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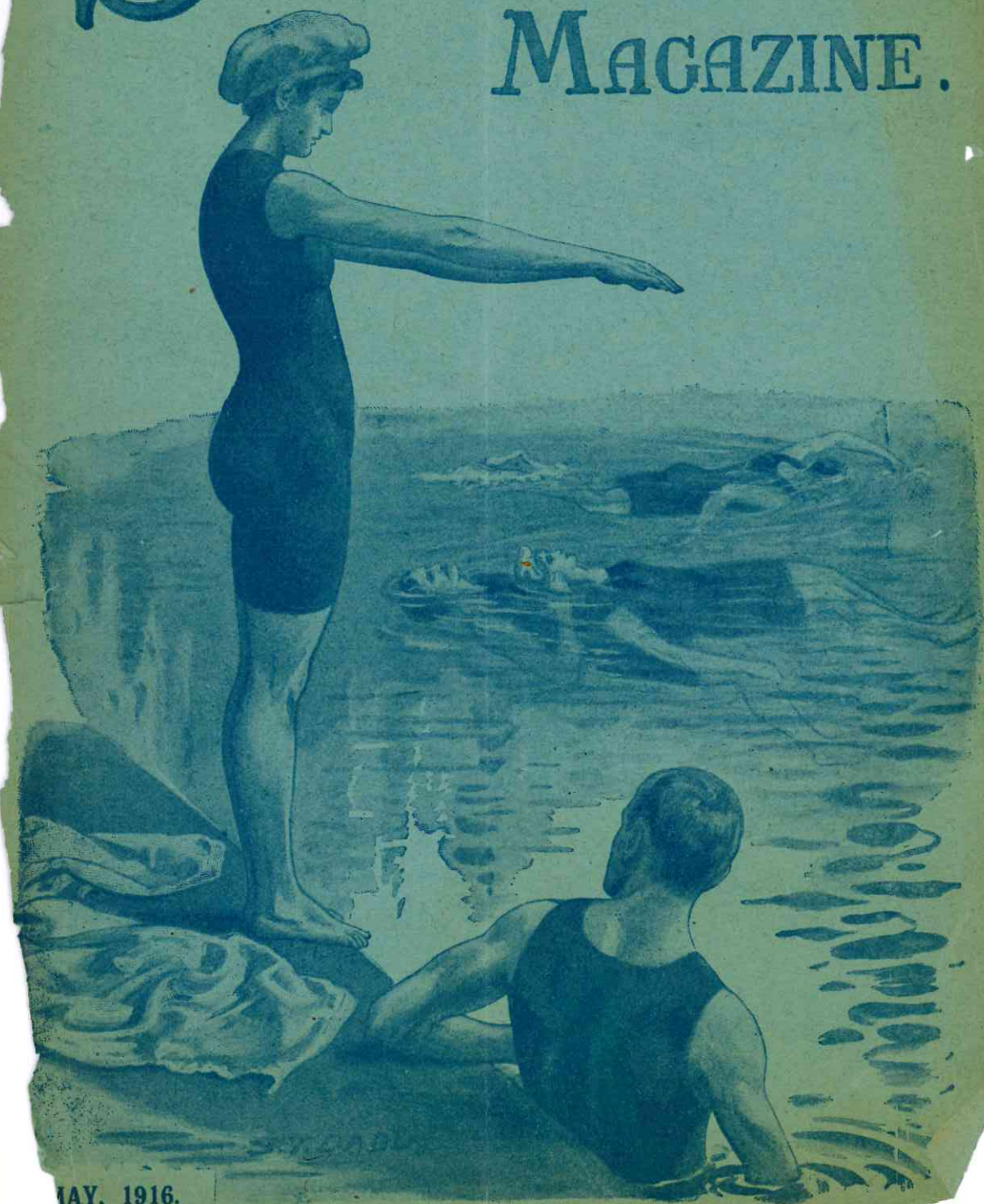
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THE SWIMMING MAGAZINE.



MAY, 1916.

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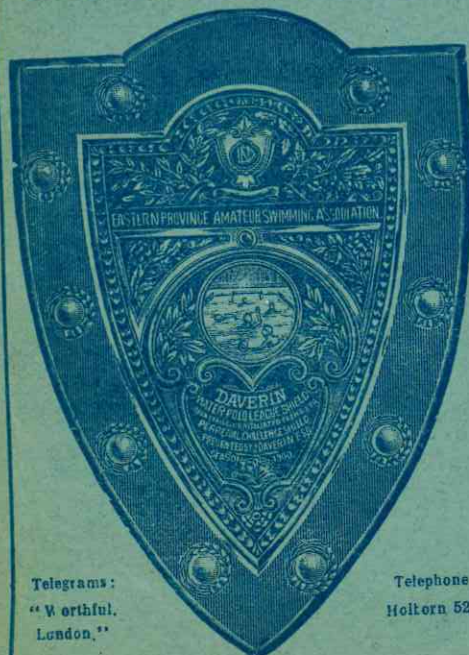
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**The Swimming
Magazine**(The Official
Organ of The
Royal Life
Saving Society)

No. 12. VOL. II.

MAY, 1916.

TAXATION OF SWIMMING.**More Troublous than Useful.****PROBABLE LOSS ON OFFICIAL COLLECTION.**

AS the majority of the male swimmers of Great Britain are engaged on active service, the clubs still in existence, the majority of which are composed of ladies or juniors, were about to enter upon a series of galas for Red Cross and other benevolent war funds, when a tax on swimming galas was suddenly imposed on them. There had, of course, been suggestions for the taxation of sport, but that was not considered likely to include swimming, but to apply more particularly to horse-racing and football, which are principally governed by limited liability companies, and produce a large personal revenue for their promoters, whereas in the case of swimming the income derived from galas is always small, and is entirely devoted to the promotion of a life saving art.

Of course we will all cheerfully obey any mandate made in the common interests of the country, but at the same time it is advisable to point out that in the case of swimming the interference is with an educational subject and not a sport or entertainment pure and simple. Under present circumstances that fact may not particularly appeal to the authorities, and the only point at issue is the utility of the tax as applied to swimming.

Additional revenue is required by the Government for the proper fulfilment of its enormous responsibilities, but such revenue cannot be raised by imposing taxes which result in a deficit after collection. The accommodation for spectators at even the largest baths is so limited that practical financial benefit can rarely be secured by a club holding a gala, and though hard-working enthusiasts ran entertainments last year, the contributions to Red Cross and other war funds were practically infinitesimal, and in many instances collections had to be made in order that even a modest fiver might be sent.

The tax of a penny in sixpence or sixpence up to tickets charged for at half a crown may appear small, but it will considerably hamper efforts, and will produce no useful financial result, while on the other hand it will hamper the usefulness of clubs and lead to an even more lethargic spirit in swimming than was the case last year. This because it is impossible to increase seating accommodation or to advance prices of admission under present conditions. Rather should they be lowered, but this would lead to financial ruin of the clubs, who are none too strong, for few of them have any large subscription list now or any substantial reserve funds.

It may perhaps be possible to urge upon the Government the desirability of exempting from the tax all genuine galas held in aid of war funds. To this the reply may be that anyone can announce such a gala, but who is to vouch for the honesty and the carrying out of such an intention? Our answer is that such matters have been safeguarded for years, as the Amateur Swimming Association insists upon the production of the audited financial statement of any entertainment, gala, or competition in aid of any person, cause or charity. And the Amateur Swimming Association is quite as powerful, if not more so, as the Jockey Club.

Apart from club galas, of which very few were held last year, most of the others are given in the interest of children who have been taught swimming by the Education Authorities out of public funds, and every year subscriptions are sent to the various Schools' Associations from outside swimming bodies because they know full well that the Associations are doing good work by encouraging expert ability in life saving among the children of the country. Yet the galas at which the annual championships are held will be taxed, although they are not held for profit, but merely to help pay expenses.

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That a knowledge of swimming is essential has been abundantly proved in this war, and it is obvious that its teaching and practice should be carried on as a part of naval and military training for the purpose of being useful in the saving of human life. Therefore why hamper it with a useless, and as we can distinctly prove, a non-profitable tax; one which will cost the country more than the receipts will recoup.

It should be noted by every club intending to hold a gala, that the new amusement tax provides that extra payment shall be made when persons transfer to higher priced seats. Clubs should also note that where annual subscription confers certain privileges of admission, the tax applies to those privileges. This would apply to subscriptions coupled with season tickets for witnessing water polo matches and galas. Further it is understood that in the case of charity galas, where the expenses of the entertainment do not exceed 20 per cent of the gross takings, application may be made to the Treasury for the remission of the tax charged on the entrance tickets.

OPINIONS OF OFFICIALS.

The proposed taxation of sport was largely discussed before the matter came before Parliament in the April Budget, and the *Sporting Life* sought the opinions of several prominent swimming legislators as to its possible extension to swimming and its probable usefulness.

Mr. Louis Meaden, past president of the Southern Counties Amateur Swimming Association, suggested a tax of a penny for every sixpenny admission to a gala. Mr. F. G. Wraith, Derby, past president of the Amateur Swimming Association, said:—

"A general acquiescence in the taxation of sports and amusements may, I think, be assumed, but a large proportion of swimming clubs, though quite as patriotic as other sporting bodies, can scarcely be expected to regard the proposal favourably, for the reason that they promote galas for the advancement of the art, with a fore-knowledge that a financial loss will be incurred.

