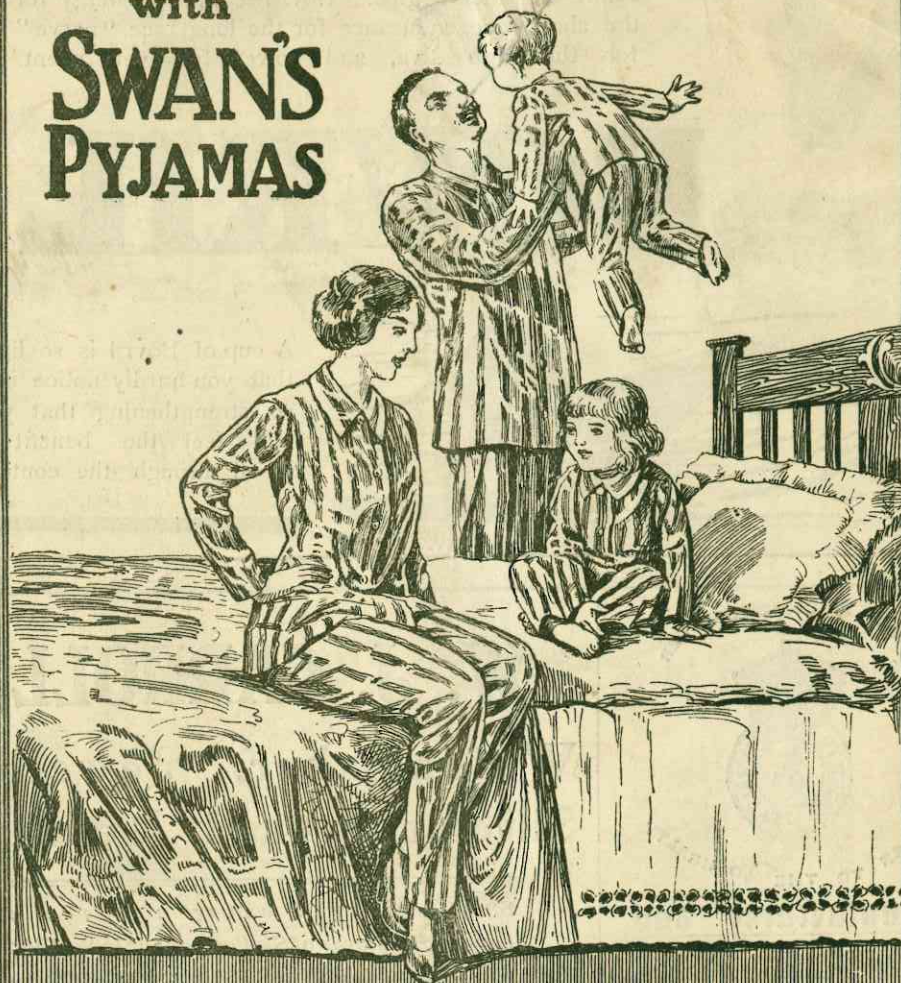


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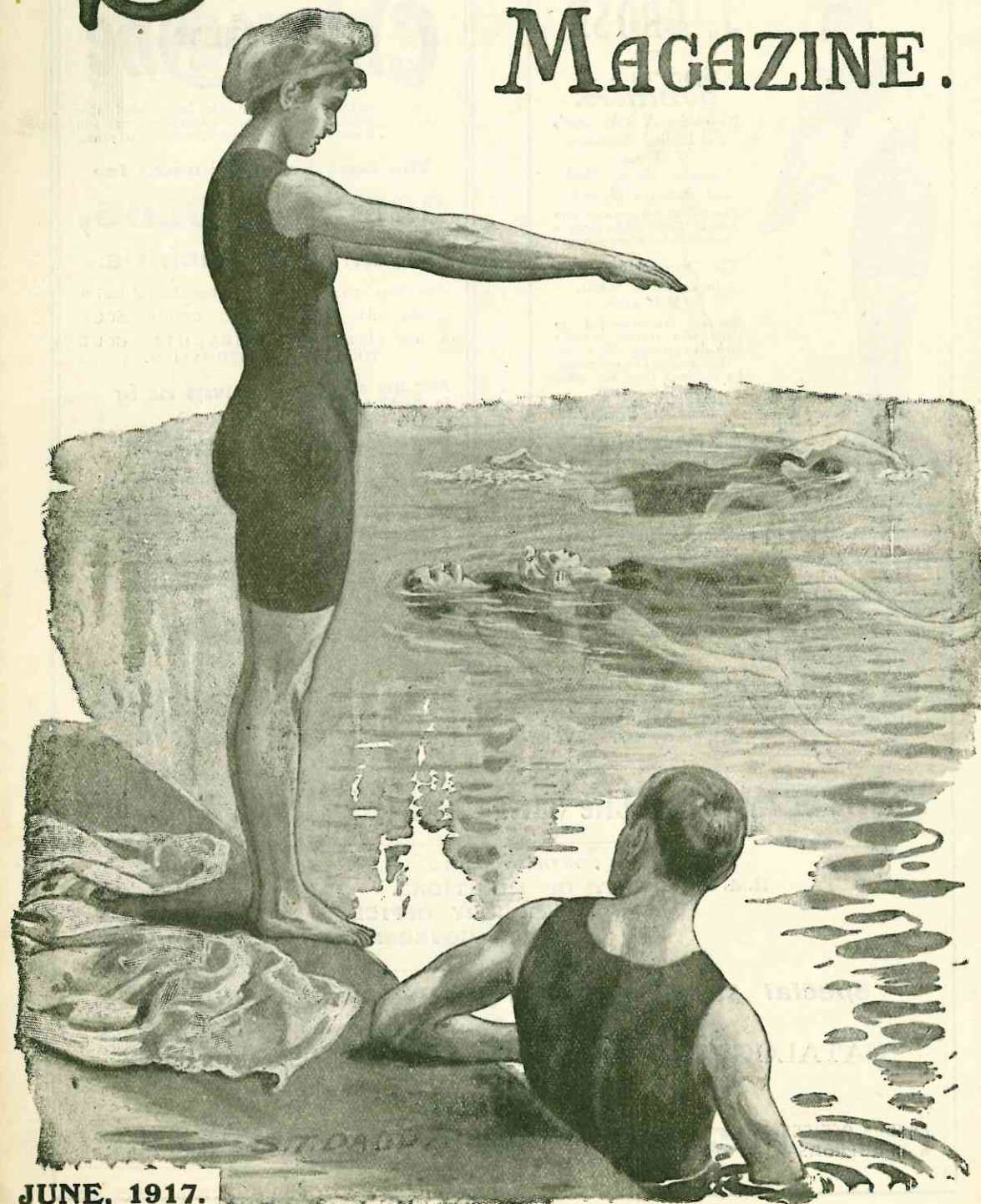
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# THE SWIMMING MAGAZINE.



JUNE, 1917.



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# The Swimming Magazine

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

No. 1. VOL. IV.

JUNE, 1917.

## OUTLOOK FOR THE SEASON. Magnificent Support from Staunch Friends.

By **WILLIAM HENRY, Hon. Editor.**

**T**HE fourth volume of the SWIMMING MAGAZINE commences with this issue. It is slightly different from its predecessors, as we have been obliged, owing to the shortage of paper, to dispense with the tinted outside cover, but this will make no material difference to subscribers, as every effort will be directed to make the contents as interesting, instructive and informative as hitherto. It was just before the outbreak of war that I appealed to you to assist in starting a Magazine of our own which should be a means of inter-communication with all interested in swimming and Life Saving, all the world over, and your response was so earnest that the first number was issued in June, 1914. Since then your continued support has enabled me to establish a circulation of a wonderful character, unique in the history of swimming. Our mail bag often contains letters and contributions from far off lands detailing the doings of our brethren Overseas, and most cheery are the incidents of progress which come from New Zealand, all the States of Australia, India, South Africa, United States of America and other parts of the world, embracing news of great interest to us all, and which by good fortune the SWIMMING MAGAZINE is able to disseminate.

This point is clearly demonstrated by the article on "Diving as an Industry," which has been kindly contributed by Captain A. Passerini, of the Italian Navy, in conjunction with Professor Charles Flegel, a Russian by birth, who studied at the Petrograd University, and now resides at Rhodes and fills the post of Secretary-General of the International Society for Protection of Sponge Fishermen.

In addition to this we have been able to keep in touch with swimmers at all the

various seats of war, and have also been able to receive them on their brief visits to the Old Country. Many of them have kept up their subscriptions and have notified me how pleasant it has been to receive news of the friends they have made in the swimming world and to hear of their welfare.

Your response to my fourth annual application to assist in keeping the magazine going, notwithstanding the great pressure caused through the untoward crisis we are passing through, has greatly exceeded my anticipations and has therefore been particularly gratifying, more especially as I fully realise how heavy is the call upon everyone at the present juncture. Yet all who are interested in the great cause of Life Saving must recognise how extremely useful this medium is and will I am sure be glad to learn that its publication will not have to be suspended. Had it been otherwise we should have laboured under a great disadvantage, for at present there is no other means of spreading the knowledge in an effective manner, the general press having at the present time no space for any matter other than the incidents of war.

