AROUND THE WHIST TABLE

THE SIXTH AMERICAN WHIST CONGRESS AT CONEY ISLAND.

Distinguished Players and Authors Present—The Only "Cavendish" a Star Attraction—Games and Analyses—Notes.

The sixth American Whist Congress is now in full swing at the Oriental Hotel, Manhattan Beach. The Executive Committee held its first meeting yesterday to open proceedings, and will hold sessions daily throughout the week. All day yesterday delegates were arriving, some in carriages, some in cars, and many on wheels. Among the first were the members of the Capitol Bicycle Club, the short-suiters who were the first champions of the league. They wheeled from Jersey City, accompanied by the Baltimore and Philadelphia contingent, and were piloted through the mazes of the Greater New York by Foster of the South Brooklyn Wheelmen.

"THE ONLY JONES."

To-day will be one of rest and recognition, as every one wants to meet every one else and to renew the friendships of past congresses. The central figure of attraction on the spacious porches of the Oriental to-day will of course be Henry Jones, or, as some persons insist on addressing him, "Mr. Cavendish," who has come all the way from London just to take part in the Whist Congress.

Cavendish is unquestionably the father of modern whist, and has watched over the interests of the game with paternal care for more than thirty years. His remarkable abilities as a writer and analyst have set him so far above all others that his name is synonymous with whist all over the world, and the works of antecedent writers are regarded simply as curiosities in whist literature.

Among the lesser lights, whose names are nevertheless familiar to every American whist player, may be found such men as W. H. Whitfeld, the composer of the problem published in THE SUN Feb. 16, which stumped so many of our best solvers. Like Cavendish, Mr. Whitfeld has come all the way from Merry England just for the congress.

The first and latest Presidents of the league, Elliott and Schwartz, are "largely" in evidence. They have found chairs that will hold them, but they had to order their bathing suits in advance. Cassius Paine, the genial editor of *Whist*, the official organ, is on hand, and among the well-known authors may be noticed Hamilton, Coffin, Ames, Howell, Work, Foster, Bunn, and Briggs.

Speculation is rife as to the probable winners of the various tournaments, the first of which, the championship of the auxiliary associations, will be decided to-morrow night. A full account of the results of the various contests will be published daily in the morning edition of THE SUN, so that those not actually engaged in the fray may follow the tide of battle as it ebbs and flows.

LONGS AND SHORTS.

As already stated in these articles, the central point of interest will undoubtedly be the struggle of system against system. Curiously enough, the strongest teams in the country are those the most at variance as to the best system of play. The result of the recent match between the famous Hamilton Club of West Philadelphia and the short-suit team of the New York Whist Club, in which the Hamiltons were defeated, has caused some of the most rabid opponents of the short-suit game to pause, and has led to a considerable amount of hedging.

The four pillars of the Hamilton game are American or number-showing leads, the call through the honor turned, the lead of a small card from ace and four others, and the indication of trump strength by the original lead. The New York players give no indication of number in plain suits, nor of trump strength. They do not play to establish hopeless suits, and betray a strong tendency to run to cover with a weak hand. Their chief reliance is upon supporting cards, deep finesses, and taking advantage of tenace positions.

In his comments on the result, the captain of the Hamiltons graciously acknowledges that his team was clearly outplayed, and that their supposed trick-winning tactics were unavailing against the system adopted by New York. He admits the truth of the statement repeatedly made in these articles, that the lead of a small card from ace and four others is a trick-losing game, and he charges the loss of at least four tricks to the Hamiltons' adoption of that system, as compared to the running tactics of the New Yorkers. This small card is one of Mr. George Bunn's pet leads; but he has never tried it against those who understand the running game. When he does he will probably change his opinion of its merits.

Mr. Work thinks the tactics adopted by the New Yorkers, which give no indication of number in the suit led from, "are a sort of go-as-you-please style, with the partner and adversaries left to indulge in a guessing match as to what it means." Short-suiters do not guess. They infer by exclusion, and regard negative inferences as being quite as valuable as positive. If a player leads a suit evidently weak, and the adversary wins the first round and leads a suit evidently strong, neither of those suits can be the original leaser's; the shortsuit leaser infers that if his partner has anything it is in the third and unplayed suit or in trumps; otherwise he has nothing at all.

Mr. Thomas Whelan, captain of the Baltimore Whist Club team, who was the referee, stated after the match was over that he had never seen such straightforward, common-sense, simple whist as the game played by the New York team, who use no conventionalities or signals whatever. As pointed out by G. B. Zahniser, captain of the New Castle team, whose letter was quoted from last week, "the short-suit game results in better attention, more pleasure, more pretty endings, and better whist." Any person who will take the trouble to go over the entire 104 hands published in the official proceedings of the various whist congresses from 1891 to 1895, will search in vain for a single example of whist play that will for a moment compare with the following hand, which is from the match between the Hamiltons and New Yorks. As no record was kept of the play, some of the smaller cards may be transposed, but the main strategy of the hand is accurately given.