"Swimming, as a sport, labours under the disadvantage that it is conducted in buildings where the comfort of spectators was a secondary consideration on the part of the architect—if, indeed, he considered it at all—and whilst concurring in the idea of taxing sports, I am doubtful whether the gain to the Treasury will be such as to counter-

balance the adverse effect on swimming, which is primarily a utilitarian art," and Mr. Herbert Crapper, Sheffield, hon. secretary of the North-Eastern Counties Amateur Swimming Association, expresses the following opinion, "So far as gate receipts are concerned, swimming, owing to the limits of bath accommodation for spectators, is the Cinderella amongst athletic sports, but I surely think that the promoters of exhibitions and competitions will be patriotic, and do their best, at the same time wishing that their contributions were larger than they are likely to be."

Mr. Harold E. Fern, F.C.I.S., hon. sec. of the Southern Counties Amateur Swimming Association, wrote: "I cordially approve of the proposal to tax the admission fees to view sporting events of all kinds. So far as swimming is concerned, very few galas are being held, and those few are all in aid of charities, but I do not anticipate that this proposed taxation, unless unreasonably high, will seriously affect the attendances. However, if no provision is made, I think it would be well for the controlling bodies to press for exemption from this proposed taxation in cases of sports meetings held for the benefit of wounded soldiers and sailors, or for charitable objects."

Mr. G. Bye, hon. treasurer of the Western Counties Amateur Swimming Association, said: "I think the Chancellor would do well to put a tax on all sports and amusements."

Mr. Councillor W. Fowden, hon. treasurer of the Hyde Seal Swimming Club, wrote: "Swimming and water polo would offer no tempting field for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Generally speaking, swimming clubs are not affluent, and the takings at galas and swimming entertainments are invariably swallowed up by the expenses.

"As we consider that the art of swimming should be taught educationally, and are constantly urging this upon the Board of Education, I believe that any taxation would not be agreeable to the majority of swimmers and swimming officials. The result would be to discourage the holding of galas, and, in any case, the gain to the Exchequer would be practically nil."

Messrs. Wraith and Fowden voice the opinions of those who have taken the subject into careful consideration, and have studied the taxation of swimming as a practical business proposition. We entirely agree with the deductions they have arrived at.

THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY.

Reports from Overseas Dominions.

INSTRUCTION IN THE GRECIAN SCHOOLS.

THE work of the Royal Life Saving Society continues to progress in gratifying manner, particularly in the Overseas Dominions, from which we receive, by each mail, letters from many enthusiasts. One of the features of the work has been the training of soldiers in the practice of resuscitation and this will assuredly have good results, for the knowledge will be more widely spread and in lands far distant from the place of tuition.

The assistance given by ladies to the movement is most valuable. In many places they have undertaken the duties of the instructors who have gone on active service and are showing a marked and increasing interest in the promotion of the aims and objects of the Society.

TASMANIAN CENTRE.

The Tasmanian Centre of the Royal Life Saving Society is making rapid progress. It held its first public demonstration on Regatta Day at Hobart, where a realistic display was given, Miss Marsh being the rescued person and C. Rodway the rescuer in a presumed boat accident.

In the latest report to hand it is stated that Miss Pocock and Miss Olive Barnard, who were active participants in this successful exhibition, have given medals for competition for boys and girls under 15, and Mr. H. Watson has offered a trophy to the Centre for a Reel Competition.

Great delight is expressed at a possible visit from Miss Durack and Miss Wylie, the New South Wales Centre being desirous of assisting Tasmania in every possible way.

Mr. T. W. Simpson, who took part in the demonstration, has enlisted. He is on the executive of the Centre, and holder of the Award of Merit of the Royal Life Saving Society. Before joining the forces he was training for the Diploma. He is a capital breast stroke swimmer, second only in speed and style to Charles Rodway, who is the best in Tasmania and about second best in Australia.

Mr. J. E. Nobbs has kindly filled the place of Mr. Simpson on the Executive.

One cannot say too much about the energy and good work of the Misses Pocock and Barnard, both of whom have now offered to teach the Patrol leaders of the Boy Scouts, Boys' Brigade and Girl Guides. They have also taught nurses leaving for the war. Miss Pocock has recovered a crowbar, axe and level from a depth of 15ft. The man whose property these were sent a donation to the Centre.

At the monthly meeting of the executive a letter was read from the Rt. Hon. Lord Desborough, president of the Royal Life Saving Society, in reply to a letter of condolence from the Tasmanian centre in the loss of his two eldest sons at the war. His Lordship, in concluding his letter, said:—"I am glad to think that we are bound together in our common efforts to save life."

Hope was expressed that more male Hon. Instructors would be forthcoming, as many were needed to carry on the work in classes where ladies could not be present. It was hoped that in due course the men would do as much as the ladies have done to promote efficient first aid in the water.

WELLINGTON HEAD CENTRE.

A good deal of instruction has been given by the Wellington Head Centre since the beginning of the year, and some classes have been examined as far afield as Levin, about seventy miles from headquarters. One of the pleasing features is that the police have at last become interested in the work, and up to the end of January had obtained fourteen Awards. It is suggested that a regulation providing that members of the Force must make themselves proficient in swimming and life saving before being promoted, or better still, before being placed on the permanent force, would be beneficial to the community at large.

Of course most of the swimmers connected with the Centre, in fact, all the young men, have joined the colours, and there are many excellent natatorial experts in camp. It is surprising to see how the swimmers fraternise, and arrange their fun at the bathing parades. It is good to be one of them.

SOUTH AFRICA.

We learn from Mr. P. O. Wathes, the Hon. Secretary of the South African Western Province Head Centre of the Royal Life Saving Society, that the first Competition for the Challenge Cup, presented by Mr. William Henry, for the purpose of an individual test in Swimming and Life Saving among the members of the Centre, has proved a complete success, and created considerable interest, which is regarded as being beneficial to the promotion of the subject. The event was held in connection with the Union A.S.C.'s February Gala at the Corporation Bath, Cape Town, which is 100 feet long. The conditions insist that each competitor shall swim one length any stroke, one length breast stroke, and the last length back stroke while carrying a subject by means of the second method of rescue. After some preliminaries the three left in the final were Sapper Hargrave, of the Royal Engineers, A. Ballenger and P. O. Wathes, and the race proved extremely exciting, with the result that the first named won by a touch only.

We also learn that the classes organised by Mr. Wathes after his return from German West Africa, where he had been with the conquering forces, have resulted in 15 Proficiency Certificates, 12 Bronze Medallions, 1 Teacher's and 1 Hon. Instructor's Certificate being gained, and other classes are in the course of preparation for examination. Thus the work of instruction in Life Saving has recommenced, after a lapse of several months, owing to the War.

We are pleased to hear that Mr. F. H. T. Johnson, once Welsh International Water Polo player, is now in Cape Town and is a member of the Union A.S.C. He is one of those who recently gained the Proficiency Certificate and Medallion of the Society. We know him to be an expert swimmer, life saver, and water polo player; he has twice saved life from drowning; in 1914 his efforts were recognised by the Royal Humane Society. He is now Scoutmaster and has been appointed Instructor of Life Saving to the Scouts in the district. At one time Mr. Johnson was regarded as a rather sceptical swimmer in respect of the utility of the methods of Release, but a practical demonstration to which he was invited by Mr. Wathes settled the point, and he is now one of the keenest workers for the cause. We hope that he may have many candidates for the Society's Awards.

TRANSVAAL BRANCH.

Owing to a large number of swimmers associated with this branch of the Society, having gone to England or Egypt, or enlisted with the South African contingent for service in German East Africa, it has been decided to suspend the Darnell Cup Competition and the South African Life Saving Championship for this season.

Of the more prominent swimmers who have gone with the Forces are Messrs. S. C. Dowsett, A. L. Patrick, F. W. Sarginson, J. L. Francis, G. A. Adam, M. H. C. Clarke, Sid. Fitchett, Cliff, Raymond and Tregarthen, all of whom are interested in the promotion of swimming and the teaching of life-saving and resuscitation.

We have much pleasure in heartily congratulating Mr. W. Meed, Hon. Secretary of the British Columbia Branch, and Mr. Fullard-Leo, upon the success they have achieved in persuading the Government to take steps in order to give power to local authorities to build swimming baths. Mr. Wm. Blakemore, Vice-President of the British Columbia Branch, and Chairman of the Municipal Swimming Baths Committee, has received a letter from the Government informing him that steps will be taken to provide a by-law for the erection, maintenance and operation of municipal baths. The Committee of which Mr. Blakemore is Chairman is the result of an agitation carried on for some time by Mr. Meed and Fullard-Leo. The latter has since left for Honolulu, nevertheless, we know that he will be highly pleased with the results achieved. We hope that the by-law will soon become operative in order that the people may have suitable baths in which to practise the art of swimming.

At the Hoxton Baths, Pitfield Street, London, E., the subject of life saving receives much attention, chiefly among the ladies. Miss Edith Philpot is the instructress, who is doing all she can to promote the subject. At the last examination for the Proficiency Certificate and Bronze Medallion of the Royal Life Saving Society, Misses Mary D. Spender, May C. Lavers and Veronica W. Lavers successfully passed the tests. All who use these baths receive considerable help and encouragement in the practice of life saving from Mr. O. B. Richardson, the genial superintendent, who is always willing to help the movement.

VICTORIAN HEAD CENTRE.

The Victorian Head Centre has been exceptionally busy during the past season in Australia, and although the hon. sec., Sergt.-Major T. W. Malins, has gone on service at one of the Australian General Hospitals as medical masseur, he is yet able to make an excellent report of the Society's doings. By means of a letter pointing out the selfishness of a person contenting himself by learning to swim only and not practising life saving, which he circulated in the press, he received over sixty applications for training, and at the time of writing (March 5) was hopeful of getting thirty to pass for the Bronze Medallion. The ordinary Government grant of £100 has been reduced to £50, but that of course is solely through the war.