So few of our clubs are carrying on that I have largely to rely upon individual correspondents for home news, and to those who have so loyally helped me in my endeavour I tender hearty thanks. At the same time I would ask them to continue their good work, and also to agitate for the encouragement of the teaching of swimming and Life Saving among the youth of the Nation, for which purpose this Magazine was mainly started and continues, I hope, on its useful career, because of the magnificent support it has received from staunch friends of the art of swimming, and the many enthusiasts who have taken up the noble cause of Life Saving.



## THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY.

### Encouraging Reports from Overseas.

**A**T the meeting of the Central Executive held at the head offices, 8, Bayley Street, London, W.C., on Thursday, May 17, it was decided that immediately after the war rules regulating competitions in rescue work in the surf where life lines are used and other general instructions should be drawn up and included in the official handbook. The Executive invites suggestions from the Head Centres and clubs using coast resorts in order that a general code which may be satisfactory to all can be drawn up and considered before being circulated.

The question arose with regard to examinations and the arrangements for classes, especially with respect to the difficulties experienced therewith at the present time, and it was resolved to appeal to all those holding Bronze Medallions, no matter where they may happen to be situated, to offer their services, and when writing to state when and on what days of the week and hours they are free to help the work, as it would be a great pity if, because so many are otherwise engaged, the examinations of candidates could not be satisfactorily carried out.

An entry was received for the Diploma examination from Police Sergt. George Savage, of Wallasey, near Birkenhead, together with his paper on the theoretical part of the test, which was read and approved. The examiners were then appointed for the practical test, consisting of Messrs. A. Radcliffe and R. J. Moore, of Birkenhead, and J. Finlay, of Seacombe, the examination to take place on a date suitable to all concerned.

#### RHODESIAN CHIEF CENTRE.

The Rhodesian Chief Centre has been exceptionally busy during the past few months, and has conducted several examinations, in one of which Mr. C. B. Shepherd, a member of the Executive, passed for the Diploma, Lieut. H. Harnell, who is also a member of the Executive, and Mr. A. Baker, the hon. secretary, acting as examiners.

Lieut. Harnell, who is adjutant of the Cadet Corps for the whole of South Rhodesia, is striving to form swimming classes wherever

bathing is possible and is very keen in his encouragement of School Teachers and Cadet Officers. He also hopes to arrange for a Cadet's test of swimming in clothes and also the adoption of a regulation whereby a Cadet cannot be passed as first class until he has gained the Proficiency Certificate of the Royal Life Saving Society.

The first official display by the Centre was given in the Municipal Swimming Baths, Salisbury, on Saturday, March 24, when his Worship the Mayor, Mr. H. L. Lezard, took occasion to kindly present to Mr. Bater the Certificate and Badge of Hon. Associate, awarded him by the Central Executive for initiating the first classes of Life Saving in Salisbury and aiding in the successful establishment of the Centre. The Mayor said that as chief citizen of Salisbury it gave him much pleasure to make the presentation and further that he himself intended to try for the Society's Awards. He felt that the consciousness of being able to save life and to render valuable assistance in time of emergency must be a very fine feeling to the possessor of it.

The programme was a comprehensive one and comprised exhibitions of land drill, of rescue and release, Life Saving displays in the water, excellent illustrations of various swimming strokes, high diving and scientific swimming. Lieut. Harnell's Cadets' class, and Mr. Shepherd's girls' class gave the drill illustrations, Messrs. J. W. Brown, Diploma holder, E. B. Shepherd, Diploma holder, and Dr. F. E. Appleyard, P. W. Skerrett, B. B. Bowley, E. Edwards, P. J. Kealey, R. B. Wynn, H. Harnell, J. W. Jackson, F. N. Burnhams, J. T. Brown and Leslie Brown the exhibitions of various strokes and scientific swimming, and the Misses Smith, Childs and Wynn, with Messrs. Herolat, Eastwood, Wynn, Elliott, Williams, Ruille, Harnell and Kealey the diving, which was exceptionally well performed, as was also a display by Master Dave Shepherd. The Awards gained during the season were presented by Captain C. Douglas Jones, the President of the Centre, at the conclusion of the display, which has undoubtedly done much to further the cause in Rhodesia.

#### NORTH TARANAKI HEAD CENTRE.

The North Taranaki Head Centre was founded on August 4, 1916, by forty-nine members and two affiliated clubs, and by March 19 last had 103 members and seven affiliated bodies. The officers for the year are:—President, Dan. J. Hughes, Esq.; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. Walter C. Weston, A. H. Johnstone, W. H. Moyes, A. J. Arms, N. K. MacDiarmid and Jas. McLeod; Chairman, Mr. Dan J. Hughes; Vice-Chairman, Mr. S. G. Smith; Delegate to Dominion Executive, Mr. B. S. Knox; Honorary Secretary, Mr. Peter A. Schwartz; Honorary Treasurer, Mr. S. G. Smith; Honorary Medical Officers, Dr. Wade and Dr. Blackley; Honorary Instructors, Misses E. White and E. L. Dowling, Messrs. P. A. Schwartz, N. A. Christiansen, S. McMurray and the Rev. E. Culliford; Honorary Examiners, Misses E. White, E. L. Dowling, J. McIsaac, Messrs. P. A. Schwartz, N. A. Christiansen, J. Stohr, G. Gilbert and the Rev. E. Culliford. Committee, Misses E. White, J. McIsaac, Messrs. P. J. Flannigan, J. Bennett, J. Stohr, C. Bond, N. A. Christiansen, G. Gilbert, A. Milne, N. Winter, L. Hammond and W. J. Walker; Honorary Auditors, Messrs. C. T. Mills and E. P. Webster; Honorary Trustees, Messrs. D. J. Hughes, P. J. Flannigan and J. Bennett.

With the formation of the new Head Centre much fresh ground had to be broken, and under the present war conditions much work which under ordinary circumstances would have been carried out has had to be neglected for want of the willing hands who have left to take up the rifle in the defence of the Empire. However, classes have been formed whenever the opportunity offered, and the examinations have shown the results of the instruction to be quite satisfactory. A pleasing feature of the summer's work was the instruction of classes of public school children, and it is a fact worthy of notice that the Government pay a capitation to Instructors for teaching school children to swim, and that the local Education Board give their official support and encouragement. While mentioning schools, it is a matter for congratulations to those concerned that the boys and girls High Schools are both conducting Life Saving classes, the instruction being given by some of their own Medallionists of last summer, under the supervision of Mr. P. A. Schwartz, who, has many special opportunities of forwarding the Society's good work.

Demonstrations have been given at East End, Fitzroy, Waitara and Lepperton, combined with exhibitions of scientific swimming and fancy diving, whilst at the lake in the Recreation Grounds instruction is given publicly twice a week to school children, and at the Baths many exhibitions have been given. Examinations have recently been held for the Society's Diploma and the Award of Merit, the candidates in each case being successful. The candidates were coached by Mr. P. A. Schwartz, Diploma holder, whose many exhibitions of scientific swimming, fancy diving, etc., has made the higher awards of the Society a special feature of interest amongst the members. The Awards passed to date are:—1 Diploma, 2 Awards of Merit, 2 Hon. Instructors' Certificates, 1 Teacher's Certificate, 11 Bronze Medallions, 13 Proficiency Certificates and 22 Elementary Certificates, making a total of 52.

About eighty pupils were still under instruction in March last, and it was estimated that the awards gained would show an increase over last year of about 40 per cent. to 50 per cent. Special mention must be made of the Rev. Ernest Culliford for his splendid work in Eltham, where he is carrying on the work single-handed.

The successful candidate for the Diploma was Mr. Niels Anton Christiansen, who gained his Bronze Medallion at New Plymouth in March, 1915, and passed for the Award of Merit at Wanganui in December of the same year. He was examined by Mr. Peter A. Schwartz, who gained his Diploma at Christchurch, New Zealand, in 1912, and the Rev. Ernest Culliford and Dr. W. R. Wade, one of the Honorary Medical Officers of the Head Centre.

#### CANTERBURY HEAD CENTRE.

At a meeting of the Canterbury Head Centre, held in March last under the chairmanship of Mr. K. Bassett, it was announced that one of the Society's Hon. Examiners was about to pay a visit to the Timaru Main School to examine over fifty boys. This is an excellent sign of progress.

The principal business for discussion was the Sir John Hall Shield, the conditions for which the Head Centre had tried to get altered. But failing this they decided to add a cup competition for Primary Schools as an auxiliary to the Sir John Hall Shield, and a member has graciously presented the trophy. The desire of the Head Centre is to get entries

for the Sir John Hall Shield limited to those from Secondary Schools and Training Colleges. At present it is open to Primary Schools as well.

We are glad to see that the Head Centre has been able to start a subsidiary competition, as it will be a stepping-stone to higher honours, and we should also be glad to learn that Miss Vine, the Secretary of the East Christchurch Ladies Club, has been successful in her endeavour to get a similar kind of competition started for the girls of the Province.

