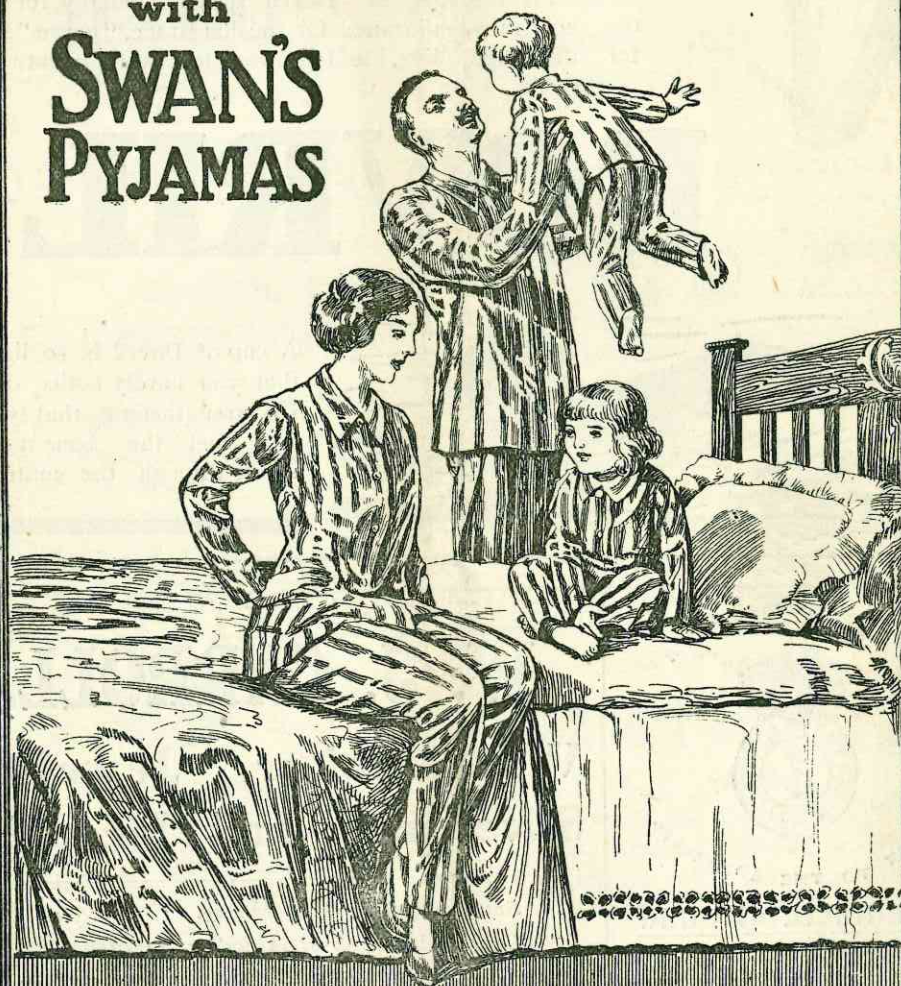


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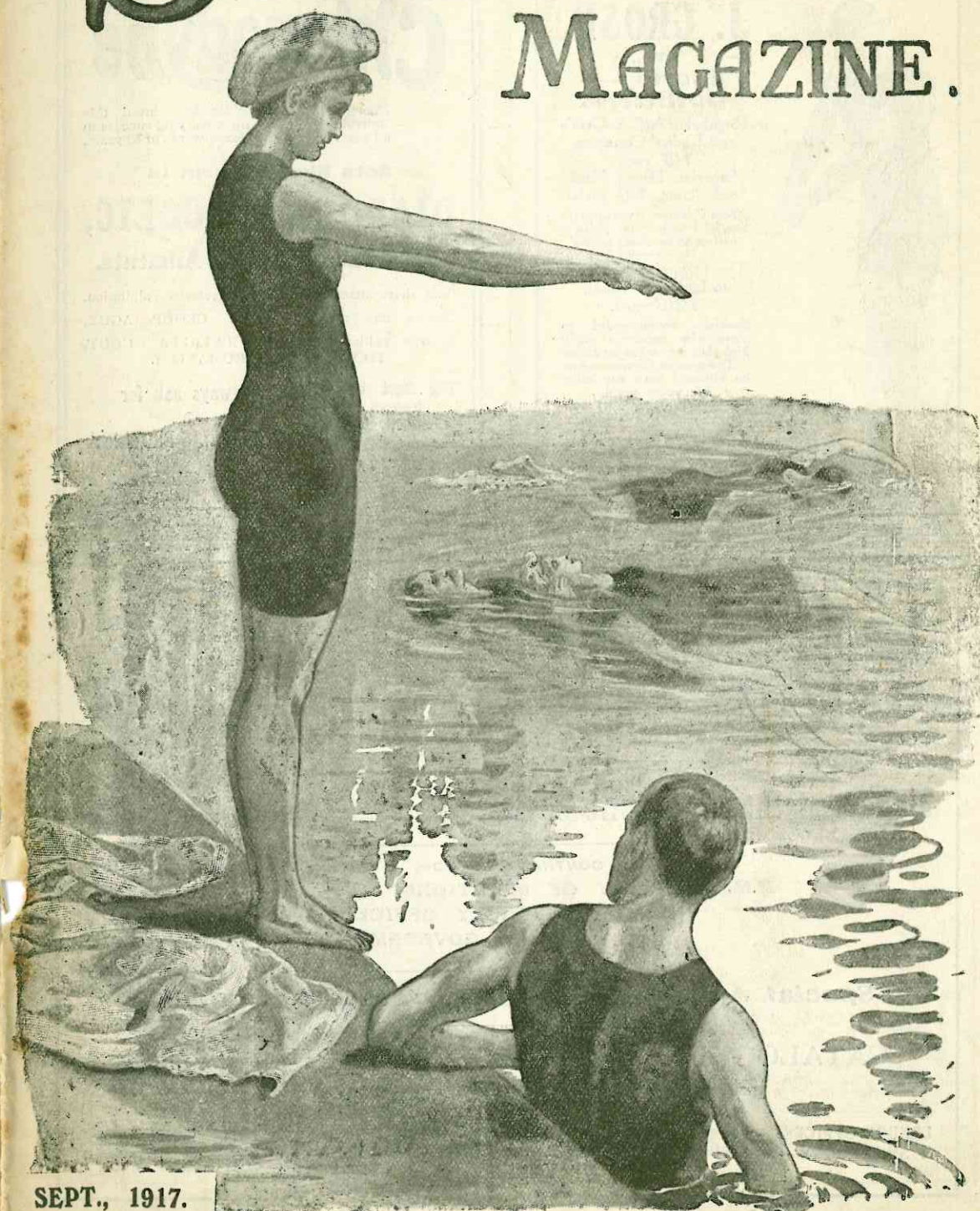
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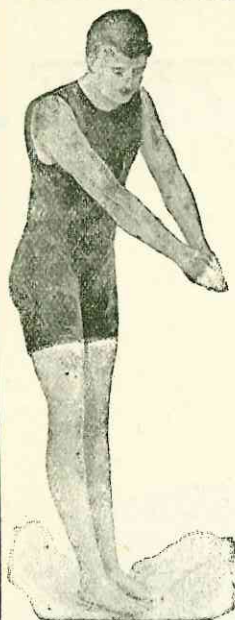
Printed and Published for the Proprietors by TERRY, HERBERT & Co., Ltd., 19/21, Fore Street Avenue, London, E.C.  
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# THE SWIMMING MAGAZINE.



SEPT., 1917.



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# The Swimming Magazine

(The Official  
Organ of The  
Royal Life  
Saving Society)

No. 4. VOL. IV.

SEPTEMBER, 1917.

## WOEFUL LACK OF ENTHUSIASM.

### Sailors' and Soldiers' Desires Ignored.

#### A DEMAND FOR MORE ENTERTAINMENTS.

**T**HOSE of us who have been attending swimming baths of late cannot but have noticed the growing demand of our sailors and soldiers on leave for some active competitions in which they can take part and thus get recreation during their short leave from the dangers of flood and field. Many of them who while in France have been able to get practice now and then, or to indulge in water polo, have also had energy enough to organise galas of their own, one water polo tournament they had in the Somme lasting six days. Some of them even get so far as the sea when on short leave. Our troops in Egypt, Salonica and India also indulge in their favourite pastime when opportunity serves and not only conduct galas but, as repeatedly reported in our notes, even find time amidst the stress of war to conduct Life Saving classes at almost every front of war activity.

Yet when they come to this country they find everything stagnant so far as competition is concerned, even though the baths are full, and though they yearn for a game or a race are unable to obtain either. At home we are apparently satisfied to shut down because it is not considered advisable to hold some senior championships, forgetting that the lads across the water are the ones who look to us to carry things on and to keep up a stout heart. For our own part we have never agreed with the precipitate action of abandoning every system of progress in natation which was adopted soon after the outbreak of war, an attitude still maintained, but which in the light of acknowledged facts is indefensible.