In connection with his military work Sergt.-Major Malins, with the assistance of Messrs. Witty, W. Bennett, M. Aarons and J. J. Mullany, was able to give a demonstration of rescue work and resuscitation on the beach at St. Kilda, and the demonstration was greatly appreciated by both officers and men.

The Centre was also able to give demonstrations at various carnivals, among those taking part in them being Messrs. W. F. and W. H. Malins, sons of Sergt.-Major Malins, Bennett, Witty and other members of the executive, who are all very keenly interested in the work.

QUEENSLAND HEAD CENTRE.

Owing to removal from Brisbane to a banana and cane farm on the banks of the Maroochy River, Mr. F. O. Venning has been compelled to resign the hon. secretaryship of the Queensland Head Centre, a position he has worthily held for six years, in which time the Society has made great progress. But he hopes to be able to continue his good work in the new district. The river is at his door, so that both he and his accomplished daughter Elsie will be able to get plenty of practice.

Mr. J. J. Betts, of the Brisbane Gymnasium, an old Londoner, has kindly undertaken the duties of hon. secretary, and his assistant will be Mr. J. W. Thompson, the back stroke record holder of Queensland.

It is pleasing to learn that the Government has again made a grant of £100 to the Centre.

Captain Arturo Passerini, of the Italian Navy, now stationed in the island of Calimnos in the Aegean Sea, has received authority from the Governor of Rhodes to act as representative of the Italian Life Saving Society, and thereby take opportunities during voyages on duty to deliver lectures on life-saving to officers, soldiers, teachers, and pupils of the Greek schools, etc. He has already met with considerable success, as the teachers of the island of Niceros have already commenced to teach their pupils the swimming drill as laid down in the handbook of the Royal Life Saving Society, and first put to a practical test by Miss E. Kingston. The officer in charge of the swimming and life-saving work at Rhodes now is Captain Montaguaro, who is the Chief Port Officer, whilst Captain Passerini, being situated at Calimnos, will continue to push the subject among the inhabitants of the islands he may visit. It is in this way that through friends the subject of life saving spreads far and wide.

We regret to record the death of Sir Winthrop Hackett, who had from its institution been a vice-patron and enthusiastic supporter of the West Australian Centre of the Royal Life Saving Society. The death occurred quite suddenly on February 19 last. Sir Winthrop, who was born in Ireland in 1848, graduated at Trinity College, Dublin, was called to the Irish Bar in 1874, and emigrated later to Australia, where he was admitted to the Bar of New South Wales in 1875. He became a contributor to the leading journals and newspapers of Australia and was soon elected to Parliament. But his interests soon became centred in the well-being of Western Australia, and he entered on the real career of his life as a journalist, a career marked with the highest possible distinction. Sir Winthrop was an enlightened leader of men, and a warm-hearted philanthropist.

The Quebec Branch still hold the "Darnell" Trophy, for which there was a swim over as the other branches could not enter a team. The Quebec team in their last test did wonderfully well, their total time being 26min. 28½secs., which shows an improvement on the previous trial of over 16secs. It is hoped that as soon as possible the other branches will enter teams. That however can only be expected when normal times ensue.

SLUR ON LIFE GUARDS.

Declared Professionals in America.

IT is difficult to understand upon what principle the Amateur Athletic Union of America has declared lifeguards, who are paid for work on public beaches, to be professional swimmers. A large part of the duties of lifeguards consists of police work, and before appointment they must know the methods of resuscitation and other matters incidental to life-saving work. There was some similar trouble in Australia, but that was settled, and we were of opinion that the International Amateur Swimming Federation had come to an amicable agreement on the subject. In the laws of the Amateur Swimming Association of England it is stated that:

"The standing laws of Amateurism laid down by this or any other Association recognised do not apply to Life Saving, either in the matter of learning, teaching, or exhibiting, the A.S.A. being of opinion that the Life Saving land and water drills (including resuscitation) form a combined development of gymnastic exercise, swimming ability and medical knowledge, and cannot be considered to come within the term, 'Athletic Exercises.'"

Further, according to the laws of the Fédération Internationale de Natation Amateur, to which the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States was a subscribing body in 1913, it is agreed that,

"Amateurs being paid for instruction in Life Saving and Resuscitation of the apparently drowned under the Life Saving Society rules of their respective countries shall not thereby endanger their amateur status."

These facts could not have been brought prominently to the notice of those responsible for the American decisions, which are surely based on misapprehension or without knowledge of what American authorities had practically agreed to. You might as well disqualify a doctor fetched in to help in resuscitation or a policeman who did humane work, but yet in the exercise of his duties. It is part and parcel of a policeman's work to safeguard the lives of citizens, and he often has to make use of his knowledge of swimming and life-saving. Yet you welcome him at your galas, and so more ought you the lifeguard, whose whole existence is the saving of life and the consequent well-being of his fellow-man. Far better to have competent

men with wide knowledge than incompetent and bumptious idiots doing nothing to save life, but enjoying the advantages of civic dignity. What more useful to progress than to have expert life-saving men as members of your club and competing against you? Swimming is a sport which has peculiar claims inasmuch as a knowledge of it is invaluable in saving life, and it cannot be treated in the same way as regards the amateur question as can baseball, cricket, golf, football and many other forms of exercise which one can mention, which are either indulged in purely for sport's sake or else for gain pure and simple.

Latest advices from America are to the effect that honorary life guards have been disqualified as amateurs, yet although this statement is quite clear in the exchange to hand we are utterly unable to credit it as accurate.

At the annual meeting of the Mansfield Swimming Club it was reported that W. G. Gilman, J. Burton and H. E. Leader had received commissions, and congratulations were offered them as well as to Sergts. C. E. Prosser, W. Hornby, S. C. Fletcher, Corporal J. Mitchell, and Lance-Corporal H. Wilson, all of whom have been promoted this year.

A life saving examination was held at Bolton early last month in connection with the Bolton Club. The following candidates gained the proficiency certificate: H. C. R. Boardman, F. C. Dobson, W. T. Gresty, R. Higham, W. Coop, T. Crossley, J. H. Foster, M. O'Hara, F. Leach, J. Wood, C. Marshall, N. Oversby, and F. Taylor. For the Bronze Medallion the successful candidates were: J. J. Ryan, W. Mainon, W. Marginson, E. Parker, T. Crossley, N. Oversby, F. Taylor, A. Butler, C. Marshall. The examiners were Messrs. J. H. Boston, Manchester, and W. H. Broom, Bolton, and the instructor, Prof. T. W. Grundy. The candidates were highly complimented on their high state of efficiency.

The Duke of Portland opened new baths in Muskham Street, Nottingham, on April 7, and in future the buildings are to be known as the Portland Baths. One of the features new to Nottingham Baths is the provision of an up-to-date diving-stage. The new buildings are situated in the midst of a population of 40,000 or 50,000 people.

THE LADIES' SECTION.

RECORDS IN AMERICA AND AUSTRALIA.

ORGANISING FOR RED CROSS GALAS.

MANY of the Australian lady swimmers have mastered the Kahanamoku stroke and their speed form is increasing very rapidly. At the Australasian Ladies' Championship meeting, held in February last at Sydney, Miss Fanny Durack won the hundred yards in 1.9.2. Miss Mina Wylie, who had led until close upon seventy-five yards had been traversed, finishing in 1.12.1, with Miss Venning, of Brisbane, third, about ten yards behind Miss Wylie. The teams championship went to the New South Wales girls, but those of Queensland were within twenty yards of the winners.

Among those whose swimming at the Carnival was particularly noticeable were Miss Marjorie Winn and Miss I. Amor. Although differing in the arm work they both had the Kahanamoku continuous independent kick and both swam with grace and effect. Everyone who saw them predicts a big future for them. Miss Winn comes of an athletic family, her uncle, C. Winn, being a famous Rugby Union footballer, and her father a swimmer of repute.

Miss Elsie Venning, who uses the trudgen stroke with the crawl flutter in between the kicks, is powerful, and being only fourteen years old is likely to develop into a very speedy swimmer. Her selection to represent Queensland came through victory in the test races at Brisbane, wherein Miss Mabel Springfield was unplaced, but Miss Maggie Grant and Miss Jean King gained places. Later there was the State Championship over fifty yards, which Miss Springfield won in 35.3, Miss Grant being second, and Miss King third.

Miss Fanny Durack was hotly pressed by Miss Wylie in the fifty yards championship of New South Wales, and she only won by a touch in 30.1. Miss L. Fevyer and I. Amor were close up, and it is said to have been altogether a great race. It must have been one of the hardest in which Miss Durack has yet competed.

For some reason or other the Ladies' Association of Queensland would not let Miss Venning take part in the championship because she was a junior. It is a Gilbertian position. The test race was for the best swimmer. That swimmer proved to be Miss Venning, and that young lady went as Queensland's first string to the Australasian championship at Sydney. Yet forsooth Miss Venning was not to compete in her own State championship. Who is the Queensland Ladies' Champion?

Little difficulty was experienced by Miss Fanny Durack in winning the 220 yards championship of Australia, at the Domain Baths, Sydney, her time being 2.53, which is three seconds faster than her previous record. Miss Mina Wylie was again runner up, but Miss Elsie Venning was relegated to fourth position, that of third being occupied by Miss M. Winn, whose probable improvement I have previously referred to. Indeed, judging by the communications to hand, there seems no lack of improving young lady swimmers in the State of New South Wales.

The last of the Australasian ladies' championships was decided at Coogee Aquarium Baths on February 16, the event being the 100 yards breast stroke championship. Miss Venning was somewhat fancied for this, but Miss Nina Wylie, New South Wales, won by five yards from Miss M. Winn, New South Wales, Miss Venning finishing third, about ten yards behind the winner.