#### TASMANIAN HEAD CENTRE.

The Tasmanian Head Centre was to have held its carnival on February 24, but as Mount Wellington was capped with snow and water was very cold it had to be postponed. Nevertheless the girls of the Tasma Club went in and gave an exhibition of Life Saving before the assembled spectators. Then Neil Gibson, who is doing good work in the way of teaching, challenged the Scouts to a water polo match, which the Scouts won, whilst Charles Rodway and Edward Watson gave a display of rescue work in clothes, thus making an impromptu entertainment. Such enthusiasm as well as that of Miss Nancy Gibson and Miss Marsh, who challenged the Scouts, is worthy of record.

It is through such efforts that the people of Tasmania are gradually recognising the value of the Society's teaching and are now helping it forward. By next summer the Centre hopes to have a Reel of its own at work, but in the meantime has been assiduous in giving Reel displays.

In her last report Miss Olive Barnard, the energetic lady hon. secretary, informed us that the Tasma Life Saving Club, the Tasma Life Saving Class, the Y.M.C.A., Scouts, the Boys' Life Brigade, the Hobart Ladies' College, the Derwent Ladies' Class and the Education Class were affiliated, that Edward Watson had charge of the Scouts, Mrs. Rita Johnson of the Boys' Life Brigade, and Miss Stella Honey of the Derwent Ladies, that whilst at Launceston Edward Watson had given a display at Launceston Regatta, and that Miss Crisp had passed for the Teacher's and Hon. Instructor's Certificates. Miss Crisp is the fifth State school teacher to gain these Awards. High commendation is given to Neil Gibson for his continued good work.

Two more classes have applied for affiliation, these being the Collegiate School (Misses Barnard, Pocock and Marsh), and the Dowain Class (Mr. E. Watson). Continuous

teaching is being carried on by the instructors just mentioned and Mr. Rodway is giving valuable assistance as Examiner and Lecturer.

The second annual carnival held on March 10, in the Sandy Bay Baths, was a big success, and the weather was all that could be desired from a swimming point of view. One of the special features was a realistic exhibition of Bronze Medallion work in clothes in which Miss Julia Butler gained first place. Charles Rodway won an open Life-saving event, and Neil Gibson, whose energetic work on behalf of the Society we have frequently been gratified to be able to mention, a similar event for youths under fifteen, while Miss Marjorie Brownell won that for girls under fifteen. The season was to have closed in Tasmania on March 31, but before that Mr. Owen, the lessee of Sandy Bay Baths, was to have held a gala at which displays would be given by the Society.

In Mr. C. E. Halstead, Superintendent of the Croydon Baths, we have an enthusiastic supporter of the teaching of Life Saving, and he gives valuable assistance to all using the Croydon Baths. At present he is Hon. Instructor in Life Saving to the girls of the Croydon Secondary School, and as the season develops hopes to have further opportunity of helping those new to Life Saving practice. Unfortunately, however, the activities of the many clubs in the Borough are suspended.

Entries for the Darnell Excellence Trophy, which is awarded once in two years to the School or College which has the best record of work done in promoting the knowledge of swimming and Life Saving, close on June 16 to Mr. William Henry, Chief Secretary, Royal Life Saving Society, 8, Bayley Street, Bedford Square, W.C.1., in order that the merits of the applications may be determined at the meeting of the Central Executive to be held on June 21. The statements must be typewritten, on one side only, giving particulars of interest in, also a record of work done for the promotion of the aims and objects of the Society from May 1, 1915, to May 1, 1917, inclusive, and after perusal of these the Trophy, which is a Silver Gilt Vase, valued at one hundred guineas, presented by the late Mr. W. F. Darnell, will be awarded by the Central Executive to that school or college which appears to them to possess the best record.

#### AUCKLAND HEAD CENTRE.

The work in the Auckland Head Centre is making rapid headway. Miss Ferguson, a great enthusiast, has taken over the duties of Chief Lady Instructor, and Miss E. Newton, the only Lady Examiner in the Province, had been successful in instructing a class of 15, all of whom passed. It is pleasing to learn that the swimming clubs invited exhibitions at all their carnivals and that Mr. P. Rundle, who is a delegate on the New Zealand Amateur Swimming Association, has accepted the appointment of delegate of the Head Centre to the Dominion Executive of the Royal Life Saving Society. Mr. H. M. Wright, the hon. secretary, reports that great progress was expected in the season just completed.

The question has recently arisen as to whether examinations for the Society's Awards can take place in salt water. Of course they can and have done so ever since the foundation of the Society, except in the case of the Diploma, the supreme test of all, which has to be done in fresh water.

In the New Welfare Scheme for Munition workers special attention should be devoted to swimming as a recreation. It is certainly the best pastime that could be promoted for them, and as in most districts there are ample bath facilities the question should be taken up vigorously, especially by all members of the Royal Life Saving Society. Swimmers should be active wherever this Scheme is put into operation.

In recent years the Boys' Life Brigade has instituted a Distinguished Service Diploma, and nearly 60 of these awards have been made. None have been granted except for highly meritorious service, properly vouched for, and the cases have nearly all been those of saving life from water. Among those to whom it has recently been given are Pte. William Driver, 1st Wombwell Company, for resuscitation work after accident in Darfield Main Colliery; Pte. Eric Howson, 9th Leeds Company, 11 years of age, rescue of a boy from Leeds and Liverpool Canal and resuscitation work for which he has also received the certificate of the Royal Humane Society; Pte. Fred Brant, 11th Leicester Company, rescue after an accident in clay pit where water was 10ft. deep; Pte. Harold Whitehouse, 12th Leicester Company, rescue after an accident in River Soar; Pte. Alfred

Hughes, 6th Birmingham Company, stopping a runaway horse; and Pte. Albert Morris, 38th Sheffield Company, twelve years of age, rescue from the river at Wincobank and resuscitation. Such examples of gallant humane work by youths are bright and thrilling.

A few months ago, a woman, bathing in the waters of Rhodes, cried for help. A young Greek, Filippo Miliarokis, fully dressed, hastened to save her, but as he was not an expert swimmer, was clutched by the woman and both disappeared. A Turkish boatman, Hassan Mufuri, swam to the place and, after several plunges, succeeded in carrying the two bodies to the surface—appropriate medical assistance revived the woman but poor Miliarokis had lost his life. On the recommendation of the local authority, the Italian Government granted silver medals of "marine valour," to the memory of the dead Greek and to the successful Hassan. These medals were handed, with personal presents, by General Croce, Governor of the Aegean Islands occupied by Italy, at Rhodes on February 11, in the presence of the consular body, of the 34th Regiment and of the Greek, Turkish and Jewish authorities and the pupils of their schools. The local papers report the most appropriate words of General Croce, intended to show how civilized nations encouraged generous actions, whatever may be the race or religion of them by whom they are accomplished. The father of the dead Miliarokis was present, and the solemnity and moving particulars of the ceremony attracted the attention of the people to the importance of the education in Life Saving, education that for some years has been helped by illustrated posters printed in English and Italian with Greek translations.

A gallant rescue was effected in April last by Cyril Rawstone, who is a pupil at Bethany House School, Goudhurst, Kent, and passed for the Proficiency Certificate of the Royal Life Saving Society last year. A little girl fell into the River Gipping near a mill and the back water quickly carried her away. Rawstone at once plunged in and succeeded in bringing her to the bank, where artificial respiration was resorted to and the girl's life saved. Rawstone, who is only fifteen years of age, has an elder brother who when twelve years of age gained the certificate of the R.H.S. for a similar gallant deed.



Through the kindly offices of Mr. A. A. Allain (Hon. Representative of the R.L.S.S. for Guernsey) we have been favoured with a copy of *The Elizabethan*, a journal of the Elizabeth College, Guernsey, founded in 1563 A.D., from which we learn "that the first seven years of the war will be the worst, after that, every fourteenth," but what interested us most are the conditions for the Swimming Championships and the "Langlois" Life Saving Trophy, both of which will be an incentive for boys to acquire a useful knowledge for which Mr. Allain is responsible. The tests for the Life Saving Trophy include the Release, Rescue and Resuscitation Drills of the R.L.S.S., swimming in clothes; the second method of release combined with rescue by the second or third methods, and swim one length of the Bath to patient and rescue by fourth method. Points are awarded for drills, also for the water tests and the competitor attaining the highest aggregate in the six tests to be the winner. The Championships, one for seniors (competitors of 16 years) and one for juniors (under 16 years), both include tests in diving, swimming and Life Saving, and it is wisely stated that "where the title of champion swimmer is offered at a school, it is always desirable that the scholar who exhibits the best all-round knowledge should be designated." This college is affiliated with the Royal Life Saving Society.

