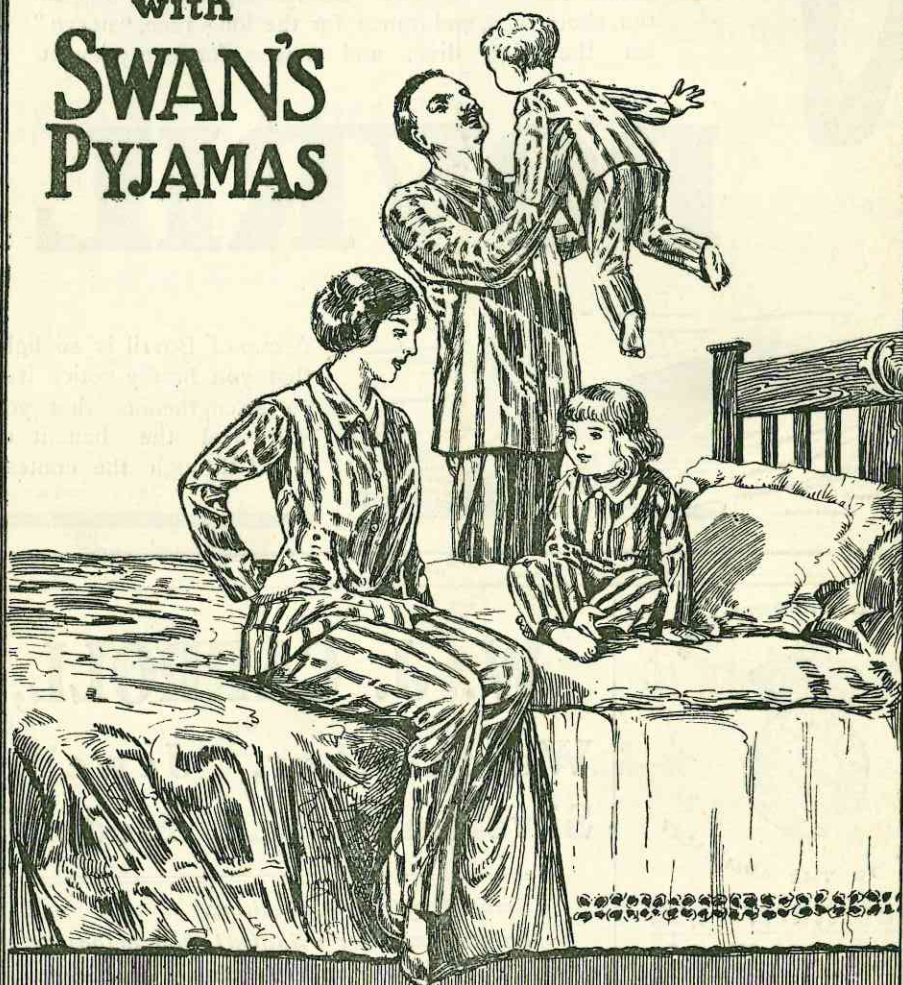


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THE SWIMMING MAGAZINE.



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OCTOBER, 1917.

BATHING ON OUR COASTS. Value of the Life Saving Reel.

By WILLIAM HENRY, Hon. Editor.

THE need for the better protection of bathers and supervision of bathing round our coasts has been more than ever accentuated this year owing to the many regrettable fatal accidents to our soldiers either when bathing individually or taking part in a bathing parade. Most of these accidents are unfortunately attributable to lack of observation and intelligence on the part of the bathers themselves, for no one with experience would ever dream of bathing at an unfamiliar spot without endeavouring to get reliable information beforehand. Dangerous spots must be known to the resident bathers of the locality and avoided by them, hence the more reason that those who are strangers to the district should make proper enquiry before risking their lives.

The first consideration when bathing in the sea, especially at unfrequented spots, is the state of the tide, and even if it be coming in it is far best to bathe along the shore than to go out unless you have a boat. The dangerous shelves and currents on parts of our coasts militate against safe bathing in many spots, and thus to bathe along the shore is therefore the first precaution, and we should always remember that no matter how expert a swimmer may be, he should always be accompanied by a boat when out some distance from shore.

Men who are most prone to accident are those who have been mainly accustomed to bath swimming, and who when they find themselves suddenly in deep water and in a rushing current lose their heads and quickly endanger the lives of their comrades. It is easy to step off an unexpected ledge into deep water with a cross current running and to lose one's self in a futile attempt to swim against it. That is a frequent occurrence when bathing at spots unknown or rather

uncharted by good swimmers. They ought to be able to tell pretty quickly what the nature of the bathing is likely to be, that is, of course, if they have been accustomed to sea swimming. The bath swimmer, however, would be literally "at sea." The want of knowledge of the men accustomed to baths causes them to exhaust their powers in a very short time and many speedy inland swimmers have been easily beaten in long sea races by those accustomed to stem rough water and who understand the local currents and know how to take every advantage of them. When such currents are opposed to them they never try to breast them but swim diagonally across them thus greatly reducing the strain upon their staying powers.

These natural and self communicative precautions of the experienced swimmer cannot however be inculcated at once into the minds of swimmers who are beginning to love the pastime and to indulge in sea swimming or to the vast body of bathers who in summer time frequent our coasts. Local authorities have done much of recent years in the way of precaution, mainly by the imposition of rules framed on experience gained on that particular portion of the coast to which they apply. But regulations, even if strictly adhered to, will not always prevent loss of life, for conditions often arise through sudden change or stress of weather, a precaution against which no man could have provided for. It is therefore well to look around for any extra means of saving life than that hitherto common on our coasts, but which may have proved beneficial in other parts of the world, and that brings us to the suitability of the Australian Life Saving Reel for general use on our shores, coupled with the formation of Life Saving sections or squads and appointment of Bathing Guards at every one of our known coast resorts.

One of the big lessons we learnt during our visits to the Overseas Branches of the Royal Life Saving Society in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa was the great value of the Life Saving Reel, the working of which we have seen in operation on the bathing beaches, and the provision of which is now common, where it is always ready for use and greatly prized as an efficient method of rendering aid to those who may be in danger of losing their lives.

This Reel consists of a revolving drum upon which several hundreds of yards of rope are wound, to one end of which a life-belt is attached. It is usually placed in front of the team of life savers, and immediately a bather is observed in danger of losing his life a swimmer goes to his aid and sustains him on the surface. Another swimmer attaches the lifebelt to himself and goes after him, whilst the other members of the team attend to the Reel and assist in easing and guiding the rope. On the arrival of the beltman he relieves the first swimmer of his charge by changing positions; the first one to go out takes hold of the rope and the beltman sustains the drowning person, and on a given signal the three are drawn to shore by those working the Reel. Care has always to be taken to see that the rope is kept in good order. The swimmers at the various beaches band themselves into squads of rescuers and do valuable Life Saving patrol work.

Provision of such Reels should be compulsory on all local authorities who in any way cater for the bathing public. The neglect of such precautions and the failure to test boatmen and others in charge of bathing stations as to their knowledge of the local currents and of Life Saving methods so far as these apply to swimming have often led to fatal mishaps. We have frequently emphasized the necessity for greater care and pointed out the awful responsibility which rests upon the various Councils, but they are for ever burking discussion on the score of expense, yet are not averse to increasing their town's prosperity out of the purses of the visitors, who come to enjoy the much advertised facilities for bathing and yet nothing is done to protect them against accidents, which are far too frequent around the coast. This season's accidents among men in military training has however caused a greater feeling of responsibility by local authorities.

Death of Mrs. Edgar Syers.

WE deeply regret to record the death at her home at Weybridge on September 9 of Mrs. Edgar Syers, the accomplished lady amateur swimmer and skater, and we tender our sincere sympathy to her sorrowing husband, who was for so many years closely identified with her in her favourite pastimes.

By the members of the Royal Life Saving Society the loss of a generous patron will be keenly felt, for both Mrs. Syers and her husband have rendered invaluable help in the propagation of its aims and objects.

It was in figure skating that Mrs. Syers first became prominent, her graceful style winning her many championship and other trophies, and though opportunities of skating in the open air are few in this country, she always availed herself of them. Visits to St. Moritz and Davos Platz were favourite outings with her and her husband, himself a highly accomplished skater, and their names figure in all the records of expert skaters.

For swimming Mrs. Syers also had great interest and love, and like all skaters on open water ice early recognised the value of the teaching of the Royal Life Saving Society. As a member of the Bath Club in the years 1905, '6 and '7 she was successful in winning the Ladies' Championship Shield, in which, in addition to graceful swimming and diving, there are Life Saving tests. It was Mrs. Syers' aim to perfect herself in any pastime she favoured, and in swimming she exhibited that gracefulness and accuracy of style which had made her so renowned as a skater. Diving also appealed to her, and in 1911, when the Royal Life Saving Society promoted its first National Graceful Diving Competition for ladies, the trophy was won by Mrs. Syers, who gave a magnificent display.

THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY. Tasmania's Splendid Record.

GALLANT RESCUES BY MEDALLION HOLDERS.

ALTHOUGH we are living in times during which it might reasonably have been anticipated that little progress would have been made in the teaching of swimming and Life Saving, the work of the Royal Life Saving Society has wonderfully increased, and the progress of its usefulness is most marked.

At the meeting of the Central Executive held on Thursday, September 20 last, a letter was read from Mr. J. J. Betts, Hon. Sec. Queensland Head Centre, reporting that ten members had decided to have this Magazine regularly sent to them, also that Chief Instructor Lieut. A. G. Murray, who recently received his commission, was shortly leaving for the front and that a wristlet watch had been presented to him in token of the valuable voluntary services rendered by him for the cause of Life Saving in Queensland. From the same letter the Executive learnt with deep regret of the death on the field of honour of Sergt. W. E. T. Martin, who for a long while held the position of Chief Instructor of the centre, and was most painstaking in his efforts, with the result that the work of Life Saving made great progress during his term of office. The Hon. Sec. also reported that another record year had been experienced by his Centre, which fact was received with applause, for it is a sure sign of the excellent work that is being done. No doubt that this result is due to the splendid propaganda programme that has been carried on, particularly by Mr. J. J. Betts, who toured through Queensland early in the season.

From the same Centre came the Diploma papers of Miss Elsie Venning, who has so greatly distinguished herself in Queensland Championships, and has had the honour of being selected as one of the representatives of the State in the Commonwealth Championships. She is the accomplished young daughter of our old friend Mr. H. O. Venning, well known in this country as one of the Neptune divers, and who as soon as he settled in Australia, commenced the promotion of Life Saving. Until he left Brisbane for the Maroochy River he was Hon. Secretary of the Queensland Head Centre. Miss Venning passed for her Bronze Medallion,

Award of Merit and Diploma, all in the space of three months, the final examination being held at Yandina. For that she was awarded the grand total of 178½ points, the Examiners being Lieut. A. G. Murray, Capt. J. H. Martin, Lieut. T. G. Weymouth and Walter J. Daniel, Esq., J. P., Superintendent of the Queensland Ambulance Brigade.

It was reported that the Hon. Representative and Examiner at Cheltenham, Mr. George E. Hider, has this season contributed largely to the success of the work of the society in that scholastic centre, and when on holiday at Portishead, near Avonmouth, this season, was fully employed in pioneer work about that district. At one display given by him in the Bath of the Nautical School for boys there was a representative audience of about four hundred, which included many well known people, the Girl Guides and Boy Scouts. On this occasion Mr. Hider not only gave a lecture but also, with the help of his two sons, demonstrated the various methods of rescue, release and resuscitation as advocated by the Society. As a result it is hoped that the subject will receive due attention and that classes will be regularly conducted, especially as the Nautical School, while having a bath of its own, has the best facilities in the district. The matter now being so ably introduced it would be a great pity if a boy on leaving a Nautical School were to be ignorant of a subject so closely allied to nautical knowledge. The hearty thanks of the Executive were tendered to Mr. Hider for his honorary labours.

A letter was read from Mr. Andrew Galbraith, Hon. Secretary of the Glasgow and District Centre, enclosing the examination forms of six successful candidates for the Award of Merit, two being members of the Motherwell Ladies A.S.C., and four of the Paisley Baths, also forms for two Instructors' Certificates, eight Proficiency Certificates and eight Bronze Medallions, all for members of the Ladies' Section of the Paisley A.S.C. A similar letter was read from Mr. E. A. Chapman, St. Andrew's College, Toronto, Hon. Secretary of the Ontario Branch, Canada, sending in examination forms for two Awards of Merit, one Instructor's Cer-

tificate, twelve Bronze Medallions, twenty-eight Proficiency Certificates and fourteen Elementary Certificates, with orders for a quantity of the usual supplies of Handbooks and Badges, and it was noted with pleasure that the usual summer camps on distant lakes had proved highly successful in promoting the knowledge of Life Saving. A letter was also read from Mr. C. E. Hopper, Hon. Secretary of the Victoria Head Centre, British Columbia, sending forms in favour of the Ladies Victoria S.C. and information in regard to the progress of the work, whilst the report of the Manitoba Branch was also read, an extract of which appears in another column.

The Chief Secretary stated that since last meeting he had had the pleasure of receiving on behalf of the Society many well-known swimmers interested in the subject of Life Saving, among them being Captain "Jimmy" Hunt, who has been with the forces since the outbreak of war, and had previously served in South Africa. He had been Chairman of the Executive of the Manchester Branch of the Society; Warrant Officer Hendy, of Sydney, the well-known Life Saver; Sergt. Nicholls, of the Manley Surf Club, and others from Canada, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. He had also had a letter from E. H. Biddell, son of the well-known Life Saving expert of Sydney, who is in hospital in England, and had visited A. W. Barry, the famous short-distance Australasian Champion, who is also in hospital.

From New Zealand we have received information that the Canterbury Centre of the New Zealand Amateur Swimming Association has declined the nomination of Mr. B. S. Knox, the hon. secretary of the Dominion Executive Council of the Royal Life Saving Society, as a delegate to the centre. At this distance away it is difficult to conceive the reason for this peculiar method of procedure to the old captain of the New Brighton Swimming and Life Saving Club. Let us hope that by this time the Association has recognised how futile it is to debar a duly elected representative from taking his seat in their Councils for which he was chosen by properly qualified voters. Our own experience has been that where this sort of thing occurs the body loses caste, for it hardly can be regarded as a representative institution when it selects its own councillors over the heads of the duly qualified voters

or prevents a properly elected councillor from taking his seat, because he happens to be regarded as being outspoken on a particular question.

We had an application last month for badges from Pte. W. Herring, Anzac Headquarters in France, as they were going to hold a gala, in which about twenty-three members of Sydney Surf Life Saving Clubs would be taking part.

A splendid rescue from drowning was effected at Brighton, on August 17 last, by Police-constable Chas. G. King, of the Brighton Police, who gained the Proficiency Certificate and Bronze Medallion of the Royal Life Saving Society in 1908, the Award of Merit in 1911 and the Hon. Instructor's Certificate two years later. Mr. Leonard Teel, one of the entertainers on the pier, was swimming in a stormy sea and getting into difficulties, shouted for help. A young man, a visitor from Derby, who specially desired that his name should not be mentioned, and a wounded soldier, Private Dickson, from Kitchener Hospital, both threw off their clothing, and plunging into the rough sea, swam out to Mr. Teel. On account of the tremendous buffeting they received from the waves, both became much exhausted. When within a few yards of Mr. Teel, the visitor was hurled against the piles of the pier, and he clung to them helplessly, making one or two efforts to get off, but having to resume his hold again, the sea washing fiercely about him. By this Constable King had got down to the water's edge, and throwing off his helmet and tunic, swam out. Reaching the visitor first, he got hold of him, and brought him to shore. The gallant constable then divested himself of his trousers and boots and swam out again. Fortunately, people on the Palace Pier had flung out life-buoys to the two other men, Mr. Teel and Private Dickson, and they, after some failures, managed to get hold of them. Mr. F. T. Kennett, clerk, of Chertsey, helped Mr. Teel, while P.-c. King rescued the wounded soldier.

From Mr. J. H. Millett, Hon. Sec. of the West Australian Head Centre, in a letter dated July 23, we learn that the year's work of the centre has been quite satisfactory, and as a consequence the Awards granted have been double that of the previous year.

TASMANIAN HEAD CENTRE.

The second annual meeting of the Tasmanian Head Centre took place on Wednesday, June 20, at the Court Room, Town Hall, Hobart, when over two hundred and fifty ladies and gentlemen were present, including Sir Herbert Nicholls, who presided.

In moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, the Chairman said he was astonished to note that the society had made such good progress in the two years of its existence. From its inception he had watched the society with a sympathetic and entirely approving eye. The fact that so creditable a report and balance-sheet were possible for a society whose existence had been so brief made it plain that the organisation had been founded on sound lines. There was a comfortable little balance both as regarded the income and capital accounts, and he felt sure that, with the energy and enthusiasm behind it at present, the society would develop into a very big thing indeed. A Life Saving Society in Hobart had been badly needed for many years. He could remember the days when the boys of Hobart, not scientifically taught, had very little idea of life-saving methods, although there were some who were very fast swimmers. The majority, however, taught themselves. Now, when one visited either baths or beach one generally saw evidence of what to do when in the water. In a place like Hobart with so much water all around, there were two things which the people should learn, first, how to handle a boat in case it upset, and, secondly, to swim, so that if trouble arose, what probably might have resulted in a tragedy would, with the knowledge of what to do, become nothing more than perhaps a little joke.