A Ladies' Swimming Association for Victoria has been formed with Miss Lily de Beaurepaire as hon. secretary. The rules and constitution of the New South Wales Ladies Association have been adopted almost in their entirety, and friendly relations have been opened with the Queensland as well as the New South Wales Associations, a conference having been held at Sydney during the Australasian Championship week. Men are to be admitted to the Carnivals.

The Preston Amateur Swimming Club, which is in a very flourishing condition, is urging upon the authorities the desirability of sanctioning mixed bathing. These agitations seem to be going on in every part of the country, and I should not be surprised to see them followed up by support of the plea I made last month for permission to hold inter-family races.

The question of forming a Ladies' Club in connection with the Teignmouth Swimming and Life Saving Society is under consideration. Teignmouth is one of the homes of sea swimming in the county of Devon, and it is somewhat surprising that a ladies' club should not have been inaugurated before this.

I must heartily congratulate Miss Joyce Holman on a gallant rescue at Malta, especially as at the time Miss Holman was exhausted through having had to struggle to the beach through a treacherous under-current. But as soon as she saw one of her colleagues in danger she went out again, and after a hard struggle the girl was brought in. Another plucky young lady went out at the same time, fully dressed, and greatly assisted in the rescue, although she had never tried swimming in clothes before.

There is a warning in this rescue which I should like to emphasise. It transpired afterwards that a red flag was flying, denoting that the sea was unsuitable for bathing at the time, but the young ladies, who are nurses and had only just arrived on a transport, did not notice this, so anxious were they to have a swim. I have constantly pointed out how desirable it is to make enquiries as to local conditions before venturing to bathe off a strange shore.

Had it not been for Miss Holman's ability and knowledge a disaster might easily have occurred, but she fortunately has had the right training, for she has won the Bath Club's shield for ladies, and both she and her sister have gained the Award of Merit of the Royal Life Saving Society.

There is all the more credit for the rescue, as Miss Holman had been seriously ill, and was only just recovering. Her sister Dorothy is also to be heartily congratulated, for she

also performed a gallant rescue. Both ladies may be sure that we all admire their heroism and pluck.

Owing to the calling up of married men and the serious depletion in membership which has taken place since the commencement of war the male section of the Southport Swimming Club has postponed all meetings for the present. The ladies' section is, however, carrying on its work energetically under the guidance of Miss F. Bebbington, 5, Leicester Street, the Hon. Secretary.

Miss Olga Dorfner, of Philadelphia, established an American swimming record for women when she defeated Miss Claire Galligan, of New Rochelle, in a race at 220 yards, she swimming the distance in 3.3.4. On March 9 she won the Middle Atlantic A.A.A. 100 yards championship for women in 1.9.3, which is a new record for ladies in America, being 7.1 better than that of Miss Frances Cowells, made at the Panama Pacific Exposition last year.

Miss Aileen Allen, the champion lady diver of the United States, is captain of the Red Cross Life Saving crew at Ocean Park, California, and the girls are to be seen on the beach every Saturday and Sunday. They are expert in life-saving and resuscitation work, and can also handle a lifeboat.

On March 20, at the Prince of Wales Road Baths, Kentish Town, London, Mrs. Jarvis Dickinson plunged 60.84 inches in her second plunge, the first one was 58 feet 4 inches. This is an English record for ladies, the previous best being 60 feet by Miss Minnie Harrison, of Liverpool, at Seacombe on November 5, 1913. Reports from America are to the effect that the Pittsburg Aquatic Club can boast of two clever lady plungers, Miss Elizabeth Cayler and Miss Averette Gareis, both of whom can plunge 57 feet.

Sheffield Ladies' Olympic Club is a winter organisation with a membership of 130, all of whom are members of summer clubs. It was mainly through the instrumentality of Madame Galey, Royal Life Saving Society, that it was formed, and it has turned out a huge success. Miss J. Reaney is the lady senior champion and Miss M. Shaw the junior lady champion.

The Brighton Ladies' Swimming Club tried the experiment of holding mixed bathing meetings at Brills Baths last season, but the number of ladies attending was disappointing, and the arrangement had to be discontinued. The club, however, hopes to stimulate interest in swimming among the ladies and girls of the town this year, and some of its members have also offered to take in hand the instruction of scholars now that teaching in the elementary schools has been abandoned. Other ladies' clubs might well follow this excellent example.

Many of the members of ladies' clubs and ladies' sections of clubs have not heard a word from their club or Association officials for some time past. It is understood that the Northern Ladies' Championships are to be held this year, but even Mrs. E. Johnson, the hon. secretary of the Chester Ladies' Club, apparently did not know this when she penned the following, which appeared in the *Sporting Chronicle*:

"We in Chester are greatly hampered in our efforts by our Baths Committee, who, after closing both baths during the winter, now propose to only open the smaller one, which is inadequate, and has no accommodation for spectators. I think, considering the call upon women and girls to fill the places of men, that everything possible should be done to make them physically fit, and more especially because the girls of to-day are the mothers of Britain's future soldiers. In my experience—I have three daughters—there is nothing so good as swimming to make and keep them fit, and I am of opinion that a clean, healthy body greatly conduces to a clean, healthy mind. We have not heard anything of the championships this season. Do you know anything of the prospects?" One would have thought the Chester ladies would have been especially consulted, for did they not last year hold a big gala which resulted in a profit of £42, and they want to hold another one in the River Dee this year in aid of war funds.

Mixed bathing is not yet permitted at Bury, but the Bury and Elton Swimming Club is working hard to undermine the prejudices of the powers that be. The Baths Committee's excuse is that the time is not yet ripe, owing to the present construction of the baths, but the sturdy Lancastrian swimmers fail to appreciate the value of this.

The Southern Ladies held their special meeting on the first Monday in April, at which it was decided to hold a series of galas in various districts of the Southern Counties, for the purpose of entertaining wounded and convalescent sailors and soldiers, and providing sport for His Majesty's Forces. The whole of the profits are to be given at the end of the season to the Star and Garter Home at Richmond for Disabled Sailors and Soldiers. The Southern Ladies' Clubs will combine in this scheme with the Southern Counties Ladies' Committee, of which Mrs. L. S. Lyon, Beverley, Tower Road, Dartford, Kent, is hon. secretary. Mrs. Austin, Beckenham, S.E., has been elected to check gala accounts and act as hon. treasurer.

The Southern Ladies will also hold inter-club competitions during the season, and it now behoves the ladies' clubs to be up and doing. We were a bit lethargic last year, and the vast body of lady swimmers had no guiding hand. Now that Mrs. Lyon has taken direct charge of affairs we shall have a good swimming season in which we shall be doing our bit for the entertainment of the wounded, and also assisting in raising additional funds for war charities.

The Midlanders are also not holding their light under a bushel. They have elected Mrs. Robinson, of the Nottingham Ladies' Club, on their committee, have arranged for their championships, and on the proposition of Mr. H. Thomsett, seconded by Mrs. Jarvis, are asking the Amateur Swimming Association to decide its ladies' national championships this season. Mrs. Jarvis pointed out that many of the ladies' clubs throughout the country felt that the ladies' side of swimming was being neglected, and this was tending to alienate both clubs and individual swimmers. Women at the present time were, many of them, out in the world doing men's work, and the more fit physically they were the better that work would be done.

Of the sixty-three members of the swimming club connected with the Kettering Co-operative Society, no fewer than forty-six are ladies. Miss M. Pickford, who won the annual competition for the ladies' shield, Miss M. Ashby, Miss L. Hitchcock and Miss N. Collier, have gained the Bronze Medallion and Proficiency Certificate of the Royal Life Saving Society.

I have much pleasure in congratulating Miss Gertrude Florence Hole on being elected an Honorary Associate of the Royal Life Saving Society. This lady has since 1912 trained successfully 24 candidates for the Bronze Medallion, and two for the Award of Merit, but that is only one item in her good work in the Society's interests. When a student at Bedford College, London, Miss Hole introduced life-saving, and gained her Hon. Instructors' Certificate for teaching the first squad sent up for examination. Since leaving College she has forwarded the teaching of life-saving in the Elementary schools in Hackney, and started the Hackney Life Saving Class, primarily intended for teachers in order that teachers might learn and spread the art. Miss Newton, one of her pupils, who was a mistress at Tottenham High School, was thereby enabled to introduce the subject at Tottenham. The Upper Clapton Swimming Club was also induced to start life-saving through the agency of Miss Hole, and she has also reawakened interest among members of the Clapton Ladies' Club. Last season her own school life-saving team won the life-saving Cup for Hackney, and was second in the London Schools Life Saving Championship. Miss Hole already holds the Award of Merit.

Miss Frances Cowells, of San Francisco, who, as previously reported, was defeated in a fifty yards race at Honolulu by Miss Bernicia Lane in 34.3, was not enjoying the best of health at the time. She was, however, well enough to compete in the Pacific Coast Championships at Sutro Baths in February, but was left on the mark, the race being somewhat of a fiasco. Particulars of the race will be found in the special article on the Pacific Coast Championships.

Membership of the ladies' section of the Burnley Swimming Club has greatly increased during the past season, there being no fewer than 152 members of it as against 99 in the previous year. The Lady Thursday Cup was again won by Miss H. M. Pickering, who has rapidly improved in speed and style.

Surrey Ladies Swimming Club, of which Sir George Cave, the Solicitor-General, is the president, is arranging to hold a gala at Kingston-on-Thames in aid of a fund for providing comforts for the members of the East Surrey Regiment at the front.