We learn from Wombwell, near Barnsley, which has a population of about 17,500 and a fine swimming bath, that it takes first place over all others in the West Riding District of Yorkshire for the teaching of swimming and Life Saving among the youthful population. According to the published returns of the County Council, which awards a certificate to every child that swims 50 yards on the breast and 25 yards on the back, Wombwell obtained 238 of these last year, also 39 Certificates of the Royal Life Saving Society, making a total of 277; the next highest instruction centre securing 94 County Council Certificates. Wombwell is also the first instruction centre to organise Life Saving Classes under the West Riding County Council. Every child that gains the Council's Certificate one year joins the Life Saving class the following year if it remains at school. Therefore, if the age for leaving school is raised to 14 years, twice as many will receive instruction in Life Saving. For this excellent state of affairs

thanks are due to Mr. Thomas Kay, the Bath manager, and Mrs. Kay, both devoting great energy to the promotion of the art, and thus having made the Bath prominent as the chief School of Swimming and Life Saving in the county, notwithstanding the fact that the Bath in which they carry on this fine work was only opened three years ago. Much older and larger centres should note what can be done for the future population of the Empire by well-directed energy.

Cheltenham Swimming Club has started a large Life Saving class and its members are working hard towards making a record in their town. The club has always been a keen supporter of the Royal Life Saving Society, and an ardent promoter of its aims and objects.

We have received copies of the *Morning Press*, of Santa Barbara, California, and programme of a gala in which we note that the methods of the Royal Life Saving Society are now being attributed to the American Red Cross and advertised as such. In the programme of a gala held on March 31, organised by Mr. T. W. Sheffield, the statement appears to the following effect: "By special request Life Saving methods of American Red Cross. 1st method of release and rescue, 2nd method of release and rescue, 3rd method of release and rescue, by Glen Keiser after one course of lessons. Exhibition by T. W. Sheffield." We may point out that Mr. T. W. Sheffield is a Life Member of the Royal Life Saving Society, and holds its Awards, for which the methods form an important part of the test; also that Glen Keiser holds the Proficiency Certificate and Medallion of the Royal Life Saving Society, and is an individual member. We shall be glad to hear from the Council of the American Red Cross when these release and rescue methods became their own. To us it appears inexplicable that a Life Member and individual member should countenance such alienations of ideas, if there has been any. Probably the whole thing is an error.

The medal of the R.H.S. has been awarded to Stoker Reynolds, R.N., a member of the Stroud Swimming Club, for saving life at sea. Reynolds was one of the competitors in the "Through London" swim a few years ago, holds many club trophies and is one of the best water polo players in the Stroud Swimming Club.

## THE LADIES' SECTION. Those Wonderful American Girls.

### OPEN AIR BATHING FOR LONDON.

WITH the possibility of very few galas being held this season it is highly undesirable that there should be any clashing, and that wherever possible clubs should help others in bringing about a success. One of the galas already arranged is that of the Park, fixed to take place on Thursday, July 12. Now this club is worthy of the highest support, for it has already contributed locally, since 1915, the sum of £300 for charitable objects. Nearly all the men are, of course, on active service, but the ladies have been working hard, especially at Life Saving, each member being expected to work up for the Examinations, and as they have such an enthusiast as Mrs. E. Jarvis Dickinson as their guide, small wonder that success attends their efforts.

There is a trophy open for competition among local clubs in Life Saving, and this was last year wrested from the Park by the Clapton Ladies. But strenuous efforts will be made to reclaim it, though Clapton have been practising hard all the winter, and do not mean to relinquish its possession if at all possible. The gala, which we hope will have the support of all the lady swimmers of London, will be held in aid of the Prince of Wales's Hospital at Tottenham, a very deserving institution that is constantly doing good work in a very widely spread neighbourhood.

On Monday, April 16, Miss Olga Dorfner won the American A.A.U. 100 yards championship at Philadelphia, in 1.7.3, thus beating her own previous American record by one and a fifth seconds. Two days previously in a sixty feet pool at Philadelphia she won a 500 yards race in 7.32.1, beating Miss Claire Galligan's American record by 0.33.1. At the same meeting Miss Mabel Arklie, of Philadelphia, won the 200 yards women's national championship in 3.36. These American girls are wonderful.

There should be joy among ladies in London over the reopening of Chiswick Baths, so happily situated as they are for easy visit from all parts of the Metropolitan area and so excellent the facilities for all kinds of open

air bathing. It is open to ladies from 12.30 to 1.30 p.m. each day, for mixed bathing from 1.30 to 4.30 p.m. daily and from 4.30 to closing time on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, whilst on Sundays 9.30 to 10.30 a.m. is also given up to mixed bathing. Furthermore family bathing is permitted from 10 a.m., till noon on Saturdays, and after July 26 will be allowed during the same hours every day, except Sundays, until the end of the season. This splendid encouragement of swimming by the Chiswick Urban District Council has in past years led to bathers travelling there from all parts of London, and now that the facilities at our covered baths are so limited, and travelling expenses to seaside resorts so high, Chiswick is likely to become the London swimmers' outdoor resort for the duration of the war. The special regulation with regard to family bathing is, that during the hours allotted to this women are allowed to bathe, but no male person fifteen years of age or over is admitted unless accompanied by a woman or child. There is no such regulation with regard to mixed bathing, which is carried on in the same manner as is customary at most seaside resorts where it is permitted.

We learn from Toronto that Miss Mary Beaton, one of the most accomplished and successful teachers of swimming and Life Saving in America, is resigning her position with the Young Women's Christian Association this month. Miss Beaton has trained a large number of girls for the Proficiency Certificate, Bronze Medallion and Award of Merit of the Royal Life Saving Society, and has also coached several successful candidates for the Diploma. Her work in Canada has been of essential service to the Society, and though she is now relinquishing her present position, her interest in its work will still be maintained. A little while back she engineered an entertainment to wounded soldiers at which all the tables were decked in gold, white and blue, the colours of the Society, and the girls and boys who were in the swimming parade were dressed to match. It is said to have been a pretty sight, and that the wonderful exhibition by the youngsters delighted the soldiers.

Miss Lily de Beaurepaire, the hon. secretary of the Victorian Ladies' Amateur Swimming Association, in making an appeal for the compulsory teaching of swimming and Life Saving in all schools in Victoria (Australia), says that "swimming is an exercise peculiarly adapted to girls by reason of its gentle action and absence of strain, that is, providing the pupil has been properly taught at the beginning. There is nothing to reach the masses which so materially preserves youth and beauty, or so effectively develops grace and ease of movement as swimming, and if it were made a compulsory subject in all schools it would inculcate in our girls a natural fondness for physical recreation that cannot but have beneficial effects in after life."

Leicester Ladies started their season under quite happy auspices for they have a membership of no fewer than two hundred and a balance in hand of £30, and this after all the good war work they have done. To such a club as this the Midland Association should allot one of its championships free and otherwise help it in the organisation of a great war charity gala, for it is the ladies' clubs that have kept swimming to the front during these parlous times.

At the eleventh annual meeting of the Burton Ladies' Club it was reported that 97 members had enrolled last year, and that many new members had been taught to swim by Mrs. Fogg, their accomplished instructress. The gala was not held owing to lighting restrictions. Miss Nicholls was re-elected hon. secretary and Mrs. H. P. Manners again consented to accept the position of lady president. The club is in a good financial position, and hopes to make rapid progress this year.

An excellent report has been issued by the Exeter Ladies' Swimming Club, of which Miss J. C. Franklin is the honorary secretary. The membership is now close upon a hundred and much enthusiasm is displayed. A Life Saving class was held early last season by Miss Quick, the captain, and seven members gained the Bronze Medallion, whilst three took the Certificate, these latter being too young to compete for the Medallion. But it is proposed to start another class this year and it is hoped to make this branch of the club work one of the most successful of its kind, and a very strong feature. Mr. A. J.

Tucker, the acting secretary of the Western Counties Swimming Association, is a strong supporter of this club, of which his wife is vice-President and Mrs. J. G. Owen, the Mayoress, the President. Miss Quick has again been elected captain of the club and Miss Franklin has again undertaken the duties of Hon. Secretary. Under her experienced guidance we are certain the club will do well this year.

By a slip we referred last month to the competition for the Ede Cup, won by Miss Winnie Smith, of the Park Ladies, as being conducted by the Ladies' Diving Association, whereas of course it is carried out under the auspices of the Amateur Diving Association. Miss Winnie Smith has been practising assiduously all through the winter.

When the International Federation next meets the necessity for recognising back and breast stroke records for ladies as well as other distances in the free style than the 100 yards, 100 metres, 300 yards and 300 metres, the only ladies' records at present admitted, should be strongly impressed upon the conference by those selected as the representatives of Great Britain.

The question of providing bathing facilities for women has been occupying the attention of the Town Council of Arundel, and the Mayor is supporting the demand made for such provision. It is to be hoped that an enlightened policy will be followed in West Sussex, and that the matter will receive the urgent and immediate attention of the Councillors.

Details of some remarkable swimming by Miss Frances Cowells at San Francisco have been forwarded us by Mr. William Unmack. On March 31 she swam 75 yards in 0.54.1, an American record, and the following day traversed a quarter mile in 6.44.4—another American record, the previous best being her own of 6.59. In this same race she was timed to do 2.55 for 200 yards and 4.34 for 300 yards, the recognised American records for which are 2.59 and 4.43.4 respectively. Three weeks previously, as reported in our May issue, Miss Cowells reduced the 50 yards ladies' record to 0.30.1, which is only a little behind Miss Durack's 0.29. In a trifle more than a year this American lady has lowered the Pacific Coast record from 33.4 to the figures just quoted.

