waters. He has not forgotten his several trips to England from Australia in search of swimming laurels or the many friendships he created here. To all of his old friends he sends kind regards.

Lieut. Humphrey Matthews, R.N., who lost his life in the sinking of the *Hampshire*, was awarded the Royal Humane Society's testimonial on vellum for saving life at sea off Portland in August, 1912, when a number of men were thrown into the water by the fall of a cutter from the davits of *H.M.S. Superb*.

It was reported in the *Times* of June 22 that at the annual conference of German teachers, it was recommended that an "afternoon for games once a week should be introduced in every elementary school, and that the customary gymnastics should be supplemented by compulsory swimming, walking, skating and various games."

One of the medical recruiting authorities has paid a distinct tribute to the part swimming has played and will play, if allowed, in physical development. Ten thousand recruits were passed through No. 3 Recruiting Station, Birmingham, in the months of August and September, 1914. Dr. Edwards, who was the principal medical officer, observed that the recruits who had the best developed chests, and also those who were able to show the greatest margin in expansion, were swimmers.

The sympathy of every swimmer is extended to Mr. Frank Sachs, of the Otter Swimming Club, whose only son, Lieutenant R. T. S. Sachs, has been killed in action. Lieut. Sachs, who was in Canada when the war broke out, came to England with the first Canadian contingent and received his commission in the Canadian Infantry at the beginning of last year. His father, Mr. Frank Sachs, has been long identified with the Otter Swimming Club, and has done much to advance the art of swimming not only by his Club labours but also by his long and arduous work on the Amateur Swimming Association. He is the author of "The Complete Swimmer," a work dealing very exhaustively with "Swimming at the Public Schools."

At the twenty-first annual competitions in connection with the Public Secondary Schools (London and District) Swimming Association, held at the Shoreditch Baths on June 20, the feature of the afternoon was the phenomenal success of Latymer Upper School, Hammersmith, who, out of ten events, obtained seven firsts and three seconds, and were represented in every final except one. Their success was in no small measure due to the splendid swimming of the three brothers, W. E., P. E., and H. A. Peter, who each won an individual event, and helped to win two team races. The City of London Schoolboy Championship Shield was won by Latymer Upper for the third year in succession, thus constituting a record. E. Wilkinson, of Owens, and G. R. Johns, of Owens, each won a race, and Westminster City School one of the team races.

One of the best means of alleviating pain caused through the stings of jelly fish is the use of glycerine and cucumber.

We have had the pleasure of having had calls while they were on leave from Lieutenant W. Mackenzie, Australian Infantry, of Sydney, New South Wales, and Lance-Corporal P. C. Sinclair, Rangers, youngest son of our Assistant Editor, who before the war was in the Twickenham Swimming Club. Both have seen service in Gallipoli, and are now engaged on active service in another sphere of operations.

Now that every male swimmer between the ages of eighteen and forty-one is a soldier we shall expect to see some regular military championships arranged. The governing bodies of athletics and cross country running have set us an excellent example in catering well for the proper physical recreation of the troops, but we have done nothing, everything being left to isolated energy and effort. There is a wonderful opportunity open for really good educational work, and it ought to be grasped at once. All honour to those north of England enthusiasts who have been striving to get recognition for an official series of military contests and assistance in the provision of galas for the troops.

Several correspondents who are on active service inform us that they have found the ear plugs we supply of great benefit in preventing shell shock to the tympanum of the ear.

