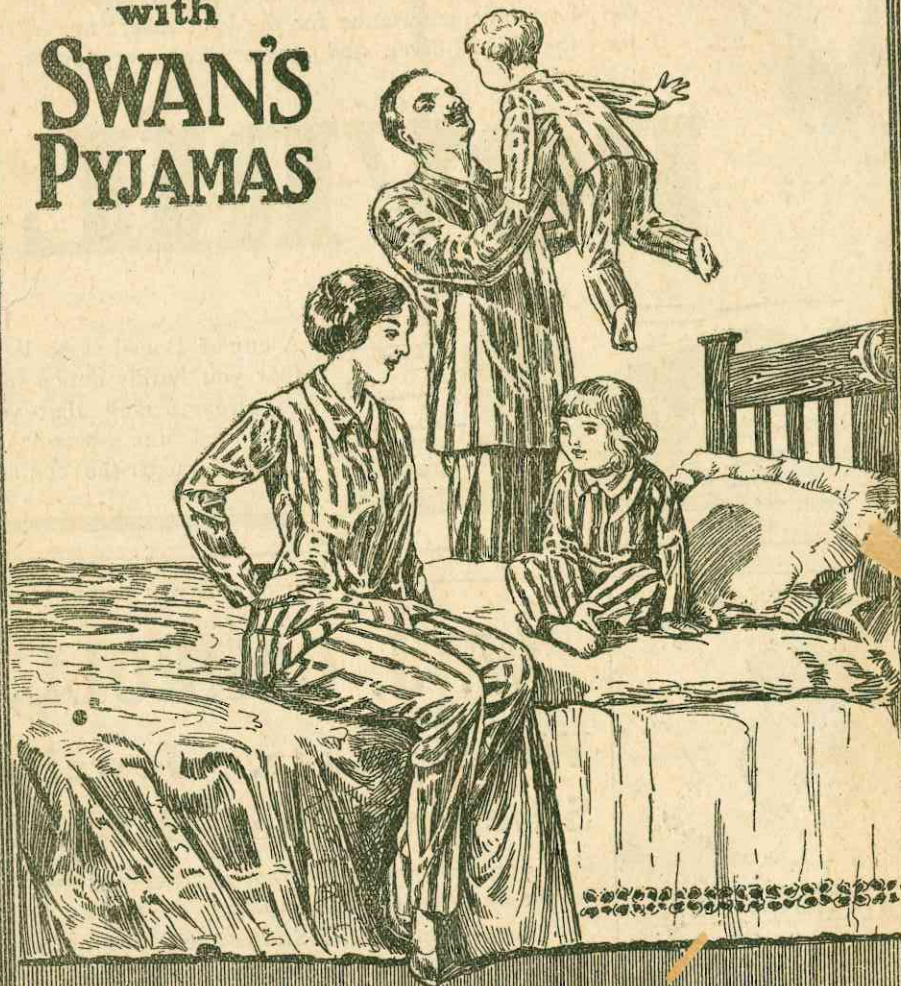


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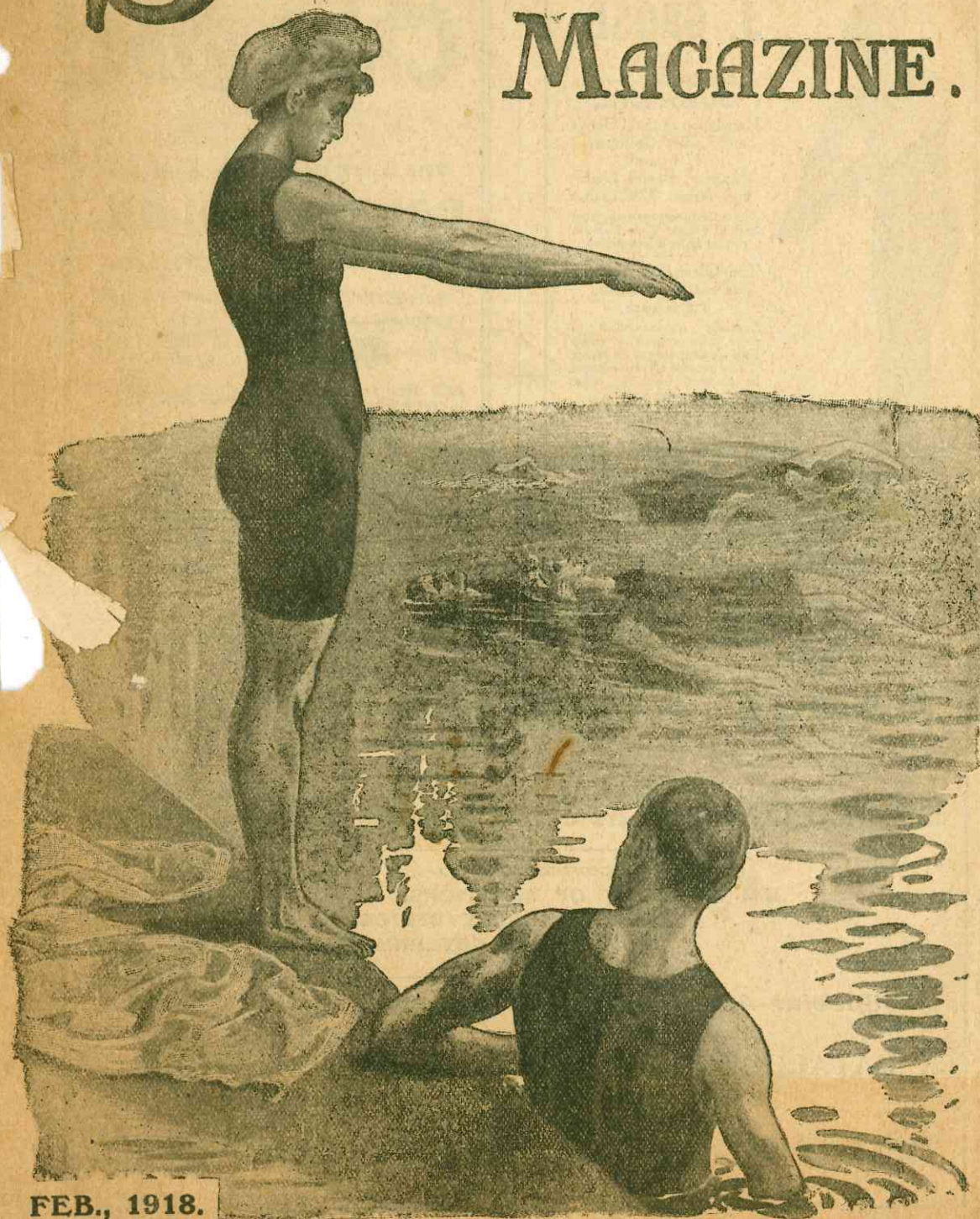
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# THE SWIMMING MAGAZINE.



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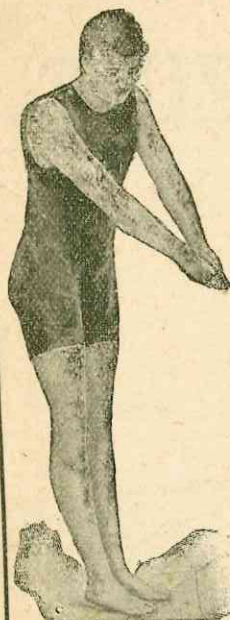
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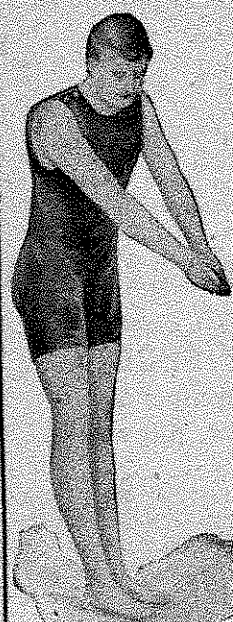
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**The Swimming  
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No. 9. VOL. IV.

FEBRUARY, 1918.

**SWIMMING ABILITY.****A Pre-Taste of Paradise.****URGENT NEED FOR NATIONAL TEACHING.**By **WILLIAM HENRY.**

**I**T is a curious and noteworthy fact that the art of swimming, to the acquirement of which most healthy youths are naturally drawn, has almost everywhere been systematically discouraged. With every recurring summer and autumn the drowning season is with us, and the wonder is that its victims are not more numerous.

Open-air bathing, except in a few special places inland and at recognised stations at the seaside, is generally made difficult or impossible. Riparian owners set their faces against it almost everywhere, people residing some distance from a frequented bathing place even invest in field glasses in order to lodge complaints with the object of preventing bathing and the practice of swimming, while in many schools it is strongly opposed because the ordinary lessons at the desks are interfered with. But if the boys and girls were left to their own instincts, most of them, under proper guidance, would learn to swim more or less, at least they would know enough of the art to be out of danger in the middle of an ordinary stream. The greatest neglect of this art is in the less populous districts, and as a consequence we have hundreds of deaths by drowning recorded every year in almost every county, the vast majority of which would be avoidable if only the necessary care and forethought were employed and the art generally regarded as a primary subject of instruction.