A-B of the Hamiltons are partners against Y-Z of the New Yorks. Z dealt and turned the heart ten. The underlined card wins the trick, and the card under it is the next one led.

TRICK.	Mogr'ge. A	H'wkins. Y	Work. B	H'riques. Z
1	♣ 6	♣ K	♣ 4	5 ♠
2	2 ◇	J ◇	K ◇	A ◇
3	3 ◇	2 ♠	6 ◇	Q ◇
4	5 ◇	♡ 3	8 ◇	4 ◇
5	♣ 2	♣ A	♣ 5	6 ♠
6	♣ 8	♣ 10	♣ 7	♡ 4
7	3 ♠	10 ♠	4 ♠	A ♠
8	9 ◇	♡ 7	10 ◇	7 ◇
9	♠ 9	♠ 3	♡ A	7 ♠
10	♡ Q	♡ K	♡ 6	♡ J
11	♣ Q	♣ J	K ♠	♡ 10
12	J ♠	♡ 8	Q ♠	9 ♠
13	♡ 2	♡ 9	♡ 5	8 ♠

New York, 12 tricks; plus 3.

Trick 1—With only two trumps, and no card of reëntry, A announces by his original lead that he hopes to establish, defend, and bring in the clinic suit. Can anything be more absurd than playing for an impossibility that you know is an impossibility before you start? As a matter of fact, A never takes a trick in any suit, and neither he nor his partner get a trick in clubs, while their adversaries get two.

Trick 2. With such a strong club suit, the long-suit player would regard his fifth trump as a card of reëntry, and lead trumps from Y's hand, or would at least go on with the winning club to see if his partner was signalling, or the losing club to force him. That is not the short-suit game. Missing the club 2, Y counts A for five clubs, and knows that he holds tenace over A's clubs from the 3 to the ace. Z discards spades. Then if Z has anything it must be in diamonds, and Y leads him a supporting card in that suit. This is the "guessing match" deprecated by Mr. Work. This is the "straightforward, simple, common sense whist," approved by Mr. Whelan, and THE SUN.

Trick 3. The tenace in diamonds being all Z has to hope for in that suit, and B being clearly marked with the 10, Z makes his queen while he may. The fall of the spade 2 shows that Y does not want trumps led, and as there are but two ques for trumps, to lead them and to ruff with them, Y must be reserving his for the latter purpose, and the plain, straightforward, common-sense game proceeds as smoothly as oil.

Trick 5. There are two ways to play this position—to force partner with the small cards and hold back the ace; or to lead the ace to give him discards. As Y knows B is too shrewd a player ever to lead clubs up to him, he cannot make anything of his club tenace, and therefore takes the only trick he has in the suit and then forces his partner.

Trick 7. Z follows the same plan with the spade suit, showing his partner that he has only one possible trick in it, the ace.

Trick 10. Z can read his partner for three trumps and two clubs. A having shown that he led from five clubs exactly, so Z keeps the turn-up to show his partner that he can still trump another club. Y very cleverly takes advantage of this information in the next trick.

With K Q in one suit, K 10 in another, Q four times guarded in another, and the A Q of trumps between them, A—B win only one trick, with the trump ace.

Now let us see how the short-suiters managed A—B's cards.

TRICK.	Kelley. A	Clayton. Y	Buffington. B	Ballard. Z
1	J ♠	2 ♠	4 ♠	A ♠
2	2 ◇	J ◇	K ◇	4 ◇
3	3 ♠	10 ♠	K ♠	5 ♠
4	3 ◇	♡ 3	Q ♠	6 ♠
5	♡ Q	♡ 7	♡ 5	♡ 10
6	♠ 9	♣ K	♣ 4	7 ◇
7	♠ 2	♣ 3	♣ 5	♡ 4
8	5 ◇	♣ 10	6 ◇	A ◇
9	9 ◇	♣ J	8 ◇	Q ◇
10	♡ 2	♡ 8	♡ A	♡ J
11	♣ 6	♡ 9	10 ◇	7 ♠
12	♣ 8	♡ K	♡ 6	8 ♠
13	♣ Q	♣ A	♣ 7	9 ♠

Hamilton, 9 tricks; minus 3.

Trick 1. The supporting card is the only rational opening from such a hand.