The Bolton Swimming Club held its Spring Gala at the Corporation Baths, High Street, Bolton, on June 7, under the patronage of Alderman J. Seddon, the Mayor of Bolton. It proved a great success, there being a record attendance and an excellent exhibition, one of the features of which was a fine display of scientific swimming by Prof. T. W. Grundy, the worthy Superintendent of the Baths. Too much praise cannot be given to E. Hardman, W. Corp, J. Shaw and H. Whittington for their exhibition of life-saving, for which they had been trained by Mr. Grundy. All four are first year swimming scholarship winners. They did their work in smart fashion, and held the attention of the audience all through their display. S. Gilpin, a one-legged diver, and Prof. W. Tong, of Blackpool, also delighted the audience by their skill. As nearly all the adult members of the club are on service the programme had to be made up by the ladies and juniors, but it was a programme well-varied and worthy of the occasion, the Misses M. J. Taylor, A. Howarth and L. Smalley adding materially to its attractions by a fine combined exhibition of water feats. Mr. Kerr, of Blackpool, very kindly went over to Bolton and acted as starter. So far as the present season is concerned the Club has now received 230 subscriptions, and has also had thirty scholarship winners allocated to it for training.

A very useful "Sports Almanac and Record Book" is published by Mr. William Unmack, of San Francisco. It is particularly up to date in nautical matters.

Rutlish School, Merton, had a good record last season in the Surrey Secondary Schools Swimming Association. Its representative, R. G. W. Whittey, finished second to E. G. Savage, Sutton County School, in the two hundred yards championship, of which Whittey had been the holder; the school gained second place in the Senior team Challenge race, two boys, H. C. King and E. H. Nash, 15½ years old, gained the Award of Merit of the Royal Life Saving Society, and other awards gained were:—Two Hon. Instructors' Certificates, one Hon. Teacher's Certificate, nine Bronze Medallions, sixteen Proficiency Certificates and three Elementary Certificates. W. F. Newman gained a special certificate awarded by the School, for two miles at Wimbledon Baths, and fifteen other boys certificates for swimming a mile.

Lieut. Stephen Henry Slingsby, H.M.S. *Defence*, lost in the naval battle in the North Sea, gained the Bronze Medallion of the Royal Life Saving Society at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, in 1909. Lieut. Slingsby, who was born in 1892, was Sub-Lieutenant on the *Comet* destroyer at the beginning of the war, and was posted to the *Defence* as Lieutenant in September of last year.

Mr. Algernon Aspinall, a barrister and a volunteer in the R.N.A.S., who jumped into the Thames off Temple Stairs on April 22 and endeavoured to save the life of an old man, has received the Royal Humane Society's bronze medal and a certificate for life-saving. Mr. Aspinall is well over military age, and was in bed for some days suffering from the effects of his immersion.

Twenty-seven of the most expert swimmers at Iowa University have joined a life-saving corps organised by Instructor F. L. Wheeler, of the department of swimming, for rescue work in the Iowa River.

The Mersey Defence Sports Committee had a gala at Westminster Road Baths, Liverpool, on the night of Saturday, June 10. The competitive events were in most cases keenly contested, the feature being the success of Lieut. Roberts, South Lancashires, in the 200 yards championship and the 100 yards officers' race. There were many local swimmers of repute amongst the prize-winners, notably Sergeant Spiers, R.G.A., a 220 yards champion of Liverpool, and Driver Cleminshaw, R.F.A. Ladies were also much in evidence, and Miss Daisy Curwen swam an exhibition 100 yards in 1.20. The Lancashire and Cheshire R.G.A. won the team championship by a yard from the Dockers' Battalion of the King's Liverpool Regiment, Corporal Reddis, 3rd Cheshire, a life-saving competition in which two methods of rescue were used, Sergeant Spiers a hundred yards military handicap from scratch in 1.7., Driver Cleminshaw, R.F.A., a two lengths (66½ yards) scratch race by a yard from A. B. Thomas, H.M.S. *Eagle*, in 0.45, and Private Johnson, 3rd South Lancashires, a half-mile scratch race. The winning times of Lieut. Roberts were 1.10 for a hundred yards, and 2.48.2 for two hundred yards. There was also a military water polo championship, in the final of which the 2nd Line Fortress Engineers beat the 3rd Cheshires by six goals to two.