At the annual meeting of the Exeter Ladies' Swimming Club held under the presidency of Mrs. A. J. Tucker (Vice-President) supported by Miss Fraser, Mrs. Pincott, Marchant, Grose, Wood, and Quick, members of the Committee, Miss Quick (Captain), holder of the Royal Life Saving Society's Award of Merit, Miss Franklin (Secretary), Mrs. Parrington (Treasurer), Mrs. F. Hooper, a well-known London swimmer, and about fifty members of the Club, the hon. secretary reported that the membership of the club had increased, and much good work for the encouragement of swimming had been done by the Club during the past season. Two of its members had won the Silver and two the Bronze Medallions of the Royal Life Saving Society. Through the agency of a successful gala, the Club had raised a sum of £20 towards the comforts of the soldiers, and it was anticipated that the work among the young would be even more successful in the forthcoming season than in the past.

The Treasurer reported that the balance in hand had increased, and it was recommended that the subscription to the Club should be kept to a minimum figure during the war in order to encourage as many as possible to take up the art of swimming. The President (the Mayoress of Exeter) was re-elected, and the Vice-Presidents, Mrs. N. King, Mrs. Stockham Davies, Mrs. Steele-Perkins, and Mrs. J. A. Tucker, as well as all the officials of the Club, were also re-elected. It was considered that as most of the male swimmers were on active service, it was the duty of the members of the Ladies' Club to put forth increased efforts in the direction of teaching and encouraging the young to learn such a useful and necessary branch of sport as swimming.

Two children under 6 years were, during the year, presented with gold lockets by the Club for swimming the width of the baths.

Subscribers to the SWIMMING MAGAZINE, who have done so much to keep this journal going, are respectfully reminded that the third volume commences on June 1, 1916. 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 Editor without delay.

(See notice facing page 240.)

NOTES ON NEWS.

Interesting Items from Many Quarters.

WE are glad to hear that Lord Knutsford is recovering from the effects of the motor accident he sustained a couple of months ago. His lordship is held in the highest esteem by swimmers for the excellent work he did, as the Hon. Sydney Holland, when acting president of the Royal Life Saving Society.

It is not generally known to the present generation of swimmers that in 1877 the Hon. Sydney Holland, then of Trinity College, Cambridge, finished fifth in the first race for the long distance amateur championship, the course then being from old Putney Bridge to Westminster. Contemporary reports say that Lord Knutsford was the last to start, and was much incommoded by the crowd of skiffs which followed the race. The famous Horace Davenport won, and second to him was G. Fearn, of Putney, J. Whittle, of the North London Club, now a prominent resident in West Australia, being third, and G. Sping, captain of the Cygnus Club, fourth. Among familiar swimming names included in the list of starters are those of Dr. Hunter, T. Barron, of the Otter Swimming Club, G. White, captain of the Portsmouth Club, and Jules Gautier. C. G. Powell, of the North London Club, who finished thirteenth, had twelve years before (September 16, 1865) competed in an endurance test from Teddington Lock for a gold medal offered to the swimmer who could travel the greatest distance in the Thames without receiving assistance from a boat or taking sustenance. Powell gave up at Brentford Ferry, 5 miles 2½ furlongs, but Wood, of Huddersfield, who won the race, swam 8½ miles in 3.16.46, which at the time was considered a wonderful exhibition of endurance.

But by the year 1877 Webb had performed his great task of swimming across the Channel, and Fred Cavill had been within a short distance of performing the same feat, and interest had, therefore, been aroused. J. G. Elliot, an energetic organiser of swimming events of the day, therefore approached Sir John Astley, Bart., M.P. This gentle-

man, who was known far and wide as one of the "good sports" of his day, promptly asked the members of both Houses of Parliament to offer prizes for an amateur swimming championship, from Putney to Westminster, the idea being that the members could see the finish from the terrace of the House, and thus came about the Lords and Commons Race, now known as the Long Distance Amateur Championship of England.

Among other events in which Lord Knutsford took part in his early days was the half-mile swimming race at Cambridge University, which he won in 1876. He was also Captain of Trinity Hall Boat Club in the same year.

The late Sir George Pragnell, hon. secretary of the English Amateur Swimming Association, 1893 to 1902, and president 1903, left £41,067, and in his will bequeathed £10 each to two friends for "tobacco money." He also left a pipe to each of his other male friends, so that they may "think of me sometimes."

Among old manuscript we recently came across a communication from the late J. Trudgen, who introduced into England in 1873 so peculiar a stroke that it was immediately named after him, but the word became corrupted to "trudgeon" by later writers, who probably did not know the origin of the name. Trudgen, who admittedly based his style on one he had seen used in the rivers of South America, was captain of the old Alliance Club for four years in succession, and in a mile race in the Thames beat Horace Davenport and Dave Ainsworth among other leading English swimmers of his time.

Although his name does not appear among the list of recognised champions of England at 100 yards, Trudgen, nevertheless, once held that title. The Association did not recognise races over the distance until 1878, but in 1872 W. Cole, of the North London Club, became 100 yards champion, and on August 28, 1875, J. Trudgen won the 100

yards championship of England at Edgbaston Reservoir in 1876. In 1878, the same year as the official championship was instituted, F. E. Odell, of the Ilex Club, won a 100 yards amateur championship at the Lambeth Baths, on July 15. The official championship took place at the Victoria Baths, Peckham, on October 7, and was won by J. S. Moore, South-East London, in 1883.

Trudgen dropped out of active racing for close upon twenty years, but in 1894 we saw him at the opening of the Woolwich Public Baths, when he won the hundred yards championship of Woolwich. He took keen interest in the water polo match, in which a modification of his stroke had materially increased the ability and skill of the players. The recent finding of correspondence from him has wakened up these memories of a famous swimmer, whose style, introduced at a time when racing strokes were little known, for racing swimming was then in its infancy, has made his name known the world over.

Mr. F. Vance Veith, of Los Angeles, whose portrait appeared last month, accomplished a meritorious rescue on February 29, he plunging into the swimming tank fully dressed and saving Mrs. B. L. Dowells, wife of a prominent member of the Los Angeles Athletic Club, from drowning. Mrs. Dowells, who was just learning to swim, dived into ten feet of water.

Mr. Veith, who is twenty-four years of age, is about the youngest swimming instructor in America. He was born in Norfolk, Virginia, and learned to swim in the Hampton Roads at the age of six years, his first stroke being the "Dog Paddle." On going to Philadelphia in 1910 he joined the Central Y.M.C.A., and swam for them two years. Then he joined the Argo Club of Philadelphia, but went West in 1913, and became associated with the Los Angeles Athletic Club, and was about the fastest middle distance swimmer in the South while an amateur. In one evening he secured the 200yds., 440yds. and 880yds. races for the Ocean Park Championship, and now he devotes himself to teaching and the encouragement of life-saving. Ludy Langer is one of his best known pupils. Among many others was Dorothy Burns, the champion lady swimmer of the South-Western States, who, last year, won every race from 50yds. up to

the long distance ocean race, and Miss Aileen Allen, a champion lady diver.

Lance-Corporal Arthur Williams, killed in action, was a well known member of the Serpentine Swimming Club. He won the *Daily Telegraph* Cup in respect to competitions extending over the years 1909-10-11, and also won the Burdett-Coutts undressing in deep water race. Lance-Corporal Williams competed in a race in the Serpentine last summer when home on leave.

Among those whom the King recently decorated was Mr. Thomas Alexander, second officer of the s.s. "Stanislas," of Liverpool, who received the Board of Trade Silver Medal for gallantry in attempting to save life at sea. On November 1, 1915, a seaman of the s.s. "Stanislas," of Liverpool, was knocked overboard during a heavy gale in the English Channel. A high confused sea was running at the time. The vessel's engines were immediately stopped and two lifebuoys were thrown to the man, one of which reached him. The way on the vessel carried her some distance from the man, but she was ultimately manoeuvred close to him and he was then seen to be lying helplessly in the lifebuoy. Owing to the state of the sea it was impossible to lower a boat, and Mr. Alexander, not waiting to take off his sea boots, dived overboard with a line. He succeeded in reaching the man, and by means of the line the seaman and Mr. Alexander were hauled on board. Although artificial respiration was continued for about an hour the man did not recover.

The objects of the National Teachers Swimming Association which Professor John A. Jackson, of San Francisco, has formed in America are (a) to promote the art of swimming in every sphere by mutual interest, collectively and individually, to all associations, clubs, schools and individuals; (b) to form and uphold principles to further the welfare of swimming by harmonious co-operation with allied bodies; (c) to recognise and recommend meritorious actions in saving and attempting to save life from drowning; (d) to assist or officiate voluntarily at any exhibition of skill or competition in swimming; (e) to assist its members in a capacity toward personal welfare by notifying them of vacancies and new positions to be filled.

With reference to the article on Plunging records, which appeared in the issue for March, a correspondent points out that *Bell's Life* of October 21, 1865, contains a note of W. E. Harvey, President of the Ilex Swimming Club, "plunging the extraordinary distance of 52ft.," and the reporter adds, "from the slates and not the diving board, which renders the plunge more extraordinary." As Ralph Thomas points out in "Swimming," the most valuable reference book we have on the art, "from the slates" means the end of the bath, about two feet above the water, from which all plunges are taken.

Mention of the Ilex reminds us of the doings of that once famous club, of which Horace Davenport, the brothers J. R. and Martin Cobbett, the brothers C. L. and Lyons O'Malley, F. E. Odell and H. C. Schlötel, among other well-known swimmers, were shining members: their homes were the old Lambeth Baths and the Charing Cross Floating Baths, and they also had jolly outings at Henley Regatta. But the club, which at one time commanded the allegiance of every rowing man racing under the rules of the Amateur Rowing Association, gradually dwindled from its high estate and was eventually disbanded, its challenge competitions for rowing men now being carried out in normal times by the Otter Swimming Club, which also absorbed the majority of its members.