The report showed that seven classes were held during the season and 92 Awards gained. Those taking the Award of Merit were Miss Stella Honey, Miss Mary Ricketts, and Miss Rachel Lloyd. Hon. Instructor's Certificates were gained by Gwen Crisp and Edward Watson and Bronze Medallions by Neil Gibson, Marjorie Grove, Leila Dayle, Gladys Brownell, Rachel Lloyd, Julia Butler, Barbara Butler, Mary Ricketts, Mary Reid, Alan Crouch, Douglas Crouch, Eric Barren, Hazel Buwide, Albert Ray, Amy Rowntree, Daisy Lester, Lilian Dean, Frances Rowntree, Violet Costello, and Marjorie Brownell.

Five of the members of the Executive, viz., Messrs. Simpson, Fox, Humphries, R.

Freeman and R. Jackson have gone on active service.

A Certificate was offered for the Club or Class obtaining the highest number of Awards for the season, and after keen competition this was secured by the Tasma Life Saving Club with 95 marks, the Y.M.C.A. Scouts being second with 48 marks. Miss Marsh, as representing the Club, was presented with the Certificate at the meeting.

Congratulations were given to the Y.M.C.A. Boy Scouts for their work under Scout-Master Oliver. They gained 23 Awards and also assisted in a demonstration of the use of the Life Saving reel at Long Beach. Very hearty indeed were the thanks accorded Miss Olive Barnard for her assiduous work as hon. secretary, for it is almost entirely due to her exertions for the last seven years that the Centre has been formed, and is now in such a flourishing position. In her good work Miss Barnard has been most ably assisted by Miss Eleanor F. Pocock. These ladies are keen on doubling the work of the Society this season and from what we know of their energy we are certain they will achieve their object.

To that end we are pleased to learn that Mr. Horace Watson has presented a trophy which has been allocated for a State School Competition, which should do much towards good work in the Schools.

Reverting again to the annual general meeting we are glad to note that Alderman A. C. Davis, the Chairman of the Executive, voiced the feeling of disappointment which all good educationalists have that the Government have not seen fit to give more encouragement to the work and make swimming and Life Saving compulsory. The view the Society takes is that a child's education is not complete if swimming and Life Saving be left out, as they make for bodily preservation and the saving of human life.

We are pleased to note that interest in Life Saving is keenly taken by navy men stationed in the Medway, and also by the Metropolitan Police near by. In a recent competition Seamen Gavin and Vinall, of H.M.S. *Pembroke*, won, with Seamen Ansel and Abel second and Police-constables Warner and Winckles third. At this meeting they also had some ladies' races, the open event being won by Miss V. Weller, Miss Gladys May taking second place.

The need for the teaching of swimming in Mortlake is becoming more and more apparent, and pity it is that no one can be found to carry on the children's swimming competitions, so ably engineered by Mr. Henry A. Pike, until he was called up for the army. Quite recently there was a narrow escape from drowning of a Mortlake boy who fell into the river, and would undoubtedly have succumbed but for the plucky work of Police-constable Adams, who dived several times into twelve feet of water before he found the boy, and also in company with Special constable E. J. Bickle. "Y" Division, worked for about an hour and a half in a fortunately successful attempt at resuscitation.

* * * *

"Those who come to scoff very often stop to praise," says one of the oldest of our supporters in making report of a contest he recently judged in public, and instances the case of a man who after the display frankly admitted that he had looked upon the drill as a farce and yet had come out of interest to watch it. As soon as he saw the water and resuscitation work he admitted its value and openly regretted that it had not been taught him at school. Anyhow it sent him away a sympathiser and one in position to speak highly of its value and in effective manner. There are many instances on record where these displays have been instrumental in saving life through persons, who have closely watched them, turning the lessons gained to practical use at the right moment.

* * * *

We are very pleased to record a most daring rescue effected at night time by Mr. W. S. Baillie, of the Southside A.S.C., of a woman from the River Clyde. On being informed that a woman was in the water, he ran some distance, vaulted over the railings, dived from a height of about twenty feet, and quickly brought her to the bank in an exhausted condition, then resorted to the "Schäfer" method of resuscitation, and brought her round, thus saving her life, after which she was taken to the Royal Infirmary, where she slowly recovered from the shock of her unwonted immersion. Mr. Baillie has on four previous occasions been the means of saving life from drowning, but his latest effort is by far the most meritorious, and deserving of the highest commendation. He is one of the most notable swimmers in Scotland.

After winning the schools championship he joined the Southside club, and won the junior championship in successive years. He then transferred his membership to the Glasgow Amateurs, of which club he has been champion since 1907, except during his period of residence in America. He is the Scottish 100 yards and 200 yards breast stroke champion and record-holder. He was a member of the team which won the Corporation Challenge Shield on five occasions; while in life saving he is a noted expert, he was one of the team which won the Scottish Life Saving championship in 1912, was second in 1911, and third in 1910. With it all he is a brilliant exponent at water polo, and has represented Scotland against England, Ireland, and Wales in international contests on four occasions.

* * * *

At the Motherwell Baths, which only opened to the public this season, the subject of Life Saving has received much attention. The Life Saving Drills are regularly taught, and as a result of the humane work a small boy of 12, named Alexander Buchanan, when fully clothed, saved another boy, unable to swim, who fell into the Clyde, also fully clothed. After the practice he had he found it quite easy to bring him to shore. With reference to this rescue we gladly reproduce the following from the Editorial of the *Motherwell Times*. The writer remarks: "I have often watched the youngsters at the baths doing rescue drill, and while it all seemed so easy and simple have had grave doubts as to the ability of the rescuers to save a helpless or struggling drowning person who was in real danger. But this week my scepticism received the knock-out blow. A policeman who saw the incident described in another column, where a lad of 12 rescued another boy just on the point of drowning, tells me it was the smartest bit of work he had seen for many a day. The rescuer plunged in without a moment's hesitation, caught the drowning lad, turned him on his back in the approved fashion, and towed him to land with as little fuss as they do at the practice at the Baths."

* * * *

We have known a great many who have been similarly convinced, and have no doubt that the experience gained not only by Mr. Baillie in his practice for the Life Saving Championships of Scotland, the Boy Buchanan and thousands of others, has been the means of saving hundreds from drowning.

Purely from the point of view of Club work in war time a magnificent record has been secured by the Ackton Hall Colliery Swimming Club this season. We are not aware of any single club which has done so well, taught so many to swim or secured such a large number of Awards from the Royal Life Saving Society. At a recent examination the results of which were submitted to and approved by the Central Executive of the Society, at their September meeting, no fewer than 87 Awards were unanimously granted. These fine results are no doubt due to the splendid work that has been done by Mr. and Mrs. Septimus Billson who are superintendents of the Lister Baths, Featherstone, near Pontefract. They consistently advocated the cause of Life-saving and personally taught the candidates for the various awards, and we are glad to note that the Examiners, who were men of experience, bestowed high praise upon these Hon. Instructors for the fine ability and efficiency displayed by the candidates. Having regard to the fact that Mr. S. Billson has taken a prominent part in the establishment of the classes since 1912, and has successfully acted as Instructor to many, it gave the Central Executive great pleasure to elect him as one of the Hon. Associates of the Society, an honour which he fully merits, for without doubt he has been most consistent in his efforts to impart the knowledge, which has been the means of saving a great many lives from drowning.

* * * *

The Manitoba Branch in its fifth annual report states that during the year 1915 the number of Awards gained was 143, but that last year only 10 were secured. Still some good work has been done by teaching the Society's methods, and Mrs. Harrison, the Matron of the City of Winnipeg Baths, is specially commended for her endeavours. Efforts are now being made to interest the young people, and particularly the lady swimmers. The Wange Shield was again awarded to ladies, the winners being the Misses D. Rissiter and M. Triggs, and the Logie Cup was successfully defended by the 9th Troop of Winnipeg Boy Scouts.

* * * *

In many ways the September meeting of the Central Executive of the Royal Life Saving Society will be a memorable one for us. In addition to the reports that were

received from all parts of the British Empire, the fact that no fewer than 2,729 awards were granted at the meeting, as compared with 2,126 at the same meeting in 1916, constitutes a record during war time, thus indicating clearly that plenty of work remains for willing teachers, notwithstanding the fact that so many clubs have had to shut down. At the same meeting the Executive had the opportunity of showing their appreciation of honorary labours on behalf of the aims and objects of the Society by the election as Hon. Associates, Miss A. Broughton (Melbourne) and Messrs. J. E. Wells (West Australia), S. Bilson (Featherstone), also A. Robbie, K. Ditchburn, H. Goldsmith and A. P. Newey, all of Melbourne, Australia, where they have done splendid work for the cause of Life Saving.