In populous centres or in the larger cities, this neglect is not so great and as a result the best swimmers are usually to be found in them, that is, in precisely those quarters where a knowledge of the art is less necessary than it is to those residing near rivers, the sea, or among those earning their livelihood on the water.

This result is due to the establishment of swimming baths in most of the populous centres, at which the necessary tuition may be imparted, or where, by imitation and emulation, people are stimulated to teach themselves. These institutions are therefore of the greatest value for preservation of life and health as well as for the promotion of the physical well-being of the people. Such being the case, they should be regarded in the same light as schools, and every effort made to raise them in esteem and regard as places where a knowledge may be acquired which in various ways is of priceless value to the individual.

We teach the children a great many things, even dancing, but we do not teach them to swim in the general sense of the term, which is a reason for the complaint that quite sixty per cent. of those who try to join the Navy are non-swimmers, they have learnt to read and write but not to swim, and they are to pass the best part of their lives on the water, with the danger of drowning ever present. Because swimming above all is eminently useful, not only in private life but also in the Navy and the Army, and because all our young pupils would flock to the lesson gladly and eagerly welcome it, we do think it worthy of high regard, even as a primary subject of instruction, especially as the learner would esteem the ability in the light of a pre-taste of paradise. When it is publicly recognised that it is a duty on the part of those who are charged with the education of the young to see that all children are taught to swim before leaving school, then only will theory be translated into fact. It is then that we may hope for a better physical condition of the individual and fewer drowning cases.



## THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY.

### American Lady Gains Diploma.

THE members of the Central Executive, at their meeting held on January 17 last, were delighted to learn of the return to London of their comrade, Mr. C. P. Handover, who before the war as a member of the Executive did such splendid service for the cause of Life Saving at Hounslow. Unfortunately he has sustained a serious injury to his knee, which has necessitated several delicate operations, and as these could not be properly attended to in Mesopotamia, where he held a responsible position, he has been invalided home and is now in hospital in London. While he was on the Tigris his love for swimming and Life Saving led him to try and promote the art, but the fast running stream and shark infested waters effectually barred the way to any effort in that direction. During his outward and homeward journey Mr. Handover called at Cape Town, Durban and Bombay, where he had a chance of inspecting the bathing facilities; he was particularly struck with those at Durban, which place he regards in the light of a swimmers' paradise.

\* \* \* \*

A very interesting letter was read from comrade Mr. Geo. H. Williams, Secretary of the New South Wales Head Centre of the Royal Life Saving Society, which is the premier one of that Institution, having been founded as far back as 1893, and was the first to be established. During the twenty-five years of its existence it has done an immense amount of good work, as the number of Awards granted each year will testify. These are always in excess of any other Branch of the Society. Last season, for instance, again proved prolific of good results, the total Awards granted being close upon 1,300, which is nearly 300 in advance of the last pre-war Report. It was noted with regret that several letters of information dispatched to Head Office had been lost in transit, and as these are always eagerly anticipated, it is hoped that copies of them may be obtained, and the Central Executive sent their most hearty congratulations and regards to all the members on the splendid results achieved, notwithstanding the difficulties that exist.

A letter from Mr. Kennedy Bassett, chairman of the New Zealand Dominion Executive Council, dated October 8 last, relating to matters in New Zealand, especially the prospect of another record season, was received by the Executive with much pleasure. News from the Overseas Dominions has been scarce of late, owing to present war conditions, but it was understood that good progress has been made during the present season, which readers in the Northern Hemisphere must remember is as regards time of year the exact opposite of theirs, the Australian and New Zealand Natation Day being October 1. Mr. Bassett is a warm enthusiast and the aims and objects of the Society are ever present in his mind.

The Executive learned with deep regret of the impossibility of Mr. E. A. Chapman, St. Andrew's College, Toronto, continuing as Hon. Secretary of the Ontario Branch, for which body he has done sterling work. He has just succeeded in getting the Central Y.M.C.A. to organise regular classes, which as many as 50 boys regularly attend. Mr. Chapman also reports that the Toronto Y.W.C.A. have suffered great loss through Miss Mary Beaton having left, but that Miss Margaret Pickard, a Diploma holder, has now taken over the teaching, which promises very good results.

\* \* \* \*

The report of Awards made during the season by the Edinburgh and District Branch shows that out of 249 gained no fewer than 76 went to the Carnegie Baths Life Saving Club, Dunfermline. Galashiels A.S.C. has also done well, they having secured 43, while the Alloa and Edinburgh School Boards obtained 26 and 36 respectively. The Leith Battalion of the Boys Brigade were getting well under way when Mr. Taylor, the Bathmaster, and their Instructor, was called to the colours, but Mr. Fairgrieve, the interim Bathmaster, took them in hand and turned out a very fine class, all passing. An R.A.M.C. unit when quartered in the district, sent up a splendidly trained contingent for examination and one of the men passed as Hon. Instructor. The whole of the work has unfortunately been hampered by the early closing of the Baths, thus preventing a good deal of useful training.

### CANTERBURY HEAD CENTRE

The seventh annual meeting of the Canterbury (New Zealand) Head Centre was held at the Municipal Baths, Christchurch, on October 24 last, when it was reported that during the past season 134 Awards had been granted, making a total of 951 since the formation of the Centre. The Awards were as follows:—Award of Merit, 3; Hon. Instructor's Certificate, 7; Teacher's Certificate, 3; Bronze Medallion, 47; Proficiency Certificate, 64; Elementary Certificate, 10.

Note was made of the fact that the Government grant was being expended in promoting an annual competition among the primary school girls of Canterbury, and confidence was expressed that a large entry would be received.

It was reported that the Sir John Hall Shield had been won by the Normal District High School "A" team, Instructor, Mr. J. Wyn-Irwin (Team, G. Aschman, H. Reynolds, J. Gasson and R. Hitchings), and in regard to this competition the hope was expressed that arrangements would be made with the New Zealand A.S.A. to have this made a senior competition confined to the Secondary or District High Schools, and to raise the conditions up to the level of the Proficiency Certificate test.

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Frank M. Collins, a member of the committee, the Centre was able to carry out a competition among primary school pupils under fourteen years of age, and this was also won by the Normal School, the Instructor in this instance being Mr. W. S. Wauchop. The competition was carried out on April 18 at short notice, but yet three teams engaged in it, and each gave a fine display. St. Alban's Primary School, Instructor, Mr. Malcolm, was placed second, and East Christchurch Primary School, Instructor, Mr. H. Breward, third. It is worthy of note that every member of each team qualified for the Awards set as a standard.

During the year two new bathing pavilions were opened, one at Taylor's Mistake, near Sumner, and the other at North New Brighton. At Taylor's Mistake opening displays of land and water work were given, and at North Brighton the first competition for the "Ray Blank" Cup, the holding of which carries with it the Canterbury Surf Reel Championship. This was won by the New Brighton Club, Sumner being second, Taylor's Mistake third, and North Beach fourth.

The Sumner Branch of the Head Centre

reported that during the year the beach had been well patrolled by a few earnest and active members, and that assistance has been rendered to bathers in difficulties. Equally pleasing reports of good work done and further progress were also received from the New Brighton, North Beach, and Taylor's Mistake Surf and Life Saving Clubs.

### SHEFFIELD BRANCH.

The fourteenth annual report of the Sheffield and District Branch shows that, although most of the men's clubs are closed down, the grand total of Awards made last year exceeds that of 1916, the respective totals being 528 and 511. During the past year 261 Elementary Certificates, 174 Proficiency Certificates, 83 Bronze Medallions, 4 Hon. Instructor's Certificates and 4 Awards of Merit were granted.

The Branch Executive tender their highest thanks and congratulations to Mrs. Hazeldene in being able to bring her grand total of successful candidates in all classes of Awards, including the Diploma, up to 880, a record to be proud of.

Some of the Challenge contests were decided, and in them there was very keen competition, notably the Biggin Shield, won by the Hunter's Bar girls, whose team won for the fifth time in succession, the girls on this occasion being Misses G. Dyson, N. Moseley, G. Kinman and M. Walters.

The Potter Cup for ladies was competed for under the auspices of the Chesterfield Ladies' Club, at Chesterfield, and resulted in a win for Miss K. Fletcher, of the Chesterfield Club.

Water Lily Ladies' Club carried out the Longbottom Shield competition at their gala, and in this Miss P. Lightwood, of Messrs. S. Osborn's Munition Works, proved successful after a very fine contest.

The financial side of the Branch has again been well looked after by Councillor H. Bolton, the Hon. Treasurer. After an expenditure of £57 8s. 7d., there is a credit balance of £25 6s. 5d., which is most satisfactory under present conditions.

At the presentation of the certificate of the Royal Humane Society on vellum to Mr. Robert Bullock, for gallant conduct, Mr. William Watts, the hon. secretary of the Branch gave a lecture on "Swimming and Life Saving," illustrated by about 120 lantern slides, and Mr. A. Ludlam drilled the winners of the Biggin Shield. So pleased was the Chairman, Mr. J. Dixon, of Ough-



bridge, with the lecture and demonstration of the methods of rescue, release and resuscitation, that he most generously offered to have one of his dams cleared out and sanded for the purposes of encouraging Swimming and Life Saving. Mr. Watts is to superintend and arrange for displays therein, on behalf of the Royal Life Saving Society, during the coming season.