Trick 2. This lead from a suit containing a major tenace is avoided by short-suiters. Z's best play here is either to return the spade or to follow the advice given on page 146 of "Foster's Duplicate Whist," which says: "It is a common practice for a player with one good suit, protection in another, and nothing in the third, to risk the missing suit, and play a forward game by leading out the trumps." This is generally known as "finessing a suit."

Tricks 3, 4. With his weak hand, B runs, and makes what tricks he can with his winning cards.

Trick 5. With such a strong club suit, partner showing the diamond suit, and the spade suit probably dead, Y very properly leads trumps.

Trick 6. A goes through the suit in which the trump-leader is evidently strong, with an intermediate card.

Trick 7. Y puts his partner in to ascertain just how strong his diamonds are.

Here is another exhibition of common sense from the same match. The New Yorks gain two tricks by the original lead of a supporting card, which they prefer to the small card from ace and four others. Z dealt and turned the heart 9.

TRICK.	Kelley. A	Ballard. Y	Buffington. B	Work. Z
1	J ♠	2 ♠	3 ♠	8 ♠
2	4 ♠	5 ♠	Q ♠	10 ♠
3	♡ A	♡ 5	♡ 4	♡ 9
4	♡ 8	♡ 10	♡ 3	♡ K
5	2 ◇	9 ◇	Q ◇	6 ◇
6	♡ 2	♡ J	♡ Q	♣ 2
7	A ◇	♣ 3	5 ◇	K ◇
8	J ◇	6 ♠	9 ♠	4 ◇
9	♣ A	♣ 6	♣ 5	♣ 7
10	♣ 8	♣ K	♣ Q	♣ 9
11	♣ 4	♣ 10	♡ 6	♣ J
12	3 ◇	7 ♠	A ♠	8 ◇
13	7 ◇	K ♠	♡ 7	10 ◇

New York, 11 tricks.

Trick 1. Although this hand is almost strong enough to play the long-suit game, the presence of the potential tenace in diamonds prevents A from opening that suit.

Trick 4. Mathews says to the player who has led trumps to protect an established suit: "If partner wins and returns the trump lead, do not put on your best trump, but suffer it to be won by your adversary. Nothing but five trumps in one hand will prevent the success of this manœuvre." ["Whist Tactics," p. 98.]

Trick 5. With three trumps and the command of spades declared against him in one hand, a short-suiter would have led the club jack and kept quiet with his potential tenace in diamonds.

Trick 7. The play of the king here is undoubtedly right. It is a maxim as old as the hills that, if you are underplayed in your own suit, the best thing to do is to put up your best card, because the evident object of the underplay is to coax you not to do so, and you should never follow an adversary's advice.

The reader of THE SUN may amuse themselves by playing this hand over on the Philadelphia system, beginning with the fourth best diamond, Z returning the supporting spade 10, and Y false-carding the trump jack on the second round, which may coax B to put up the queen.

OUR PROBLEMS.

The solution of the problem published June 7 is five out of the six tricks for N and S, for E must make his king of trumps. N may begin either with the trump ace or the spade ace. If the latter, E trumps with the king and leads trumps. N wins with the jack and continues the spade. If E does not trump the spade ace, N will lead a diamond, which S will win and return the trump 9, N winning it and continuing the spade.

Hearts trumps. N to lead. How many tricks can N and S get against the best play of E and W?

CLUB NOTES.

The final practice matches before the Congress have all been played, and most of the local teams have thoroughly tested their strength against one another. On Wednesday evening a team from Staten Island—Eyre, Janssen, Rich, and Faber—visited the New York Whist Club, and played a practice match of twenty-four hands against Henriques, Hawkins, Kelley, and Buffinton. Unfortunately, the visitors could not bring their strongest team, or the result might have been much closer. As it was, they held the New Yorks down pretty well, and half way were two tricks ahead; but in the last fifteen hands they could not win a trick, New York picking up twelve and winning the match by ten tricks plus. The score follows:

														N. Y.	S. I.
N.Y.	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0		4	
S.I.	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0			6
N.Y.	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	2		12	
S.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Totals														16	6

The long-suit-American-lead team of the Jersey City Club sought "revenge" from the short-suiters last Monday, but the shorts won by 24 tricks in 30 hands.

The captain of the Victoria Club team in Toronto, Canada, writes to THE SUN that he regrets that he will be unable to bring his team, which has just won the championship of the Dominion, to the Brooklyn Congress. He adds: "A number of players in Toronto have been using the supporting card and short-suit leads, and claim to have found them a great advantage when holding weak hands."