## DIVING AS AN INDUSTRY. Remarkable Under Water Performances.

THE article on the above subject, which appeared in our issue of February last, has attracted much attention in the near East, and from Captain Passerini, of the Italian Navy, and representative of the Italian Life Saving Society, as well as Prof. C. Flégel, a distinguished Russian savant now resident in Rhodes, who is Secretary-General of the International Society for the Protection of Sponge Fishermen, we have received much valuable information of a character not previously known to Britishers.

It would appear that, owing to the war, the industry is at present forbidden in most of the islands of the Aegean Sea, but that the ability of the natural divers is great and held in much honour, especially in the islands of Simi and Colimno, where, until a few years ago, no father would grant the hand of his daughter to a young man who could not plunge to 20 fathoms, to obtain a sponge. Not a few of them can plunge to 40 fathoms (for this ability they are called "scarandarides") and remain more than 3 minutes (180 seconds) under water, as was proved on the occasion of tying a rope to a lost anchor at a depth of 19 fathoms.

From childhood the islanders spend their summer days more in the water than on dry land. Under usual conditions sponge-fishing begins in the morning at 15 fathoms, and later on, as the boat advances, to 20 or 21 fathoms, the divers making 3 or 4 immersions in an hour, and in long summer days there are many working hours! Only a cup of light tea is taken in the morning, and a little biscuit during the day, without drinking at all. Only when the day's work is done do they take a light meal (rice with meat or fish or beans and a glass of wine).

The natural divers do not suffer any serious ailment from their work. Lazaris Lifilacos, aged 40, who used to plunge to 45 fathoms, gathering in some cases 50 sponges at a time (taking only one hasty inspiration before plunging), is only very slightly deaf, but yet a healthy fisherman, ready to return to his preferred work. The stone they carry with stretched hands plunging and under one armpit when gathering the sponges, naturally spares the effort that a swimmer must endure to keep himself under water. Often they

lose their senses (when remaining longer than three or four minutes) on the bottom, but their wrist remains fastened by a running knot (gassa) to the rope which is bound to the stone and their companions hastily draw them up.

These divers live happily and prosperous till old age, and their healthy appearance makes an impressive contrast with the paralytic survivors from the abuse of the "Scaphander." By this name is intended the air pump, air pipes, bronze helmet and indiarubber dress, forming the "diving apparatus," used by the ordinary mason for salvage work under water. The adoption of such an engine for sponge fishing (the first one was at Simi in 1863) proved very pernicious to the industry, as the longer standing under water and the anxiety to gather all the sponges they met, even if not of the proper size, caused the exhaustion of rich sponge-banks; but the greatest damage was suffered by the health of men using the diving apparatus. The diver, under the pressure of the pump, absorbs a great quantity of gases that are expelled in a form of effervescence if the pressure is abruptly diminished, as in opening a bottle of soda-water. So when a man has remained in the diving-dress in deep water for a long time and returns quickly to the surface, the air bubbles sometimes cause him immediate death, or serious diseases if they expand or break blood vessels. In an official report by the Mayor of Calimno to the Turkish Government in 1894, advocating the abolition of the use of the Scaphander, it was stated that 10 per cent. of the men who used it died in every fishing season, and that 15 per cent. were rendered unable for ever to do any work, while the most part of the remainder were nervous and sickly all their life long. In fact a lot of them are seen dragging their legs as if they were useless, so that many doctors have made special studies on the matter, but the only practical way to avoid the most serious accidents is to follow the rules dictated by the British Admiralty, on the limit of the time of staying under water.

But short working time and greater precautions are against the interest of the cap-



tains and owners, who are obliged to pay high wages to induce the men to expose their lives in the Scaphander, and the consequent cruel sufferings of such fishermen excited so much pity that the Italian and Greek Governments were forced to send men-of-war to their respective waters where sponge fishing was practised, in order to protect the fishermen. As it is naturally impossible to control the action of every captain of the numerous fishing boats, and many accidents occur from mere carelessness, the most practical measure in order to cause more attention to the hygienic rules has proved to be the deposit of a considerable sum in a government bank, by the captains, to be given to the unfortunate divers if rendered unfit or to their families if they die. This measure was taken in 1908 by the Government of Crete and has been adopted recently by Italy in Cirencia and Tripolitania, but France and Greece have not yet taken such steps. In Egypt and Cyprus the Scaphanders are quite free at three miles from the coast and they seldom fish closer, but it is expected that England will take a leading part in international agreements which ought to be taken in order to discipline the use of the Scaphander in all the Mediterranean, as is required by the interest of the industry and the laws of humanity. Leaving vast zones of sea to the exclusive use of natural divers would also be a measure adopted to encourage an art which has proved to be physically and morally healthy to the men, and will also be again prosperous when the employment of the artificial system is limited in order to prevent the horrors of its abuse.

Prof. Charles Flegel, a Russian doctor of ancient languages, visiting Colimno in 1892, was impressed by the pitiful conditions of the survivors from the Scaphander, and the conditions of their families and has dedicated since then the great part of his mind and heart to help the natural divers in their efforts in order to avoid total ruin and prevent their companions being attracted by the owners of the dangerous apparatus. It would fill a big volume to report all the voyages, audiences with high personages, newspaper articles, votes in international meetings and other steps taken by Prof. Flegel in order to obtain his aim from the different nations interested in the matter. Suffice it to state that he succeeded in causing the Principate of Sarnos to publish the first law abolishing the use of the Scaphander (1898), then a similar one from the Government of Crete

(1899), modified in 1908, as we have seen, by the deposit in benefit of the victims of the limited number of Scaphanders that may get the permission to operate. He also greatly contributed to a similar measure taken by the Italian Government and to the abolition of the diving apparatus determined [?] (but not applied) by the Turkish Sultan in 1903, and protection of the natural divers in the Egyptian waters when Lord Cromer was there.

Prof. Flegel, though 67 years of age, and occupied as interpreter at the Russian Consulate in Rhodes Island, does not relax in his energetic endeavours to promote all things best for those who must work under water for an industry of general interest and has also encouraged the teachings of the Royal Life Saving Society. We heartily sympathise with his noble and generous efforts.

No man could do more than Prof. Flegel has done to protect, and encourage the art of natural diving and to point out the benefit that the exercise of such a profession has on the health and morality of these simple people.

May Day is generally considered "Natation Day," in Great Britain, but the fickleness of our climate, especially this year, might well cause alteration to June 1. Anyhow there were many ardent spirits out in the open on May 1, notably at Chiswick, Sunbury and Walton so far as the region around London is concerned, but they were much greater in evidence farther afield. Exeter, for instance, had an ideal spring morning for their opening dip and many old swimmers were early on the scene, notable among those who plunged in being Messrs. T. Punchard and F. Dennett, the former celebrating his jubilee of river bathing.

Melton Swimming Club, by virtue of a grant of £20 from the Town Estate, was enabled to instruct 62 boys and 40 girls last year. The total membership of the club is 350. It has been established thirteen years, and in that time has done much to popularise the art of swimming, systematic instruction being given to the young. The receipts for the year totalled £56 os. 4d., and the expenditure £42 17s. 9d., but this included £20 principal owing on the purchase of the bathing station site.

## THE CLOSING OF BATHS.

### CHANCES OF MORAL HYDROPHOBIA.

#### SOME PLAIN TRUTHS FOR BATH COMMITTEES.

IT would be idle to deny that the troubles of Bath Committees at the present time are anything but of the most serious character. The need for strict economy is impressed upon them by the great shortage of labour and the consequent dearth in the supply, as well as increased cost of coals, and in many instances these considerations have led them to the ill advised closing down of the establishments under their charge. It is idle to maintain that the shortage of labour so far as attendants at swimming baths may be concerned could not be grappled with were the matter taken up in business-like and methodical manner by the National Service Committee, while the lack of coals could be overcome, like everything else, with a little display of energy.

Time was when baths were not a national institution but they are now, and at the moment are more necessary for national benefit than ever before or since the passing of the Baths and Washhouses Act in 1846. The institution of the swimming bath as national has been of vital benefit to the nation, and it is our duty to conserve this benefit more particularly at the present time when disease may easily be spread by uncleanly habits or by lack of proper facilities for cleansing. In this respect some councillors who have voted for the closing down of baths, have advanced as argument that baths are now to be found in nearly every private house, but these sapient legislators forget that the supply of coal to small houses has been infinitesimal and that it is therefore the duty for the municipal authority, even from a health point of view alone, to supply what is lacking and to keep the baths entrusted to their care up to their normal working capacity.

Moral and physical cleanliness go hand in hand, and without one you do not get the other. The curtailment of facilities renders disinclination to regular swimming and bathing and this contagion spreads in a remarkable manner, leading in the long run to a form of moral hydrophobia. More particularly so is this in the case of the young,

that portion of the nation to whose physical efficiency in after life the practice of regular bathing is so essentially vital.