The thanks of the Branch are tendered to the Examiners, particularly the ladies, who have been constantly at work and also to the various Bath Committees and Bath Superintendents who have so generously aided them in their works.

From the Manitoba Branch news has been received that the cup given by Mr. Waugh to the Branch for annual competition is now to be competed for half-yearly and further that Mr. W. Thomson, formerly hon. secretary of the Branch, has presented a cup for competition among the juniors of sixteen and under. These contests should stimulate the progress of the work, especially among the younger generation, on whose tuition will largely depend the future welfare of the Branch. On this phase of the work, Mr. R. E. Collins, the new hon. secretary, is displaying great energy.

The many friends of Miss Dorothy M. Hodges, who passed for her Diploma in London in 1914, will be interested to learn that at present she is residing in Montreal, Canada, and continues to take a deep interest in the work of the Royal Life Saving Society, by instructing Classes of Candidates for its Awards. Having regard to the fact that Miss Hodges always was very particular on the point of efficiency we feel that her association with the work will prove very helpful to the Quebec Head Centre.

After travelling from Rochester, New York, U.S.A., to Camp Timagami, in the Province of Ontario, Canada, Miss Josephine S. Barker has qualified for the Bronze Medallion, Award of Merit and Diploma of the Royal Life Saving Society and is the first American lady swimmer to gain this high distinction. Her practical work was exceptionally good, and she is to be highly congratulated upon her success. Lake Timagami Camp, at which Miss Barker passed her tests, is organised by Mr. A. L. Cochrane and is the Headquarters of Upper Canada College during vacation time. We have pleasant

recollections of a visit there during our tour of Canada in 1909, and can easily realise that the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, their family and retinue, who visited it during last summer, thoroughly enjoyed the tent life on the banks of this delightful lake.

\* \* \* \*

The death has occurred at Wood Green, London, at the age of 82 years, of Sergt.-Major W. Tolliday Streader, who had a remarkable Life Saving record. Born at West Lynn, Norfolk, he enlisted during the Crimean War and rose to N.C.O. rank, but left the Army when peace was proclaimed. In later years he went to Shoreham as examining and quarantine officer, coming from Wisbech, where he had received a testimonial from the town for Life Saving. In December, 1874, when the Shoreham lifeboat came to grief during the quarterly practice, capsizing while crossing the bar, his service boat went to their aid, and he himself at great peril swam out after Mr. R. Brazier, a pilot, who was drifting to sea. He brought him ashore, but unhappily medical aid was of no avail, while Sergt.-Major Streader had a narrow escape. On that occasion he received a public testimonial from the inhabitants of the town. Before this, Sergt.-Major Streader had obtained the bronze and silver medals and two clasps of the Royal Humane Society, it is interesting to note, and had saved 31 lives up till that time. On this occasion, also, he received the silver medal and the thanks on vellum of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Other deeds of valour were performed by him after this, and he received several presentations, among them being the Board of Trade Medal for gallantry in saving life.

\* \* \* \*

An accident which occurred on Boxing Day, 1916, was directly responsible for the formation of the Taylor's Mistake Surf and Life Saving Club; for on the New Year's Day Mr. G. E. Billson gave a demonstration of Life Saving work with the reel, and the Summer Club, seeking to make better provision against future accidents, presented a reel to the bathers at Taylor's Mistake. Then Mr. C. Bryant, of the New Brighton Club, undertook the work of instruction, and in a short space of time Messrs. Barrett, Shaw and Priest passed for Awards. The club has now a fine bathing pavilion with complete Life Saving gear in first class condition, a credit balance of £9, and assets over £93.

## THE LADIES' SECTION.

### Thoughts of the Coming Season.

#### WORK FOR THE SWIMMERS' Y.M.C.A. HUT FUND.

**B**UT for the energetic action of Mr. Frank Tilton, the superintendent of the Lambeth Baths, we should not have had an open long distance race for ladies last year. Yet that was confined to baths. There was an attempt to bring off one in the Thames, but it was too late in the season, and the race ended in a fiasco, only two ladies taking part in it. Now, however, is the time to start arranging for a representative one to be held during the coming season. The holding of it has been vigorously advocated by us for some three years past, and is eagerly desired by quite a number of lady enthusiasts, but no club has yet had the temerity to undertake its promotion.

Now, as there were several swims over the championship course last season, would it not be possible to arrange for a combined swim or race this year on some suitable date, and to give early notice of the arrangement? It would provide a pleasant entertainment for the wounded soldiers who make frequent trips on the river, and it could be so engineered as to also benefit the Swimmers' Y.M.C.A. Hut Fund, which does not appear to have been so energetically pushed during the past year as was the fund of the previous season on behalf of the "Star and Garter" Fund. The remedy is with the ladies' clubs of London, who ought to form a combination to carry out this distance race, which later on would assuredly become an annual affair. They would have the support of lady long-distance swimmers in the North and Midlands, and ought to have no hesitation in starting on the preliminary work.

There is, of course, the question of dressing accommodation to be considered, but we doubt not that the great boating clubs at Putney such as the London, Thames or Vesta would assist at the finishing end by placing their at present unoccupied dressing-rooms at the disposal of the ladies, and that the Anglian would do the same at the starting-point. At any rate that admitted possible disadvantage presents no difficulty to our mind. The Port of London Authority offi-

cials would only too gladly assist in keeping the course, and the provision of steamers for spectators following the race is also only a matter of business arrangement. What is really lacking is a strong and energetic ladies' committee, which can easily be formed from among the lady swimmers who patronised the river so extensively last summer.

The river is likely to be more than ever resorted to this season by those who from business or other reasons refrained from visiting the sea coast resorts last year. They found the holiday outing most pleasant and inexpensive, and are inducing their friends to follow their example. The recognised bathing spots where dressing accommodation is provided are unfortunately few and far between, but temporary makeshifts are common and the riverside bungalows are also extensively used. Even down river as far as Richmond river bathing by ladies is now quite common, whereas prior to the war a girl was rarely seen in the river, and then it was generally Miss Eileen Lee on a long swim or the Kingston Ladies engaged in their annual endurance race. The present demand by the ladies calls for energetic action on the part of local authorities, who should be compelled to provide dressing-tents on the river bank at the spots most frequented. They would be a great boon, and will be badly needed this season.

Last year the young children of both sexes were bathing freely in the rivers, the closing of baths having compelled them to do this. The girls had to come down to the towpath with a cloak over the costume, and deposit the cloak on rails or hedges, while at most places the boys undressed by the river side. This was particularly noticeable in the tidal waters, yet the local authorities took no steps to remedy these undressing grievances, or, at places where there were large crowds of children, to provide a boat so as to ensure safety to the young bathers. The same danger will be existent again this year unless the authorities rise to the occasion, and make provision for dealing in effective manner



with the new demand sprung upon them. River bathing has hitherto been largely neglected, but all authorities must be made to recognise that it is now becoming one of the great summer recreations of our people, and is bound to increase in favour long after the untoward circumstances now upon us have passed away.

The Executive of the Yorkshire Association has expressed the opinion that the National Ladies' Championships should still be left in abeyance. This was in response to a request from the Amateur Swimming Association for an expression of opinion.

In the twelfth annual report of the New South Wales Ladies' Association it is stated that the following records were made by Miss Fanny Durack last season:—300 yards, 4.22.1; 300 metres, 4.32.3; 880 yards, 12.42.

During the Christmas holidays the Misses Clara Ward and Marguerite Millier, of the "Select School of Swimming and Life Saving," Des Moines, Iowa, who hold the Awards of the Royal Life Saving Society, had a Red Cross swim, about fifty persons taking part therein. This raised a neat sum for the Red Cross Fund. These accomplished lady instructors have arranged for some rather novel classes this year for former pupils and their husbands.

As regards the Swimmers' Y.M.C.A. Hut Fund a definite programme should be issued early this season in order that clubs may arrange galas on its behalf, and in respect to these galas it would be as well to provide some special military events. There are plenty of good swimmers in this country just now, and as several of the Headquarters Clubs are forming swimming sections, there should be no difficulty in fixing up some very interesting contests—events that will attract, and that is what you want for a gala in aid of so worthy a cause. Moreover, there must be publicity of the gala and plenty of it, if success is to be achieved. Last year we rather hid our light under a bushel.

So far as we have been able to ascertain the only fixture at present on behalf of the Fund is another dance by the Bedford Ladies' Club at Anderton's Hotel, on Saturday, February 9. This club has previously held two similar dances with highly successful results.

At a gala held at Govan Baths, on January 18, Miss Bella Moore beat her Scottish ladies 100 yards' record by four-fifths of a second, her time being 1.13.2.

We have had the pleasure of a visit from Gunner T. W. Simpson, of the Australian Force, who was formerly hon. secretary of the Tasmania Head Centre of the Royal Life Saving Society. He sends cordial greetings to all old friends in Hobart.

In 1911 a lady saw a man fall out of a canoe on Lake Ontario. Swimming to his aid, she kept him afloat, and finally succeeded in landing him ashore. The man died recently and his will contained a gift of \$2,500 to the lady who had saved his life six years ago.