In another part of this issue we refer to the many enquiries made at the offices of the Royal Life Saving Society by both officers and men for particulars of any galas that may be on during their leave, and it is

discomforting to be unable to satisfy the desires of these gallant fellows. They cannot for the life of them understand why such things should happen and they seize upon every chance that opens up to get a swim in company with some of the men they knew in happier days. There must be a remedy for this state of affairs, for it is an implied shame on the old swimmers of England that such happenings should arise. We are, of course, quite well aware that many clubs have shut down, but all men have not crossed the seas, and out of the vast population in every town and particularly in London, there must be many who would gladly lend a helping hand were their energies sought out. When the lads from Overseas came here in the days of peace, there was always plenty of hospitality for them, and galas galore, but now they are on more earnest work for the Empire their need for pleasant companionship and recreation seems to be forgotten. In no other pastime has the needs of the soldier been so utterly neglected as in swimming. Of athletic meetings there are plenty every week in this country, rowing matches and regattas are arranged in quick sequence, but we only get a stray gala now and then, and these be it noted have been left almost entirely to organisation by our ladies' clubs. The example they set last year ought to have stirred up the lethargic amongst us, for did they not raise a splendid sum for the Star and Garter Fund, and at the same time provide recreation for our soldiers on leave as well as amusement for those unfortunately wounded. But while the ladies were doing this excellent work, what did the men exert themselves about? Practically nothing! Here and there you found one or two enthusiasts, but in most instances they had to depend upon the ladies.



# THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY.

## Valuable Help from Old Timers.

### GALLANT RESCUES BY MILITARY MEMBERS.

IT has been particularly pleasing to the Central Executive to find that their appeal to the early supporters of the Society for assistance in carrying out the many examinations of the year has been responded to in a manner quite unexpected. Many of those who in the early days of the Society's work rendered valuable services, but who through the exigencies of a business career have not been so much in touch as formerly have now rallied round and are giving most valuable help. One of these is Mr. J. P. Price, who was on the original Executive of the Society, and acted until 1894. He was a member of the team which won the first National Life Saving Competition, the other members being J. W. Weeks, P. A. Fowler and S. B. Fyson, representing the Ravensbourne Swimming Club, of which the late Sir George Pragnell was then the energetic Hon. Secretary. Mr. Price has been acting as Examiner at Tonbridge, and reports that the class of young ladies he had to examine surprised him by their excellence in all details of the Life Saving test. This testimonial from so keen an expert as Mr. Price created much satisfaction at the meeting. Mr. Price had four sons, all engaged in the war, but unfortunately lost his eldest at Vimy Ridge. The others, who joined up at the same time as their brother, have been on active service the last two years.

Another old timer, whose work the Central Executive greatly appreciates, is Mr. Robert Leithead, of West Hartlepool, who has been Hon. Representative of the Society since 1894, and has rendered invaluable service as Examiner. He gained his Proficiency Certificate, and also his Bronze Medallion in 1896. In the following year he secured the highest honours possible for a swimmer from the Royal Life Saving Society. This is the Diploma, which was unanimously granted him by the members assembled in general meeting. An interesting point in connection with Mr. Leithead's Diploma is the fact that three other members of his club passed at the same time. These were Mr. George Sarginson (still a member), and

Messrs. W. Somerville-Woodiwiss and Henry Lamb, who have unfortunately crossed the Great Divide. Mr. Leithead has been Examiner for the Society at the North-Eastern Counties School, Durham, and also at the Polam Hall School, Darlington, as well as in West Hartlepool for many years past.

In the year that Mr. Leithead gained his Diploma, only six others were similarly successful. In addition to those already mentioned the others were Messrs. Thomas, T. Jack, M.R.C.V.S., of Sunderland, and Charles R. Oury, of Norwich. The last mentioned has been Hon. Representative of the Society since its institution, and has regularly acted as Examiner. Last July, in company with Mr. Wilson, also of Norwich, he spent a whole day testing the highly proficient candidates at Framlingham. That the task of these gentlemen was no light one is evidenced by the fact that the Awards include 17 Awards of Merit, 25 Bronze Medallions and 25 Proficiency Certificates.

After eight years' splendid service at the Toronto Y.W.C.A. Miss Mary Beaton has severed her connection with the institution. To show her how greatly her work has been appreciated many of her pupils and friends presented her with a diamond pendant before leaving. There was also a farewell entertainment and a gala at the West End Y.W.C.A. in aid of the Great War Veterans' Club, and from which 125 dollars accrued. The exhibition of graceful and scientific swimming by Miss Beaton aroused great enthusiasm and she was made the recipient of several exquisite bouquets. One feature of the entertainment provided by her pupils was an exhibition of Life Saving by holders of the Award of Merit, no fewer than eight young ladies taking part therein. To Miss Beaton, who is now located in New York, we wish every success in her future career. She has done much for Life Saving in Canada during her stay there and is heart and soul in the good work for which she has laboured so much.

It is very gratifying to learn that Pte. Geo. H. Keat, of the New Zealand Medical Corps, has in company with Pte. McCaw, of the same force, been mentioned in general dispatches for "Gallant Conduct" in saving a soldier's life from drowning. Pte. Keat, who is an Hon. Instructor of the Royal Life Saving Society, has, since he has taken up the work, been instrumental in saving seven lives and giving a helping hand to others as well as being twice mentioned in dispatches. Pte. Keat gained the Proficiency Certificate, Bronze Medallion and Hon. Instructor's Certificate in the New Zealand season of 1914-15, and was accorded a vote of thanks for services rendered as one of the energetic Instructors of the year, besides which his name appears upon the first Roll of Honour issued by the executive of the Canterbury (New Zealand) Branch. In a letter recently received from him he very generously accords credit of his rescues to the teaching of the Society, through whose world-wide work he obtained the knowledge and ability of how to perform deeds of daring sufficiently important to be mentioned in official dispatches. Since then Pte. Kent has passed for the Award of Merit in France, and has the honour of being the first candidate to do so there. Writing to us on his way to the trenches he says that on his return he will assuredly start classes among his comrades.

Another instance of the value of the knowledge gained by the teaching of the Royal Life Saving Society has come to our notice through Lieut. C. W. Uzzell, of the Yorkshire Regiment, who recently gained the Award of Merit. On the same day that he received this he was informed that he had been awarded the bronze medal and vellum certificate of the Royal Humane Society for attempting to save the life of a young soldier of the Durham Light Infantry at Cleasby Deeps, near Darlington, just before he went to the front two years ago. The lad was a good swimmer but was drawn under by a whirlpool in a dangerous part of the River Tees and became wedged in some rocks in a hole 15ft. deep. It was some time before Lieut. Uzzell could find him and then it was an awful job to extricate the body. Though resuscitation was practised by Lieut. Uzzell for an hour until a doctor arrived, he was unable to restore life. Lieut. Uzzell says it was only the lessons he had learned from the Royal Life Saving Society which made him attempt the rescue.

For some years past it has been customary for Mr. George Tinnion to give annual public displays of Life Saving, Resuscitation and How to Swim in three lessons at the Taber Rocks Bath, Whitley Bay, and this year, on Bank Holiday, he gave demonstrations both afternoon and evening. At the afternoon lecture Mr. Tinnion had about a thousand persons present and most of them marvelled when he put into the water a young man named Mason, who was able to swim across a 15 yards bath at the first time of asking, but, as the demonstrator pointed out, did his land drills properly and had practised them as often and as regularly as he had been told to do. At the evening demonstration about four hundred were present, and this time Mr. Mason gave his instructor some assistance in the display. As showing the value of these public lectures and exhibitions it is worthy of note that in October of last year Mr. Tinnion was accosted by a perfect stranger who thanked him for teaching him to swim. He had been one of the onlookers the previous year and had taken the lesson to heart. Many such instances have fortunately occurred in the history of the Royal Life Saving Society.

During the recent visit of an Inspector of Schools to the Featherstone Swimming Baths a class of 30 boys underwent instruction in Life Saving by Mr. S. Billson, the enthusiastic superintendent of the baths. The lads carried out a varied programme of swimming feats and twenty-four of them went through the Elementary Tests for the Society's Award in perfect order, winning very high praise from the Government Inspector, who was delighted with the excellent discipline shown, and the efficiency and precision of the boys in their drill. A few days later six of the boys appeared at the Ackton Colliery Swimming Club's gala at Lister Baths. These were F. Malpass, J. Livesey, C. Cavill, T. Turton, J. A. Johnson and T. Morgan, whose average age is nine years. Under Mr. Billson's direction they gave a clever display of diving from a 22 feet high board, Life Saving, motionless floating, and various swimming feats. One feature of their exhibition was what was termed the Life Saving chain, all the boys doing the first method of rescue, following each other along the bath.

The next meeting of the Central Executive will take place on Thursday, September 20.

One of the great benefits to be derived from swimming is that by developing the lungs, it enables those who learn and continue to practise, to withstand the dread scourge of consumption. This fact alone should, in the opinion of many medical men to whom Mr. J. Herbert T. Jowett, Superintendent of the Ealing Baths, has spoken on the subject, lend great weight to the arguments of those who urge that the teaching of swimming should be compulsory in all schools. This has been one of the great aims of the Royal Life Saving Society ever since its inception.

A splendid record is that of Mr. Leeming Varley, of Skipton, who was recently awarded the certificate of the Royal Humane Society, and who since then has saved another life, this being the twenty-fifth rescue he has been fortunate enough to effect. Mr. Varley is a member of the Skipton Swimming Club, and acts as instructor to the lady members. It is somewhat curious to note that when he made his last rescue he was on his way to meet Mr. F. W. Smithson, of Bradford, the Hon. Instructor of a Life Saving class just formed in connection with the club.