Now, the closing of baths will also materially tend to the spread of disease, an evil to be fought sternly at the present time, for though the medical profession has performed marvellously well during the present great crisis one cannot but be alive to the fact that with units from all parts of the world now resident in this country the risk of infectious diseases is great and as time goes on likely to be greater still. The question arises therefore whether it is not best to spend more at the present juncture to maintain national health, and thus avoid risk of enormous expenditure in money and lives later on, or simply await developments. It is the slothful and unwise man who will do the latter. Precautions against epidemics can no better be taken than by ablation in the bathhouse, for we do not want to drop back to the state we are described to have been in 1848 when a writer in Chambers's *Edinburgh Journal* said, "We know no country of Europe where there is so little disposition on the part of the people, as in ours, to give themselves even that exhilarating kind of ablution which is derived from bathing. . . . In our refined country, dirt causes no uneasiness. It is allowed to harden upon the skin, choke up the pores, and contaminate the whole being, moral and physical. It blunts the senses to such a degree, that the husband does not detect it in the wife, nor the mother in the child. All are alike. All have forfeited the dignity of human nature, and sunk into a lower scale of animal existence."

Thank God, that reproach has been removed by the enlightened statesmen who passed the Baths and Washhouses Act, and who by their initiative work gave power to their descendants to do good work for the nation. But it is this power which we now fear is going to be neglected at a most critical period in the national history, when everything possible should be done for the well-being of the young, when everyone of them should be taught swimming and how to

save their own lives, for it is their lives we want for the future welfare of Britain. If the practice of bathing be not inculcated in them when young they will grow up unhealthy and uncleanly beings of no service to the nation, and of no physical good to themselves or others.

Therefore instead of curtailing the facilities afforded by public establishments determined effort should be made by Bath Committees to widen out their operations for the future well-being of their fellow-townsmen, the prevention of epidemic disease, and the physical training of the future generation under conditions which will tend to health progress. Instead of this many seem afraid to tackle the subject except from the so-called economy side, that side which so far as Baths and Washhouses are concerned is the farcical side, only supported by men of narrow minded and unenlightened brain power, for suppression would work untold harm and undoubtedly tend to lead to enormous after expense in medical treatment and stores. One is really appalled at the careless way in which this great and vital subject is entered upon by some Bath Committees, who only claim notoriety by lack of intelligence. Many, however, there are, fortunately, who have a wide, far-seeing scope of a great question, and it is to them that appeal should be made to exercise to the full the great powers entrusted to them, and to battle for the nation's health and well being with all the persistence they can command. At the present time they can never be weary in well-doing.

The closing of baths has also of course prevented the efficient carrying on of the teaching of swimming in many localities, and consequent detriment to progress among children of both sexes. It is incumbent that this should be remedied, otherwise the great work of instruction which has been in progress for the last quarter of a century will be undone. The value of the teaching of the past has been often exemplified during the war, many valuable lives having thereby been saved, and as every healthy physical life is now of use to the nation it should be all the more clear to Baths Committees that by retarding teaching they are possibly robbing the nation of valuable assets and that their action in closing baths is parsimonious, not economical. The excuse, so often advanced, that coals cannot be obtained, we dismiss as futile.

Another reason for the continued opening

of the baths is the welfare of the troops in this country. In many districts the fact that baths have been open for their use has led to a general progress in the knowledge of swimming, and also continued improvement in the physical condition of the soldiers. That has been well and abundantly recognised by their officers, many of whom have expressed keen appreciation of the forethought of local authorities. It would be disastrous to discontinue this good work, rather should it be increased in volume and in character. In fact Bath Committees should rise to the occasion and open out their labours instead of curtailing them just because some difficulties, not common in peace time, happen to exist. Were they to consider the facts we put before them in a calm and thoughtful manner they would realise how great is their responsibility for the continued health of the nation and would assuredly not follow the line of least resistance which many of them seem now about to do. They have problems of the most important character to deal with, problems to be tackled in a broad, high-minded spirit, not in a parochial party manner, but with the view of the future well-being of persons in every district of the kingdom.

There are many young swimmers who complain of ear trouble after long swims in cold water or through diving. Now, older swimmers ward this off by earplugs designed in such a manner as not to injure the delicate canal of the ear, but yet preventing the tympanum or ear drum from being injured by a rush of cold water or sudden shock, while at the same time allowing the organs of hearing to act in an almost normal manner. Cotton wool has been used but it clots too much, is difficult to remove, and is likely to get fixed in the ear. But the Ear Plugs which we advertise do not possess these defects and are so constructed that they can be fitted to any ear and also be easily removed after bathing. They absolutely prevent the cold water from getting into the ears and thus keep the blood heat of the delicate ear parts from being lowered. This in itself is a valuable counteract to possible deafness, and the auditory nerve is able to carry out its normal function. Another point is that the ear plugs keep out bad water from the ears, which in the case of slight abscess or even a cut would probably be badly affected.

## NOTES ON NEWS.

### Interesting Items from Home and Abroad.

**A** WELL KNOWN College requires a swimming instructor for permanent position. Preference will be given to a discharged sailor or soldier, but all applicants are required to be holders of at least the Proficiency Certificate and Bronze Medallion of the Royal Life Saving Society. The wages for this position have been £45 a year with board and residence. Applicants should send full particulars to the Editor of the SWIMMING MAGAZINE.

The controversy as to the origin of the Crawl stroke still goes on, and little by little fresh light is thrown upon its evolution, old-time experts having been able to furbish up their memory, and adduce new facts. Some of these have been brought out by Mr. Harry A. Way in the *Pittsburgh Sun*, a paper which devotes much attention to matters natatorial. In a recent issue is given the following quotation from an article by Mr. Charles Holroyd, an American coach of high repute, who says, "We have learned from those who have visited South Pacific countries and islands the method of swimming used by the natives. We have seen similar methods used by the aborigines from the Congo district, Central Africa. We, in company with Alexander Meffert, who was then swimming instructor at the Missouri Athletic Club, induced two of the group of Pygmies from the African section of the St. Louis Exhibition in 1904 to give a demonstration of swimming in the lake where the swimming championships of the Olympic Games were held. The result was an exhibition of a crude crawl stroke, and we were told by the interpreter, who was also an African, that he had never seen any other method used. The Philipinos, who were grouped in part of the Exhibition grounds, could be seen any day using the same stroke. This manner of swimming, throwing the arms forward alternately and splashing with the feet, we were assured had been in vogue from time immemorial. We found the natives carried the body too vertical when swimming." This probably, therefore, would be the stroke Trudgen saw in the seventies, and attempted to copy, for he always swam very high in the water.

The first demonstration of the "Crawl" in first class competition in the United States was given at St. Louis, 1904, during the Olympic Games, when Zoltan de Halmay, of Budapest, afterwards winner of the English 100 yards championship, surpassed all our swimmers who used other strokes. Charles Daniels, of the New York Athletic Club, the American Champion, was among those defeated, but soon after Daniels adopted the stroke and became international champion and record holder.

Not long before the war the Austrian and Belgian Swimming Associations asked for the institution of European championships, the Belgian authorities wanting them to be carried out by the International Federation. The programme was to have included all the competitions common to the Olympic Games. The English Association appears to have been against this proposal, but now it may possibly seize upon the idea we have previously enunciated of holding a Pan-Britannic meeting after the war. The opportunity is great, for the men are here and willing.

Sandy Goodman, the latest Pacific Coast "fish phenom.," is said to be a whale in size. Though only 17 years old he weighs 198 lbs. stripped, and stands 6 ft. 2½ in. high. The great Duke Kahanamoku alone has "propellers" to equal Goodman's, whose hands measure 40 square inches, and his feet 48 inches. The average swimmer's fins measure about 28 and 30 in. respectively. Goodman has swum 100 yards in 0.59 level.

Miss Nellie Hanson, the champion lady swimmer of Doncaster, was recently married to Drummer Herbert George Smoothy, of the Cambridgeshire Regiment. We wish them every happiness.

Every effort is to be made to keep Ilford Baths open this season. The expenditure is about £410, but whether the baths be open or not there is a compulsory cost of £120 for capital charges and by closing the bath the Ilford authorities would prevent thousands of children from learning to swim.



Among visitors to the Amateur Club recently was Mr. H. Kingsley Finn, who has been invalided out of the army, the injury to his right arm being the cause. Before the war he and L. C. Edney, who we regret to learn is lying wounded in hospital, were constant in their attendance at club meetings, but as soon as war broke out they loyally accepted the country's call.

The Amateur Swimming Club will continue its racing fixtures at the Fitzroy Baths, Tottenham Court Road, every Friday until the end of September, and all old members are asked to give support so as to keep the club colours flying bravely until the return of their colleagues from active service. At these weekly club meetings the president, Mr. Robert Sandon, will be pleased to welcome any members of His Majesty's Forces who may be in town, and care to renew their acquaintance with the amenities of the bath. The Amateur is one of the oldest of the English clubs, and its record is one which stands high in the history of swimming and Life Saving. Like all others its membership has been seriously depleted through the war, but the older men have carried on despite of great difficulties, and are still keeping their shoulders to the wheel, both during winter and summer seasons.