Pte. Allan Tegetmeier, London Regiment, killed in action, was keenly interested in swimming and was one of the St. Matthew's S.C., Croydon, winning team of the Darnell Cup Competition in 1913, the second Club on that occasion being Queen's Park S.C., Durban. He was an old Dulwich College boy and grand nephew of the late W. B. Tegetmeier, the naturalist.

Much trouble is being caused at New Zealand bathing resorts by irresponsible and incompetent people wearing Surf Bathing Club costumes and posing as life savers. Strict bye-laws are needed to prevent this; otherwise serious fatalities may easily occur. We have had experience of similar vain and ignorant persons wholly unable to realise how contemptible is their action to every sane person.

A remarkable rescue was recently effected by Flight Commander Hodges, Royal Flying Corps, when flying over the Channel. When, 1,200 feet up Lieut. Fedden's machine suddenly stopped, and he and his observer fell into the sea. The observer swam to shore, but Lieut. Fedden was too exhausted to do so. Flight Commander Hodges flew to the spot and diving into the sea, secured the unconscious man. He held him for three-quarters of an hour, when both men were picked up alive, but unconscious, by some fishermen. Unfortunately Lieut. Fedden died later as the result of his long immersion in the cold water.

## SHAKESPEARE AND SWIMMING.

### The Bard's Appreciation of the Art.

WE are informed that in a lecture delivered in Sydney on the subject of "Shakespeare and Sport," it was contended that the Immortal Bard did not regard Swimming seriously, but more as a pastime for little boys. The lecturer, who happened to be the sister of a well known Sydney sportsman, appeared to arrive at this inference after reading the following quotation:—

*Cardinal Wolsey.* I have ventured  
Like little wanton boys that swim on bladders  
This many summers in a sea of glory,  
But far beyond my depth.—*King Henry VIII.*, Act 3, Scene 2.

While we do not dispute that little boys, as Shakespeare records, in the above quotation, delight to indulge in the pleasure of swimming in summer "in a sea of glory," we think it quite erroneous to jump to the conclusion therefrom that the Bard only had one conception of natation, because many other references can be quoted to the contrary. Moreover, we have no hesitation in asserting that it can be proved conclusively that swimming, in the mind of the great Master, was elevated above the level of a mere recreation, in fact, to the high plane of an art. We maintain this is borne out for instance by his employment of the art for metaphorical purposes in the following passage:

*Malcolm.* Hail, brave friend!  
Say to the king the knowledge of the broil  
As thou didst leave it,  
*Sergeant.* Doubtful it stood as two spent swimmers that do cling together  
And choke their art.—*Macbeth*, Act 1, Scene 2.

Materially we might mention that the lines, in our opinion, point a moral, inasmuch as they indicate that Shakespeare was fully aware that even accomplished swimmers are liable to the risk of endangering their own lives, if they disregard directions, such as the Royal Life Saving Society teaches for adoption in cases of emergency.

As the discussion appeals to us as being a most interesting one, we append hereunder

a number of other quotations, a perusal of which, we feel sure will convince readers of the SWIMMING MAGAZINE, that we are correct in our interpretation, namely, that the most illustrious of poets had a thorough appreciation of the importance and utilitarian advantage of the art of natation.

*Cassius.* I was born as free as Cæsar; so were you;

We both have fed as well, as we can both  
Endure the winter's cold as well as he:  
For once upon a raw and gusty day,  
The troubled Tiber chafing with her shores.

Cæsar said to me, "Darest thou, Cassius, now

Leap in with me into this angry flood  
And swim to yonder point?" Upon the word,

Accoutred as I was, I plunged in  
And bade him follow; so indeed he did.  
The torrent roar'd and we did buffet it  
With lusty sinews, throwing it aside  
And stemming it with hearts of controversy;

But ere we could arrive the point proposed,  
Cæsar cried, "Help me, Cassius, or I sink!"

I, as Æneas, our great ancestor  
Did from the flames of Troy upon his shoulder

The old Anchises bear, so from the waves of Tiber

Did I the tired Cæsar.—*Julius Cæsar*  
Act 1, Scene 2.

*Fool.*—Prithee, nuncle, be contented; 'tis a naughty night to swim in.—*King Lear*, Act 3, Scene 4.

*Troilus.* Fly not; for should'st thou take the river Styx,

I would swim after.—*Troilus and Cressida*, Act 5, Scene 4.

*Caius Marcius.* He that depends  
Upon your favours swims with fins of lead,  
and hews down oaks with rushes.—*Coriolanus*, Act 1, Scene 1.

*Benedick.* How pitiful I deserve,—I mean in singing; but in loving, Leander the good



swimmer, Troilus the first employer of pandars, and a whole bookful of these quondam carpet mongers, whose names yet run smoothly in the even road of a blank verse, why, they were never so truly turned over and over as my poor self in love.—*Much Ado about Nothing*, Act 5, Scene 2.

*Ariel.* All hail, great master! hail! I come

To answer thy best pleasure; be't to fly, to swim, to dive into the fire, to ride

On the curl'd clouds, to thy strong bidding task

*Ariel*, and all his quality.—*The Tempest*, Act 1, Scene 2.

*Francisco.*—Sir, he may live  
I saw him beat the surges under him,  
And ride upon their backs; he trod the water,

Whose enmity he flung aside, and breasted  
The surge most swollen that met him: his bold head

'Bove the contentious waves he kept, and oar'd

Himself with his good arms in lusty stroke

To the shore, that o'er his wave worn basis bow'd,

As stooping to relieve him I no doubt  
He came alive to land.—*The Tempest*, Act 2, Scene 1.

*Antonio.* 'Tis as impossible that he's undrowned,  
As he that sleeps here, swims.—*The Tempest*, Act 2, Scene 1.

*Stephano.* Here, swear then how thou escapedst.

*Trinculo.* Swam ashore, man, like a duck; I can swim like a duck; I'll be sworn.

*Stephano.* Here kiss the book. Though thou canst swim like a duck, thou art made like a goose.—*The Tempest*, Act 2, Scene 2.

*Oberon.* Fetch me this herb; and be thou here again

Ere the leviathan can swim a league.—*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Act 2, Scene 1.

*Worcester.* I'll read you matter deep and dangerous.

As full of peril and adventurous spirit,  
As to o'erwalk a current, roaring loud,  
On the unsteadfast footing of a spear.

*Hotspur.* If he fall in, good-night! or sink or swim:

Send danger from the east unto the west,  
As honour cross it from the north to south,  
And let them grapple.—*First part, King Henry IV.*, Act 1, Scene 3.

*Clarence.* Well, you must now speak Sir John Falstaff fair,

Which swims against your stream of quality.—*Second part, King Henry IV.*, Act 5, Scene 2.

*York.* We boded again; as I have seen a swan

With bootless labour swim against the tide  
And spend her strength with over-matching waves.—*Third part, King Henry VI.*, Act 1, Scene 4.

*Queen Margaret.* All these the enemies to our poor bark,

Say you can swim; alas! 'tis but a while.  
Tread on the sand; why there you quickly sink;

Bestride the rock; the tide will wash you off.—*Third part, Henry VI.*, Act 5, Scene 4.

Many other poets have discoursed on the pleasures of open water swimming, especially Thomson, who in his "Seasons" says:—

"This is the purest exercise of health,  
The kind refresher of the summer heats."

and that accomplished swimmer, Lord Byron, who in "Childe Harold" has given us these famous lines:

"And I have loved thee, Ocean! and my joy  
Of youthful sports was on thy breast to be  
Borne, like thy bubbles, onward: from a boy  
I wanton'd with thy breakers—they to me  
Were a delight; and if the freshening sea  
Made them a terror—'twas a pleasing fear,  
For I was as it were a child of thee,  
And trusted to thy billows far and near,  
And laid my hand upon thy mane—as I do here."

Byron, who doubtless gained his love for swimming at Harrow, swam across the Hellespont in 1810. The distance is barely an English mile, but the currents were so strong that nearly four miles had to be covered before he could land. This swim he has commemorated in somewhat amusing vein.

Reference to swimming by other poets, particularly those of the classic ages, will form the subject of another article

## RECOLLECTIONS.

By ARCHIBALD SINCLAIR.

WHEN happier times arrive the younger generation of swimmers will doubtless be able to participate in the delight of Coast Regattas, the visiting of which in the nineties occupied all my holiday periods. I have already referred to the pleasures attending the trips of the London Water Polo League to Plymouth, Penzance, St. Ives, Exeter, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Torquay and other favourite West of England swimming resorts, and though at times we had to dress "down under" in somewhat insalubrious fishing boats, we shall never forget those outings. At quaint old St. Ives we had to enter the "dock" to get our prizes, but that little pleasantry was only a foretaste of the hospitality to be meted out to us later in the day. It is a delightful coast and one's heart warms towards it.

On one trip the party were joined at Plymouth by "Joey" Nuttall, the finest swimmer of his day, who had then turned professional and was competing in the West of England money matches, which used to attract all the best professionals in England. They went on to Land's End, just to say they had swum there, but their experience was a bit rough. I turned back and made a wearisome cross country journey to Emsworth Harbour, to take part in a Regatta, beloved by the Southsea Rowing Club, of which H. H. Oliver, an old member of the Portsmouth Swimming Club and ex hon. secretary of the Portsmouth Harriers, was a shining light. That was a royal day, for though we did not get "pots" we had plenty of fun in the water, and that after all is the pleasure of these outings. I well remember one of the Southsea four putting his foot through the bottom of the boat, as they were winning, after a long pull round Hayling Island.