The Northampton Life Saving Society, of which Mr. Fredk. J. Butlin is the President, has a balance in hand of £62 6s. 7d. as compared with £28 3s. 7d. last year. Owing to the war and not having any public baths in Northampton the Society has not been able to do all it would wish to, but nevertheless is making strenuous effort to teach the boys and girls of Northampton the art of swimming and Life Saving.

Staff-Paymaster Percy Nisbet, R.N.V.R., who for several years was a member of the Central Executive representing the Royal Canoe Club, has been awarded the Certificate of the Royal Humane Society for saving life at Molesey-on-Thames. Particulars of his successful effort were given in our last issue.

We had the pleasure of a visit recently from Lieut. Sawtell, Royal Field Artillery, who has been closely identified with Sherborne and is holder of the Award of Merit. Lieut. Sawtell, who is home wounded, is fortunately making good recovery. He tells us that the SWIMMING MAGAZINE is eagerly read by those who can get hold of it in France.

We regret to learn that Mr. C. J. Walton, Hon. Secretary of the R.L.S.S., Eastern Province Branch of Cape Colony, resident of Port Elizabeth, who was reported missing, is now presumed dead. On the outbreak of war he joined the South African Force and went to the aid of the Empire. When he arrived in England he gave us a call and spoke hopefully of the future of the work of the Society when things quieted down. He was a keen enthusiast and staunch supporter of the cause. He will be greatly missed by all, and particularly by the Chairman of the Branch, Mr. A. E. Marks, with whom he worked energetically.

A rescue of great difficulty was effected at Newcastle Harbour last month by Lieut. W. H. Wyles, who after going out to the assistance of a drowning soldier, found himself so hampered by his clothing that he was compelled to return and remove the incumbrance. But he went out again and secured his man.

Chesterfield Ladies Club have only five regulations, but included in this brief list is one which should be adopted by every club, as it reads thus:—"Life Saving members must not be hindered in their practice." That the members act up to the spirit of this regulation is evidenced by the fact that at a recent examination Misses D. A. Hodson, S. M. Payton, W. A. Stircombe, E. Greatorex, K. Fletcher, R. A. Smith, E. M. Coates, A. Lee, P. E. Verney, D. Brownlow, D. Blagden, M. Sharp, M. E. Haig, R. M. Bradfield, A. D. Dakin, V. D. Wilcockson, M. E. Stinchcombe gained Awards of the Society and Miss E. E. Leggitt qualified for the Hon. Instructor's Certificate. Great credit is due to the president of the club, Mrs. Hurst, who had carefully trained these ladies. Mrs. Hurst's husband, Capt. Hurst, has been in the thickest of the fighting for over two years and seven months, and been awarded the Military Cross.

We have had a call from Mr. W. Miles, of Cape Town, who has interested himself in the work of the Society in that city since 1915, by promoting classes and acting as Hon. Examiner. He came on a special mission to London which did not eventuate and therefore is now making the return journey to South Africa in order to link up once again with his old associations at the Cape.

## THE LADIES' SECTION. More Complaints from Water Nymphs.

### REMARKABLE CAREER OF MISS KELLERMAN.

THERE have been plenty of complaints from ladies this season about the lack of bathing accommodation provided for them. So many have now gone on war work that the old regulations are useless, and the times set apart unsuitable. Our authorities seem quite ignorant of the altered conditions of life and keep to their scheduled plan no matter what may happen. They have doubtless even forgotten that there is such a piece of legislation as the Daylight Saving Act, for had they borne it in mind they would doubtless have felt compelled to make much better arrangements than are at present in vogue.

In an article which appeared in the *Strand Magazine* Miss Annette Kellerman tells us that when she was a baby she had to wear iron braces owing to deformed legs, but that when she was five years old her father decided that she should take swimming lessons, and that she was taught to swim at Cavill's Baths, Sydney, New South Wales. This quickly strengthened her legs, and soon she became a regular duck in the water. When Miss Kellerman started professionally in Australia she received five pounds a week, but decided to come to England, where for a time she and her father were in somewhat desperate straits, as engagements were not forthcoming. For the attempt to swim the Channel her remuneration was £30. Then she went over for the Seine race, and received £40, following this up with a swim against Madame Isa Cescu in the Danube. For a time we saw her at the Hippodrome, and then she went to America, where fortune awaited her in "Neptune's Daughter," and "A Daughter of the Gods" moving pictures, the first of which cost £7,000 to produce, but out of which, says Miss Kellerman, £200,000 was made.

No difficulty was experienced by Miss Daisy Curwen, Westminster Ladies, in scoring another win in the 100 yards ladies' championship of Liverpool and district at the Westminster Baths, Liverpool, on July 25, when her time was returned as 1.15. Miss Curwen has now a long succession of wins in this championship to her credit.

The Philadelphia Turngemeinde has a very warm girls' team, it consisting of the Misses Elizabeth Becker, Helen Pennepacker, Gertrude Artell and Olga Dorfner, who in a time trial covered 400 yards in 4.47.2. Miss Dorfner, who holds the 100 yards record of America, would have proved a great competitor against Miss Fanny Durack, had that lady made the journey from Australia to the United States, which was at one time contemplated; indeed the speediest rival that Miss Durack had ever had opposed to her.

The death has occurred at Johannesburg of Miss Alice Ward, who was for many years a teacher in the Hunter Bar (Sheffield) Girls' School, where she was highly popular as the sports mistress. Miss Ward did excellent work in teaching Life Saving in Sheffield, and had carried her energies to the Johannesburg High School for Girls, on the staff of which she was serving at the time of her lamented death. She gave much assistance to us when we were in Johannesburg, by encouraging the practice of Life Saving and at various lectures and displays.

At the annual gala of the Harrogate Ladies' Club Miss E. Coleman won a rose bowl presented by Mrs. J. S. Rowntree for the club championship, and as this was the third time in succession, the bowl became her own property. Miss Coleman also competed in the 150 yards ladies' championship of Harrogate, but was placed second to Miss I. Lee, who swam the distance in 2.27.

Chester Ladies held their annual gala on the first day of August when the 100 yards breast stroke championship of the Northern Counties was decided, this being won by Miss May Spencer, of Garston, Miss Ada Wilkinson, of Altrincham, finishing second, and Miss Lilian Bennett, Garston, third. Miss D. Dutton won the ladies' championship of Chester, and also the 100 yards senior championship of the club. In a team race between the ladies and the military for prizes presented by Lieut.-General Sir William Pitcairn Campbell, G.O.C. in Chief, Western Command, the soldiers proved successful but only after a hard race.



The ladies of Southern California are very keen on swimming. Many of them have to thank Instructor Thomas Wilkinson, who seven years ago established a School of Swimming at Bimini Baths, with vastly beneficial results to the community, for his pupils have spread the knowledge gained wherever they have gone. In addition to teaching them graceful swimming the accomplished Instructor also inculcates into them the elements of Life Saving work early in their tuition. Last summer he was busy at the Y.W.C.A. at Los Angeles, but has now had a special natatorium provided for his College of Natation. It is open only to women and has, in addition to a fine pool, 175 dressing rooms, a roof garden where bathers may dry their hair, a Turkish bath, shower baths and a ladies' rest room. The floor around the plunge is furnished with lounges and easy chairs for women spectators.

Ladies' Perseverance Club decided their half mile championship race in the Thames at Richmond on the last Saturday in July, the race ending in another win for Miss Lily Studerus, the holder, by seven seconds from Miss Dorothy Wheeler, Miss Nora Lyte being third and Miss Mabel Scott, fourth.

A novel competition has been tried in America, the idea originating owing to controversy as to the length of feminine bathing suits. This was a contest for the most attractive and useful bathing garment made at home and either designed or finished by the contestant. A walking costume was awarded the winner.

Miss Dora Jane Wheeler, of Hollis, who in the summer of 1915 went overboard to save life, has been appointed instructor at the Life Saving Station at Ocean Beach, Fire Island. This is said to be the first appointment of the kind to a young woman by the United States Government. Miss Wheeler, who is 18 years old, is the daughter of the late James Cooper Wheeler, author of sea tales.

Daly's Theatre Ladies' Club had an outing at Chiswick on August 2, and there decided a 25 yards handicap in the fine open air bath. The race, which was only open to members of the "Maid of the Mountains" Company, was won by Miss E. Stevens from scratch, Miss L. Hayward being second and Miss J. Sterling third.

On the afternoon of Friday, August 3, Miss Maud Hardford, a young lady of fourteen, swam over the Amateur Swimming Association's long distance championship course in the Thames from Kew Railway Bridge to Putney Pier in 1.16.35. She used the crawl stroke from start to finish. Four days later Miss Eileen Lee, whose long distance swims in the Thames have made her name famous, went over the same course in order to beat this new ladies' record and succeeded in lowering it to 1.16.12. But Miss Hardford's performance is a wonderful one for a girl of her age.