In the compass match at the Brooklyn Whist Club last Monday the top score was made by Kelley and Buffinton of the New York Club, and by Langmuir and Stiles, 8 plus E. and W. Henriques of New York and Shaw of Nashville, Tenn., made 7 plus in the same positions. Leggett and Putnam made 6 plus N. and S. The percentages of the ten individual leaders are as follows:

Rowe	407	Newman	289
Taylor	361	Baker	279
De Witt	346	Langmuir	259
La Vie	311	Stiles	241
Weems	291	Josephson	239

"Cavendish" visited the New York Whist Club on Monday, and demonstrated that he had lost none of his cunning at straight whist.

OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

J. S. P., Newport, asks the best short-suit lead from this hand, hearts trumps: H. Q 6; C. K Q 8 8; S. K 6 2; D. 8 6 4 2. Howell says he would lead the club king; Kelley says the diamond 8; Foster says the trump queen. As the hand is from actual play, it would be interesting to know how the cards lay, and what would have been the results of these various leads. Perhaps our correspondent will favor us with them.

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Notable Exploits of Anglers—Guns for the Adirondacks—Porpoise Shooting in the Lower Bay—Fastidious Pike in Great Britain—A Bear Killed with the Ball Bearings of a Bicycle—Other Matters of Interest to the Angler and Hunter.

The story in THE SUN about a chipmunk's long swim across a lake, and its near approach to death at the teeth of a pound-and-a-half black bass, recalled to an old fisherman a tale of another animal, not usually a swimmer, which took to the water and lost its life.

"I was fishing up on Lake Canachagola in the Adirondacks, in company with two friends and a guide," he said, "when we saw a curious riffle toward the landing, which seemed to be made by a fish jumping from the water, time and again, and headed toward us all the time. When it was about twenty rods distant there was a scurry in the water, a gleam of a salmon's side, and the riffle was made no more. We did not know what was the cause of the riffle, but Tom, my guide, guessed a young or possibly a dwarf rabbit had tried to swim to Watkins's Island.

"This seemed reasonable, since C. Hart Merriam, and other naturalists who have visited the Adirondacks, tell of rabbits swimming in the lakes and rivers there. I'd like to get my hook into the corner of that salmon's jaw—he was a buster."

A sporting paper told a good many years ago about a covey of quails, nearly all young birds, which tried to fly across the Mississippi River. Many of them were too weak and dropped into the water. They continued to cross, swimming for all they were worth, but disaster met one of them. A big gar was lurking near the bank, and when safety was scarcely twenty feet away the fish rose and took one little bird under.

There is scarcely a fisherman of Adirondack streams who has not at one time or another seen red squirrels crossing streams. Utica and New York trout fishermen may remember the Hess rifts of the West Canada Creek a mile from Northwood, in Herkimer county. They may further remember the big trout that lies in the deep but small pool just below the first natural dam. Last week a red squirrel was seen trying to swim the creek just above the dam, but miscalculating the water's speed it was swept down into he foam. A fisherman had been casting there patiently for an hour, hoping to see the big fish. The squirrel rode the foam bravely and was still making for shore when the big trout shot up clear of the water and bubbles and went down again. The squirrel gave a pitiful squeak which was shut off by the water. The fish was hooked a week ago Wednesday on a hook baited with a large and lively mouse, but broke the line at the rush.

The deer hunters in Cuba, according to a Brooklyn Cuban, sometimes see a deer die out in the ocean clear of the shallows. The deer seeks water when the dogs are after it and, knowing nothing of the sea, does not see danger, or strikes away. Then the sharks come swarming around, their fins cutting the waters like machetes, and tear the deer into bits. Further, the dogs themselves, on seeing the deer in the water, sometimes take after them and are themselves done to death by the sea trailers.

SOME BIG FISH CAUGHT.

Francis W. Campbell Lands a Salmon After It Had Got Away from Him Once.

Francis W. Campbell reports to *Forest and Stream* a remarkable instance from the Restigouche River, at Jordan's Portage Pool. Campbell was salmon fishing when a lively one struck and carried away a fly—dusty miller—with a bit of line. Fifteen minutes later a fish struck and was kept. It was a 25-pound jigger. In its mouth was the other fly and line besides the fly that held. That a shy salmon should strike and be hooked twice, being played the first time for ten minutes, is curious. Trout have been known to strike several times in succession, but salmon do not usually do so.

At Dee Side, Metapedia, Quebec, there is splendid salmon fishing, the express companies having from thirty to forty boxes of fish to carry away to the homes and friends of anglers every day. The fish that come to the hooks range from nineteen to thirty-six pounds, but a forty-four and a forty-five pound fish have been taken in nets. The fish are fighters, and it is common to be towed a mile or more before one can land the game.