To the Portsmouth contingent of those days the regattas at Sandown, Shanklin, Ryde and Ventnor were happy hunting grounds. What delightful bathing you can get at Sandown and Shanklin, or for the matter of that at almost any part of the Wight. Harry Duke, late chief Inspector of the City Police, had his family mansion down that way and we were always royally received.

Of course it is difficult to fix up a holiday so as to fit in with the regattas, so much depends on the tide, but those who in later years make the West of England trip or do glorious Jersey and Guernsey will not regret it. These and other coast trips will assuredly be the swimmers' outings of the near future, for there will be few Continental trips, except mayhap to France and Belgium with whose swimmers we have a great bond of fellowship and sympathy. Sweden, Denmark and Holland may perhaps also be inclined to enter into international rivalry with us, but reorganisation will take time, and meanwhile we may as well exploit our own picturesque and health-giving swimming resorts.

Greatly do I regret the death of the Ven. W. M. Sinclair, formerly Archdeacon of London, whose similarity of name to my own, was the origin of the Ipswich story I retailed in my last batch of "Recollections." He was fond of all manly sports and an athletic Christian of the best type. Keen support was always accorded by him to swimming.

Notice of the retirement of Mr. Edward J. Tackley, from the post he has so long and worthily held on the staff of the London County Council, brings back vivid remembrance of one of the most energetic organisers swimming ever had. I have often sided with him, often fought against him, but have ever found him one of the most honourable and disinterested of our swimming legislators, ever ready to recognise the good points raised by his friendly opponents and assimilate them with his own ideas. It was in 1882, some years before my time, that Mr. Tackley, then hon. secretary of the Holloway United Swimming Club, entered the Swimming Parliament, but from records which I possess, I find that in that year he attended what was termed an open meeting of swimmers at Goswell Hall to consider the definition of an amateur, and he then seconded a resolution which did away with the professional element, which at that time practically controlled the art of swimming, and the carrying of which has had a marked influence on the promotion and progress of the art. The immediate outcome was



the formation of a rival body by T. C. Easton, another member of the Holloway United Club. It was known as the Professional Swimming Association, but it was an ill-starred body and has long been non-existent.

After this piece of practical work Mr. Tackley was prevailed upon to accept the hon. secretaryship of the Swimming Association of Great Britain, an office which he worthily held for a long period and during which I first made his acquaintance. At this time Mr. Tackley was also keenly interested in rowing, being then a member of the Kensington Rowing Club, but he resigned in order to give undivided attention to swimming. He was the man for the moment, for the sport was then in a chaotic state, for though the Association claimed jurisdiction all over England, there were only 67 clubs affiliated. Speedy reorganisation of affairs was made, and in 1886 the present Amateur Swimming Association was formed, with Lord Charles Beresford as its first president and Mr. Tackley as Hon. Secretary. It was particularly appropriate that Lord Charles should be first president, for he holds three medals for saving life from drowning.

Immediately after the formation of the new association, swimming began to make rapid progress. Championships at all distances were instituted, rules drawn up for water polo, inter-district and county competitions arranged, the Local Government Board approached as to the building of baths and the Education Board and London School Board were prevailed upon to accept swimming as forming part of the physical exercises to be taught, although not compulsorily, to children.

Later there was a split in the camp and the Northern Clubs formed an Association of their own, but matters were quickly settled and the Amateur Swimming Association placed on a sound basis, with District Associations and proportional representation, with the result that just prior to the war it numbered something like 1,500 clubs and organisations among its members. For seven years Mr. Tackley was hon. secretary of this compact body and for fourteen years hon. secretary of its Southern Association, and when he retired he was made Life Vice-President and the recipient of a valuable timing watch as well as an address on

vellum embodying the firm belief of the clubs that the high position of the Association was due to his unflagging energy, tact and good judgment.

Even now Mr. Tackley is a regular attendant at Executive Meetings, and thus for close upon forty years swimming has had the benefit of his advice and assistance. To the Royal Life Saving Society he has also rendered valuable aid, being quick to realise the importance of its objects and heartily co-operating in its formation. For his services he was long ago elected Vice-President, and is the holder of the Medal for Distinguished Services. Such a splendid record of disinterested work is worthy of high appreciation.

On matters of strict principle Mr. Tackley has always been unbending, and mayhap many swimmers will remember the great struggle the South maintained in 1895 for the possession of our books of record, which were claimed by the Amateur Swimming Association as rightly belonging to them. They were the minute books of the old Metropolitan and London Swimming Associations and the Swimming Association of Great Britain, and Mr. Tackley and I had fought strenuously for the retention of them in the South. But we were outvoted at a never-to-be-forgotten meeting of the Amateur Swimming Association at Leamington, caricature of which by Mr. E. V. Salaman, then Hon. Treasurer of the Royal Life Saving Society, is reproduced on page 316, of *Swimming*, by Mr. Ralph Thomas.

It was through the kindly offices of Mr. Salaman that we were able to start the National Life Saving Shield Competition, won in its first year by the Nottingham Club. He invoked the sympathies of Lord Leverhulme and his late brother in our work, and the outcome was the presentation of a valuable shield for a national contest, the present holders of which are the Sheffield Otter, there having been no contest since the outbreak of war. The necessity of making prolonged business tours overseas compelled Mr. Salaman to relinquish his duties as Hon. Treasurer, but his interest in the welfare of the Royal Life Saving Society has never abated. At the present time he is managing director of Messrs. Hudson, the well-known soap manufacturers.

## SWIMMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES. Encouragement of the Junior Section.

THE annual general meeting of the New South Wales Amateur Swimming Association was held at the New South Wales Sports Club, Sydney, on the first day of November last.

From the twenty-sixth annual report, which has been kindly forwarded to us by Mr. H. R. Kelly, the hon. secretary, we learn that the membership of the Association shows a decrease of six clubs since the previous season.

In the Metropolitan area all the Senior Clubs, except four, renewed their affiliations, those not so doing lying dormant for the season. But one new club was formed at Spit, Middle Harbour, and that joined up.

All the State Championships, except the 100 yards junior, were abandoned last season. The 100 yards junior championship was held at Glebe Superior Public School Carnival, at Drummoyne, on March 7 last, and was open to all affiliated swimmers under the age of 16 years. There were six starters, and the event resulted in a win for S. Willsher, Rechabite S.C., in the excellent time of 1.5. C. G. Leadbeater (Sydney S.C.) filling second place, and Donald Fraser (East Sydney) third.

By arrangement between the respective State Associations and the Amateur Swimming Union of Australia, the Australian Championships set down for decision during the season were abandoned, as in the previous season, owing to the present international crisis.

Up to the present time, from the list recorded by the Hon. Secretary, 729 affiliated swimmers have enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces, and this number is still being added to daily. Among those who have given their lives in the defence of the Mother Country, are:—G. T. Hill (ex-Hon. Registrar); B. Mendelsohn (Bondi and Sydney); W. Potts, B.I. Swannell, and G. H. Pugh (Sydney); R. Abbott (South Sydney); J. D'Alpuget and W. Shaeffer (Bondi); A. McArthur, S. A. Olsen and F. A. Doodson (Pymont); H. Reeve and C. A. Boone (Mosman); F. C. Bauer (North Deewhy); C. Lillyman, H. J. Piper, G. Allen, and R. Broad (Narrabri); A. Anderson and T. Neal (North Sydney); F. Aitken, F. Beck, L. Begg, and W. Brook (Eastern Suburbs); A. Mack, A. V. Erickson, R. Erickson, and

H. Parsons (Drummoyne); R. Bussell, H. Dumbrell, H. L. McDonagh, P. Martin, G. Reading, J. Thompson, R. Adams (Gunnadah); K. McPhee, C. Adelt, A. Rosenthal, E. W. Kirke, J. Caswell, J. G. Stewart, H. Donkin, S. L. Wald, V. Rowlands, E. E. Pottier, B. Mack, M. Davenport, and R. Quirk (Manly); D. Borthwick (Rechabite); D. S. McHattie, R. McCarty, Geoff. Hall, and E. C. Arkell (Northern Districts A.S.A.).

The Council deeply regrets to record the death of Mr. A. W. Griffith, a former Hon. Treasurer and Vice-President of the Association. The late Mr. Griffith took an active interest in the sport within recent years, and was well known as a starter at the various carnivals of the affiliated clubs.

A scheme for the encouragement of junior swimming was drawn up by the Executive Committee, which decided to promote handicaps for swimmers under the ages of 16 and 20. A 220 yards handicap was allotted to affiliated swimmers under the age of 16 years, and 220 and 440 yards handicaps to those under 20 years. A 100 yards scratch race for swimmers under the age of 20 years was also promoted.

The 220 yards handicap for swimmers under the age of 16 years was decided at Drummoyne S.C.'s Patriotic Carnival, at Drummoyne Baths, on February 28 last. There were 9 starters, and the event resulted in a win for C. G. Leadbeater, Sydney S.C., scr.; J. Brown, Pymont S.C., scr. 2; and W. Grose, Rechabite S.C., 10.3; in the creditable time of 3.7.4.