* * * *

We learn with great pleasure that the Stowmarket S.C. has had such a successful season, as to be able to announce that the balance of a debt of £300, incurred through necessary alterations and improvements to their bathing place just prior to the outbreak of war, amounting to £60 at the beginning of the present season has now been cleared, and this famous Club is likely to close its year's work with a balance in hand of about £10. Apart from the financial side of the question very fine results have been obtained in teaching boys and girls to swim. Having regard to the fact that the population of this town numbers something under 4,500 the Club has every reason to be proud of its achievement, which shows that the Members are not downhearted, on the contrary, they have put their shoulders to the wheel, done their duty to the Club as well as to the youthful population, and as a result have been rewarded with success.

* * * *

The Ladies 220 yards Championship of the S.C.A.S.A. proved particularly interesting for in the preliminary heat Miss Vera Johnson beat Miss Fletcher by a foot, but in the final Miss Fletcher won in 3.26.4, whilst Miss Johnson did 3.31.3.

* * * *

The long distance Ladies' swim in the Thames, mentioned in another column, ended as expected. Only two started and both retired, Miss Lee being the first.

NATATION DAY OVERSEAS.

Reflections on our Avoidable Disabilities.

RUSKIN ON THE PLEASURES OF THE BILLOWS.

WITH the advent of October those of us in the Northern Hemisphere who have been indulging in the refreshing privilege of swimming in open fresh water or in the sea the greater part of the summer season will turn our thoughts to the covered baths for the continuation of the pleasure of a dip, which we feel has done us so much good during our too short period of warm weather, but owing to the war, shortage of coal and labour, lighting restrictions, as well as many other such mundane questions, we fear that many of us are likely to be doomed to disappointment, for the baths that will be available may prove to be few. But these few will reap a golden harvest, as was proved to be the case during the last two years. Owing to the short-sighted policy that was adopted by certain Borough Councils the baths that kept open in adjoining districts secured record returns, and yet those that closed down did not materially reduce their expenses, and as a result the ratepayers had to pay just as much as if the establishments intended for their use had been kept open as usual.

The fact that these baths have always been available has created a taste in the minds of most people who used them, and finding them closed, they will be prone to feel rather envious of the powers of the migratory bird which seeks out and enjoys warm climes most of the year, and will desire to also seek out and join those of our kindred spirits more fortunately placed near to or south of the Equator, among many of whom the normal swimming season opens on the first of this month, as, for instance, in Australia and in New Zealand, where much is made of the first of this month, which is usually regarded as "Natation Day." It is then that swimmers out there take to the waters of the deep and enjoy the surf to its fullest extent in the midst of the mighty tumbling mass of water. Mr. Ruskin gives a very fine description of the sea as it appears to those who love to be in it; he says: "Afloat, even twenty yards from the shore, we receive a totally different impression. Every wave around us appears vast, every one different

from all the rest, and the breakers present, now that we see them with their backs toward us, the grand, extended and varied lines of long curvature, which are peculiarly expressive both of velocity and power. Restlessness, before unfelt, is manifested in the vast, perpetual, changeful, undirected motion, not of wave after wave as it appears from the shore, but of the very same water rising and falling. Of waves that successively approach and break, each appears to the mind a separate individual, whose part being performed, it perishes, and is succeeded by another; and there is nothing in this to impress us with the idea of restlessness any more than in any successive and continuous functions of life and death. But it is when we perceive that it is no succession of waves, but the same water constantly rising, and crashing and recoiling and rolling in again in new forms and with fresh fury, and we perceive the perturbed spirit and feel the intensity of its unwearying rage. The sensation of power is also trebled, for not only is the vastness of apparent size much increased, but the whole action is different: it is not a passive wave rolling sleepily forward until it tumbles heavily, prostrated upon the beach, but a sweeping exertion of tremendous and living strength, which does not now appear to fall, but to burst upon the shore—which never perishes, but recoils and recovers."

As fine as this description is, it does not in the least provide an idea of the glorious sensations experienced when one is engaged in riding the mighty billows on the bathing beaches of New South Wales, South Africa and America. We only wish that Mr. Ruskin had had an experience of these pleasures, for we are sure that we should have had a description from his pen which would have made the above quotation seem quite insignificant as a picture of the delightful sensations that are aroused by a dip in the ocean waves when they are lively.

The more lively as these waves are the better they are enjoyed by the expert, who is able to keep his place in them and travel towards shore with great pace finally to be deposited in shallow water.

THE LADIES' SECTION.

District Championship Races.

LONG DISTANCE SWIMMING CONTROVERSY.

THERE has been a long and somewhat impassioned controversy in the *Sporting Life*, about the relative abilities of lady long distance swimmers. It arose through the advocacy by Mr. Tilton, of the Lambeth Baths, of our oft pleaded for Ladies' Championship over the course from Kew to Putney, but someone at once jumped in and championed the cause of Miss Eileen Lee, of Teddington, for a 25 miles race, while a sporting journalist offered to find a backer for anything up to £100. We regret that such an incident as betting should have been dragged into amateur swimming. Mr. Tilton's idea was good, for there are many lady swimmers of marked ability, who would make a fine race over the distance. But championships, one is reminded, are only run by the Amateur Swimming Association.

Anyhow nothing came of the scheme, and the paper warfare about Miss Lee and her abilities to swim many a mile was kept up by a Mr. Maxwell Morrison, of whose experience of swimming we have no knowledge. The most sensible statement in the whole discussion was made by the old professional, Walter Beaumont, who said, "I would not allow a daughter of mine to do these long distances; the strain must tell in later years." Then suddenly uprose the Kingston and Teddington Cygnet Club, of which Mr. Pat Lee is hon. secretary, and advertised an open race, with the tide, to start from Greenwich.

Park Ladies have been very busy this season giving exhibitions of diving at indoor galas and outdoor fêtes for the entertainment of wounded soldiers and in the cause of charity. One of the most enjoyable outings they had was one to Joyce House, Waltham Abbey, to entertain about forty wounded soldiers from Waltham Abbey Hospital, and here Mrs. Jarvis Dickenson, who holds the Diploma of the Royal Life Saving Society, and Mrs. King, Award of Merit holder, gave one of their excellent displays of scientific swimming. Included in it was an exhibition of Life Saving, and this has brought several converts to the Park for teaching. By the way Miss Jewell, 41, Archway Road,

N. 19, is now hon. secretary of the club in place of Mrs. White, resigned. They have also decided a quarter mile race for school girls. The sum realised by the gala in aid of the Prince of Wales' Hospital at Tottenham is no less than £87.

The 100 yards Junior Ladies' Championship of the Southern Counties was decided at the Wood Green Baths on September 4, and was won by Miss Lottie Lipton, Kennington Road School, in 1.29.2; Miss Gladys Jones, Holloway United Club, 1.31.2, being second and Miss Maud Harford, Holloway United, third.

At a gala of the ladies' branch of the Pembroke Swimming Club, held at Blackrock Baths, Dublin, on September 1, the 100 yards Ladies' Championship of Leinster was won by Miss Armstrong, Pembroke, in 1.32.3, Miss Owens, Pembroke, being second and Miss Rawlins, of the same club, third. The Misses Armstrong, Owens, O'Neill and Rawlins won the ladies inter-team championship of Leinster for the Pembroke Club against Sandycove and Dublin, and Miss Clinch the 50 yards ladies' open handicap. The men of the same club secured the flying squadron championship of Leinster, the side being J. Beckett, S. N. Armstrong, J. V. Bateman and H. G. Fitzgerald and also beat Sandycove in a water polo match. There was a ladies' water polo match in addition, which Pembroke won by three goals to nil against Dublin. Altogether a regular field day for Pembroke, which has been formed for over three years. Its gala was in aid of soldiers' and sailors' refreshment buffets.

At a meet held under the auspices of the Middle Atlantic Amateur Athletic Union Miss Olga Dorfner, of Philadelphia, swam 500 yds. in 7.32.1, a world's record if properly authenticated. Miss Dorothy Burns, of Los Angeles, the 100 yards Pacific Coast Champion and holder of the American back and breast stroke records for 150 yards, says that "When a girl swims against Miss Dorfner the time to sprint is the moment she hits the water. Sprint for dear life and keep at it until the finish."

It was reported from America that the Hawaiian swimming authorities had arranged for Miss Fanny Durack, the Australian and Olympic ladies' champion, to compete at Honolulu in September against Miss Olga Dorfner, of Philadelphia, the American lady champion, and Miss Claire Galligan, of New Rochelle, the long distance National champion, but up to the time of going to press no results of this proposed international competition had come to hand.