Miss Fanny Durack did not start in the 50 yards championship of New South Wales, which Miss Wylie won in 30.4. Evidence was not wanting during the race that the figures would have been improved had Miss Durack taken part in the engagement.

We are extremely sorry to learn of the death, in action, in France, of Alfred Fazakerley, holder of the Proficiency Certificate of the Royal Life Saving Society, and one of the most promising Birkenhead swimmers. He had previously been awarded the Military Medal and his cheery also engaging charm of manner had endeared him to all his comrades in the service and in swimming circles.

The baths committee of the Borough Council responsible for the upkeep of Plumstead Baths are being strongly criticised as to their action in keeping the baths open as a dance hall or boxing booth, instead of for their legitimate purpose. Plumstead Baths were certainly not built for the primary purposes of dancing and boxing no matter how laudable those pastimes may be.

In presenting their twenty-eighth annual report the committee of the Stowmarket Club stated that the number of active members had dropped from 85 to 67, this being due to so many having gone on active service. The receipts amounted to £27 4s. 2d. and the expenditure to £31 10s. 5d., whilst there is a balance of £63 10s. owing to the bank. This deficit was however contracted through extensive building operations at the bathing place just prior to the outbreak of war, and under ordinary circumstances would long since have been liquidated.

In the race for 200 yards on the breast in a 75ft. pool at Pittsburgh on April 20, McDermott White, of Chicago, proved successful in 2.39.4, which is record for the distance.

Los Angeles Club has an enviable record for the past season. Ludy Langer won the middle distance championships, defeating Kahanamoku in the half mile at Honolulu, and gaining the 220 and 500 yards at San Francisco, winning the quarter mile at New York, the 880 yards Middle Western Championship at St. Louis, the mile race at Ocean Park, as well as the surf race. Aileen Allen took the national diving championship for women and the Southern California championship, Dorothy Burns the National 150 yards back stroke, the rough water and surf races at Ocean Park, and the 50 yards and 100 yards free style and 100 yards back stroke events in the Southern Californian Championships. Then Billy Williams won the Coast, State and Southern Californian spring board diving championships, Cliff Bowes was second in the Coast event, Herman Stern won the distance plunge with 72ft., a coast record, and the water polo team the Southern California championship, they proving successful in all thirteen games played. To crown all, their Coach, F. Vance Veith, won the two miles professional swim in the ocean.

Many persons engaged in London like a swim at a bath convenient to their business. It will, therefore, be pleasing for them to know that this year Holborn First Class Baths, which are very central, will be open for men on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and for the same hours on Mondays for ladies. Only the second class baths are available the rest of the week, a fact which is to be regretted.

After acting as manager of the Redondo Baths, Southern California, for seven years, Mr. B. A. Minor has now become associated with Mr. J. A. Jackson, of the Lurline Baths, San Francisco.

Sec.-Lieut. A. R. Moore, Yorkshire Regt., killed in action, was a prominent member of the Romford Town Swimming Club and polo team, and represented Essex County in inter-county matches. Capt. and Adj. F. W. Moore, Devonshire Regt., died from wounds, was also a well known swimmer and represented Kensington Rowing Club in the annual competitions for the De Mancha shield at the Otter Swimming Club entertainments. This shield was originally given to the old Ilex Club, for contest among teams from rowing clubs who are members of the Amateur Rowing Association.

We have received from somewhere in France a cheery letter from Sergt. Alfred H. Short, of the Australian Forces, who is an active Vice-President and Life Member of the Victorian Head Centre. His friends in Melbourne will be glad to learn that he is keeping fit and well, and also that he watches with interest for news of their doings which appear from time to time in the pages of the SWIMMING MAGAZINE.

Sec.-Lieut. Arthur Lincoln Springfield, killed in action, was the eldest son of Mr. Lincoln Springfield, editor of *London Opinion* and a cousin of F. W. Springfield, the amateur champion of Queensland and winner of the English long distance championship in 1908.

One of the most enthusiastic of teachers in Scotland is Mr. J. Lamont, of the "Scottish School of Swimming," which he has established at Govan Baths and where he instructs large classes under an excellent system of land drill, particulars of which can be obtained from him on application. For many years he has devoted himself to this work and the outcome of it is that his pupils have taken and spread the knowledge of swimming in many parts of the world. The work is done at the Govan Baths, Glasgow, without fee or reward, all tuition being free. Lectures and demonstrations are given by Instructor Lamont to School Boards, Town Councils, Literary and Culture Societies and Swimming Clubs without charge of fees and thus his grand work in the cause of swimming and Life Saving goes on.

The war is having its effect upon swimming in America, and many of the meets arranged to take place have been abandoned, whilst in the Universities sport of all kinds has to give way to daily drill and other military exercises. As was the case in Great Britain all the good sportsmen are joining up at once, and teams are being considerably depleted day by day. One of those who has enlisted is Tedford Cann, whose fast swimming over 300 yards was the subject of comment last month.

South Shields Swimming Club, which was founded in 1862, had as one of its members Mr. Joseph Pollard, who except for forty mornings bathed regularly summer and winter for twenty years, commencing in the year 1877. He was one of the most enthusiastic of swimmers and did much towards the teaching of the young. Another well known club in the same district is the Westoe Bathing, whose inauguration dates back a quarter of a century. Most of its members are on active service, but those who are left are continuing its usefulness and opened out on May Day with a dip in the sea.

Lieut. H. A. R. Boustead, Royal Flying Corps, who has been killed in action, was in the Oxford University swimming and water polo team of 1913, and won the hundred yards race in 1.7.4. He was an old Harrovian.

We much regret to learn that Lance-Corporal Philip Charles Sinclair, London Regiment, previously reported missing, is now officially presumed to have been killed July 1, 1916. He was the third and youngest son of Mr. Archibald Sinclair, our Assistant Editor. Lance-Corporal Sinclair joined the colours in August, 1914, when sixteen years of age, and served in Malta, Gallipoli and Egypt before going to France. His eldest brother, who is in the Australian Force, was wounded at Lone Pine in August, 1915, and again in France last year, and his other brother has been with the King's Royal Rifles since the outbreak of war. Lance-Corporal Sinclair was a member of the Twickenham Swimming Club, and whilst on service very kindly sent us notes about swimming in Malta and Egypt. He paid us a visit during a brief spell of leave he had last year. Just prior to the outbreak of war he had joined the staff of Messrs. Thomas Cook & Sons, the well-known Tourist Agents.



A correspondent wants to know what are the distances for which records were considered by the International Swimming Federation as world's records. They are: Free Style:—100 yards, 100 metres, 150 yards, 200 metres, 220 yards, 300 yards, 300 metres, 400 metres, 440 yards, 500 yards, 500 metres, 880 yards, 1,000 yards, 1,000 metres, 1,500 metres, and one mile; Back stroke: 100 metres, 150 yards, 200 metres and 400 metres; Breast Stroke: 100 metres, 200 yards, 200 metres, 400 metres and 500 metres, and for Ladies 100 yards, 100 metres, 300 yards and 300 metres.

The national associations forming the Federation at the outbreak of war were Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Hungary, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sweden and the United States of America, and the last compilation of records was up to March 31, 1914. No meeting of the Federation has, of course, been held since.

We learn from Mr. A. R. Shaw, joint Hon. Sec. of the Barrow A.S.C., that the Club has opened its summer season in connection with both the ladies' and gentlemen's sections of the club by holding several handicaps at 50 yards, which produced some fine racing. The ladies' race was won by Miss Blamire with Miss Guthrie second, both of them showing great improvement in style and speed since last year. The boys' race was won by G. Gibbons, and the seniors' by J. Robinson with J. Harrison second. A very busy season is anticipated and we wish the members every success.

The Baths Committee of the Hamilton Town Council is doing much for the entertainment of wounded soldiers, and proposes before long to repeat an excellent gala given under its auspices on March 28. On that date detachments of wounded were present from two hospitals with Sergt. Erskine and Nurse Moffat in charge. Baillie Brown occupied the chair, and was accompanied to the platform by Mrs. Despard, Commandant of one of the hospitals. After tea the first item was the examination in Life Saving of a class of soldiers from the Scottish Rifles, who had been trained by Mr. David Brown, Superintendent of the Hamilton Public Baths, the examiners being Inspector Cheyne,

Hamilton, and Sergt. Instructor Lamont, Motherwell, who congratulated the men upon the proficiency they displayed. Exhibitions of scientific swimming were then given by Superintendent Brown and Sergt. Instructor Lamont and of graceful swimming by Misses McDonald and Forbes, whose finished style was most pleasing, as was also that of the young pupils of Miss McDonald. Such galas are greatly appreciated by the soldiers.

In the National 100 yards championship of America, decided at Pittsburgh in a goft. pool in April last, Tedford Cann, of the New York Athletic Club, won in 0.55.1, Norman Ross, Olympic Club, San Francisco, being second, less than a yard behind, and T. Crannon, Pittsburgh Aquatic Club, third. The last mentioned won the 220 yards championship of Western Pennsylvania at Atlantic City in 2.40.2, which is a Middle Atlantic record. It is perhaps necessary to explain to home readers that these Middle Atlantic, Metropolitan, Pacific and so forth records so often quoted in the SWIMMING MAGAZINE, are district records and are akin to those made in our own District Association championships. If American record is beaten the credentials are submitted to the Board of the Amateur Athletic Union in New York for passing or rejection as national records. In America the government of swimming is carried out by the governing body of athletics and there is no separate Swimming Association as in this country.