New open-air Roman baths were officially opened at St. Anne's-on-Sea on June 10. The programme embraced exhibitions by Professor Stearne, a well-known Channel swimmer, by Miss Morton, of Blackpool, the holder of the back-stroke record, by Miss Louise Wilkinson, of Preston, and a life-saving display by members of the Preston and Blackpool Swimming Clubs. All sorts of dives were splendidly illustrated by the Misses Ivy Jeans, Cora Jeans, Connie Jeans, Ethel Sargeant, Doris Wheat, and Maggie Robinson, of Nottingham, and their exhibition, which was under the control of the captain (Mrs. F. A. Robinson), was freely applauded. Miss Connie Jeans, the Midlands champion and record holder, swam 150 yards exhibition trudge. Mr. W. Benner, formerly of the Radford Baths, Nottingham, who is the superintendent of the new baths, was one of the M.C.'s, and among the other officials was Mr. A. J. Shippies, of Manchester, until recently the hon. secretary of the Nottingham Swimming Club.

At the St. Anne's Baths, children who are not old enough to bathe can paddle in safety on a gentle slope of concrete, while their parents enjoy morning coffee or afternoon tea under a pretty café verandah a few yards away. The bath is 80 yards long and 40 yards wide, and the section for expert swimmers reaches a depth of seven feet. It is not at one end, in the orthodox way, but is carried the whole length of the bath for a width of 36 feet. The middle section is graded from four to two feet, and the section at the opposite side to the deep water is for the children. The dressing-rooms are in pretty buildings along two sides of the bath. In the remainder of the enclosure and on the roofs of the buildings seating accommodation for about 2,000 persons is provided. Grass spaces have been left for family tents in the busy season. In the dressing-rooms are shower baths and geysers for the supply of bowls of hot water to bathers who are chilled after a swim. The capacity of the bath is 820,000 gallons, and the water is pumped at high-tide into a large tank, where it is thoroughly filtered before entering the bath. Water can also be drawn from the bath into this tank and aerated.

The Mansfield Swimming Club has invested £31 in War Loan for five years. Other clubs might well follow this excellent example.

We have received an interesting letter from Lieut. Frank E. Beaurepaire, who is serving with the Australian Forces. That distinguished swimmer is heartily in accord with our idea of a Pan-Britannic Swimming Festival after the war is over, classing it as an excellent movement only waiting materialisation and urging that England is the place where it should be held. Moreover he insists that preliminary negotiations should be entered into at once with various organisations so that a proper scheme may be arranged and all be in readiness for what would be the greatest meeting of British Empire swimmers ever held. Lieut. Beaurepaire again sends kindly greetings to Life Savers and Swimmers generally as well as the personal friends he made during his visits to this country.

Owing to the prolongation of the war the usual competitive meetings of the Plymouth Amateur Swimming and Life Saving Society were abandoned last year, but the useful work of teaching and promoting swimming, especially in the schools, was carried on, and a successful Schools Aquatic Fete was carried out in September, among the events being two Devon County Championships. Practically all of the junior events were decided, even the Three Towns District League Schoolboys' Water Polo Championship, which is conducted by the Plymouth society. Over twenty matches were played, raising great enthusiasm among the rising generation. Victory rested with the Regent Street School, the runners up being Union Street School. The Devon Schoolboys' Championship for the Fred Holman Memorial Cup was won by R. Bartlett, of Plymouth, and the Devon County Elementary Schools' Team Competition by the Regent Street School, Plymouth, the team consisting of Messrs. Hoblin, Sprague and Conibeare. St. Philip and St. James's School, Ilfracombe, was second, and St. James-the-Great School, Devonport, third. The Society will have five trophy competitions for boys this season and two for girls. Mr. J. Coombe, 76, King Gardens, Plymouth, who wants Overseas friends to know that in the "good old town of Plymouth" they are still working energetically in the promotion of swimming and life saving despite existing circumstances, still holds the hon. secretaryship, and has the valued assistance of Mr. N. Phillips as chairman.