The 220 yards handicap for swimmers under the age of 20 years, was decided at Pymont S.C.'s Patriotic Carnival, on February 21 last. There were 24 starters, and the event resulted in a win for D. O'Keefe, Pymont S.C., 60 secs.; P. Conlon, Pymont S.C., 12 secs., 2; and J. Nagle, Pymont S.C., 18 secs., 3. Time 3.44.

The 440 yards handicap for swimmers under the age of 20 years was decided at Sydney S.C. Members' Carnival, on March 10, 1917. There were 13 starters, and the event resulted in a win for K. Kirkland, Spit S.C., 18 secs., in the excellent time of 6.1. L. Norwood, Sydney S.C., 88 secs., being second, and W. Fleming, Sydney S.C., 18 secs., third.



The 100 yards scratch race for affiliated swimmers under the age of 20 years, was decided at Manly Amateur S.C. Members' Carnival, on March 17, 1917. There were 10 starters, and the event resulted in a win for C. Crackanthorp, Manly S.C., in the excellent time of 1.0.2. K. Kirkland, Spit S.C., and J. Huie, Manly S.C., being second and third respectively. The swimming displayed in this event was of the highest standard, and five of the competitors were successful in gaining the Association's Standard Certificate, the recipients being the placed men, and also G. Stocks, Spit S.C., and N. Longworth, Rose Bay S.C.

From the foregoing results, it will be seen that great progress has been made in the sport by the junior portion of affiliated swimmers, and that the Association is justified in giving special encouragement in that direction. The outlook for swimming generally is much brighter, as a result.

The Kieran Memorial Scratch Race, over 440 yards, open to the Public School boys of N.S.W., was included in the programme of the P.S.A.A. Championship Carnival, held at Domain Baths, on March 27, 1917. A large entry was received, and the race resulted in a win for K. Kirkland, North Sydney High School; S. Willsher, Sydney High School, 2; S. Crackanthorp, Fort Street High School, 3; in 6.8.

Gunnedah S.C. was the only country club to renew affiliation during the season. In this connection, it may be pointed out, there does not appear to be much hope of any enthusiasm being displayed for the sport in isolated country centres while the war lasts, and any attempt to revive interest is being suspended till after the cessation of hostilities.

## Teaching in New Zealand.

At the annual council meeting of the New Zealand Amateur Swimming Association, Mr. P. N. Rundle, representing Otago, brought to notice some remarkable figures issued by the various Education Boards in the Dominion, and commented very strikingly on their attitude as regards swimming. The extracts from the reports showed that:—

In Auckland there were 630 schools, with a roll number of approximately 50,000. There were only 44 swimming classes, concerning 30 schools.

In Taranaki there were 149 schools, with an approximate roll number of 10,000. There were only seven swimming classes. Yet the report of this Education Board said: "Swimming has formed a prominent feature of the physical training."

In Wanganui there were 198 schools, with an approximate roll number of 14,829. There were only 24 swimming classes, with 786 pupils.

In Hawke's Bay there were 157 schools with 13,001 pupils. There were only five swimming classes, and they were all held in one school—Gisborne. In the report of the board the hope was expressed "that this important subject will receive more attention in future."

In Wellington (including Marlborough) there were 254 schools with approximately 23,726 pupils. There were only 27 swimming classes, with 1,194 pupils.

In Nelson there were 114 schools, with 6,734 pupils. There were only nine classes. The report stated: "Swimming was not extensively taught, and it is a matter of regret that more opportunity is not afforded for instruction."

In Canterbury there were 378 schools, with 34,054 pupils. There were 82 classes. The report of the board stated: "It is very important that all children should be taught swimming."

In Otago there were 261 schools, with 21,880 pupils. There were 54 classes. A total of 22 schools were instructed at the Tepid Baths at Dunedin and Oamaru.

In Southland there were 182 schools, with an average attendance of 11,668. There were eight classes. The report of the board stated: "Surely it should be possible to have competent instructors for a subject that should be compulsory."

After a discussion the valuable suggestion was made by Mr. F. P. Stokes, representing Canterbury, that the Council should endeavour to induce the Government to appoint a proper teacher of swimming. If there was a good man to go through New Zealand and teach the teachers it would be going to the root of the whole thing. The average teacher was not able to do anything, and did not know how to proceed.

It would appear that the returns quoted by Mr. Rundle include all children on the school registers. If that be so, they do not form a very reliable guide for the expression of a definite opinion, as swimming cannot be taught profitably to infants.

## GALAS FOR OUR SOLDIERS.

### A Plea for Energetic Action.

OUR swimming authorities have been missing great opportunities of making swimming popular in the Army, for had they followed the example of the Cross Country Association they would by now have had a splendid record of work of which to be proud. Very slight encouragement has been given to military swimming, while all the time our soldiers in training at home and on leave have been crying out for a chance to participate in their favourite pastime. The formation of a swimming club by swimmers on the Head Quarters Staff of the Australian Forces in this country should stir up our own authorities to the need there is to awake from lethargy. It was well to abandon all civilian championships; with that no one can find fault, but there has been a vast field of work open in the Army and among munition workers, which has to a large extent been utterly neglected. We have only to take as instance the remarkable growth of the pastime at Barrow-in-Furness, the progress of which has from time to time been recorded in the SWIMMING MAGAZINE, to realise what could have been done in other parts of the country during the last three years, and one can only hope that this example will stimulate our governing body to renewed vigour and that at any rate the annual meetings of the various District Associations will be summoned to discuss the further well-being of the art.

That difficulties exist we are all aware, but they can be overcome if a strong national committee be appointed to devise a scheme and be given unlimited power to carry it out. The holding of a series of galas in each district, at which inter-munition and inter-unit competitions were decided would give great stimulus to the promotion of the art and help to bring British swimming up again to the high standard it had reached prior to the outbreak of war. There are many who have been loyally doing this, but have had no official help, and one now hardly hears even mention of the name of the Association which should have been first and foremost in this sphere of physical training.

In the meanwhile we have had independent units holding small meetings, and some

regiments have been able to compete at a few ladies' club galas, whereas had a national scheme been promulgated we should by now have had the whole-hearted support of the military authorities. Let us therefore be up and doing, and each and everyone of us impress upon his or her club representative the necessity of the Association at once entering into action. The "Wait and See" policy is detrimental to the best interests of the art and is not at all in keeping with the policy and objects of our great association.

When we find remarkable success and support attending every military athletic and boxing carnival held for the enjoyment and recreation of our soldiers, it is matter of wonderment that the swimmers left at home should not have bestirred themselves ere this. Maybe it is through lack of a guiding hand, but Association rules are so stringent that nothing can apparently be done without official sanction. But that should assuredly be easy to obtain for it is the vital well-being of the Association which is at stake. Very few of us imagine that conditions of amateurism will be the same after the war as prior to its outbreak, and it behoves the governing body to stand well with its subjects. Most of them are now in the Army and they look to the officials to originate and develop a good scheme of recreative competition.

Many of the officials are of course doing war work, but yet it should be quite easy to create a small body at an early date and invest them with authority to organise the galas we have suggested. They will have willing and hearty co-operation from every unit in the country. Of that they may rest assured and their task will be lightened by this knowledge. It is, however, no use leaving this question over until May or June. It must be tackled now and in a broad spirit, untrammelled by red tape amateurism. It is an opportunity for the Association to cement itself as the controller of competitive swimming throughout the country. If it be neglected we may later on see the uprising of a strong semi-professional body which, mayhap, may largely undo the beneficent work which the Association was bringing to a head.



## NOTES ON NEWS.

### Interesting Items from Home and Abroad.

**S**PECIAL attention is directed to the letter from the Hon. Editor, which appears on page 162 of this issue.

The Royal Automobile Club utilised its splendid swimming bath on Christmas Day for the purpose of providing a natatorial entertainment for the special benefit of some 300 wounded Imperial and Overseas officers, and, judging by the frequent and enthusiastic applause, the large gathering, which included many ladies, greatly appreciated the varied programme. One of the principal items was a team race between members of the Guards Division, Australian Imperial Forces, Canadian Forces, and Amateur S. Club. (London). The Australian trio, comprising Sergt. Levy, Cadets Whipp and Cecil Healy, outclassed their opponents, and finished nearly a length in front of the Amateur Club representatives, the efforts of the winners being loudly cheered by the Antipodeans present. A diving display was given by members of the A.D. Association, including Hjalmar Johansson, the noted Swedish Olympic performer, and the on-lookers accorded the performers unstinted recognition. Exhibitions of ornamental swimming were given by Harold Tilton, the schoolboy champion of England; disrobing under water, by H. Johansson; and Cecil Healy illustrated the evolution of the swimming stroke as used for competitive purposes. The proceedings concluded with a polo match.

At the annual convention of the American Athletic Union a proposal was made to permit outdoor championships being held in open-air pools, but it was negatived. Bud Goodwin, of the New York Athletic Club, led the opposition, pointing out that the proposal to have outdoor championships in short tanks was not only most unfair to the open water swimmers, but against the very spirit of the outdoor tests. The object of the latter is to determine the best swimmer, or swimmers, over outdoor courses, yet at these long distances the contestant who is the best turner secures an overwhelming advantage if races are held in the so-called standard pools, which may measure as little as 20 yards.