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The Midland Counties 220 yards Ladies' Swimming Championship was decided on September 3, when Miss C. Jeans, of Nottingham, easily retained the cup, beating five competitors with ease. Miss D. Billson, Leicester, was second, and Miss R. Stiles, Coventry, third. The winner's time was 3.13.1. All competitors will receive certificates as being within standard time. The Ladies' Furlong Championship of Coventry was won by Mrs. F. Tee in 4.2.1, and the Men's Championship by R. C. McNally in 2.54. An excellent and highly appreciated display of swimming, floating, and diving was afterwards given by "The Coventry Mermaids" (members of the Coventry Ladies' Winter Class), the honorary instructor of which is Mr. Jas Ward. Those taking part in this were the Misses C. Suter, M. Jones, K. Clarke, F. Pargetter, C. Elvis, D. Stiles, R. H. Laurence, and Master F. Taylor, the last-named also giving a capital demonstration of the crawl stroke.

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The 100 yards Northern Counties Ladies' Championship was decided at the gala of the Stalybridge Club. There were eight competitors, and after two heats the final was won by the holder, Miss Daisy Curwen, Liverpool, who beat Miss N. P. Taylor, Heywood, by ten yards in 14.1. Miss C. Radcliffe, Garston, was third, and Miss B. E. Addy, Stalybridge, fourth.

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The North of England 75 yards Junior Ladies' Championship race took place on August 25, at a gala of the Hyde Seal Club. It was won by Miss McCallum, Chadderton, in 0.59, Miss Charlotte Radcliffe, Garston, 0.59.2, being second and Miss May Spencer, Garston, 1.3, third. At this gala Mr. T. O. Jacobson, Member of Parliament for the Hyde Division, offered to pay entrance fees for fifty boys up to the age of fourteen to membership of the club.

Writing to the *Yorkshire Herald*, complaining of the condition of the Corporation Baths at York, a "Lady Swimmer" says that, "A few weeks ago while undressing I noticed a mother drying her boy, a child of 8 or 9 years of age, and from the same box there were seven or eight young ladies dressing and undressing. I am not a prude, but I consider there is a limit where decency draws the line."

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In the report of meetings of the Management Committee of the Amateur Swimming Association up to June 30, the most interesting item of information is that a recommendation by the Midland Counties Association that the senior ladies' championship should be held this year was refused by the committee. No reason is assigned for this decision. It is, therefore, left over for some club or organisation to arrange a meeting between Miss Daisy Curwen, of Liverpool, the holder since 1913, Miss Connie Jeans, of Nottingham, the Midland Champion, and Miss Vera Johnson, of the Holloway United, the Southern Champion, at some big gala organised for war charities. There is time yet for a good meeting whereat such a race would form an immense attraction. One cannot see any reason for opposition to the race or for the matter of that to the ladies' championship, for the young ladies who have chance of victory have been regularly competing during the past three seasons.

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Possibly it may have been advisable to abandon it the first year of the war, but swimming cannot go on for ever in this parlous state. There has been ample opportunity for special galas which would have done real good to the cause we all have at heart, but except in certain districts there has been a lukewarmness greatly to be deplored. For instance, what the Park has done could easily have been emulated by other similarly placed organisations. That there has been a strong demand for a ladies' long distance championship over the men's course from Kew to Putney has been greatly emphasised during the last month in the voluminous correspondence in one of the sporting papers. We have been arguing for the holding of some such race for a couple of years past, but the Association seems deaf to all entreaty.

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Had there been such a race held it would have given splendid opportunity for the

entertainment of a large body of wounded soldiers, and it would have entailed comparatively little expense. There is now in this country a large body of lady long distance swimmers who have long been waiting for the holding of such a race. The dropping out of the *Weekly Dispatch* swim through London was a disappointment to many who were hoping to gain similar honours to Miss Carson and other young ladies who did so well in this old annual event, which certainly did a vast amount of good for swimming by interesting the general public in the art, and demonstrating what men and women can really do in open water.

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The idea of a long distance bath swim has been mooted, but that is not likely to be popular because of its monotony, and though the first event of the kind might prove a success later ones would be almost certain to be doomed to failure. It is now, probably, too late in the year to do anything, but there is no reason why the ladies desirous of going in for it should not meet together in the winter and petition the Association for the holding of such a race. It would at any rate establish the real strength of the proposition.

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Since writing the above we learn that a two hours' swim is to take place at a gala to be held at the Lambeth Baths on October 6th, and that several well-known swimmers have entered and are in training for the event. The advertised 25 miles race was altered to one of 20 miles, but as was only to be expected considering the cold nature of the water the entry was a poor one.

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The junior ladies' team championship of the Southern Counties, decided at a gala held at the Prince of Wales' Road Baths on September 17 by the Holloway United and Clapton Ladies' Club, was won by the Holloway United, who were represented by Misses M. Harford, D. Frelove, L. Lipton and G. Jones, the Battersea Ladies being second. Holloway United, who were the holders, won very easily in 3.55.3 for the full distance, 267 yards, or eight lengths of the bath.

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At Nottingham on September 15, Miss Connie Jeans won the 100 yards championship of the Midlands by three yards from Miss D. W. Billson, of Leicester, in 1.10, Miss C. M. North, of Leicester, being third. If the time be passed, this is British record.

As instancing the low temperature of the Thames this season and the consequent danger to ladies swimming long distances we may point out that Miss Gladys Wright, of the Battersea Ladies' Club, started on September 9 to swim from Richmond Lock to Blackfriars' Bridge, the old *Weekly Dispatch* race course, but had to give up at Battersea Park Pier, a distance of 11 miles and 500 yards, owing to the cold. She was in the water 3.32.25. These endurance swims, if undertaken at all, should only be attempted in abnormal summer weather.

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Appropos of the long distance controversy the *Daily News and Leader* says:—"I notice there is to be a 25-miles swimming race for ladies in the Thames next week. The standard length of the course for the men's long-distance race is 5½ miles. Since the strain incidental to such an effort as a 25-mile swim can do nothing but harm to any woman's constitution, it must be assumed that there is some counterbalancing advantage to egg on the competitors. I suppose it is the gratification of proving themselves a fraction per cent. less incapable than the rest of their sex of equalling the achievements of a six-inch trout." The writer is evidently in agreement with us on this matter.

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The annual gala of the Burton Ladies took place at Burton Baths on September 12, when Miss P. Redfern, of Guild Street School, won the schoolgirls' championship, and Miss Renie Saxelby, the eighty yards' championship of the club, and the members' clothes race, besides getting second in the competition for neatest breast and side stroke, by junior members. A pleasing function was a presentation on behalf of the members to Miss Phyllis Duxwell, in recognition of her rescue of a child from the Trent in June last.

* * * *

Water Lily Ladies, Sheffield, held their eighth annual gala at Glossop Road Baths, before a large assembly of supporters. The chief event was the competition for the "Longbottom" Shield for Life Saving. The winners of the heats were Miss L. Ashforth, Miss P. Lightwood, and Miss E. Boul. Miss E. Turton was the fastest loser. In the final Miss P. Lightwood secured the shield after a very good race, not more than two yards dividing all the four competitors. The race for swimmers who had learnt this season, one length of the bath, 33½ yards,

was won by Miss E. Smith, and the two lengths race, first length any stroke, return back stroke without using the arms, was won by Miss E. Gray. An obstacle race of one length, then put on a pair of stockings and return with a polo ball, was won by Miss E. Boul. Before giving out the prizes Mrs. W. H. Ellis, Mistress Cutler of Sheffield, spoke a few words to the girls about the advantages of swimming and Life Saving, stating that her own daughter was a Medalion holder of the R.L.S.S. She expressed appreciation of the good work done by Mr. William Watts, and presented him with a letter case from the members of the Club as a little souvenir. Medallions and certificates for Life Saving were presented to Misses M. Gibson, W. Smith, F. Gibson, P. Lightwood, E. Gray and L. Robinson. The events were judged by Messrs. Biggin, Ekin, Oakes, Ludlam and Watts. Mrs. Hazeldene, Diploma holder, gave a most interesting demonstration of plain and scientific swimming, including undressing on the surface of the water, one of the tests for the Award of Merit and Diploma. High diving of a somewhat unusual character by Master A. Flint, the fifteen-year-old school-boy champion of Sheffield, was another popular feature greatly appreciated.

As a result of the championship gala held by the "Invicta" Royal Laboratory Swimming Club on August 30 in aid of the funds of St. Dunstan's Hostel for blinded sailors and soldiers, Mr. Neil Gritton, the hard-working and painstaking Hon. Secretary, has experienced the extreme pleasure of being able to send to Sir Arthur Pearson the splendid contribution of £40. The programme included the Southern ladies' 100 yards senior championship, for which there were seven entrants and only one non-starter, this being Miss Ivy Grimwood, of the Clapton Ladies' Club. The first heat went to Miss Daisy Roux, of the Holloway United, in 1.25, Miss Grace Turner, Dartford Premier Ladies, being second, and Miss Grace H. Bullock, Invicta Club, third. Miss Vera Johnson, Holloway United, easily secured the second heat in 1.19, Miss Venall M. Newman, Mermaids, being second, and Miss Irene B. Christie, Natantes, third. As might have been anticipated from the times and the known ability of Miss Johnson, she was an easy first in the final in 1.22, it being practically a swim over for her. Miss Newman was second, and Miss Roux third.