From the annual report made by Mr. T. Clark, the superintendent of Hackney Baths, we learn that the number of bathers for the year ending March 31 was 330,272, that the largest number of bathers for any week was the week ending June 30, when 11,463 used the baths, that the number of scholars attending was 50,842 and that free bathing was granted to 1,639 members of His Majesty's Forces. In the first year of the war 12,872 of these used the baths and 14,007 in the second, but large numbers were of course then in the early days of their training.

At a meeting of the Detroit Athletic Club on March 31 last, Norman Ross, of the Olympic Club, San Francisco, won the 500 yards senior championship of the National Amateur Athletic Union in 6.5.1 and in the course of the race was timed to swim the

quarter mile in 5.16.1. The world's record passed by the Federation International de Natation Amateur to 1914 is 5.23 by Lieut. F. E. Beaurepaire, at Budapest, June 8, 1910. T. Cann, of the New York Athletic Club, was second in the race. On the same evening L. B. White, of Chicago, won the 100 yards N.A.A. breast stroke championship in 1.16.4.

In his "Recollections of the Pembroke Swimming Club," which the President has contributed to the *Pembroke Swimming Club Magazine*, he recalls that it was founded in 1893 as the Merrion Swimming Club, but that the following year it was named the Pembroke, and was affiliated to the Irish A.S.A. Two years later it had the largest membership of any club in Ireland, and there were numerous entries for every club race. The champion then was Oscar Conway, who won the first Irish A.S.A. championship in 1894, and represented Ireland against England in the first International between the two countries in the following year. Pembroke came into the front rank in 1896 by winning the Leinster Water Polo Cup for the first time, their defeat of the hitherto unbeaten Blackrock Club in the first round creating quite a sensation. In the final tie they defeated Sandycove by two goals to nil, both goals being scored by Oscar Conway. Next year the Leinster Squadron Championship was secured, thus inaugurating a long series of victories. A few days before the outbreak of war the club again won the Leinster Cup, and as there has been a great influx of schoolboy members in the past couple of seasons there seems a great future in store for the Club.

The furlong championship of Queensland was decided at the Booroodabin Baths, Brisbane, on February 26, and was won by F. W. Springfield in 2.42.2, J. Saunders being second in 2.50.1 and K. Petrie third in 2.53.2. On the same night the sixty yards handicap for the Archie Wood Memorial Handicap, for which there were 62 entrants, also took place. In the semi-final of this J. Gillan, who is not yet fifteen, was credited with swimming the distance in 0.36, which equals the Queensland record by T. V. Dowzer and which was tied with by A. Linton last year. On the last day of the month Miss Elsie Venning won the 50 yards junior ladies' championship of Queensland in 0.19.1. A few days previously Miss Elsie Venning was representing the State in the Australasian Championships.

Manchester Baths Committee is now making all its arrangements on the half-yearly basis on account of the unsettled condition as regards coal supply owing to the war, and is only issuing half-yearly season tickets instead of yearly as hitherto, the season lasting from May 1 to October 31.

On April 14 George Dungan, of Oakland, California, lowered the professional record for a 100 yards to 0.57½. The length of the tank is not given in the exchange we have received, but the performance is undoubtedly of excellent character, though whether a world's professional record, as it is claimed to be, or not we are at present unable to determine. There has been so little professional racing of recent years and checks upon record are difficult because there is no governing body controlling it. So far as Great Britain is concerned professional racing has quite died out. The last of any importance were the old West Country matches in which George Kistler, now Coach at Pennsylvania University, used to make such a fine showing every year.

It is common to see in swimming reports that such and such a swimmer has back-marked time. Ralph Thomas, in his book on "Swimming," says the word backmark was probably derived from the game of cribbage, but fails to explain why? Then he goes on to say that "Sporting journalists are always writing about the same things, and in order to get variety they coin new words or attach new meanings to old ones." Backmark, we should say, has reference to a man on limit gradually improving so as to get nearer the back mark in a handicap, i.e., scratch, hence backmarking his time would mean making it of so fast a character compared with previous performances as to justify his reduction of start, and thus put him on a mark further back. We agree that it is a coined word, but it is explicit, explanatory and expansive.

Birmingham is to set an example to other towns by keeping its baths open late on at least four nights in the week so as to afford munition workers the chance of getting a swim. A trial had been made of opening earlier but this was found unsuitable to the workers and the Baths Committee have now adopted a highly sensible course. It is only by study of the habits and leisure hours of constituents that their needs can be met.



## AMERICAN WATER POLO.

### Quaint Ideas for a Game of Pleasure.

FOR years past there has been controversy in the United States between those who wanted a brutal water game and those a game of skill like water polo. So far as we have ever been able to glean from conversation with leading experts from the States their system of water polo is carried on in a wrestling and punching style, substitutes being found for those temporarily incapacitated and removed from the water. It would seem that the chief qualifications for a player are sharp teeth and long nails on both hands and feet, the question of swimming ability being of no account. Eight years ago the game was banned by the American Athletic Union of America for a time, but they allowed it to be revived with not very pleasing results. The American game is one in which brute strength and water wrestling ability are the only qualifications in addition to weight. It is not skilful, neither does it tend to improve the tone or quality of swimming, or the temper and character of the player. One authority in favour of its retention as a national game says he thinks the personal encounters appeal more to the spectators. Doubtless they do; so does dog fighting, bull baiting or cock fighting to the vulgar herd.

In England the game of water polo has proved highly beneficial to the sport, and has certainly been of great assistance in the promotion of swimming. Clubs have come closer into touch with each other, and a healthy spirit of friendly rivalry has been engendered. But that would assuredly not have been the case had a game after the American style been practised here. Such game is only likely to engender bitterness and ill-feeling, greatly to be deplored in any pastime, and more particularly in swimming, the sport which above all is so characteristic in its Life Saving nature.

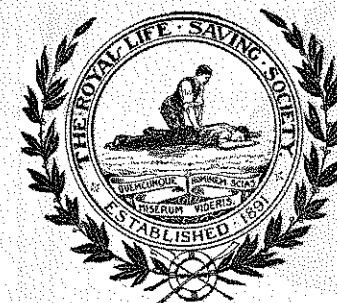
But whilst criticising the statements of the American experts we must not forget that in the early days of water polo in England there was much crude and rough play. We have had a longer initiation into the game, and had time to eradicate many of the defects which became noticeable as soon as the game began to spread. Our rules have been copied everywhere now, even in the United States, where some are fain to admit that

whereas the American game requires brute strength rather than skill, and is full of fight and punch, the agility and cleverness required under the English code places a little man on a par with a big one, and makes it a contest solely of skill. Those American swimmers who witnessed the matches at the Olympic Games of London must surely admit this, and the wonder is that expert swimmers should hold up for a brutalising game in preference to one wherein all the qualities of the accomplished natator are pressed into service, and where swift swimming and rapid turning very often gain for his side the advantage they are struggling to possess.

In all swimming competitions that one arranges precautions are always taken for the prevention of mishap. But in the American game you are admittedly courting this, for throughout the controversy the liability to injury is strongly maintained by those who seek the general adoption of the English code, and the elimination of the American. Whoever invented it could have known little about swimming, or else not have been desirous of encouraging a swimming game. English water polo is a refined and skilful swimming game, one of immense possibilities if carried on in a proper spirit and in proper baths. It may, perhaps, be that America is cramped for its game by reason of its small tanks, and has, therefore, gradually eliminated the best features of water polo, and destroyed aquatic skill in the advancement of a game whose only interest is to arouse the brutal instincts of the spectators, for that after all said and done is so far as we can see the main argument of its advocates for retention as a national pastime.

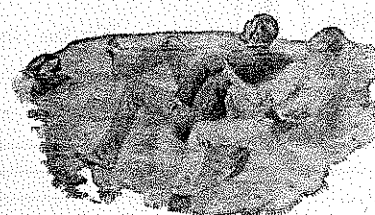
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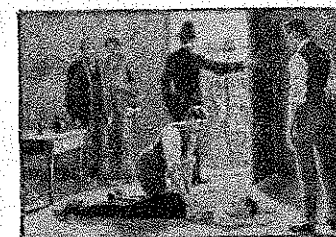
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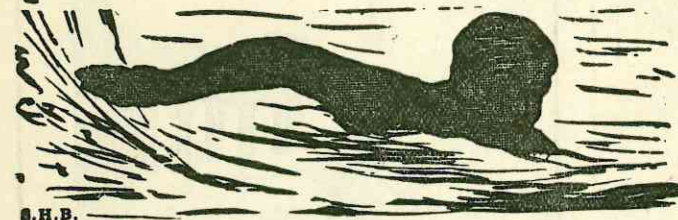
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