One of the tenets of the club was the encouragement of sports other than swimming, and at one time to belong to the Thames Hare and Hounds, the Thames or London Rowing Club, the Belsize Boxing Club, and the Ilex Swimming Club was the ideal young sportsman's ambition. There was no general specialising in one exercise, and good physical development was the result. Some of the old-time Ilex men still indulge in exercise and recreative sport, Horace Davenport being keen on golf and bowls, and Charles O'Malley on golf.

According to Mr. L. De B. Handley, "Vollmer uses in all his races a stroke technically known as the four-beat single trudgen-crawl. His arms perform the usual alternate, equidistant action prescribed for all the modern free-style strokes, dipping before attaining full reach, extending under-water,

a few inches to their side of the centre line of progression, then pulling with straight, vigorous sweep to the thigh, and recovering slowly, with elbow bent and raised. His leg drive is composed of a scissor kick, taken with straight knees and pointed feet at the end of the top-arm pull, and three narrower scissoring motions, such as made with the plain crawl. This gives him four propelling leg acts per stroke, and in sprinting the major scissor has an opening of about 16 or 18ins., while the following ones are reduced to 10 or 12ins. As the length of the course increases the major drive widens a little, but not over-much. Vollmer usually swims a slow stroke, and it has been noticed that if he attempts to raise it his speed invariably suffers. This is probably due to the impossibility of opening for an 18in. kick slow enough to avoid resistance when the continuous thrash is made too rapid. The new champion is ideally built for a swimmer. Standing 6ft. in stockings, and weighing about 170 lb., broad of shoulder and lean of hip, he shows the clean long, supple muscles which spell efficiency."

"They can tell you all about Charlie Chaplin but they have never heard of Captain Webb or Kahanamoku," is the sarcastic comment made by a well known swimmer and exponent of life saving about the loungers round our coasts.

Among those who have recently qualified for the Bronze Medallion and Proficiency Certificate of the Royal Life Saving Society are Miss Aileen Allen, of the Los Angeles Athletic Club; Messrs. H. E. Moore and R. Otto Benninger, of the City of Santa Monica Life Guard Service; and Messrs. Fred Darvill, assistant to the School of Swimming Culture, Lee Christensen and Allen Christensen, all of whom passed at the Ocean Park Bath House, Ocean Park, California, the examinations being conducted by Mr. T. W. Sheffield.

The Commissioners of the City Hall, Santa Monica, have recently put into operation a life saving plan outlined for the City by T. W. Sheffield, and Messrs. H. E. Moore and Otto Benninger have been appointed life guards with Mr. T. W. Sheffield as supervisor, and prior to appointment they had to pass the tests of the Royal Life Saving Society. The guards are to be on duty all day as life savers and police officers.

Cliff Bowes, the champion diver of the Pacific Coast, does some remarkable trick diving, one of his special turns being to hold the end of a rope 30ft. high on the balcony which is fastened to a point over the 12ft. end of a bath and some twenty yards away. He lets the body go forward by its own impetus and at the end of the swing releases himself in mid-air and does three and a half turns before entering the water.

Mrs. Aileen Allen, the champion lady diver of the Pacific Coast, accomplishes some very difficult turns off the roft. board and displays much grace and agility in her movements. She is also a very strong long distance swimmer and has won the Ocean Park rough water medal for two years. Her only defeat has been by Miss Dorothy Burns.

Among the enthusiasts in California is Mr. L. Henry, the chairman of the swimming committee of the Los Angeles Athletic Club, whose interest is centred in the promotion of life saving and to whose advocacy has been largely due the great encouragement which is now being given to swimming and life saving in his part of America.

The Corporation of Richmond are to be heartily congratulated upon their public-spirited effort to continue the instruction of swimming to school children. For some time past it has been customary for the Surrey Education Committee to issue tickets to the scholars of the Barnes and Mortlake Schools, but on the plea of economy they have withdrawn this concession. Application has therefore been made to the Richmond Corporation for a reduction of charges, and that body has, without prejudice to any future charge they may make, agreed to admit the scholars from the Barnes and Mortlake Elementary Schools at a charge of one penny each, the same rate as for the elementary scholars of the Borough of Richmond.

Matters seem to be a bit slack at Weymouth, where offers to start life saving classes have met with cold treatment. Yet we hear of deaths of Australians and others from drowning, and in one instance from lack of the knowledge of the methods of resuscitation on the part of those who attempted to put them in force. One Australian soldier who, in the darkness, walked straight over the

quay side, was able to keep himself afloat for some time, but exertion against a strong tide, combined with the low temperature of the water, rendered him unconscious by the time he was brought out. Had one with the necessary knowledge been at hand his life would have been saved. Sad to reflect upon such a lonely death after braving the perils of Gallipoli.

There is a new water competition at American Swimming Carnivals termed a "potato race." The potatoes are blocks of wood, four to a man, cast loose in the middle of the pool. Each man has to capture and return to the starting point, with one potato. With each trip the potatoes work farther away until on the last round they have to be chased the full length of the pool.

There is a dearth of teachers for swimming classes, but we are glad to learn that in many parts of the country those members of clubs who are too old for active service have volunteered to take charge on certain days in the week and by their presence and kindly tuition encourage the children in the practice of the art.

At many places on the coast there is room for the establishment of life saving corps, and as the season is now approaching the various municipal authorities should take the matter up seriously. The lighting regulations have been responsible for many drowning cases, and in almost every instance the appalling lack of ordinary precautions has been brought into prominence. Yet the authorities will not move even though such humane effort would not cost the municipalities a farthing.

The ladies' section of the Bedford Swimming Club has already taken up the question of a gala for the benefit of Red Cross Funds and the entertainment of wounded soldiers. It proposes if possible to secure the use of the Chiswick Baths for Saturday, July 1, and as this is Canada's Dominion Day it would be very nice if special invitations were extended to wounded Canadians in England. Miss Marshall, 12, Carlyle Road, Manor Park, is the hon. secretary of the branch, and I congratulate the ladies of the Bedford Club in setting so energetically to work in a cause which we all appreciate and which we should support to the utmost. A race for Overseas troops would form a big attraction.

Many of our soldiers who have had cross country training this winter are of opinion that such physical work is good for swimming. The Cross Country Associations have organised contests for our soldiers in very able manner and have set a great example to the governing bodies of our own sport, who have practically been non-existent while good work could have been done. They were dormant all last year but we hope this state of affairs will not continue. Even if many of their clubs are out of action just now they could form working committees of good and energetic men just as easily as did the Cross Country Association, whose energetic hon. secretary, Mr. Charles Otway, of the *Sporting Life*, could give them many useful hints as to military sports organisation. While other physical culture associations are doing good work why should we be lying down.

The New Bedford Swimming and Social Club of New Bedford, Massachusetts, has started a life saving class and is practising the drill of the Royal Life Saving Society. Thus does the knowledge gradually spread throughout the entire world.

The Annual Report of the Blackpool A.S.C., prepared by Mr. B. B. Haggerty, the hard-working Hon. Secretary, is a cheering and interesting document, for it clearly shows that good work may be done even though the war has engaged much attention, in consequence of which the Club has devoted most of its work to the development of the juniors and lady members; as a result there has been an increase of 21 in the membership, and the credit cash balance has also increased from £5 1s. 4d. in the preceding year to £22 9s. 10d. in the present. During the year one first-class and fourteen second-class certificates were granted, whilst Miss Lucy Morton, G. Swarbrick and I. Crystal gained senior mile time test certificates, and C. Shaak a junior for the same distance, in connection with which it is worthy of note that Miss Morton and Mr. Swarbrick were equal on time, they both accomplished the mile in 29 min. 59 sec. In the matter of Life Saving Classes another big success must be recorded. Mr. J. R. Crossley gained the Award of Merit and Hon. Instructor's Certificate, five ladies and seven gentlemen the Proficiency Certificate, five gentlemen the Bronze Medallion, five ladies and three gentlemen the Elementary Certificates of

the Royal Life Saving Society, whilst P. M. Dayman and G. Swarbrick were each awarded the Club's special medal for progress. The Ladies' Section is giving great satisfaction, chiefly because of the desire to improve and the interest taken in the Club. Furthermore, no less than thirty members are serving with H.M. Forces. Apparently, Mr. Haggerty is intent for more honours, for in his report he states that:—

"The Club would be pleased to hear of some one who would present a Cup for a Gentlemen's Competition, to be swam for on similar lines to the King Edward the Seventh Cup, of the Royal Life Saving Society, which is an open water competition, and takes two races to decide."

Thus a fine opportunity is provided for local supporters of the art of swimming. Who will be first to make an offer in the interest of the cause and all-round ability in the water? so highly essential at Blackpool in particular, where thousands experience the joys of the sea for the first time.

At the Annual Meeting of the Holloway United Swimming Club, Mr. Harold E. Fern (Hon. Secretary of the Southern Counties Amateur Swimming Association) was elected President of the Club.

Sergt. Sidney Sugden, Army Pay Corps, has been mentioned in regimental orders for honourable commendation for bravery in diving in full dress, after a soldier who had thrown himself into a canal. The man was unconscious when brought to the bank, but artificial respiration was resorted to, and the man recovered.

Herbert Vollmer, of Columbia University and New York A.C., the new American speed swimmer, is nineteen years of age, stands 6ft. and weighs 12st. 2lbs.

E. J. Heraty, University of Pennsylvania, won the 200yds. Middle Atlantic Championship at Pittsburgh in 2.55.4. This is his third consecutive win.

A timely and reasonable representation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer might bring about the exemption of Red Cross and other War Charity galas from the imposition of the amusement tax. The governing bodies are however not meeting at the moment and the opportunity may slip by. The clubs themselves cannot very well take

the matter up individually, for the message must be from the collective voice of the association to have any weight.