The Junior Boys' Championship swim at the same gala went to Edward P. Peter, Latymer Upper School, Hammersmith, of whose ability we had something to say when referring to the London Secondary Schools Championship. He won the 100 in 1.13, the second boy being Cecil J. Burr, Invicta Club, who finished in 1.20, and the third Leslie H. Honey, Broomfield Park Club. We were pleased to see two boys from the Training Ship "Arethusa," taking part in this event. The 100 yards ladies' championship of the promoting club went to Miss G. Grant in 1.44, the holder, Miss Grace Bullock, being second, and the 100 yards scratch race open to members of affiliated clubs employed in the Royal Arsenal of Soldiers in the Woolwich Command, to Bomb. S. Vousden, of the gymnastic staff of the R.H.A., and who used to play water polo for Surrey II. He won in 1.12. In the military team race won by the School of Instruction for N.C.O.'s, Vousden was included in the winning team, but the outstanding individual performance was that of Lieut. Lankester, R.H.A. This young officer, who was a great swimming enthusiast when at the Royal Military Academy prior to the war, made, in despite that he has received wounds in action, a wonderful attempt to pull up half a length on Vousden, and was only beaten by a couple of yards amidst great enthusiasm.

We understand that it is not the intention of the Bedford Ladies' Club to hold a gala this year.

Some long swims by ladies in the Thames and elsewhere have been recalled during the discussion as to whether Miss Eileen Lee was champion or not. Miss Mabel Fletcher is said to have twice covered the championship course in 1.8.0, and we have been reminded that in September, 1914, the Liverpool Ladies' Club organised a two miles championship race, open to all ladies, to be competed for in the River Mersey, a tidal river similar to the Thames, but more difficult. Among the entries and contestants were Miss Lucy Morton (holder and winner in open competition of the world's breast and back stroke records), Miss Mabel Fletcher, Miss Heaton, and Miss E. Lee. It was won quite easily by Miss Morton, Miss Lee not being in the first three. At the first mile the Teddington girl was 200 yards behind, the Blackpool girl eventually beating her by 500 yards.

NOTES ON NEWS.

Interesting Items from Home and Abroad.

IN the course of his illuminating story of "My Four Years in Germany," which is appearing in the *Daily Telegraph*, Mr. James W. Gerard, late United States Ambassador in Berlin, says, "I spent two Saturdays and Sundays in August at Heringsdorf, a summer resort on the Baltic. There are three bathing places. In each of them the bathhouses, etc., surrounded three sides of a square, the sea forming the fourth side. Bathing is allowed only on this fourth side for a space of sixty-five yards long. One of these bathing places is for women and one for men, and the third is the so-called Familienbad (family bath), where mixed bathing is allowed. German women are very sensible in the matter of their bathing costumes, and do not wear the extraordinary creations seen in America. They wear bathing sandals, but no stockings and as most of them have fine figures, but dress badly, they appear at their best at Heringsdorf. Both sea and air seemed somewhat cold for bathing. On account of their sensible dress most of the German women are good swimmers. I noticed one very handsome blonde girl who sat on her bathing mantle, exciting the admiration of the beach because of her fine figure. She suddenly dived into the pockets of her bathing mantle and produced an enormous black bread sandwich, which she proceeded to consume quite unconsciously, after which she swam out to sea."

In their annual report the Baths Committee of the Manchester City Council state that there was an increase of 20,569 female swimming bathers during the past season. The Committee now controls eighteen bath establishments in which there are thirty-three plunge baths. Last year nearly two million made use of these and the receipts amounted to £10,455.

Both George Cunha and Walter Grace, of Honolulu, who now represent the Piedmont Club of San Francisco, have taken advantage of the ruling of the American Athletic Union, permitting amateur swimmers to engage in professional life-saving work, and have accepted positions at Neptune Beach, California.

Norman Ross, of the Olympic Club, San Francisco, claims the following intermediate records made in the mile National Championship at San Diego on the Fourth of July:—330 yds., 4.8.2; 550 yds., 7.10; 660 yds., 8.45.1; 770 yds., 10.16.1; 990 yds., 13.22.4; 1,100 yds., 14.59.1; 1,210 yds., 16.32; 1,320 yds., 18.7.45; 1,430 yds., 19.37; 1,540 yds., 21.10; 1,650 yds., 22.40. The mile was swum in 24.10. His 880 yds. time is 13.17.4. Mr. W. Unmack, of San Francisco, also informs us that Ross has also this year made the following new marks: 25 yds., 0.11, June 24, at Del Monte, Cal.; 200 yds., 2.4, June 23, at Del Monte, Cal.; 220 yds., 2.19, June 23, at Del Monte, Cal.; 120 yds., 1.7, June 22, at Del Monte, Cal.; 150 yds., 1.34 (in a 100 yd. tank), at Alameda, Cal., July 28; 440 yds., 5.16.1, March 31, at Detroit, Mich.; 500 yds., 6.5.1, March 31, at Detroit, Mich.; 75 yd. back stroke, 56.1, June, at Alameda.

The twenty-five yards record was, however, lowered to 10.2 by George Cunha on August 4, at a meeting at Pacific Grove.

Lieut. J. E. Raphael, King's Royal Rifles, died from wounds, who was president of Oxford University Swimming Club in 1904, left property of the value of £12,505 10s. 3d. Lieut. Raphael represented England in International Rugby seven times, was for a period acting captain of Surrey County Cricket eleven, and gained his cricket and Rugby blues at his University. He was thirty-five years of age at the time of his death on June 11 last.

From our esteemed friend, Lieut. B. W. Cummins, of the Dorset Regt., whose connection with the Croydon Swimming Club is well known, we have received copy of a programme of aquatic sports held on September 2, at one of the old French Military baths. It was a perfect afternoon, the sports were run through without a hitch, and the soldiers thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The results were: Diving, Trooper Marriott, Household Cavalry, 1; Pte. Wilson, Headquarters, 2; Lce.-Corpl. Agnew, Signallers, 3. Long distance race: Pte. Charnley, Field Ambulance, 1; Pte. Bentley, Essex Regt., 2; Pte. MacGregor,

Essex Regt., 3. 90 yards Officers' race: Lieut. R. Jackson, Seaforths, 1; Lieut. Young, Somerset Light Infantry, 2; Capt. Hawker, Somerset Light Infantry, 3. 90 yards race, Pte. Charnley, Field Ambulance, 1; Spr. Anderson, Royal Engineers, 2; Lce.-Corpl. Anderson, Seaforths, 3. 90 yards race, Driver Connolly, 1; Pte. May, 2; Diving (Officers), Lieut. Cooper, Household Bn., 1; Lieut. Jackson, Seaforths, 2; Lieut. J. E. Wanklyn, Royal Field Artillery, 3. The entries for the various events were exceptionally large.

The annual gala at Twickenham, at which is decided the whole of the District School Championships, and in the programme of which was included this year a Life Saving competition for a Thorne Memorial Trophy subscribed for by the townsfolk in memory of a respected citizen who lost his life in an attempted rescue off the coast of Dorsetshire, was held on September 5, in the Mereway. This is an open-air bathing place in a tributary of the river Colne, which runs at the back of Twickenham Green. The racing was good, and so close was the final of the boys' championship on two occasions that after the second attempt to decide it the judges left the race over until the following morning. In the Schools team championship the winning school was that of Archdeacon Cambridge, its boys (A. Chambers, P. Chambers, W. Alsford and W. Johnson) winning by about four yards from Trafalgar School, who have held the shield ten out of the last thirteen years. The girls' championship went to Miss Reeve, of Trafalgar School, and the diving championship to J. H. Hirst, also of Trafalgar School. The work done by the boys competing for the Thorne trophy was excellent, considering they have little time for practice. There were some faults in resuscitation but otherwise there was little to complain of and only very minor errors in drill caused deduction of marks. The carrying of the subject was well done but as regards this part of the work we would suggest that the distance the subject has to be carried under the conditions is far too short. Owing to the peculiar nature of the bathing place some difficulty exists in overcoming this trouble, but carrying eight yards is no great test. The school boys who stood out the best, and who gained the award through a better idea of the principles of resuscitation, were G. Prior, B. Duncombe,

L. Simpson and C. Taylor, from Orleans School. Their points were 93 out of a possible 100, Archdeacon Cambridge coming second with 88 and Trafalgar School third with 87. The display aroused much enthusiasm and will doubtless lead to many in the district taking up this all important question of Life Saving.

A grandson of Mr. Robert Leithead, of West Hartlepool, to whose good work on behalf of the Royal Life Saving Society we referred last month, has swum a mile, though only twelve years of age and has also taken his Boy Scouts' swimming certificate, the test for which includes undressing on the surface of the water, etc. Mr. Leithead, although 63 years of age still keeps up his swimming and puts in a good show in the sea.