Surrey Ladies held a gala at Kingston-on-Thames early last month in aid of the fund for erecting a swimmers' Y.M.C.A. hut. Eleven teams competed in team races and in the finals the New Zealand M.T. beat the Queen's Westminster Rifles, and the Royal Naval Air Service (*H.M.S. Victory*) accounted for a Territorial Field Company of the Royal Engineers. There were also a couple of polo matches in which the New Zealanders and the Royal Naval Air Service were again successful. A 60 yards handicap open to club members was won by Miss B. Dixon, a 30 yards handicap by Miss N. Woolnough, and a diving handicap by Miss D. Kibler.

The introduction of an aquatic pentathlon for women, which the National Women's Life Saving League is endeavouring to have adopted as a standard all round test, promises, says the *Pittsburgh Sun*, "to bear considerable influence on the future of water sports." All important branches of watermanship are featured. The novel event has aroused interest throughout the United States and several clubs have signified their intention of giving it a trial.

It is pleasing to get news from Durban, where we have many friends. From Mr. G. Reynolds, the Hon. Secretary of the Durban and District Branch of the Society, we learn that the ladies' clubs have been doing much in aid of the Disabled Sailors and Soldiers Fund and the Y.M.C.A. Huts. At a special gala held by the Cygnus Ladies and the Queen Park Clubs at Ocean Beach in furtherance of these objects the 50 yards ladies' championship of Natal was included in the programme, and this was again won by Miss K. Biggs, of the Cygnus Club, who covered the distance in 0.33.4. At the

same gala the Monte Cristo sack feat was performed for the first time in South Africa by a lady (Miss A. Pye-Smith). One of Durban's youngest swimmers, Miss Marguerite Wilson, aged five years, gave a charming little display of floating and swimming, and an amusing event of the afternoon was furnished by a perfervid Scot, clad in kilt and khaki. He hailed from the North of Scotland. After witnessing some of the more exciting competitions from a position perilously near the water's edge, he suddenly threw caution to the winds, and, attired in full regimentals, sprang into the bath. "Sandy" proved a first class swimmer, and gave a highly creditable aquatic display, which was loudly cheered.

Miss Doris Billson, who is only ten years of age, can easily carry her father, Mr. S. Billson, the Bath Superintendent at Featherstone, a distance of 25 yards, using the third method of rescue and can swim a mile comfortably on the back, using her arms every stroke, full length behind her head.

The date for the 100 yards championship of the Midlands has been altered from September 18 to September 15, at Nottingham. The 220 yards championship of the same district takes place on Monday, September 3, at Coventry.

In describing an aquatic show by girls in America the reporter says, "Miss Hoffman dances gracefully, but in the tank act does little more than display some stunning bathing costumes of the 'don't go near the water' type."

In the race for the 150 yards ladies' back stroke of America, Miss Dorothy Burns, who won the event, established a new American record of 2.26.1 for the distance. Her previous best time was 2.33. At the same meeting, held at Los Angeles, a plunge of 71ft. secured the National Plunging Championship of America for Ralph Ong, Los Angeles Club, who is only sixteen years of age. The American record is 80ft.

Chesterfield Ladies' Club were to have held their gala on September 27, but will now hold it two days earlier. This club, of which Miss M. Hurst is the captain, is fortunate in having the bath open to members on four days of the week, two afternoons and two evenings.

Park Ladies' Swimming Club are fortunate in having the use of a shed and a season's permit for bathing in the daytime in the River Lea, and of these privileges the members avail themselves every Saturday afternoon. As the Tottenham Schools Gala is discontinued during the war the Club is going to arrange for a quarter mile race for school girls some time this month, and are giving a silver medal to the winner. A worthy officer of the club also wants to encourage diving among the elementary school girls, and to that end is presenting medals for a winning team of three.

An extra careful person, "Somewhere in France," has been writing to the *Sporting Life*, wondering how on earth Miss Eileen Lee could have swum the long distance Championship course in 1.16.12, and assuming all sorts of things about the watches used. It is only one more proof of the gross ignorance which prevails about tidal water swimming, an ignorance we regret to say which often leads to disaster. Miss Lee came down on a strong spring tide, and therefore had great advantages, but she was nowhere near the best known time for the course, which is 1.3.12.2, by T. S. Battersby in 1910. We refrain from using the word record, for there can be no record under tidal conditions, which vary considerably from year to year.

While on this question of the Thames swim we may as well voice the disappointment of many ladies that the powers that be have not seen fit to run a ladies' long distance championship. You have only to go to the river to convince yourself that there are heaps of girls quite capable of traversing the course and many have been training in the hope of a competition. With that absent they can only go in for spectacular swims, and that is not to the taste of all. It would have been quite easy to arrange a race, and would pay well, for the girls have a great following. But the opportunities are let slip, and meanwhile the ladies are deprived of the test they long to accomplish. It would be quite in order for a ladies' club to arrange an open long distance race, for which we are sure they would get plenty of assistance at Putney from the old time members of the London and Thames who are past military service, or the cheery yachtsmen of the Ranelagh Sailing Club.

## UNCLEAN AND UNHEALTHY BATHS.

### Lack of Proper Ventilation.

#### MANY COMPLAINTS ABOUT DIRTY WATER.

**D**URING the past couple of seasons there have unfortunately been many complaints as to the condition of many public baths and correspondence in local and general press points to great lack of thought over present conditions. It would perhaps be somewhat invidious to mention any particular bath though correspondents have not been so generous, but we realise the difficulties which many bath superintendents now have to deal with in the matter of the shortage of labour and also the greatly increased number of their customers, this latter more particularly so in the munition areas.

The greatest number of complaints made are over the state of the water in the baths, which in certain instances is said to be pea soupy in character and at times fearfully cold. The routine of regular changing of water may have been adhered to, but that is not sufficient at the present time; neither was it in the old days. Now with more manual workers using the baths more frequent changes are necessary, but in addition radical alteration as to the methods of admission is also compulsory, that is if the health of the nation is to be studied at all. At present it is customary in many places to let customers in direct from the street to walk with dirty boots down the side of the bath and plunge into the water as soon as undressed. Such insanitary conditions should never have been allowed to exist. They have been animadverted against time and again for over a quarter of a century to our knowledge, but still the same old style of bath house is passed by the authorities, and architects proceed on their plodding system of making something look beautiful outside at great expense, but unhealthy within.

A proportion of the accumulation of filth which gathers on the bath sides is washed into the swimming pond no matter what the precautions may be. That was always the case, but that proportion is now considerably increased not only by the extra mud, but by the dirt taken in to the water by the manual workers themselves. Such admittedly being the case it is obvious

that no one should be allowed to walk along the side of the bath with boots on, and that every person should be compelled to have at least a shower bath before going in. So far as public bath houses are concerned the best plan is to have the entrance to the boxes from a corridor running at the back of them and the shower baths placed in openings leading into the baths and to this the only objection is the liability of theft from the boxes while the temporary tenant is in the water. In some proprietary baths the difficulty is got over by the club man leaving his boots in an outer room and donning shoes, afterwards having a soap bath before being allowed to enter the water. At any rate it requires very little thought to realise that the swimmer should be clean before he goes in the water, more particularly so at the present time when many strange persons are herded together and infectious diseases may easily be contracted, for the swimming bath is for swimming and not for washing.

Second in importance amongst the complaints is that of bad ventilation. How architects can be permitted by sanitary authorities to plan the placing of lavatories in the bath house itself passes all comprehension. Yet it is constantly done, and apart from being utterly repulsive to the swimmer must be vastly deleterious to his health. Let us hope that when the teaching of swimming in schools becomes compulsory these insanitary death traps will be dragged out of our public baths. At the present time there are many establishments where one has only to dive into the water to locate the whereabouts of the lavatories, for a film seems to settle close to the water and as you swim through this poisonous gas the effect is nauseating. Just fancy young children practising under such conditions, and of such tender years as to be unaware of the danger of lingering in such an atmosphere. There can be no question of shortage of labour here, for in the first instance it was crass ignorance of the power and poisonous nature of sewer gas that allowed such places inside, and on behalf of the children we raise strong protest against present conditions

being allowed to exist. Mayhap some influential person will bring this to the notice of Mr. Herbert Fisher, the Minister for Education, who is striving so hard to bring about the proper physical training of the coming generation and who considers swimming to be one of the best forms of recreation we have.

Powers are sought under the Bill now before Parliament for the Education Board to grant leave to the local authorities to provide swimming baths for those schools where adjacent facilities for teaching the art of natation do not exist. Over this there will doubtless be keen opposition, but if passed, as we sincerely hope it will be, great care must be exercised in the erection of these bathing houses. With the new and enlightened ideas now guiding us there should be little difficulty for experienced architects, who are swimmers themselves, to design baths which shall be free from the vital objections we have raised and which shall not be merely architectural show buildings. They can be of as plain a character as you like, but they should be so designed as to enable teachers to prevent unhealthy contamination of the water and above all should be properly and sensibly ventilated. An open running water bath is of course the ideal one from a hygienic point of view, but that is difficult to obtain and moreover the water is too cold during the greater portion of the year for the continuous systematic teaching of young children. Therefore, recourse must be had to the covered-in bath, and here it is that teachers can assist the bath superintendent and attendants in the very difficult task they have to perform and that is keeping the bath clean. By inculcating into the boys and girls of the nation the true habits of cleanliness and the physical benefit to be derived therefrom, they will gradually train up a race who for their own sake will assuredly prevent other persons from making use of the baths they frequent. You cannot stamp out the dirty or thoughtless person, but you can make such regulations as to prevent him becoming an abomination to the community and the complaints as to dirty and evil smelling water comparatively rare.