The late Mr. R. P. Watson either could not or would not appreciate the value of water polo. This is what he writes about it in his "Memoirs":—"In its simplicity it may be likened to coddam or puff and dart. It has pitchforked into the realms of fame many men who otherwise would have been little known or little cared for. Beautiful game, water polo. It is popular with the ladies. So fussy, delightfully pleasant to see George 'skip' away with the ball, and Algy rush rudely at him. Then they disappear beneath the surface, the ladies titter, shake convulsively, but quickly recover. The dear girls describe the rest of the players as Johnnies, whatever that may mean, and affectively pronounce the melodramatic play as 'Jolly, donch yer know.' Pa and Ma believe Aubery, whose salary ranges from twenty-five shillings to thirty, with a prospect of two pounds when old enough to retire, to be the genius of water polo. The game gives him an entrée into society. Aubery rubs shoulders with Oxford and Cambridge University men, sons of retired officers and what not. Think of that, ye plebeian and ancient sons of Neptune! Why, Aubery actually handles, and handles very roughly, these great people, whose fathers and grandfathers were early in life even poorer than himself, but fortunately sound in mind, as well as body. Success to water polo!"

Among new members of the famous Burton Club are Messrs. Ferdinand Bastaens and Raoul Macintosh, both wounded while serving with the Belgian Army in the early part of the war. Bastaens was a member of the Schaverbeck Club of Brussels, and a capital water polo player, while Macintosh was hon. secretary of the Schaverbeck and member of the Ixelles Club, also a water polo referee.

Excellent arrangements have been made for mixed bathing at Kensington Baths, Lancaster Road, W., where it is permitted every Thursday from 11 to 9. The gentlemen's first class swimming bath is used. It is 89ft. long, 47ft. wide, and 3ft. 6in. to 6ft. 3in. depth: and contains 120,000 gallons of water kept at the comfortable temperature of 74 degrees. There are not any unreasonable regulations here, the large gallery being used for spectators, and you are not obliged to go with one of the opposite sex. The comfort and cleanliness is perfect, and the attention and civility that visitors

receive from the superintendent, matron, and attendants is very marked.

Sergt. Wilhelm Paulin, who was Champion Back Swimmer of Paris in 1913, was taken prisoner in one of the assaults of Douaumont. Sergt. Paulin won the War Cross and the Military Medal for gallant conduct in the early part of the war.

Clapton Ladies Swimming Club propose to hold a gala on September 21, this being one of the series of swimming galas which the Southern Ladies Committee of the A.S.A. are holding in aid of the British Sports Swimming Fund for the Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors and Soldiers.

One of the many members of the Northumberland Amateur Swimming Club who are worthily serving their country is Stanley Oxnard, who is in the Royal Navy. He started his swimming career in 1900 and soon proved himself one of the best breast stroke swimmers in the North of England.

Another well known swimmer who has come safely through the ordeal of the great naval battle is Seaman Harry Taylor, who some ten years ago created a record by winning an Olympic Championship before he gained an English one. This was at Athens in 1906, when only six competitors represented England, those in addition to Taylor being Rob. Derbyshire of Manchester, J. A. Jarvis of Leicester, G. M. Clark and H. W. Smyrk, Amateur Diving Association, and William Henry, of the Royal Life Saving Society. Taylor was beaten by Otto Scheff, an Austrian, in the quarter mile and surprise was therefore great when he gained victory in the mile.

Eric Forsyth, who won the 220 yards championship of England in 1904, is now a sergeant in the 16th Service Battalion of the Manchester Regiment.

Admiral the Hon. Sir E. R. Fremantle, who celebrated his eightieth birthday on June 15, holds the Medal of The Royal Humane Society, which was awarded him for jumping from the poop of *H.M.S. Lord Warden* in Plymouth Sound and saving the life of a boy who had fallen from the rigging.

Mr. E. B. Shepherd, holder of the Bronze Medallion of the Royal Life Saving Society and chairman of the Pirates Club of Salisbury, Rhodesia, has been appointed hon. secretary of the Mashonaland Amateur Swimming Association. He takes keen interest in the teaching of life saving and has assisted in the examination of classes in Rhodesia during the past season.