James Brennan, at Rouse's Point, on Lake Champlain, was night fishing for bullheads in this lake when his line suddenly began to run out at a startling rate. He thought it was the Lake Champlain land-locked sea serpent at first, but he got to work and managed to land it. It was a 33-pound rock sturgeon, and the largest fish ever taken on hook and line at that end of the lake. It has been mounted.

A record-breaking sea surgeon was caught a few days ago in Ithaca Inlet, near Ithaca, N. Y. It weighed thirty-two pounds.

At Union Springs a sixteen-pound muskallonge was caught by an Auburn man.

If Izaak Walton had been with H. H., in Maine. Further, he saw more than one deer at once. E. O. Farwell got twenty-five trout, one of 2½ pounds, in an hour there.

Trout fishing, according to a Pike county correspondent of *Shooting and Fishing*, has been a failure in Pennsylvania so far, the streams being low and the fish taken small.

Miss Minnie Smith was fishing near Fort Myers, Fla., recently with a party of friends and her father. She was using a hand line when a big fish struck the hook. After a while the fish came along the shore alongside, and stunned with a blow from a heavy knife. It was a 168-pound tarpon. Another of the party, Mrs. Hill, also hooked but lost a tarpon. The tarpon season at Fort Myers is at an end.

Major F. G. Anderson, Land Commissioner of a railroad; Rose C. Smith, Railroad Commissioner of Alabama; T. T. Hillman, a Tennessee railroad man; J. R. Vail, also a Tennessee railroad man; William A. Walker, a railroad attorney; B. B. Comer, and Daniel Rogan, all of Birmingham, Ala., went after tarpon at Fort Myers, Fla., and got eight the first day.

The Dead River region of Maine is giving great fishing this year, and 1,505 fish were taken by a party of eight during one week. One of the party was a woman.

THE RIFLE FOR THE ADIRONDACKS.

Experience of a Man with Guns and Cartridges of Different Sizes.

A man went deer hunting in the Adirondacks, taking with him a 38-calibre rifle, which used forty grains of powder and threw a bullet of soft lead weighing 200 grains. It was a very neat weapon, and at fifty yards made holes so close to the black centre that the man was satisfied that a deer which came in sight of him was his meat sure.

His first day on a water runway rather took the backbone out of his satisfaction. He could see 150 yards over the water in one direction and 75 in the other. The well-regulated deer was supposed to come in directly opposite him forty yards away, but the deer instead came plunging over the bank on his side at a distance of thirty feet. The man who could break vaseline bottles at twenty-five yards proceeded to shoot at it with more celerity than accuracy. He fired his magazine full of cartridges, thirteen or fourteen, and was loading up again, when the deer went into the brush. There was a pretty hullabaloo when the old hound came to the water's edge, and more when the dog driver waded across and put the dog on the trail, which was a bloody one, one hit having been made. In the paunch. The deer was routed from its bed on the other side of the ridge, where it had laid itself down, and away it went for four or five hours. When the dog came back it was not hungry, only tired. The deer had died while running, and the dog had eaten its fill.

On that trip the man killed one deer that he got, and four that he did not get, but were eaten by the dogs and foxes. The guides told him that his gun didn't shoot straight—he knocked a blue jay at thirty yards. Then they said it was too small—both happened to have 44-40s, though most guides carry 38-40s.

When the man went into the woods on the next trip his rifle was a 50-110-500 one, weighing eleven pounds, which was a fearful weight before he got to the end of the trail and reached camp; but a big buck that came into the river 120 yards away the next day and got hit low down in the hips by the 500-grain bullet died before it reached the far shore. Shock and loss of blood did it. Another deer a day or so later, hit in the paunch, died as quickly as if it had been struck in the heart. Further confirmation as to the rifle's power was shown by the way the bullet smashed through seven-inch spruces and left big black and blue spots on the shooter's shoulder. The kick, the gun's weight, the terrific roar tended to overbalance the good done by the rifle, and so the man got a 45-90-300 repeating rifle, after trying all calibres and most cartridges from 22-90 up to 45-120. The 45-90, he thinks, is not the ideal weapon, but it is as good as any, so far as he has been able to find out, though he has not tried any of the smokeless needle guns yet. It doesn't kick too much, makes a big hole, does not weich too much, and, what is better, he has never lost a wounded deer with it.

THE PULL OF A FISH.

A New Kind of Registering Machine of Which Anglers Feel the Need.

"What I want," said an angler, "is a rigging of some sort to measure the pull of a fish. If a pound fish pulls three pounds three ounces I want to know it, and if a three-pound fish pulls only three pounds six ounces I want to know that, too. A joker wrote to a sportsman's paper the other day to tell of an invention to measure the size of the fish that are lost. That is where this pull-measure machine would be good, too. It would have to be self-registering, of course.