As regards the latter we are assured that at the present time many bath superintendents are considerably hampered by the niggardliness of their respective Councils, who on the plea of economy retard water changing operations, and also shut down

baths, they also asserting that labour is not obtainable. But if the consideration of the health of the nation, especially at the present time, is not National Service, we do not know what is, and had they the real desire to keep going they have now a great Government Department to assist them. It only resolves itself into a question of "siller," and with so much of that now being wasted surely some could be conserved for promoting the health of the people. By so doing we shall be far more ready to combat effectually those epidemic and infectious diseases which all history shows us have usually followed the cessation of great wars.

We fear that in some cases the desire to show a profit on the carrying on of the public baths may have the effect of causing false economy to be practised, especially in those districts where the baths are constantly in use. When we suggest that in the greatly used public baths the water should be changed every day we are met with a great shout as to the cost of water, but as in most instances the water undertaking as well as the baths are municipal the shout fails to appeal to us. Out-of-date baths have to waste all the water changed, but from the modern one use can be made of it for a variety of purposes, thereby saving municipal cost in another direction. Time was when the public somewhat kicked against charges on rates made under the Baths and Washhouses Act, but such opposition has almost entirely faded away, the admitted benefits derived more than counterbalancing the first feelings against a rate. It was the same when the old School Board rate came into force. Who now objects to its imposition? Are we not all clamouring for further educational facilities so as to fit our youth for the struggle of the world, and is not part of their essential training those accomplishments which shall make them healthy? And you cannot be healthy without being clean. Let us therefore keep our baths clean and wholesome even if some grumblers object to the necessary expense.

The members of the Surrey Ladies' Club held a distance race in the Thames from Molesey Lock, on the morning of July 21, which was won by Miss Hilda Coles in 5.42.0, she reaching Kew Railway Bridge, a distance of 11½ miles, in that time. Mrs. F. Allison, who traversed the next farthest distance, left the water at Teddington Lock, 4½ miles.



## RECOLLECTIONS.

By ARCHIBALD SINCLAIR.

THE Ulph Cup race at Great Yarmouth used to be one of the attractions for London swimmers, and several pleasant trips have I had to the popular East Coast resort in connection with it. The cup was presented by Mr. Harry Ulph, a leading bookmaker of his day, and the arrangements for the event were, until the time of his death, carried out by my friend the late Mr. W. J. Innes, "Pegasus" of the *News of the World*, who also acted as referee of the race, which took place over a thousand yards course between the Britannia and Wellington Piers. Harry Davy, whose death was recorded last month, was what one might term a regular competitor, and in 1891 proved successful. One of the memorable races I remember was that of 1898, when S. T. Pugh, of the Otter Club, who was also a winner in 1893, beat a formidable opponent in J. A. Jarvis, of Leicester, but more by sea strategy than direct swimming. It was a rough day, and Pugh as soon as he received the word to "go" went out to sea at an oblique angle, but in a fine current. Jarvis and the others kept a straight course and close home Jarvis seemed like winning. But Pugh then came in on the heavy tide, and was literally washed home a winner. It was a useful lesson in natatorial skill.

No sportsman of his period took more interest in swimming, both amateur and professional, than did Mr. W. J. Innes, and to him the Amateur Swimming Association is indebted for the perpetual challenge cup which is held by the winner of the Long Distance Championship. When question of the alteration of the course was first made, owing to the filthy state of the water between Putney and Charing Cross through which the old races were swum, Mr. Innes aided considerably in the selection of the present one from Kew to Putney Bridge, although I rather imagine he did not favour the severance of old associations. But the wisdom of the alteration was soon apparent. In the first year over the new course the winner was William Henry, of the Zephyr Club. That was in 1890, the period in which great reforms in swimming were being made, and the present enormous handbook of regulations only a

sturdy youngster. The death of genial "Pegasus" was greatly regretted, but by none more so than the members of the Cygnus, of which club he had been a generous supporter and donor. Mr. Innes, "Boss" Sparrow and the Brothers Benjamin were the life and soul of the old Cygnus, a club I hope to see restored to its old-time prestige soon after war is over, for modern day swimming owes much to the Cygnus.

In my reference to the feats of Mr. Horace Davenport I omitted to mention that in September, 1883, he swam the famous Niagara River, just below the Falls, in 3.59, and that in July, 1885, he succeeded in swimming from Surbiton to Hampton Court and back in 2.32.0. The chief difficulty of this swim lies in the fact that after going two miles against stream the swimmer has to meet the extra current where the Mole runs into the river. His best plunge was 70 ft. 7 in. made at the Ilex entertainment in 1884. Mr. Davenport was also a good oarsman, rowing No. 3 in the winning boat in the London Rowing Club eights in 1870, and now he is fond of golf and bowls. He was born on April 29, 1850.

The other day I came across a photograph of the late Charles Val Hunter, C.C., a man who did an immense amount of hard work for swimming and for amateur sport generally. His cheery face was to be seen at every meeting and his good humour often smoothed over difficulties apparently impossible to surmount. He was on the Council of the Amateur Swimming Association for many years and was the first president of the London Water Polo League. In 1890 Mr. Val Hunter, Mr. William Henry and I were delegates to a conference at Manchester, on the result of which all depended the future well-being of the Amateur Swimming Association. The Northerners were then out for complete separation, the late Mr. G. H. Barker, of the Reform Club, Liverpool, being leader of what was then termed the ultra-revolutionary party. But the calm judgment of Mr. C. J. Plumpton, of the *Barnsley Chronicle*, who was in the chair, turned the

scale and his casting vote led to the formation of the present important governing body. It is only right to say that Mr. Barker accepted his defeat quite loyally and later, after taking up the hon. secretaryship of the Northern Counties Association, did strenuous work for the promotion of swimming and the general well-being of the parent body. Like the late Mr. Harry Benjamin, of the London Cygnus Club, he was particularly keen on the instruction of the young, and his memory is perpetuated in the "Barker Memorial Trophy" for the Schoolboy Team Swimming Championship of England, presented by the Northern Counties Association in 1896. At the Manchester meeting referred to Mr. Val Hunter made a cheery sporting speech which considerably helped in the negotiations. Since then, despite long and almost interminable annual meetings, the associations have been on excellent terms, and of late years, "Deeds not words," has been the motto. Unless there be a lot of reconstruction work after the war it is hardly likely that we shall see a repetition of the "all night sitting" at Leamington in 1895. That lasted from 4 p.m. till 4 a.m., and delegates had occasionally to be woke up to vote, many of them sleeping soundly through thunderous debates and acrimonious discussions. What it was all about I have clean forgotten, so it could not have been of much importance. But we were young then and always spoiling for an oratorical fight.

One of the most curious styles of swimming I ever saw was that of J. Charrington, of the Kingston Rowing Club, who used his overarm like a scull, kept it out straight and stiff while pulling, and feathered back to forward position. When I first noticed his method he was competing in a Veterans' Handicap at the twenty-seventh annual entertainment of the Ilex Swimming Club, held at the old Lambeth Baths on October 7, 1886. Charrington, who was at scratch, won the handicap outright, second to him being the late W. Lyons O'Malley, brother of Charles O'Malley, who now takes more kindly to golf than swimming, but who in his day, apart from marked rowing and athletic ability, did well in natatorial events. In 1876 he swam third to Horace Davenport in the mile Championship at the Welsh Harp, Hendon. Among other competitors in this Ilex Club race were Staff Paymaster Percy Nisbet, R.N.V.R., and the late W. Byrne Jones, both of whom

were also members of the Cadogan Club, the latter being captain, but Nisbet was swimming as of the Royal Canoe Club and Byrne Jones as London Rowing Club, the race only being open to members of the high class amateur rowing organisations.

Gone for the time being are all our Coast Regattas, which did so much to cement friendship among swimmers and offered ample opportunity for sea water practice to those the nature of whose livelihood commonly confined them to racing in baths. Plymouth, Torquay, Penzance, St. Ives and a wind up at Exeter was one of the favourite trips with the London Water Polo League in its early days, and some of us would often go to Portsmouth, Emsworth and the Wight, thence to Lowestoft, mayhap Ipswich, and generally to Yarmouth for the Ulph Cup. It was an ideal way of spending a swimming holiday and was exceedingly pleasurable. Jersey and Guernsey were also favourite spots for South Country swimmers, but visits there generally prevented you from doing the West of England Regattas. But you were well repaid by the kindness and hospitality you received everywhere. Sometimes trophies came back in our wake as witness the Port of Plymouth Pier Cup, which Mr. William Henry captured in 1891-2, and thereby made his own property. Professional races always formed features of these Regattas and the best men of the day were attracted. Nuthall did well in the West and so did Billington. But for years the man who held big sway was George H. Kistler, of Penzance, who had a worthy rival in Hicks and an occasional opponent in S. Sergeant, of Portsmouth, winner of the mile amateur championship in 1885, and who tried to swim from Southsea to Ryde and back and failed. As may be easily imagined some of the dressing accommodation was not all that could be desired, but you put up with a lot when you met such hospitable folk. For years we were debarred from competing at most Regattas owing to the refusal of the local committees to have anything to do with the governing body, to whom they refused to pay a permit fee and thus prevented their supporters as well as visitors to the town from the opportunity of seeing the leading swimmers of the day meeting their local champions in friendly rivalry, and at the same time giving valuable lessons to the rising generation.