* * * *

Kahanamoku attributes part of his success as a swimmer to his big feet. He is twenty-five years old, 6 feet 1 inch high and weighs 195 lbs. Duke is pigmented to a shade of light brown, while his hair and brows are jet black and straight. He has large, dark eyes, a well-shaped nose and wide protruding lips. He is heavily built as to shoulders and chest, tapering to a narrow elegant waist, while his lower limbs are proportioned. Then the hands and the feet go to work and ruin what would otherwise be perfect symphony of physique. Duke says he has had big feet since he was five years old, and that when he was ten years old he could wear his father's shoes. When twelve years old he started kicking his way to the lead in the island swimming championships, and when sixteen he was the admitted champion of Hawaii.

* * * *

A booklet translated by Dr. T. Cogan in 1773 induced Dr. William Hawes to introduce into London the methods practised by a society established in Amsterdam in 1767 for the recovery of the apparently drowned. He offered rewards, paid out of his own pocket, to all boatmen between Westminster and London Bridge who would rescue and bring ashore the bodies of the drowned so that he might apply to them the methods of the Dutch society. Thus the resuscitation movement which had spread over the Continent from Amsterdam reached England in 1773. In the London Coffee House on April 18, 1774, Dr. Cogan and Dr. Hawes brought together thirty-two of their friends and founded the Humane Society. Oliver Goldsmith, whose medical attendant Dr. Hawes had been, had died a fortnight previously, over £2,000 in debt, but his name appears among the list of founders and subscribers. David Garrick was also one of the earliest members, and the name of Dr. John Hunter, the famous surgeon, appears in the list of 1776.

There is a wealth of common sense in the remarks attributed to Kahanamoku after his recent defeats in the United States. "The man who mopes when he's beaten," said Kahanamoku, "shows something in his make-up which will usually prevent him from winning high honours. He's not a sportsman. A man's got to keep cheerful to be a victor." It is particularly necessary that the youngster who expects to make records keep that in mind—not to feel bitter over defeat. Keep smiling and trying. A smile develops energy.

* * * *

The crew of *H.M.S. Australia*, belonging to the Australian Squadron, played twelve water polo matches last season, won nine, drew two, and lost only one, this being against *H.M.S. New Zealand*. The goals scored for were 53 and those against 18, the results being:—

Goals: For, 53; against, 18. *H.M.A.S. Australia* v. *New Zealand*, 2-2; v. *New Zealand*, 2-5; v. *Indefatigable*, 3-1; v. *Indefatigable*, 0-0; v. *Indefatigable*, 4-0; v. *Tiger*, 8-2; v. *Princess Royal*, 6-1; v. *King Edward VII.*, 7-2; v. *King Edward VII.*, 3-2; v. *King Edward VII.*, 4-3; v. *Invincible*, 7-0; v. *Britannia*, 7-0.

They also swam twelve team races and won easily.

* * * *

The late Mr. Robert P. Watson, some particulars of whose long career as a swimming official and sporting journalist were given in last month's issue, has left a widow and nine children almost unprovided for. Mr. Alfred Jones, who was instrumental in raising the fund for the erection of a memorial to "Captain" Webb at Dover, has interested himself in the matter, and the *Sporting Life* has now started a subscription list. Donations should be sent to the Editor, *Sporting Life*, St. Bride Street, London, E.C.

* * * *

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William Henry

Hon. Editor.

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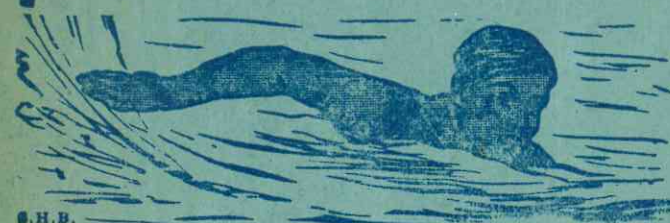
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