"Let anyone" said Mr. Goodwin, who has for long been a noted outdoor swimmer, "figure out, for instance, the gain made by a good turner over a bad in a one mile swim, with 30 turns to negotiate. It isn't a swimming contest any more, but a trial of turning ability, without mentioning that there is nothing more tedious to spectators than a distance race in one of these standard bath tubs. The claim that the change of rule is desirable because the waters of the Pacific coast are too cold for swimming is absolutely ridiculous. The coldest spot is around the Golden Gate, yet anyone who reads the papers knows that Marathon events for both men and women are held there frequently and bring out enormous fields."

On the question of turning we may point out that the strong swimmer who makes a determined push at the end of a length, will, in the course of a long race, thereby lose on his swimming, but the rapid turner who does not use a strong muscular push from the end of the bath, will materially gain. Under such conditions it is therefore most desirable that in all distance tests of swimming there should be as few turns as possible in the course, or if these be absolutely necessary they should be so devised as to prevent the swimmer getting any assistance whatsoever therefrom.

On Christmas morning a number of swimmers belonging to the Allied armies competed in a race across the Seine, about 350 yards, for the famous "Christmas Cup," first offered by Mr. Moebis, six years ago. The winner was Gerard Meister, a French soldier, invalided out of the army with a shattered foot.

The Valentines Swimming Club held their usual Christmas morning race in the Wanstead Park lake. Fred, the boatman, cut twenty yards out of the ice, and five over military age, including Mr. Shubbrook (the General), 70 years of age, all thoroughly enjoyed the swim. The race ended in a win for Mr. Logsdail, Mr. Shubbrook being second. Mr. Herbert, of Forest Gate, last year's winner, Mr. Maxwell, and Mr. Thos. Offord, were also competitors. The race was witnessed by a

number of friends, including Sir Peter Griggs, E.C.C., J.P., the president. After the event the awards from the Royal Life Saving Society were presented by Sir Peter, who, in a neat speech, emphasised the importance of learning the methods of rescue and release of the drowning. He himself on three occasions has been rescued from drowning. He mentioned enthusiastically the real sportsmanlike instinct of all swimmers and referred to the members of the Valentines Club who have joined H.M. Forces, the majority since the inception of the war.

An interesting case has come to our notice, illustrating how easy it is to learn to swim comparatively late in life. Mr. Charles Henry Bloe, of Liverpool, who is training for the Diploma of the Royal Life Saving Society, was at Wallasey last August, and there taught his mother to swim. The lady has now become as enthusiastic as her son and we heartily congratulate her upon her achievement. It is noteworthy that Mrs. Bloe was able to float perfectly, the first time she entered the sea.

Few people will however take the trouble to learn in their mature years an art which they have neglected all their lives, and we must therefore pay special attention to the boys and girls, as among them we shall always find the most eager and delighted of pupils. There is not a healthy boy or girl who will not be in love with a swimming lesson, for there is no more delightful or inviting exercise in the world, as there is certainly none more health-giving, notwithstanding all the set exercises for physical culture put together, and it needs no effort of imagination to picture the joyful spirit with which the pupil would march towards this particular lesson.

"Notwithstanding the war, or because perhaps of it, swimming this season has," says Mr. Harry A. May in the *Pittsburgh Sun*, "broken all records at Yale University. Nine hundred and fifty candidates are trying to make one of the fifteen Aquatic teams soon to be organised, and this is by overwhelming odds the greatest number of candidates ever having reported at any college for any branch of athletics. Conditions created by the war are undoubtedly largely responsible for this amazing popularity of

water sports, yet full credit must be given Richard Mayer, who will captain the Yale mermen, for seeing the opportunity offered, and taking advantage of it.

"It was due in good share to his foresight and enterprise that the nine battery units and four naval battalions in training at the University were induced to form teams and arrange a series of engagements among themselves for trophies donated by alumni. And it is not unlikely that they will later seek meets with rival units, while the university and freshmen teams take part in the usual activities in their respective fields.

"Every effort will be made, meanwhile, to develop a 'Varsity squad able to capture intercollegiate honours in swimming and in water polo. Negotiations have already been completed to bring back for the present Matthew Mann, the expert instructor who built up last year's champion Yale swimming team from quite unpromising material, and Ogden M. Reid, of New York, captain of the Blues' victorious water polo sextet of 1906, has been induced to accept the post of head coach for the game. Mann will have his work cut out for him. Three good plungers are on hand—Adams, Barged and Meagher—but the only experienced swimmers available are Mayer, Alexander, Hincks, Wagner, Pruybil and Farrington, and no fancy diver of scoring ability has so far come to light.

"The really hard task however, faces Reid. Almost without exception the water polo players who represented Yale in 1916-17 have gone into some branch of the service, and this season's team will have to be made up from virtually green material, an especially difficult undertaking, in view of the many qualifications required for this most gruelling of games."

For diving off a destroyer when travelling at the rate of thirty knots and rescuing Assistant Second-Engineer Ross, of the *Transylvania*, the presentation of the R.H.S. Medal has been made to Andrew G. M'Lay. The last mentioned had previously saved his own life by diving from H.M.T. *Transylvania*, torpedoed in the Mediterranean, and swimming to the destroyer. It was while on the latter that he noticed Ross clinging to some floating wreckage.



At a meeting of the Executive of the Yorkshire Association, held at Leeds, the hon. sec., Mr. Herbert Cropper, reported that the Amateur Swimming Association asked for an expression of opinion with regard to the suggested revival of the national championships. The meeting decided against the proposal and also one to revive the senior ladies' championships which have been suspended during the war.

It was decided to award the certificate of the association to Sergeant William O'Brien, R.A.M.C., of Bradford, for rescuing a comrade from drowning in France. Sergeant O'Brien was, with other soldiers, bathing in a pond at the front when Corporal G. W. Child, R.A.M.C., got into difficulties. In rescuing his comrade Sergeant O'Brien himself narrowly escaped drowning, and only with difficulty got Corporal Child out of 15ft. to 20ft. of water through weeds to the steep bank of the pond.

The annual report on championships showed a decrease in interest during the past year as compared with previous years. This was attributed to the restrictions on railway travelling. Where practice facilities had been maintained the advancement of swimmers both in speed and style had been most gratifying. The committee deplored "the short-sightedness of the authorities where from motives of economy public baths had been the first to feel the effects of economising." Because of the closing of the Huddersfield baths until July that town had only one representative in the championship, and a similar state of things probably accounted for the absence of Leeds swimmers. The increase in entries of the season 1916 over that of 1915 had not been maintained in 1917, when there was a decrease of fifteen entries in the three events. It was agreed again to dispense with the holding of the annual general meeting. The present officers will remain in office, and any vacancies will be filled at the next meeting of the Executive Committee in March.

We regret to learn that the elder brother of Gunner Ernest Loney, the West Australian long distance champion, has been killed in action, just after his being recommended for an O.T.C. in order to qualify for a commission. Gunner Loney was in good health when he wrote to us.

We have received an interesting letter from our old friend Ed. Meijer, of Amsterdam, the champion swimmer of Holland, and an old member of the Amateur Swimming Club, London. He sends kindly New Year greetings to all friends and to English swimmers in general.

The report of the Federation of Working Boys' Clubs for the year ending September 30 last, which has just been issued, records that at the annual races held at the Lambeth Baths in September last the Eton Club boys won four out of the five swimming events. Eton have always made a great feature of swimming, and by constant practice and the receipt of good advice have attained much perfection. So keen are the boys in this club that practically every one attends the weekly swimming night. This cannot be said of most clubs in the Federation, who usually take up swimming in a very half-hearted manner.

Yet while training themselves with swimming the Eton, in common with the majority of the other clubs, are neglecting Life Saving work. Last year only three clubs entered for the competition, these being St. Andrew's, Stepney and Claude Eliot. But St. Andrew's, who used to be a tower of strength, could not get a team together, and Stepney sent a boy short on the night of the contest. Consequently Claude Eliot took the cup without a struggle for it, much to their disappointment, for they had been practising hard for weeks. It is suggested in the report that the competition should be abandoned, but we recommend the Federation not to be downhearted, but to so interest the managers of the clubs that a record entry be obtained this year. It is always dark before the dawn.

Permission to use the word "Anzac" on a memorial shield for the New Zealand Dominion swimming championships has been refused.

The first Surf Bathing Club in New Zealand is said to have been established at Wanganui, but Wellington formed a surf branch of their club a little later. Writing about the early days of surf bathing "Crawl" says in the Christchurch Sun: "There were no trams then, no Sunday crowds, no bathing regulations, no costumes—nothing but the rolling ocean, the sand hills and

hollows that were ovens of sun-giving heat, nothing but freedom, seclusion and nakedness. How we grew in those days! It was a return to the primitive with a vengeance, but it was glorious."