## NOTES ON NEWS.

### Interesting Items from Home and Abroad.

**M**OST of swimming championships of the Southern Counties are to be decided during this month, but two were swum off at Woolwich Baths on August 30, too late for mention of performances in this issue. They were the 100 yards senior ladies and the 100 yards junior boys. On the fourth of this month the 100 yards junior ladies is to be decided at the gala of the Avenue Ladies' Club at Wood Green, and on the 17th the junior ladies' team race takes place at a gala at Prince of Wales Road Baths, Kentish Town, organised by the Holloway United and Clapton Ladies' Clubs. Three days later the 220 yards senior ladies is to be swum for at the West Ham Club gala at Jupp Road Baths, Stratford, and on September 24 the London Schools team race takes place at Lambeth Baths, the promoting body of the gala being the South London Battalion Boys' Brigade.

At Hackney Baths, on September 27, we are to have the 100 yards junior ladies' breast stroke at the Clapton Ladies gala, and two days later the Senior Ladies' team race at Shoreditch, the gala being run by the Printing and Allied Trades Charity Sports Association. At the same meeting the Junior Graceful Diving Championship will be decided. The last championship race of the year will be the Schoolboy team championship of the South of England at Maidstone on October 3. Entries for these events should be sent to Mr. Harold E. Fern, Springhaven, High Barnet, Herts.

In the "Inter-Collegiate Swimming Guide" of the U.S.A. the famous George H. Kistler, Coach at Pennsylvania University, tells us as regards the food to be taken by swimmers in training that "Every man should suit his own taste, but, if possible, eschew spiced and rich foods. The main thing in all training is to prevent the derangement of the stomach, and to correct it as soon as it makes its appearance. Walking is about as good as any exercise for a swimmer, as the muscles are thereby strengthened and staying power developed. Once that power has been developed, by fairly long swims and walks, speed will assuredly follow,

and by judicious training a man may become a good all round swimmer over almost any distance. The usual form of dieting is to eat only the foods that are most nutritious. Eat in moderation, and avoid exercising immediately after eating. Roast beef, mutton, broiled steaks, fish, plenty of green vegetables, fruit and potatoes are good. Pork, veal, soups, pastry and fresh bread should be dispensed with. Eat slowly and masticate well."

Many of the Amateur S.C. will remember Frederick C. Pasmore. He is now located at Selangor, Malay States, and sends kindly greeting to all who gather round the table at "The Distillery" on Friday nights after racing. Mr. Pasmore is a subscriber to the SWIMMING MAGAZINE and says that "out station" men like himself greatly appreciate it.

The American system of starting championship competitions is by pistol. In water polo and basket ball matches, a pistol as well as a whistle is provided for the referee for calling time or stopping play.

Lieut.-Colonel W. A. L. Fletcher, D.S.O., King's Liverpool Regt., who has been wounded, is the famous Oxford University oarsman who rowed in the Oxford boat against Cambridge in 1890-91-92 and 93, and who was in the winning team in the first inter-university water polo match played at the old Crown Baths, Kennington Oval, in 1891.

Some months ago Lance-Corporal A. W. Barry, of the Australian Force, called to see us on his way to the Western front, and was then fit and well but we now regret to say that he has been severely wounded and in addition to nine wounds has suffered the amputation of a leg. At present he is in a London hospital and when on a visit to him we found him most cheerful. In 1914 Barry was the holder of the Australian 100 yards and 100 metres records and the 100 yards State Championship and he also swam third to Kahanamoku and Cunha in that world famous 100 yards race at the Sydney Domain Baths, when Barry's time was returned as being 0.55.4.

The bathing facilities in the Thames Valley from Richmond to Oxford are not what they should be, and very little improvement has been made in the ten years which have elapsed since the Headmaster of Clayesmore School made eloquent appeal in the *Daily Telegraph* for reform. After exhaustive enquiry he found that in the stretch of about 100 miles there were only forty bathing places, of which fourteen were private, thus reducing the number available for the public to twenty-six, of which sixteen were provided by local authorities, two were owned by hotel keepers, four provided by lockkeepers and four public places on the towing path. Again eleven were situated between Oxford and Windsor, leaving only twenty-nine for the rest of the river, many of which were private. It is a popular misconception to think that the Thames Conservancy is responsible for this, because their powers only extend to the regulation and policing of bathing places after their establishment by the responsible district authorities. It is therefore the bounden duty of every riverside citizen to make urgent representation to his local authority.

We regret to record the death in July last of Mr. Frank Shooter, of Exeter, who for thirty-seven years was Superintendent of the Head Weir Swimming Club and was held in the highest esteem. Mr. Shooter, who was sixty-nine years of age, was awarded no fewer than eleven medals for life saving.

Rutlish School, Merton, is one of the Secondary Schools that has made marked progress in swimming and Life Saving. This year its successes have again been great, thanks to the careful instruction of Mr. H. S. Bignall, the instructor at Wimbledon Baths, and Messrs. R. G. H. Whitty and M. W. L. Hines, two of the old boys of the school. The two last mentioned, the first named of which won the Surrey Secondary Schools Swimming Championship in 1914, are now serving in His Majesty's forces. At the Secondary Schools Championship meeting in July at Wimbledon Baths, Rutlish School won three out of four events, E. H. Nash, one of the scholars, winning the individual championship, but this does not constitute a record for them, for in 1913 they secured three finals and one second and in the contest taken as a whole Rutlish School has taken the first place among Surrey Secondary Schools four times during the last five years.

The *Official Gazette* of the Italian Ministry of Marine, of June 3, reports that the King of Italy has granted the Silver Medal for Marine Valour to Argent Horace George, leading seaman, for having saved by swimming with great risk to his life, an Italian sailor at Taron, whose boat had been capsized by heavy swells and wind.

On June 27, at Calmino Bay, Aegean Sea, Professor Reizit, Hon. Instructor of the Italian Life Saving Society, was honoured by the presence of Col. Bonino, Commander of the 34th Regiment, visiting the island, and at a demonstration the Mayor, Doctor Cathopulli, took the opportunity to explain to the public the practical benefits of Dr. Schaefer's method of resuscitation. Colonel Bonino complimented the pupils most heartily upon the excellence of their work.

Further particulars of the doings of Norman Ross, San Francisco Olympic Club, at the championship meet at Corondo Tent City, California, are now to hand by courtesy of Instructor John A. Jackson, of the Lurline Baths, San Francisco. The meeting was held on July 4, and on that day Ross won the mile national championship in 24.10, Pacific Coast 100 yards championship in 0.58.2, the Pacific Coast quarter mile in 5.42.3, Pacific Coast 150 yards back stroke in 2.9.3, Pacific Coast 220 yards in 2.40, Pacific Coast 200 yards breast stroke in 3.3, and the Pacific Coast 880 yards in 13.17.4, and his club won the quarter mile relay race. Well might the U.S.A. papers term Ross "some wizard." Such a remarkable performance as his has never before been accomplished. Ross started the day by breaking Langer's American record of 24.59.1 for the mile by 0.49½, and then competed in and won every event open to him.

The annual gala of the Twickenham Elementary Schools, fixed to take place on the first of last month, had to be postponed until the fifth of this month owing to the flooded state of the River Colne and the abnormal downpour of rain. The Twickenham bathing place is in the Mereway, a part of the Colne, at the back of Twickenham Green. This is far removed from St. Margarets-on-Thames and the centre of the town, and efforts are being made to obtain a bathing place in Marble Hill, the public park owned by the London County Council. It would attract many visitors.



Good work in the teaching of boys and girls to swim is being done by P.-C. Hughes, of Twynning Police Station, who started a class for instruction to village children some three years ago in the River Avon. Mrs. Butler, of Twynning Park, near Cheltenham, took an interest in the good work and erected a dressing hut on her ground and a diving board and steps on the river bank at Chadwell, near Twynning Fleet. P.-C. Hughes now has a large class of pupils and over 30 can swim.

Recreation Commissioner Potts, of Cleveland, has issued an order that every one of the forty young men and women playground instructors employed by the City authorities must learn to swim and to teach others to swim. Every playground in the city will be assigned one day a week for its children to be taken to one of the city beaches for swimming lessons.

On Bank Holiday we had the pleasure of meeting Lieut. E. R. Maund, the old Amateur Swimming Club member and water polo player, and one time contestant for Amateur Boxing Association championship honours, at the Thames Camping Association's headquarters, where he had come for a dip. Lieut. Maund, who was home on short leave from France, has been on active service overseas for some considerable time.

New open air baths 150 feet long and 50 feet wide have been provided by the Thrislington Colliery Company, at West Carnforth, for the use of their workman, their families, and outside members of a newly formed Thrislington Colliery Swimming Club, whose membership already exceeds 200 and to whom the management of the baths has been handed over.