The school children of Wombwell have claimed more than a quarter of the total swimming certificates granted by the West Riding Education Committee last year. It was the children's first year of instruction, and most of them had never been in a swimming bath before. All honour therefore to their instructor, Mr. T. Kay. This year the children who are qualified will be formed into classes for systematic practice in life-saving, and although there will be no evening continuation life saving classes, owing to war-time economy, Mr. Kay hopes to start some of his own.

Wombwell Swimming Club decides its ladies' and gentlemen's club championship on the following lines. Tests are held in breast, back, over-arm, trudgen and crawl stroke over a distance of 100 yards with standard times. There is also a mile test, no time limit, plunging test, 35 feet or over, and plain diving test, ten points being allowed for each test completed up to standard, and additional points for beating standards in order of merit. The member of each section who gains highest aggregate points is declared club champion. Thus all round ability is fostered. This is far better than deciding club championships on one race or single competition.

Herbert Vollmer won the 500 yards Metropolitan Swimming Championship in New York in 6.23.2, but only after a desperate race with Joseph Wheatley, of the New York Athletic Club.

John P. Lichter, of the Chicago Athletic Association, claims the title of American time plunging champion with a plunge of 60ft. in 0.18.3. He is said to have plunged the distance in trials in 0.17. His method is to dive deep with relaxed muscles, stay submerged until he sees the end of the pool, then tense his body and stretch.

Mr. J. Lamont, the principal instructor at the Corporation Baths, Govan, carries out a highly successful system of teaching swimming by means of a land drill, and is very enthusiastic in his work. Much of his time has recently been devoted to the instruction of soldiers, sailors, Belgian refugees and Russians, of

whom as many as thirty at a time have been taken in hand.

Mr. R. L. Busby, a well-known swimmer and water polo player in connection with the Hornsey S.C., has received a commission in the Royal Lancashire Fusiliers. For some years past he has acted as Clerk of the Scales at Windsor Races, and also as secretary of the Manchester Racecourse Company.

Second Lieutenant L. White, Welsh Regiment, killed in action, was a well-known Blackpool swimmer, and some time ago succeeded in swimming across Morecambe Bay.

The Ashton-in-Makerfield S.C., of which Mr. G. S. Beaton is Hon. Secretary, is a prosperous institution, and notwithstanding that the membership has decreased to a large extent, the balance in hand has been increased to £21 3s. 1½d. The Club has thirty-six members serving with the Forces, twenty-four of these prior to war passed for the Awards of the Royal Life Saving Society, which include the Proficiency Certificate, Bronze Medallion, and the Award of Merit. We learn that Mr. Beaton intends to make a special effort with the local schools. He offers to provide free tuition for the youngsters, and to that end invites the co-operation of the masters, who, we trust, on patriotic grounds, will do all they can to help him, for it is a good national service.

Sid Springfield, a younger brother of Frank Springfield, winner of the long distance championship of England in 1908, won the 220 yards championship of Queensland in 2.41.1.

A swimming machine, working automatically according to the person learning to swim, was recently tried at Philadelphia. By means of this machine, the crawl stroke is taught, and swimming experts claim that by the use of this invention, perfect harmony between the legs and arms can be secured, or at least far greater harmony than it is possible to teach without the aid of the machine. The swimmer lies flat on the machine, with legs strapped to it and lying flat on the surface of the water. His arms and legs are connected so that with every overhand stroke his legs are put through the motions of a perfect crawl kick, and there is no chance of his losing the rhythm of the movement no matter whether he swims fast or slow.

An excellent idea has emanated from the fertile brain of Mr. Charles Leander Newman, the superintendent of the Richmond Baths. His suggestion is made to head masters of schools where the depleted supply of teachers prevents attendance at the baths with scholars who are learning. It is that a senior scholar should be sent in charge of each batch, and that a card should be filled up, giving times of arrival and departure, and remarks as to behaviour, such card to be signed by the attendant. This, he argues, will keep the masters and mistresses in touch with the pupils and in knowledge of their conduct.

Mr. F. O. Venning, father of Miss Venning, the celebrated young Queensland swimmer, and himself formerly one of the Neptune Club England divers, manager of the Brisbane City Baths, and Hon. Secretary of the Queensland Branch of the R.L.S.S., has been reinstated as an amateur by the Queensland Amateur Swimming Association. The suspension of F. W. Springfield, who won the long distance championship of England in 1908, which was imposed on him by the Queensland Cyclists Union for some breach of their rules, has been removed. Thus both appear to have been under suspension on technical grounds only.

We have been favoured with the thirty-first annual report of the Colchester S.C., which states that owing to the work done among the juniors the future success of swimming in the district is assured. During last season eleven classes of fifteen boys in each were held, and 1,036 lessons were provided between 7 and 8 a.m.—no other time was available because of the large number of troops using the baths. The club also provided twenty-three swimming scholarships, whilst the festival was abandoned, as well as all life saving examinations, which is to be regretted, as in consequence of the present torpedo warfare this knowledge is most essential to swimmers. The balance in favour of the club has been increased from £12 4s. 3d. to £28 7s. 4d.

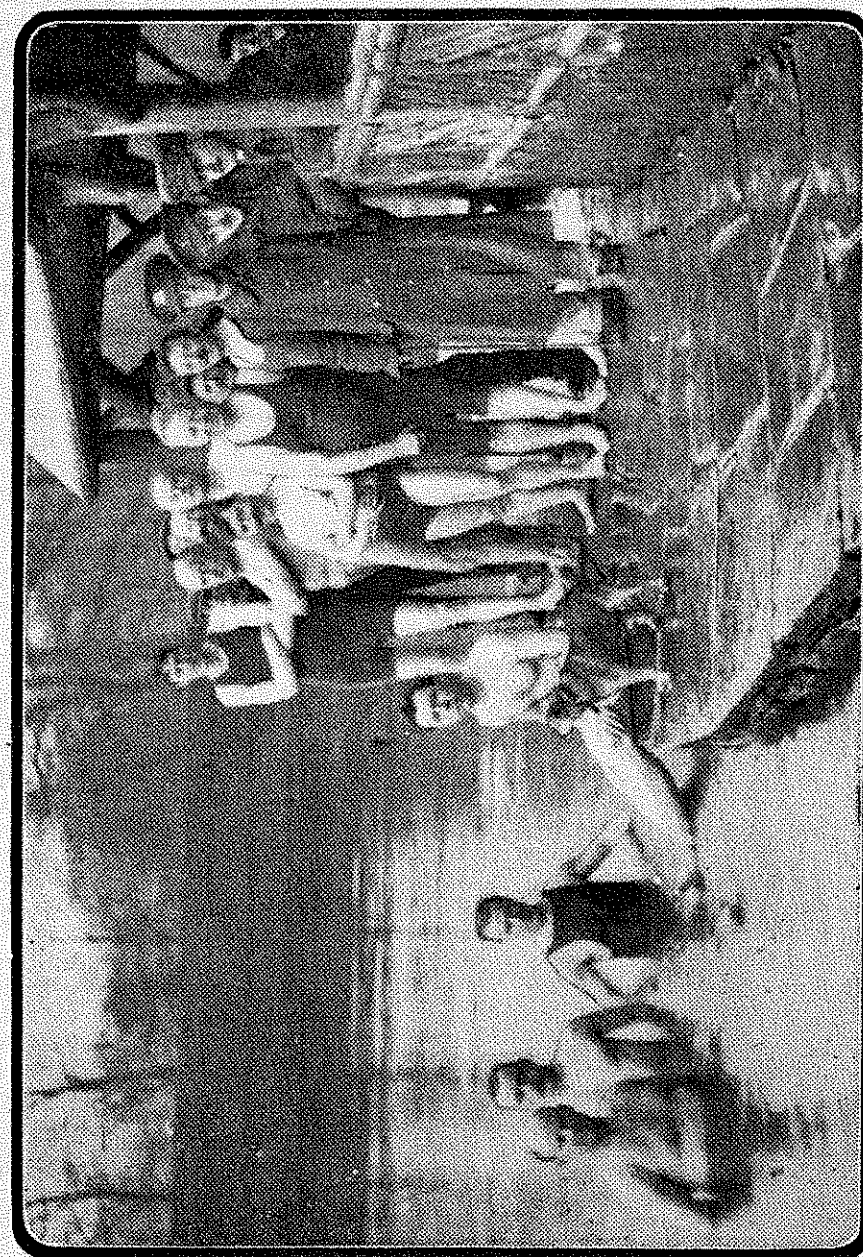
Sergt.-Major B. M. Revitt, died from wounds, was one of the crack shots of Yorkshire, and was captain of the Park Swimming Club. He was always ready and willing to forward the cause of life saving, and his death is much regretted.

Mr. T. W. Sheffield has been doing effective rescue work at Ocean Park, California, and has received many warm letters of thanks. One of his rescues was that of J. Scott, of Los Angeles, who was carried out about a furlong from the beach by treacherous currents. Mr. Sheffield was fully dressed when the call came for help, but he quickly disrobed and brought his man in. Not, however, until after a terrific struggle in which a good knowledge of the third method of release as advocated by the Royal Life Saving Society proved invaluable to him. Scott was so terrorised that his rescue was a most difficult one. It is seldom that a rescuer has the privilege of being thanked by the rescued, therefore we are glad to note Mr. Scott's letter in the American press to that effect.

Mr. Sheffield also assisted in the rescue of Joseph Pagliano, the skill and bravery of the lifeguards being splendid in this case. A visitor left a donation, but as amateur lifeguards may not accept cash for their services, plans are under way to turn the money over to the Ocean's Park Commerce Chamber, collect more by subscription and give a medal annually for the most heroic rescue.