"Everybody laughs when any one says he lost a big one. I've lost fish of a size I never dared tell of just because of the bad name a fellow gets for telling of such things. I could tell of six and seven pound trout in Canachagola Lake up in the Adirondacks, but what's the use? Why, say, I've seen a trout——" Just then he remembered himself and began to talk about a grizzly king fly with a yellow tail.

SHOOTING LEAPING PORPOISES.

Sport Down the Bay Which One New Yorker Finds Exciting and Convenient.

There is a man who runs down to the lower bay in a 25-foot sloop armed with a 38-55 repeating rifle whenever he finds himself in need of exciting sport with a gun. He is a fine shot and his game necessitates snap shooting and many cartridges.

The game he seeks is porpoises and a school of porpoises give him more fun than a herd of deer. Once in the Narrows, the hunter mounts to the crosstrees with a good glass in his hand and looks about for a school. When he sees the porpoises he gives orders that sends the boat among the fish and then he shoots from the deck at them. He hits once in twelve shots, about, and ordinarily gets his game, although it may be some time before the fish dies. A shot through the air bladder invariably loses the fish shot, then it sinks.

It is not so difficult shooting as one might think. A mark five feet long and a foot deep coming through the air at ten yards, as often happens, is not much harder to hit than the merry-go-round tigers one sees in flowery or Coney Island shooting galleries. The shots to be proud of are the ones that break the neck of the fish, or prostrate the brain.

The hunter of porpoises has killed about seventy this year—twelve in one day. He has killed deer and partridges, ducks and bears, but he says that for real good sport, cheap, too, give him a few hours with the porpoises.

FASTIDIOUS PIKE.

They Prefer the Englishman's Young Ducks to the Small Coots.

An Englishman is in straits because the young ducks are all being caught and eaten in a loch at Pitgeveny, Elgin. He writes to the London *Field*:

"I am just broken hearted because the pike are eating all my young ducks. We shoot them, catch them, and kill them all the year around by fair means and foul, three or four every day, and some have young ducks, in them. In one was a young black headed gull, a young duck, and the toes and skull of another; in another were two small ducks and two small coots. There are thousands of young coots on the loch, but the brutes of pike prefer the ducks."

Fish are notorious eaters of ducks, and what is the Englishman's misfortune has been the luck of many a fisherman for bass, pickerel, and trout. A live young bird, tied to a hook, not impaled, cast gently on a still water of an Adirondack stream, has raised many a trout "as big as hand saws," and resulted in the death of a few, but the boys who used birds as bait are not usually skilful enough to land the big ones. A small bird is as good as a young field mouse for trout bait, and that is saying a good deal, as any woodsman will admit.

BALL BEARINGS FOR A BEAR.

The Use of Bicycle Fixings Made by a Lad Up in the Adirondacks.

John Pardy, 20 years old, of Northwood, N. Y., is at once a woodsman, a hunter, and a bicycle rider. He would rather hunt than do anything he ever heard anybody tell about, and next to that he likes to ride a bicycle. Very frequently he combines hunting and bicycling, and the result is disastrous to the game sought, and also to the wheel ridden. He has been compelled to make so many repairs to his old safety that he now takes duplicates of almost everything pertaining to a bicycle, from spokes to tires, including balls for the bearings.

The balls—eight of them—came unexpectedly to be of great value on Monday last. He and George Peters happened to meet up by the big burning back of Rising's and were talking about the deer hunting prospects, when, all of a sudden, a big she bear was seen by Peters. Pardy's gun was loaded with buckshot and that was as large shot as he had; but, while he was wishing for buckshot, he thought of the eight extra steel balls. He promptly dropped them in on top of the charge and fired them into the bear, killing it instantly.

When the bear was skinned it was found that one of the balls had penetrated to the beast's heart, but, lacking weight, had not gone in so far as the lead bullets would have gone. Three other of the balls were found, and, as they had not been jammed at all, John took out four of the balls in his wheel and substituted the bear killers, just to say they were unique.

Preponderance of Drakes Among Ducks.

A man wrote to *Forest and Stream* a while ago saying that 80 per cent. of the ducks he had killed were drakes—four drakes to one female—and he wanted to know the reason why. Others promptly said they had observed similar preponderance of drakes, and also wanted to know why. One man told how he had seen one female duck chased by four or five males. He had killed forty-five in a spring day's shooting, and of them only nine were females.

Thus far no explanation has been given of the matter.

BOWLERS OF NEW YORK.

A Non-Thirst-Appeasing Sport of Which Germans and Scotchmen Are Fond.

The eleventh annual picnic of the United Bowling Clubs of New York City will take place on June 26 in one of the up-town parks. There will be fireworks, music, and, of course, bowling. Sixty-five clubs will participate in the picnic, the united membership of which is put at nearly 7,000.