Eton College annual swimming races and headers were decided at Athens Bathing Place, Eton, on July 27, P. G. Kennedy winning the 300 yards school race, J. L. Baker being second, G. O. Nichalls third, and R. Armstrong-Jones, fourth in 3,24. In the School Headers Armstrong-Jones proved successful, Baker being second and Kennedy third. For the 300 yards Junior swim there were twenty-one starters, B. B. Bull proving successful in 2,42. J. A. T. Bower won the Junior Headers, for which there were twenty-four competitions.

The winners of the season's championship events in Queensland are:—100 yards, 220 yards, 440 yards, 880 yards, and three-quarters of a mile, F. W. Springfield; mile, J. W. Saunders; 100 yards breast stroke, E. S. Collin; 220 yards breast stroke, E. S. Collin; 500 yards squadron championship, Rockhampton; 250 yards junior squadron, Valley Juniors; 100 yards County, G. Milner, Rockhampton; water polo, Commercials; Ladies' 30 yards junior, Miss Elsie Venning; 50 yards senior, Miss M. Springfield; 100 yards senior, Miss M. Grant; 220 yards, Miss M. Springfield. Collin, who is a new acquisition to the Valley Swimming Club, was also in the Club's Life Saving team, which won the Barry Rose Bowl, the other members being F. W. Springfield, F. Thurlow and J. Brett. As an instance of the value of learning the breast stroke it may be noted that the team took the first four places in the Breast Stroke Championship this past Queensland season, E. S. Collin being the actual winner; that J. Brett won the 220 yards breast stroke in 1915-16 season; Thurlow the 100 yards, and Springfield the 220 yards in 1914-15 season, and was second in the 100 yards and 220 yards races won by Collin.

American swimming history is said to be limited to about thirty-five years. At one time in that period the mile championship was won in 45,45 and the 100 yards in 1,28, but to-day Ludy Langer's record for a mile is 23,11 and 100 yards 0,53, the latter being held by Kahanamoku.

Lance-Corporal H. G. Jefferies, Yeomanry, killed in action, was champion swimmer of the Eton College Chapel Choristers' School for three years in succession.

Dublin Swimming Club, which has the Marquis of Ormonde, K.P., as its patron, is taking steps to form a ladies' section, and in this effort it should meet with immediate success. Other clubs might well follow this excellent example.

In a competition run some years ago by the London *Truth* in order to comply with the request of the New Zealand Swimming Association for suitable mottoes some excellent suggestions were made, "To swim is health," "We swim to save," "Health and safety" and "Always first to try and save" were some of the best of the hundreds sent up. It was a very popular competition.

The newly-formed St. Anne's Swimming Club, of which Councillor C. F. Critchley is President and Mr. H. E. McNeal the Hon. Secretary, decided at its inaugural meeting, held on July 24, to affiliate to the Royal Life Saving Society, and also to the Northern Counties Amateur Swimming Association.

Only four entries were secured for the Junior Back Stroke Championship of the Northern Counties decided at Hyde, and only three boys started. Arthur Richardson, Garston Club, the holder, winning easily in 1,23,3, a second slower than his best known performance.

At the ninth annual swimming race organised by the French sporting journal, *L'Auto*, which was decided in the Marne on July 22, M. Noel, who fought in the war, had an arm amputated, and has been decorated with the Medaille Militaire and the Croix de Guerre, finished eleventh out of thirty-three competitors. The race was won by G. Dubreux in 21,27.

In response to a vote of thanks accorded him for his services as starter and judge at the contests of the 4th Bath and Wells Cadet Corps, C.L.B., gala at Bath, Chief Inspector Beamish said it was right every one in Bath should take an interest in child welfare, and there was nothing more conducive to it than teaching children how to swim, and not only how to swim, but how to save life. They read distressing cases of children being drowned through inability to swim, and there was not only the agony of parents to be considered, but the loss of those who might have been useful members of society. Every boy, at all events, should be taught swimming. He spoke in very favourable terms of the high diving by Pte. H. Wright, and said his display would have done credit to a diver three times his age. He had rarely seen a boy acquit himself in such an excellent manner. Remarking that he would like to see Life Saving encouraged in connection with the schools of the city, the Chief Inspector said that if he, with 17 years' experience in that work, could be of any assistance in promoting it, he would be pleased to help either in teaching Life Saving or swimming. Chief Inspector Beamish has for many years been a highly valued member of the Central Executive of the Royal Life Saving Society.

The hundred yards junior championship of the Northern Counties, swam for at the Everton Ladies and Liverpool Police Gala at Westminster Baths, Liverpool, on July 25, was won by E. A. Jones, Toxteth Club, in 1,30, A. E. Evans, Garston, being second, and J. Nightingale of Bolton, third.

Billington, whose name is famous in the annals of English swimming, is now a corporal in the Lancashire Fusiliers, and acting as gymnastic instructor. On every occasion possible he is giving exhibitions for war charities.

At the Westminster School sports Mr. H. C. Schlötel, winner of the quarter mile salt water championship in 1885-6 and 7, the half-mile in 1885 and 1886, and the mile in the last-mentioned year, acted as judge. His son, R. H. Schlötel, came in second to W. G. Cass in a 76 yards race won in 1,2,2, and was in the Ashburnham, the second four in the House (150 yards) team race, the winning House being Regund's.

Lieut. Clilverd, Royal Field Artillery, mentioned in despatches from Salonica, is the well-known Cygnus, Otter, London Banks and Honourable Artillery Coy. swimmer and water polo player, who represented England in the Pentathlon at the Olympic Games at Stockholm in 1912.

In an interesting communication upon "Diving as an Industry" an article upon which appeared in our June number, Capt. Passerini, of the Italian Navy, says that a man-of-war lost her anchor in the Bay of Scarpanto at the depth of 83 metres (44 fathoms), and that a sponge diver of Simi, named Hagistaty, aged about 30, was able after a few days' training and with the help of a stone, to tie the ropes necessary to save the costly object and for this received considerable recompense.

At a gala of the Queen's Westminster Rifles, at Richmond on August 13, a rather alarming incident occurred which might have proved serious. One of the members of the regiment, who has had the experience of swimming at Dennistoun Baths and at Cape Town, gave a display of the Monte Cristo sack feat and when under water about to cut his way out, he stuck the knife into his own throat. Fortunately the wound was superficial.



The Amateur Diving Association have received a silver cup value twenty-five guineas from the Duke of Westminster and propose to allocate it to a special Ladies' Competition.

Sapper Alexander Hynd, Royal Engineers, killed in action, was a well known Fife swimmer. He won the Carnegie Dunfermline Club captaincy race for three years in succession, and was holder of many medals and other trophies.

The history of Stirling is known to every schoolboy, but on to the said history must now be tacked the fact that it has no swimming baths. A plebiscite took place on the question in the early nineties, but only a mere handful of electors voted in favour of the Town Council erecting baths. But even before that the subject was before the Council. "Forty years ago, we notice from our files," says the *Stirling Observer*, "the Corporation had a report from a committee on the point. That report suggested that a swimming pond should be constructed on the site of the old Stirling Castle Curling Club's pond at the Raploch, but the matter was deferred until Provost Christie and Councillor Reid, who said they had been visiting the Continent, and were impressed by the public baths and wash houses they had seen there, could produce a similar scheme for Stirling. The scheme appears to have gone astray, however, as it was not again heard tell of."

We have had a long and interesting letter from our old friend, Cecil Healy, who has been on active service in France for many months. From it we gather that he is fit and well, and to keep in that condition, indulges in much physical exercise, which, of course, includes swimming on every available opportunity. We also learn that he had some little leave, during which he visited Paris, which gave him much satisfaction, as he met many whom he knew in the days when war was least thought of. He met a small coterie of sports and sporting writers, who laid themselves out to make the stay as entertaining and enjoyable as possible.

By the courtesy of the Editor of the *African World*, Leo Weinthal, Esq., F.R.G.S., we had the pleasure of joining in a trip on the River Thames, organised by him for the benefit of our South African wounded in

hospital at Richmond. The pleasure was greatly enhanced by the fact that there were among the wounded many who were connected with Swimming Clubs in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Durban, Johannesburg, Pretoria, etc. Some of these saw the writer during his tour in South Africa in 1913, and we were thus able to renew acquaintance with swimmers, life-savers and water polo players. The trip was, in every respect, a huge success, the arrangements were perfect, and it was a delight to be associated in some respects with the hard-working editor, whose organising ability is beyond question as every detail was provided for. The swimmers of South Africa who read this Magazine will, we know, be grateful for the trips that are being arranged for the pleasure of their comrades who have done their part in aid of the Empire. A full description of the outing, which included a visit to Windsor Castle, is given in the *African World*. The "Nightingale of Natal," Miss Ada Forrest, rendered many old sweet songs, including "God Save the King," in the quadrangle of the Castle, which to our ears never sounded more beautiful. There were quite a lot of other things that happened which helped towards the enjoyment of the guests of the day.

The Amateur Swimming Club has become a cosmopolitan institution, for not only have the Belgian swimmers made the club gathering a rendezvous and joined in the races, but on regular meeting nights Australians, South Africans and Canadians foregather at the Fitzroy Baths. Meeting night is Friday, and it is the practice to invite all visitors to participate in the events. It is a swimmer's home from home where an enjoyable evening may be spent.