The Springfields have been described as the Cavills of Brisbane. Ever since the phenomenal first win of the late Barney Kieran in the 1904 Australian Championship, the Springfield family have been prominent in the sport throughout Australia. For that half mile, as well as starting Kieran's career, also started Frank Springfield and the Springfield family on their trophy winning hunt throughout Australia. By a coincidence Frank Springfield was the first to win the Kieran Memorial Shield. His brother Sid has won many State championships and been second in several of the Commonwealth events. Their sister Mabel is the lady champion of Queensland.

At the eighty-first annual meeting of the Eton and Windsor Royal Humane Society one of the speakers said that his son, who had been recently wrecked while serving in the White Sea, where the temperature was 12 below zero, attributed his ability to stay in such water until rescued to the useful training he had received at the Society's baths at Eton.



[Photo by W. H. Babington, Sheffield.]

SHEFFIELD WATER RATS.

By courtesy of the "Sheffield Independent Press, Ltd.,"

In the Water—WALPOLE HILLER, G. WILSON, F. G. DIXON. *Seated on Bench*—W. H. FLINT. *Standing—Rear*—A. H. COOPER, C. M. PARKER, W. M. PARKER. *In Front*—ALBERT FLINT.

SHEFFIELD WATER RATS.

All the Year Round Swimming.

ONE of the great sporting towns of England is Sheffield, famed for its cricketers, footballers, athletes and swimmers. Who of us in sport does not know Bramall Lane, has not heard of Sheffield United and Sheffield Wednesday Football Clubs, or of the Sheffield Otters, and the many swimmers of fame who have taken honours in championships? But there is another club existent which we perhaps do not know so well, but yet which has made a great name for itself in Yorkshire, and that is the Sheffield Water Rats. The "Grand Old Man" of this "All the year Round Bathing Club," whose members enjoy themselves in the fine open-air pool in Endcliffe Woods, about a couple of miles from the centre of the town, is Mr. M. Parker, who is now in his sixty-fifth year. He is the popular secretary of the St. Mary's Swimming Club, in which the old Bedford and Cantab. swimmer, the Rev. C. C. Stimson, took a keen interest when he was curate at St. Mary's. Mr. C. Foster has missed very few mornings during the last twenty-two years. Mr. Albert Flint, who is one of the best, joined about four years ago and last year qualified for the Diploma of the Royal Life Saving Society. Mrs. Flint has also qualified for this high distinction, a unique honour for man and wife. Mr. Flint's brother, "W. H.," is also a member of the Iceberg Association, and is training for a future National Diving Championship. In regard to matters appertaining to culture "*à la Muller*," he is particularly keen and tries to convince every one to follow him. He has also already secured the Award of Merit, and should soon gain the Diploma.

Mr. Osmund Wall, brother of Mrs. A. Flint, qualified with the brothers Flint for the Award of Merit. He is not in the photograph which we reproduce here, but is one of the most constant attendants at the Club meetings. Mr. Wilson grows his own tobacco and distributes it pretty freely. Mr. Ted Watson is the guide when tramping over the moors, for the Rats, when not swimming, seek healthy sustenance on the breezy uplands outside Sheffield. Then among the crowd is Mr. Walpole Hiller, who has been connected as one of the officers, and hon. solicitor to the Sheffield Branch of the Royal Life Saving Society almost since its formation, obtained his Medallion ten years ago.

He has been a member of the Rats for seventeen years.

Those of us who have been on Channel swims know how much he enjoyed life, and how heartily he became the life and soul of every party. On September 19, 1906, he swam from Blackwall to Gravesend in 5 hrs. 44 min., and though he has not essayed the Channel swim he has plenty enough pluck to try it.

Absent on the morning the photograph was taken were Messrs. Bernard Lockart and John Maw, the former one of the best breast and back stroke swimmers in Sheffield, and an authority on the art.

In the Sheffield School Boys' Championship this last two years the first three positions have been secured by sons of these all-the-year-round-bathers. E. Man has been twice first, Lippe Hiller second and third, and Albert Flint, jun., third and second. What a fine record considering that the boys attending the Sheffield Schools number 46,000.

Both Leo and Lippe Hiller, sons of Mr. Walpole Hiller, who are equally well known as juvenile boxers and wrestlers, have obtained the Elementary and Proficiency Certificates of the R.L.S.S., and as soon as age allows will enter for the other orders.

For over a twelvemonth we have been urging the holding of Red Cross galas, and are now delighted to learn that several of the district organisations of the English Association are urging upon their affiliated Clubs the desirability of arranging races, polo matches, etc., for the entertainment of wounded sailors and soldiers, and also for the benefit of the many men now in training in this country.

The Transvaal Schools Life Saving championships, decided at Johannesburg on March 14, resulted as follows: Boy's Competition:—Doornfontein A team with 491 points out of a possible 500. This is the same team as won last year. Girl's Competition:—Troyeville, with 481 points, Doornfontein A, 480 points, second. Seven teams in all took part in the competitions. A circular showing how the points were made up and the methods of judging has been sent with remarks to every school by the hon. secretary of the Centre, Mr. G. A. Leyds, who hopes to organise a much larger competition next season.

PACIFIC CHAMPIONSHIPS.**Bad Start Spoils Ladies' Contest.**

SOME excellent swimming was witnessed at the Pacific Coast Championship meeting, held at the Sutro Baths, San Francisco, on March 10, the most exciting event being the 220 yards race, in which Ludy Langer had, as his great opponent, George Cunha, the Hawaiian, who now belongs to the San Francisco Olympic Club. It was perhaps the finest race ever witnessed over the distance. The men swam stroke for stroke all the way. They were together at fifty yards, a hundreds yards and one hundred and fifty yards, and in the last length had such a struggle that the spectators went mad with delight and partisanship. It was claimed that Langer gained an inch with his last stroke, and others were prepared to make affidavit it was a dead heat. The official verdict was a win for Langer by two inches, the time being given as 2.30. The world's record for the distance, as passed by the Fédération Internationale de Natation Amateur, is 2.25.2 by C. M. Daniels, at Pittsburg, on March 26, 1909, but one of 2.21 is claimed by H. J. Hebner, I.A.C., Chicago, for a swim over the distance with ten turns. The International Federation has not met since the commencement of the war, and world's records are, therefore, somewhat difficult to check.

Langer also won the five hundred yards, the time being 6.32, but he had not a very strong field against him, the best being J. Resleure. But so well did he swim in the earlier part of the race that he covered four hundred yards in 5.9.2, which is vastly superior to the previous American record of 5.35.2 by Walter Pomeroy of the Olympic Club.

The girls' 50 yards championship unfortunately proved a fiasco, in which the feature was the fine swimming of Miss Dorothy Burns, of Los Angeles. When the girls were lined up for the start and the gun went off, only Miss Ethel Daly, unattached, and Miss Dorothy Becker, Arrow Club, got fairly away. One report says that most of the competitors beat the gun by a fraction. Anyhow Miss Dorothy Burns and Miss Frances Cowells, San Francisco, the holder, were both left, Miss Cowells the worst of all. The result of the race had been expected to rest between the pair, and there was much disappointment over the bad start. Miss Burns went in hot pursuit of Miss Daly, but could not overhaul her, and was just beaten

in 32.1, which under fair starting circumstances would have been a Pacific Coast record, it being far better than one of 33.2 credited to Miss Cowells at Sutro in 1915. But the time is not to be claimed as a record. Miss Dorothy Becker was third.

An appeal was made for another race, but although the starter was in favour of this course, it was not allowed. Nevertheless the record sheets were not signed. But that was poor consolation to the girls who had trained hard for the contest and were deprived of the opportunity of winning the championship. Miss Cowells protested against the event being deemed a race, and Miss Daly is reported to have said that the previous year she had the worst of the start. So there must have been a general mix up for the past two seasons. Of the other events the winners were G. Cunha in the 100 yards in .51; his club, the Olympic, in the relay race; G. Surdman, Piedmont A.C., in the 200 yards breast-stroke in 2.58.4; G. Cunha in the 50 yards in 24.4; H. W. Buckland, Stanford, in the 150 yards back-stroke, in 2.4.2; and W. Williams, Los Angeles, in the spring-board diving.

The annual competitions for the Barron and other trophies presented to the West Australian Centre of the Royal Life Saving Society were decided at Perth in March, in the presence of His Excellency the Governor, Sir Harry Barron and Lady Barron. The Barron trophy, which is for competition among Girls' Secondary Schools, was won by the Methodist Ladies' College, the Modern School and the Girls' High School dead heating for second place. The Law Shield, presented by the Legal Profession for competition among Secondary Schoolboys, went to the Scotch College, Modern School again being second; the Connolly Cup for boys at Elementary and Primary Schools to the Claremont Central, and the Bunbury Cup for girls at Elementary and Primary Schools also to the Claremont Central. The weather was ideal and the various contests aroused much interest, the viceregal party remaining until the close. The interest which Sir Harry Barron takes in the work of the Society is, of course, of very great assistance to the Executive of the Centre, who were highly pleased at the keenness of the competitions and the ability displayed by both boys and girls. The Secondary Girls' contest was perhaps the best of the struggles, but all of them were interesting.

The Swimming Magazine.

(Third Volume commences 1st June, 1916.)

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Hon. Editor.

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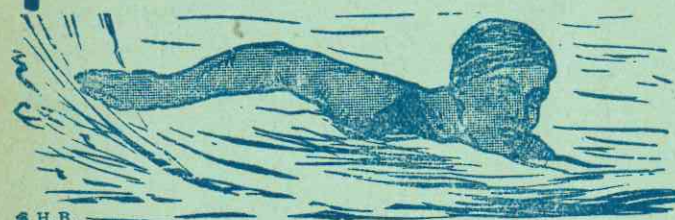
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