On Christmas morning twelve of the Sheffield Water Rats had an open-air dip in Endcliffe Pool. Among them was Walpole Hillier, who has done many long swims, including Hazleford Ferry to Newark in 5.2.0, and London to Gravesend, September 19, 1906, in 5.44.0, and Messrs. C. Adams, T. Dixon, M. Parker, aged 65, B. Lindsay, aged 69, C. Foster, aged 66, B. Lockart, Albert Flint, holder of the Diploma of the Royal Life Saving Society, Watson, Wilson, Phillips and T. Smith. Walpole Hillier hopes to get on with some more long distance events when peace once more reigns in the world.

The Town Council of Blackpool is preparing for extensive improvements in all parts of the town immediately the exigencies of war permit. One of the projected schemes already sanctioned is the provision of two large open-air swimming baths.

At the Rushcutter Bay Baths, Sydney, New South Wales, on Saturday, November 10, the honour board of the East Sydney Amateur Swimming Club was unveiled by Mr. H. J. Solomon, president. The roll contains the names of more than 50 members, 11 of whom have been killed and six have returned to Australia. The Secretary, Mr. C. Marsh (who has been rejected three times), stated that every eligible senior in the club had responded to the call for volunteers.

It is with gratitude that we acknowledge the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. F. Wilkinson, Managers of the Nelson Public Baths, in organizing, for the benefit of the public, winter classes of instruction in Life Saving, which are being held under the auspices of the Corporation. The first examination was held on January 5, when 40 candidates passed for the Awards granted by The Royal Life Saving Society. A further class, consisting of ladies, will be examined on February 2, after which some of the candidates who gain the Bronze Medallion will take up practice for the Award of Merit. This sort of work is most encouraging, and a fine example to other large towns we could mention, where little or nothing has been done.

This is a public spirited effort which we have much pleasure in recognising.

The Serpentine Christmas morning handi-cap had to be postponed several times owing to ice covering the lake in Hyde Park. The postponement on Christmas Day was particularly unfortunate, as several members were on leave from the front, and would have competed had racing been at all possible. One of these was Pte. G. H. Masters, of the Canadian Seaforth Highlanders.

The Welsh Department of the Board of Education has issued a circular dealing with "Physical Training in Secondary Schools in Wales," in which it is affirmed that swimming is one of the elements necessary in a good scheme of Physical Training. The recommendation is that the training should always be in the hands of a teacher who has had some special training on modern lines, and one notices that the handbook of the Royal Life Saving Society is mentioned for use, as well as the lantern slides and lectures on swimming and Life Saving, which the Society is always willing to loan for teaching in schools.

At Sydney, friends of Albert Barry, the famous Australian Amateur Champion Swimmer, who when on active service in France unfortunately lost a leg, will be pleased to learn that he is now convalescent, and hopes shortly to be enjoying a little leave with us before returning home.

We regret to learn that Robert Patrick Watson, eldest son of the late Mr. R. P. Watson, formerly of the *Sporting Life*, was killed at sea on December 19 last. The deceased, who was only twenty-one, had recently secured his second officer's certificate in the Mercantile Marine, and in another three months' time was coming home to sit for first officer's certificate. In a previous voyage he had been torpedoed and through his ability to swim was then able to save his life.

News of a gallant rescue by Harold E. Annison, the 100 yards amateur champion of England, who is in the Royal Navy, has just been received. A man fell into cold water when stepping into a boat, became unconscious, and disappeared under the boat. Annison immediately went in after him, and got him in the boat unaided.



## To Our Subscribers. A WORD AS TO THE FUTURE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The fourth year of publication of the SWIMMING MAGAZINE closes with the May Number, the first issue having been made on June 1, 1914, two months before the World trouble came upon us.

Since then the Magazine has had a world-wide circulation and has been a valuable means of inter-communication among swimmers, while its special articles on various subjects relating to the art have proved eminently useful.

When I appealed to you twelve months ago for continued support under trying difficulties, I was intensely gratified at the response for the coming year and I now confidently appeal to you once more to assist me in carrying on a publication, which I know has been of material value in the promotion of the knowledge of Swimming and Life Saving.

Although up to the present the revenue accruing has been just sufficient to meet expenses, yet through causes arising directly out of the War, I am faced with a demand which means a large increase in the cost of production, to which must be added the high price of paper. Therefore as a business proposition to meet these increases I submit that the present rate of subscription must be raised to seven shillings and sixpence per annum for the present: this will allow subscribers to receive their copies post free to any part of the world as heretofore. It is with reluctance that I make this increase of two and a half-pence per month, but I feel sure that subscribers realising the existing circumstances will loyally assist me in keeping unbroken that world-wide bond of fellowship which the SWIMMING MAGAZINE has engendered among so many swimmers and life savers.

Having received notification of the increase referred to above I make this early announcement in order that I may be able to glean with some degree of accuracy the amount of support I may expect to receive, because upon that will rest the determination of the future of the Magazine after the issue of the Numbers up to and including the 1st May next.

Awaiting the favour of an early reply,  
Yours truly,

WILLIAM HENRY

February, 1918.

Hon. Editor.

P.S.—It is particularly desirable that subscribers in America, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, and others residing at a distance from this office should send their replies early.

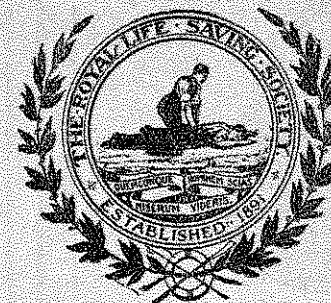
## English Records.

- 100 yds.—C. M. Daniels (United States), Manchester, September 7, 1907. 55.2.  
150 yds.—C. M. Daniels (United States), Manchester, July 8, 1908. 1.32.2.  
150 yds. (Back).—G. H. Webster (Sowerby Bridge), Hyde, Aug. 18, 1914. 1.54.3.  
200 yds. (Breast).—P. Courtman (Manchester), Garston, August 28, 1914. 2.41.  
220 yds.—F. C. V. Lane (Australia), Weston-Super-Mare, August 18, 1902. 2.28.3.  
300 yds.—J. G. Hatfield (Middlesbrough), Middlesbrough, October 14, 1913. 3.28.2.  
440 yds.—J. G. Hatfield (Middlesbrough), London, October 2, 1913. 5.24.2.  
500 yds.—J. G. Hatfield (Middlesbrough), Middlesbrough, Sept. 20, 1913. 6.2.4.  
880 yds.—H. Taylor (Chaddington), Runcorn, July 21, 1906. 11.25.2.  
1000 yds.—D. Billington (Bacup), Liverpool, July 22, 1905. 13.34.4.  
1 Mile.—T. S. Battersby (Southport), Southport, August 7, 1909. 24.1.2.  
Plunging.—W. Taylor (Bootle), Bootle, September 5, 1906. 82ft. 7in.

## Ladies.

- 100 yds.—Miss D. Curwen (Liverpool), Seacombe, September 10, 1913. 1.11.  
150 yds.—Miss C. M. Jeans (Nottingham), Seacombe, December 31, 1915. 1.56.1.  
150 yds. (Breast).—Miss L. Morton (Southport), Seacombe, Dec. 6, 1916. 2.17.  
200 yds. (Breast).—Miss L. Morton (Southport), Manchester, Oct. 27, 1916. 3.11.2.  
220 yds.—Miss D. Curwen (Liverpool), Liverpool, October 26, 1912. 3.8.  
300 yds.—Miss C. M. Jeans (Nottingham), Nottingham, October 30, 1915. 4.23.  
600 yds.—Miss V. Neave (Enfield), London, October 4, 1913. 7.52.  
880 yds.—Miss V. Neave (Enfield), Jersey, August 25, 1913. 14.31.4.  
1000 yds.—Miss V. Neave (Enfield), Jersey, August 25, 1913. 16.25.4.  
1 Mile.—Miss V. Neave (Enfield), Jersey, August 11, 1913. 29.54.1.  
Plunging.—Miss H. Dand (Liverpool), Bootle, September 29, 1917. 60ft. 2½in.

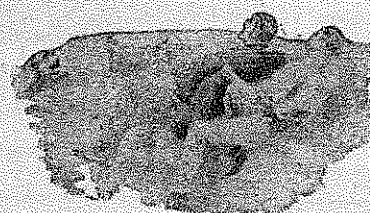
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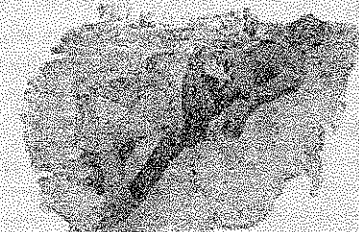
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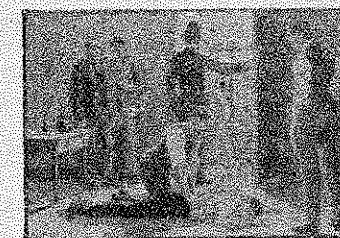
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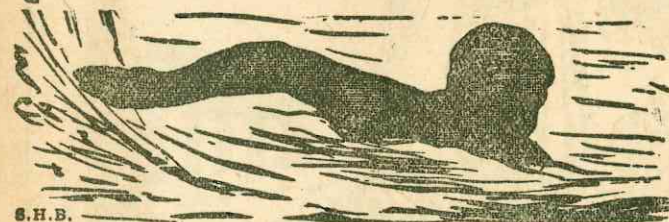
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