It is reported that the Pacific Association are not satisfied that Cunha's transfer from the Hawaiian Association was properly made, and consequently he was stopped from competing in several races until the question had been settled. Cunha is now resident in San Francisco.

An athletic feat of high class was attempted by Lieut. J. P. Muller, at Putney, on August 20, when he essayed 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, all within the space of half an hour. Lieut. Muller's idea was to demonstrate

that by the practice of physical culture a man could be as fit if not fitter at 50 years of age than many others at 25.

The order that Lieut. Muller chose to adopt to cover three miles in 30 min. was—walking, running, cycling, sculling, paddling, swimming. He set off just before half-past five, and here are the official times: end of walk, 4.30; end of run, 7.47.2; end of cycle, 10.5; end of sculling, 16.45; end of canoe, 22.12; end of swim, 32.29.2. The lieutenant was thus beaten in his attempt by 2.29.2. Over a minute was lost in changing from the cycle to the boat and three-quarters of a minute were lost in moving from the boat to the canoe. Moreover had he deferred his swim till an hour later, when he would have had advantage of the full ebb tide, instead of going on the half ebb, there can be little question that the feat would have been accomplished well inside thirty minutes.

Lieut. J. P. Muller was born in 1866, entered the University in 1884, first studied theology, and then became lieutenant in the Royal Engineers. For ten years he was a private engineer, and for 4½ years inspector at the Vejle fjord Sanatorium for Consumptives in Jutland, but resigned this appointment in order to devote himself entirely to propagating the cause of personal hygiene. He has won altogether 134 prizes, of which 125 have been championship and first prizes, and only nine second prizes. These have been won not in any one restricted field, but in almost every possible branch of sport and athletics—sprinting and long-distance running and walking, long jumps, rowing, skating, swimming, plunging, throwing the hammer, putting the shot (16 lb.), throwing the 56 lb. weight, discus throwing, spear throwing, weight lifting, tug-of-war, wrestling (Græco-Roman), and in the all-round athletic championships. He has also taken his own part in boxing, ski-running, and football. Lieut. Muller introduced the British system of athletic meetings into Denmark some quarter of a century ago.

Our friends the members of the Plymouth Amateur Swimming and Life Saving Society will be interested to learn that we have had a letter from their member and comrade Corporal E. H. Lamb, of the Sanitary Section E.E.F., stating that he is conducting classes in Life Saving among the men of

his section. He required the handbooks of Instruction, Charts and Examinations forms. Of course his wants have been supplied and we congratulated him upon the good work he was doing and felt that his resolve to impart the knowledge was due to the training he had had when he was with his Club, which paid much attention to the subject.

Is it not time that a great Military swimming meeting was organised in London, which many Overseas swimmers can reach with comparative ease, all of whom long for some active competition? The matter doubtless requires a good deal of organisation, but it would be a high compliment to our friends were it carried out. Almost every day there are callers at our office asking for news of swimming galas or races, either to take part therein or else to visit them, and thus renew their acquaintance with a beloved pastime. You can have no idea how keen are these soldiers from Overseas on all that appertains to healthy sport, and we were hoping that a series of meetings would have been organised for them similar to those arranged by the athletic section of our community. Some races for them have been included in one or two of the river regattas that have been held this season, but they have been few and far between.

In the old days such a Club as the Ravensbourne would have gladly undertaken the task, but under present conditions that is of course impossible. So also would the London Water Polo League have acted, but nearly all its members are serving. Yet there remain several of the older section, and they might well band themselves together into a working Committee for the purpose suggested. They would get plenty of support and no doubt enough financial assistance from the old timers to ensure success over every meeting they attempted. Their sporting action would prove a worthy addition to the already worthy annals of the League, to whose energies in the early nineties the spread of water polo in this country is mainly due.

A new Club has been formed at Horsham in connection with the Y.M.C.A., the members of which practise in an open water bath, 600 ft. by 60 ft. with a depth of 5 to 10 ft. The Hon. Sec. is Mr. David Bryce, who is devoting much time to the promotion of Life Saving, and is most anxious to make



a success of the movement in the district, which is much in need of such an organisation, but Sussex is not at present regarded as being prolific in clubs.

From Mr. Harry Witty, Hon. Sec. Victoria Head Centre of the R.L.S.S., Australia, we learn of the safe arrival of the case of supplies forwarded two months ago, also that Mr. T. W. Malins, who was in England a short while with the Australian reinforcements, has safely returned to Melbourne. For the purpose of having uniformity in the conduct of Classes of Instruction and the examination of candidates for various awards a winter class is being formed at Melbourne, at which we are glad as this will help matters greatly by creating a satisfactory standard.

The Victorian Head Centre Executive have submitted Miss Alice Broughton and Messrs. Alex Robbie, Kenneth Ditchburn, H. Goldsmith and A. P. Newey for election as Hon. Associates of the Royal Life Saving Society for the great service they have rendered in promoting its aims and objects by conducting many classes of instruction. The last named we know well, he was Hon. Secretary of the Centre during our visit to Victoria and for a long while devoted himself assiduously to the interests of the Society, and thereby is largely responsible for the success that this Centre has achieved.

Our article on "The Teaching of Swimming," which appeared in the August number of the Magazine has met with much sympathy from all classes, and has been reproduced all over the country. It is evident that the appeal for sane consideration of this humane subject has hit a responsive chord and we hope that the questions we raised will not be allowed to drop, that red tape will be ruthlessly snapped and that the authorities will be forced by the heavy and continuous pressure of public opinion to provide facilities for teaching, and also be compelled to see that proper instruction is given to every boy and girl in this country. It is only by this that we can hope to minimise the great loss of life which annually occurs through the lack of knowledge of swimming and Life Saving.

The Royal Life Saving Masonic Lodge will hold its regular meeting on Friday, September 21, at the Restaurant Frascati. On this occasion Mr. H. Johannson, winner of the King's Cup in 1904, and Olympic

Diving Champion of 1908, will be advanced a stage, after his initiation last April.

It was with deep regret that we learned of the death in action, on July 23, of Captain George Pragnell, D.S.O., Brigade Major, who was the only son of the late Sir George Pragnell, one of the earliest workers for the Royal Life Saving Society, and Lady Pragnell. Captain Pragnell had been home on leave for a few days, and had only returned to the front on July 20, being killed three days later. The sympathy of every swimmer is extended to Lady Pragnell in this second sad bereavement.

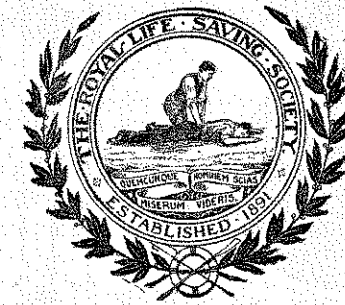
We also greatly regret to learn that Captain A. M. Holbein, Royal Garrison Artillery, is in hospital badly gassed. He is the son of the famous long distance swimmer Montague A. Holbein, who in 1902, in an attempt to swim across the English Channel from Cap Grisnez to Dover, remained in the water 22.21.0, but was then compelled to retire when only about half a mile from land, as the offset of the tide from the South Foreland was taking him out again. Captain Holbein, when a scholar at St. Dunstan's College, Catford, distinguished himself as an athlete, being successful in the quarter mile, half mile and mile races, and creating college records for each event.

It is not generally known that Mrs. Vera Stirling Hill, well known to swimmers as Miss Vera Neave, created an English ladies' record of 6.57.4, for a quarter of a mile, at the Poplar Baths on Oct. 15, 1914, which has been officially recognised by the Amateur Swimming Association. The non-receipt of official handbooks, or reports of meetings, since the outbreak of war caused us to overlook this performance.

At Rochester police sports the Rev. H. M. Johnson, rector of St. John's, Chatham, the starter of the swimming races, after dispatching the competitors, himself plunged into the river and beat the winner of the eight-mile race by four minutes.

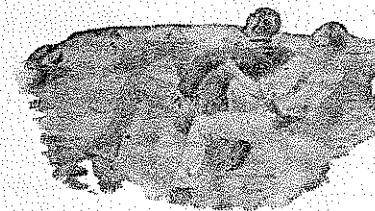
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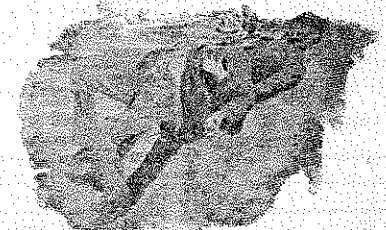


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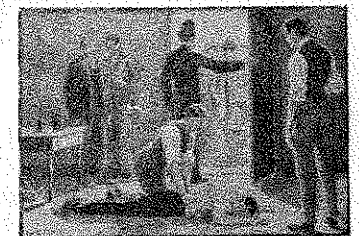
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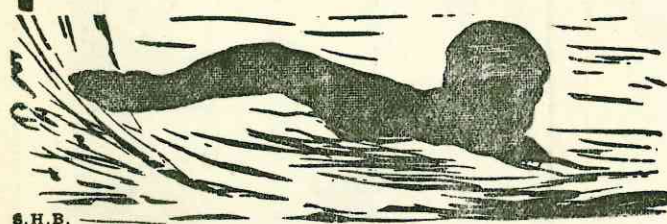
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