The 50 yards Junior Schoolboy Championship of Leinster was swum at the Pembroke Ladies' gala at Blackrock Baths, Dublin, on September 1, and ended in victory for M. Brophy, Presentation College Glashale, S. Jennings, Christian Brothers School, Marino, was second. The time, 0.34.4, is reported as an Irish record.

Racing in clothes is not fostered nearly so much as it should be by the clubs. The old Serpentine, however, sets them a good example and has various events of this character. One of these, in which the competitors had to start in full walking attire, was decided on the first Saturday in September for a prize presented by H. Rickett Johnson, a former captain of the club. It was won by A. D. Johnson from scratch, A. W. J. McHattie, another scratch man, being second.

We regret to learn of the death of Mrs. Charles Newman, wife of the superintendent of the Westminster Baths and mother of Mr. Charles L. Newman, of the Richmond Baths. We tender to these our very sincere sympathy in their sad bereavement. The Westminster Baths, where Mr. and Mrs. Newman have resided for many years past, are known to swimmers the wide world over and are the most frequently asked for by our Overseas visitors, especially the Australians. Mr. Newman is an old colleague in the promotion of swimming and has done much to help the cause during his long connection with it.

A fine open-air Bath has been prepared for the use of the Guards Camp at Didcot, and swimming and Life Saving are to be regularly taught. The official opening ceremony took place on September 15, when a gala was held. It is hoped that next season the subject of swimming will form a very important item of the work of the Camp, which is good news, as unfortunately there are a great many soldiers who are unable to swim, of which fact serious notice should be taken.

We have received a very kindly letter from Mr. M. B. Martin, the Hon. Secretary of the Bombay Swimming Club, asking for particulars and conditions of Life Saving and swimming competitions, details of which have, of course, been sent on. The introduction comes from our old friend and fellow swimming enthusiast, Lieut. E. W. Ballantine, who is on service in India. Lieut. Ballantine is an old member of the Cygnus Swimming Club, and like us has had dips at Durban and Sydney.

The men's section of the Blackrock Club, Dublin, held a Life Saving Competition at Blackrock Baths on September 10, it being decided in pairs as a relay race. Each man swam 100 yards on the back without use of arms, 100 yards on the breast, and then each man took his partner 20 yards by two different methods. Every man had also to make a surface dive for a weight. The contest was won by Sergt. H. F. Case, R.I.C., one of the keenest enthusiasts we have in Ireland, and P. H. Jermyn, the second pair being J. V. Bateman and M. Phillips, the last mentioned being under fifteen years of age. Seven pairs took part in the competition.

Brighouse Club held a gala at the Corporation Baths, Brighouse, on September 1, when the 100 yards Yorkshire Junior and the Yorkshire Junior Squadron Championships (No. 3 District) were decided. For the championship there were three competitors out of four entries. Soon after the start W. Buckley, Sowerby Bridge, gained slightly from C. Wade, Halifax, and H. Hardy, Huddersfield, and eventually won in 1.24.1. Wade's time being 1.29 and Hardy's 1.37. The winner was the youngest of the entrants, and is a promising pupil of the Eccleshill school of scientific theorists. His time was a surprise to the Brighouse team, and his speed almost settled the result of the team championship, for which only two teams entered,

Sowerby Bridge and Brighouse, who, however, witnessed a splendid race, the first three pairs of swimmers keeping well together. C. H. Keir and W. Oakes swam first back stroke, and finished together in 1.41. J. Earnshaw, breast stroke, 1.40., was just behind H. Smith, 1.39. In the 100 yards free style, F. Collinge did well in 1.38, compared with H. Hellawell, 1.35. F. Wilson thus had four seconds to give to the District Championship winner, which he could not reasonably be expected to do, and Buckley did the 150 yards in 2.21.2, compared with Wilson's 2.34. The team totals were:—Sowerby Bridge, 7.16.2, Brighouse, 7.33.

An extra event was a squadron race between teams of lady members, which was so closely contested that Miss L. Sharpe's team won by only a few inches. There were plenty of club races and diving competitions, and at the conclusion the prizes were presented by Miss Woodward, the popular lady instructress. The ladies' Secretary, Miss M. Ambler, and her committee, gave willing assistance at the gala, and were heartily thanked for their assistance. Since the gala a 50 yards novices' race has been held, the heat winners being J. W. Pain (scratch), 39.2; J. Walker (15 secs. start), 0.47; H. Barker (15 secs.), 0.57; and J. Moody (8 secs.), 0.50. The final was won by J. Walker, J. W. Pain being second. Time, 51.1. The competitors were all learners. It is intended to hold the annual gala of the club on October 27, when Mr. Geo. Stone, the Hon. Secretary, informs us there will be an open 100 yards race for those under 18, and a 50 yards race open to ladies.

We note that F. W. Moses, of the Ravensbourne Club, swam second from scratch in the Veterans' handicap at the championship gala at Prince of Wales Road Baths, Kentish Town, on September 17, the actual winner being H. Salmon, of the York Club, who had a start of five seconds in 33 yards. Moses also swam second in this event last year, the winner on that occasion being Harry Hewitt Griffin, who had fourteen seconds start. The genial Freddy was one of the earliest workers for the Royal Life Saving Society, and gave many exhibition swims at its displays. In 1884 "Freddy," then a member of the Zephyr Club, swam second to G. Bell, of the Sandringham Club, for the half-mile championship of England, and the same year came in third to him for the long

distance championship, then swam from Putney to Charing Cross Railway Pier. In 1887 he was third to H. C. Schlotel, of the Surbiton and Ilex Clubs, for the quarter mile salt water championship at Southsea, and in 1888 third to J. F. Standring, of Manchester, for the mile championship at the Welsh Harp, Hendon.

From Mr. John Lamont, the well-known Scottish instructor, we have received particulars of a booklet on Swimming, published in New York in 1878, a perusal of which would doubtless gladden the heart of that enthusiastic authority on swimming literature, Mr. Ralph Thomas. The work is entitled, "New Manual of the Art of Swimming," as taught by the Monstery method, by Colonel Thomas H. Monstery, Graduate of the Royal Institute of Denmark and Sweden. It was published by the New York *Spirit of the Times*.

We observe that our old friend, Prof. John A. Jackson, of the Lurline Baths, San Francisco, is an advertiser on a large scale in several of the San Francisco papers. His terms are: single lesson, one dollar; six lessons, five dollars; and a full course, ten dollars. We make mention of this, as it will be an indication to many that the teaching of swimming in America has become a rather big business, and we trust a very good one, as Prof. Jackson is not the only one known as over there making use of newspaper advertising in order to draw pupils.

Dick Dungan, the American professional swimmer, who has been smashing records of all shades with magnificent if almost monotonous regularity, has designs on American back-stroke figure for the 150 yards. It is a secret that everybody knows at Piedmont Baths that Dungan has done 2.9 and 2.10 in practice.

By a late mail we have received the news that war conditions have considerably hampered the operations of the Province of Quebec Branch of the Royal Life Saving Society, but that framed charts have been distributed in the sheds along the wharves, in the river boats and at places on the shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The Branch continues to do its missionary work, and hopes to have an excellent report to make next season.

It is pleasing to learn that swimming is being taken up very strongly by the troops at Aldershot, where there is an excellent bath to practise and plenty of fine swimmers to make competent instructors. We do not find the swimmer so acclaimed in the Army as the boxer, but his work is just as useful for the physical training of the soldier and likely to be of much more value to him under special circumstances. But one notices that it is gradually being encouraged and no doubt it will before long be deemed a high accomplishment of the soldier.

The Royal Naval Air Service will hold a gala at Nine Elms Baths, Battersea, on Wednesday, October 3, commencing at 7 p.m. Swimmers in London should attend this, for in addition to many service races there will be exhibitions of diving by H. J. Aldous, and of scientific swimming by Leading Mechanic Fred Unwin, ex-amateur back stroke champion of England, as well as a water polo match between the R.N. team (H.M.S. *Victory*) and an Army team. Arrangements for this gala are being made by Air Mechanic A. E. Read.

Munition Clubs are springing up everywhere. At a gala of one termed the Projectiles, held at Nine Elms Baths on September 15, a 300 yards club championship for a cup given by Stock Exchange War Workers was won by T. Dimmock in 6.25.4; T. R. Bull, 6.27.4, being second, and a 150 yards championship for ladies for a similar cup by Mrs. D. Vowell in 3.25. Mrs. Vowell also won the members' 84 yards handicap off the one second mark.

The reporting of time in handicaps needs revision or explanation. The only satisfactory way is either to give the net time of the winner or else what the scratch man would have to do to dead heat with the winner. You can then get some idea of the performance. But these simple and only correct methods are rarely adopted, and the handicap times credited to a man are very often no criterion of his ability.