Bowling as a means of relaxation and as a salutary form of physical exercise has, despite the attractions of many other forms of amusement, held its own very well in New York, and has withstood even the fierce opposition of bicycling. A very large number of the bowlers of New York, if not, indeed, a clear majority of them, are Germans or German-Americans, and a considerable number, too, are Scotchmen; and on one point both German-American bowlers and Scottish-American bowlers are agreed—the point of method and regularity. The organized bowlers do not approach this form of sport in what may be called an intermittent or desultory way, assembling at odd times and places for an assault upon the pins when they feel like it. On the contrary, they have regular clubs, with officers, dates of election, times and places of meeting, and schedules so arranged that the various clubs succeed each other in the bowling alleys (unless a club is fortunate enough to have an exclusive alley of its own) on certain nights of the week. In many German saloons on the east and west sides of town, and especially on the east side, a bowling alley, either in the basement or in the rear of the saloon, is a customary annex to the bar of the establishment, and the proprietor of such a place, if well acquainted among bowlers, may have a different club for each night in the week by prior arrangement, running perhaps over an entire season. On the night that no bowling club is scheduled, the alley is thrown open for casual bowlers, who make up a party for the occasion, but the revenue from such a source is uncertain, and, moreover, such casual parties are not, as a rule, very desirable patrons of the bar, in the profits of which the proprietor of the saloon is much more deeply concerned than he is in the development of athletic attributes among those of his patrons who have some knowledge of bowling.

Though some professional bowlers seem disinclined to admit at times that such is the case, energetic bowling (and especially among those who do not bowl scientifically) is not an appeaser of thirst. After vigorous work in a warm, well-lighted bowling alley, the desire for liquid refreshments is almost irresistible, and this brings to the proprietor of the saloon with alley annex his chief profit, and is one of the reasons why Germans who are beer drinkers should favor the sport.

Though the organization of the sixty-five or more bowling clubs of New York is systematic, bowlers as a class have never found it necessary to act together except for purposes of recreation, for they are in danger of infracting no existing law, they incur the hostility of no rivals in other fields, and therefore they have never combined in the way that other votaries of athletic sports have done—the baseball men to secure uniformity in rules, the bicyclists to oppose unfriendly ordinances and to secure improved roads, and the sharpshooters to get a right of way in marching.

Men! Do not despair. Read Thomas Slater's offer on page 4, main sheet.—Adv.

TIPS FOR THE FISHERMEN.

A NEW DEVICE WITH WHICH WOMEN MAY CATCH BLUEFISH.

The Gresham Rig for Sea Fishing—Weakfish Uncertain in Their Movements Now—Bass Fishing Fairly Good—The Question of Bait—Sense of Smell Among Fish.

The first bluefish of the season are reported. Capt. Herbert of Freeport, L. I., having run into a school last week and succeeded in bringing home about two dozen pretty fine specimens. It will, however, prove to be a sporadic case, and not much success should be expected with this fish for another week or two. Then, with good weather, the gamest fish that swims will fight the bold fisherman all along the coast and rip his fingers to shreds in its well-known way.

There is a novelty this year for blue fishermen to use, which has a good deal to recommend it. It is an adjustable spinnaker, a stout pole of oak with no spring to it, which is fitted at the heel with a clamp to enable it to be fastened to the gunwale of a sloop or catboat and securely held. At the foot is a large reel for the line, a multiplier, which winds five times on the wheel for one turn of the hand. The line runs out through a large curved nickel tunnel piece at the end of the spinnaker. These poles can be procured of various lengths, and when placed here and there along the side of a boat will enable it to carry a large number of lines which can be handled without cutting the fingers. The steady running in of the line will also help to prevent the fish overrunning and unhooking itself, and, for women, this alone is enough to recommend it. Strange to say, there is not one woman in a thousand who can haul in a bluefish line. She may cast a fly, manipulate a dobson on a black bass line, scoop crabs to perfection, land weakfish, or clear an eel line, but she cannot haul in a bluefish, and when she catches one on a long line it is due more to luck than anything else.