The annual gala of the Printing and Allied Trades Charity Sports Association was held too late last month for notice of the racing or result of the Southern senior ladies' team championship decided there to be included in this issue, but we hope great success attended the enterprise.

A free class of instruction in trudgen swimming is to be opened at the Huddersfield Baths by Mr. Robinson, the superintendent, provided sufficient names be received to warrant it. This generous offer should be heartily responded to.

At a gala held at Grantham at the end of August a Life Saving race was won by A. M. Greed and A. M. Mason, of the Royal Naval Air Service. There was also given a fine display by P. F. O. Wood, Royal Naval Air Service, a Canadian officer, who claims the Amateur Diving Championship of Canada.

Henry Eliensky, an American freak swimmer, has performed the extraordinary feat of swimming, or rather rolling through the water for a distance of seven miles securely tied to a chair. His legs and arms were bound, yet he covered the distance in good time.

The Leinster Schools' Championship was decided at Bray on the last Saturday in August in bad weather and was won by M. A. O'Connor, of Blackrock College, rather easily from A. O'Connor, of the Royal Hibernian Military School, L. McGrath, Clongowes Wood College, being third. Miss M. Clinch, of the Pembroke Club, was first in a ladies, open 100 yards race, Miss Byrne, of Bray, won the ladies' headers, W. J. Byrne, Sandycove Club, the gentlemen's headers, R. O'Reilly, of Bray, with 20 secs. start, the open 100 yds. handicap, and J. P. Tallon, Sandycove, the quarter mile from scratch. The unsettled state of the sea made fast times out of the question. A feature of the gala was a display of Life Saving by Mr. H. F. Case, who was assisted by Mr. R. Garland.

Cawsand Bay Club was started just over ten years ago by a small band of enthusiasts in Cawsand and Kingsand, but time and adverse conditions have reduced its original thirty to three. But as these include the chairman and hon. secretary, an attempt is being made to revive the junior branch for the benefit of the present generation of youngsters, fifteen of whom joined on a recent Saturday. A Life Saving class is to commence work at once.

Last month we reported the attempt and failure of Lieut. J. P. Muller, late of the

Danish Army, also for many years a member of the Royal Life Saving Society, to walk half a mile, run half a mile, cycle half a mile, scull half a mile, paddle half a mile and swim half a mile inside half an hour. But while the number was in the press Lieut. Muller accomplished the feat in 29.19.2. This, however, did not stand long, for on September 4 the Rev. S. Swann, M.A., Vicar of Holbrook, Derbyshire, only took 26.20.2 to perform the task. The times of the Rev. Mr. Swann were cycling 1.22.2; walking, 4.58; running, 3.35; paddling, 4.46; sculling, 3.43; swimming, 7.56. To old rowing men the victor will be remembered as rowing for Cambridge against Oxford in 1883 and 1884. In 1911 he created a record for sculling from England to France.

Plymouth Amateur Swimming and Life Saving Society had a great aquatic schools and Boy Scouts fête in the sea off the Hoe on September 8, and this attracted thousands of boys from Greater Plymouth (late the Three Towns). It was ably engineered by Messrs. J. Coombe and A. R. Cowlyn, the hon. secretaries, who have had much hard work this season, but with highly successful results which must please both of them. Members of the Ladies' Club gave exhibitions of fancy and high diving and swimming. The gala was an object lesson to those who have relinquished their energy in the teaching and promotion of swimming, forgetting that there is a young generation to be catered for, whose physical building up is of vital importance to the nation.

We regret to learn from friends in various parts of Australia that copies of the April issue of the Magazine have not reached them. It is just probable that these were lost on their way out, but we hope to be able to repair the loss in due course and so satisfy the wants of our staunch friends.

Birmingham Leander Club has been established forty years.

Subscriptions for the Fourth Volume of the SWIMMING MAGAZINE, which commenced with the June number, are now due and should be forwarded at once to Mr. William Henry, Hon. Editor, 8, Bayley Street, W.C. 1.

LIFE SAVING METHODS.

Concerning Displays in the States.

WE have received the following letter from Mr. T. W. Sheffield, relative to a paragraph which appeared in the SWIMMING MAGAZINE for July, referring to the statement that one of the holders of the Bronze Medallion of the Royal Life Saving Society had given "by special request a display of the Life Saving methods of the American Red Cross," pointing out that the methods so described were those of the Royal Life Saving Society.

SIR,—In the July issue of the SWIMMING MAGAZINE (page 6) you refer to having received copies of the *Santa Barbara Morning Press* explaining at the same time the writer's position with the Society, and then proceed to ask, in a somewhat punctilious manner, for an explanation from the Council of the American Red Cross, proceeding in the same manner as if the writer had countenanced such a serious alienation of ideas in that of permitting for one instant any misuse of the methods of the Royal Life Saving Society.

The confusion arose from the fact that the Carnival was held under the auspices of the American Red Cross.

The omission of the title Royal Life Saving Society on the programme forwarded was corrected at the Carnival, the public being informed that the water rescues as given by Mr. Glen Keiser were those of the Society, and it was regretted the reporter omitted to allude to this in the paper I forwarded.

I have no doubt had you considered the writer's activities and close association with yourself and his work on behalf of the Society you would have modified your last remarks, which to some extent is borne out by your expression, "probably the whole thing is an error," and trust, therefore, the foregoing explanation will in some measure dispel any ambiguous impressions created of the writer's or the American Red Cross Council's veracity towards the Society, which is held in the highest esteem for the objects of its great work.

It has occurred to the writer that a correspondence column open for legitimate comment or criticism on matters aquatic, would be a further useful service the SWIMMING

MAGAZINE could render the swimming world.

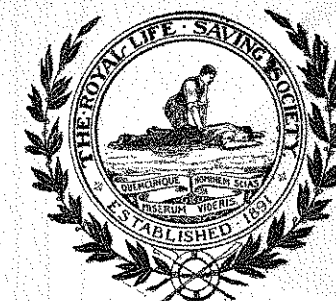
I allude to this as several friends of mine conversant with my work for the Society in the States and Canada forwarded me clippings of the comments alluded to.

I shall feel obliged if you will publish this as it may correct any wrong impressions created, feeling certain you are the last one desiring the slightest reflection on the writer's past and present work on behalf of the Society.—I am, sir, Yours truly,

T. W. SHEFFIELD, *Hon. Life Member.*
117, W. Mission Street, Santa Barbara.

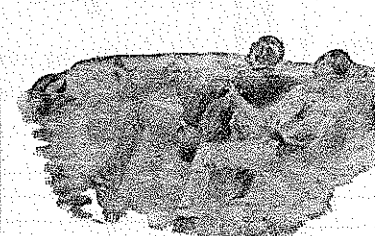
From Mr. Sheffield we have also received the pleasing information that Instructor H. Schneider, the Principal of the Bimini Baths, Los Angeles, who has some hundreds of pupils, has been training for his examination for the Bronze Medallion; also that a new bathing establishment *de luxe* is being completed at Dallas, Texas. There is to be a tea-room, a beautiful service shop or rest room for ladies, elegantly furnished. In connection with the ladies' dressing room there is a marinello shop, and in a separate part of the building twenty rooms are set apart for permanent men lodgers, who will have the privilege of using the pool. On a plot of ground adjacent to the Natatorium there will be a small park with wading pool for children. At night the trees in the park will be brilliantly lighted, and as refreshments will be served, and music provided it is expected to become a popular resort. There are 200 dressing rooms for men, with nine shower baths, 120 lockers for boys, a ladies' department with 100 dressing-rooms, from which there is a private stairway to the pool. Only the higher class of bather will be catered for. Mr. Sheffield was offered control of this establishment at 175 dollars a month, and half fees, estimated to realise about £45 a month, but declined owing to the large interests he has cultivated at Santa Barbara, where from January 25 last up to July 27 he had 756 registered pupils. His daily sheet of engagements shows no spare time, yet this energetic Life member of the Royal Life Saving Society and old Amateur Swimming Club man has found opportunity to complete a work on "The Supremacy of the Crawl," which we shall have pleasure in reviewing as soon as the promised copy arrives.

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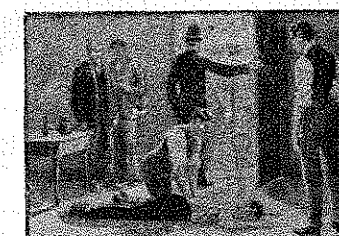
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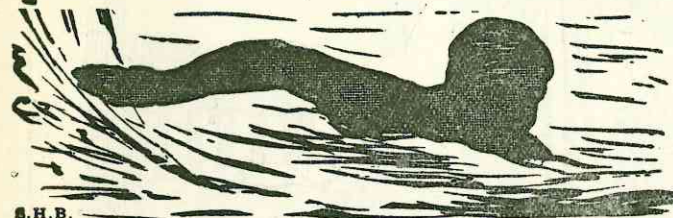
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