There is a new rig for sea fishing, which is called the Gresham, after the Englishman who introduced it. It is intended for deep or moderately deep sea fishing, where two or three lines are desirable, and often a problem to a man with only one pair of hands. Hitherto this difficulty has been met by taking pieces of hickory about two feet long and two inches in diameter, and screwing these to the side or stern of the boat, the line running from the boat through an eyelet at the end of the stick into the water, and in some cases these have been supplemented with small bells which sounded when a fish pulled on them. The Gresham is an improvement which consists of a very shallow pan of metal, in the rims of which three holes are pierced for the reception of metal arms for the line to be passed through and extended over the water. When the arms are in place the lid to the pan is placed over it, and then a lever screw is turned down, which holds the arms in place, while an under screw secures it to the stern of a boat, an outrigger, or whatever else, or any other type of this invention, made smaller and lighter, is intended to be used as a sprool. The arms are fitted in the same way, but the line to the hand is attached to the top of the wire, and the leaders are attached to the under part of the metal pan, so that the bait is sunk to any desired depth, and the leaders are well spread, out of the way of each other. This should prove interesting to weakfishermen, and it would seem that any one with a little gift of working in wire or metal should be able to make one for his own use at comparatives small cost. It folds up and goes in the bag and fishing rod case, which is a great advantage.

As yet the weakfish have been somewhat uncertain in their movements. Some days as many as fifteen and twenty have been caught in the favored spots in the lower bay, and then away they have gone again. Late last week a member of one of the Great Kills fishing clubs went out and landed fourteen in a short time, and then none were caught for days, when a Post Office man caught two and had them taken and eaten by big Joe Gillis's cat while his back was turned for a few minutes. One of the old residents near the kills says that one great reason for the falling off of the weakfish that used to haunt the shallows is the setting of so many oyster stakes. This has been done to such an extent that the shallow bay is well nigh unsailable, and is called locally "The Woods of Arden," christened so by Capt. Tom Williams. This fisherman claims that the kills used to be full of eelgrass and other aquatic growths, which attracted the sea shrimps to play and breed in, and that these in turn attracted the weakfish, and that the weakfish brought the bluefish, and so on. With the placing of the stakes, the growth of the oysters round them, and the dredging and raking up of the sandy bottom, the eelgrass has disappeared except in one patch, the shrimps are fewer in number, and the weakfish come in diminished numbers each year, while it is common talk that no one need expect more than one or two good days' bluefishing in the lower bay. The fish come, they go, and that is the last of them, and if any one wants good bluefishing he has now to take a big sloop and go outside. This conclusion is true, whatever the reason may be.

Bass fishing has been fairly good to date. What is termed the second run is now about due, and in the opinion of many has already arrived. Everything appears early this year. The weakfish came in three weeks ahead of time, and along the country roads the rich wild roses were about the same in advance of their due season. This second run of bass consists of the larger brothers of the first little ones. They are darker in color, with strongly marked yellowish stripes on the sides and dark blue backs. The soft crab will not tempt them unless they are very hungry, and the fiddler for them is sand worms, shedder crab, and fiddlers. These fish run up to four and five pounds in weight, and fight like a game cock. A very good bait is the light green killie with orange mottled fins and tail, and also the variety with dark green backs and white bellies. These will live for any length of time on a hook if skilfully impaled, and by their constant movement are a powerful lure to a hungry fish. In buying killies at a bait store one should be careful not to get loaded up with what are termed night killies, large white fish with longitudinal black stripes, which are of no use, and are passed out to greenhorns who are not recognized as regular customers. To catch the killies fresh at the fishing grounds, take a barrel hoop, attach it to the end of the second joint of the rod, spread over it like a net some mosquito netting; crush a crab or a clam and drop it in the net, and sink the net for a few minutes in the shallow water by a float where boats are launched, or under a sedgy bank. Then lift it up quickly and a dozen or more will be caught. Drop the net again and again until plenty are obtained. Place them in a water at once, and handle as little as possible.

A good rig for casting for bass, one of the most popular styles of fishing along shore, is what is termed the Newton. This is an ordinary long gut snell, with a smaller hook fastened about three inches above the hook proper, with the barb pointing in exactly the opposite direction. The head of the sand worm is impaled upon the upper and smaller hook, and the body of the worm is then wound around the snell toward the lower hook and is then fastened by the tail to the lower hook. Care should be taken to impale it very securely by the tail. When the cast is made this gives the worm more chance to wriggle and play, and yet keeps it within the due limits of the lower hook when a strike is made. Several of the leading fishermen speak very highly of this scheme, and some good catches have been made off Liberty Island by casting into the receding half-ebb tide off the northwest beach. Good catches have also been made off Sandy Hook, dropping the bait outside the breakers. From there to Barnegat the fishing is good along the shore this year.

Some good fishing nearer at home may be had from South Beach, Staten Island, to above New Dorp and up to Cedar Point. In still fishing some good bags have been made this year with shad roe, and one of eighteen fish was made last week off Goose Creek by winding a sand worm and a white worm on the hook. This is said to be a cinch when the fish are running well.

Strange visitors are appearing in the lower bay. Capt. Gus Mercereau came across a herring hog weighing over sixty