# A FEW BILLIARD POINTS.

## Jacob Schaeffer on the Science of the Game.

## THE WEAK BRIDGE HAND

**Don't Try to Make Hard Shots Out of Easy Ones—Never Get Careless—A Few Don'ts Worth Remembering—Points for the Beginner.**

Don't imagine that the cushion of the billiard table is a punching bag, or that it isn't the most delicately-constructed thing for its purpose that man could devise. It can stand blows from the balls that would kill a human being, but not an elephant. The balls, too, are as delicately turned and as perfectly balanced as a watch. They are weighed on jeweler's scales, and if one side were even a few grains heavier or lighter than the other it would spoil the sphere, which must roll as evenly as possible, and not go jumping about like one of those lead-weighted toys that turns somersaults down an incline plane in little jerky jumps.

Be as careful in the handling of your cue as though you were fingering a violin. Don't wave it around or twist it between your fingers like a drum major's baton. Don't pound on the floor with it, either, and when you are about to make a shot don't make the unfortunate people about you think you are going to lead the band as you describe imaginary twists in the air.

When you start in to play your game always take off your coat. People then know you are prepared to attend to some mighty big business. It's ten to one that you wouldn't do this if you were going to put up a stove, but it looks well. Notice how the crowd of onlookers will leave the other tables to come rushing over to yours. You will have the laugh on them when you begin to play, however, so things will be evened up. I have spoken before of the great importance of the firm bridge. You can feel your cue and know exactly what your right hand proposes to do.

Half the failures at billiards are due to a weak bridge hand. The eye sees where the cue should should strike, and there the blow lands, but the weak bridge hand has moved a bit, and the blow isn't true in some little particular that makes the fiasco.

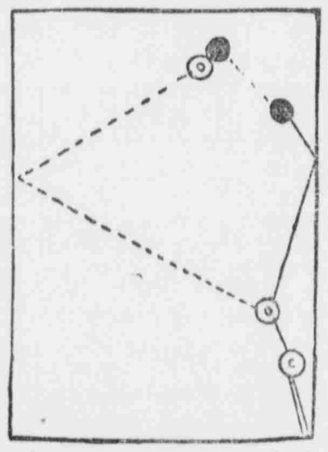
Certain shots are reasonably sure things, but they are so easy that the person who is about to play them gets careless

Never trifle with yourself, even if you are practicing alone, in a desert, if you like, be conscientious. You will never regret it. One false step leads to another.

Beginners mustn't try to do too much. That's the chief trouble. Don't try and make hard shots out of easy ones. If the two balls stand near enough together to count by making a simple carom from one to the other without hitting the cushion, make the shot that way.

Don't aim at opposite spots on the table and play to bank the ball first on the cushion. You'll get plenty of hard shots that have to be made hard.

Some people who play poker say that the game makes a man a diplomat. It certainly makes him a liar. I guess maybe the best diplomats are



(Easy one-cushion position shot.)

the biggest liars, so it's true, but I'll back a good billiard player against a good poker player in an international dispute.

He will keep his temper better, and that is always a winning card, and it's painstaking, care and perseverance that enables him to get to the top.

Don't lean your elbows on the table.

Put the chalk back in its place. Don't leave it loose on the rail.

It isn't necessary when you draw a ball to hit the table with your cue.

When you make your follow shot reverse this rule and don't scratch the top of the ball.

As soon as you shoot take your cue from over the table.

Stand erect as you watch the result of your stroke.

Don't slap the tallow buttons on the wire over your head, or whack them as though you were trying to chop off a few feet.

Sit down when your opponent has the ball in hand or at least get out of his way.

Never let your cue tip get near enough your hand to soil your fingers with chalk. You will shoot steadier.

Keep close to the table when making shots, the nearer the better.

I guess that will give you enough to think of for awhile.

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"Your honor," said the learned counsel in concluding his address, "we will now rest."

"So will the Court," replied the Judge with a sigh of relief.

## L. A. W. MEET.

**Programme of Entertainment—The Executive Committee and Races.**

Milwaukee, with characteristic energy, has already commenced work preparatory to the national meet of the League of American Wheelmen. July 10-15 are the dates decided upon, for the reason that this is one of the most delightful seasons in Wisconsin and because all of the star riders of the National Cycling Association will be available at that time.

A permanent executive committee, having in charge the meet arrangements, has been organized with Mr. A. D. Meiselbach as chairman. Mr. Meiselbach is not only one of the most prominent wheelmen of Milwaukee and Wisconsin, but of the entire country. He has been one of the leading factors for years in the trade, pastime and sport of cycling, and his acceptance of the position tendered him is good assurance that nothing will be left undone to make the Milwaukee meet one of the memorable ones. Associated with him will be F. P. Van Valkenburg, the leader of league forces in the west, and Otto Dorner, for three years chairman of the L. A. W. Highway Improvement Committee. Others who will be working for the meet including the prominent wheelmen of the state and of the Citizens' Business League, which has taken a great interest in the affair.

An outline of the probable programme of the entertainment shows: An entertainment at a local theatre for one evening. Another evening will be devoted to social receptions at various clubs throughout the city; a third will be taken up by the all-night smoker, which has become a feature of the national meet; a fourth evening will witness races on the track. In additions there will be excursions on the bay and the Milwaukee river, social gatherings at the celebrated Schlitz Palm Garden and visits to other places of public interest.

As a novelty one day will be devoted to good roads. This will be interesting, not alone to wheelmen visitors, but to farmers throughout Wisconsin and adjacent states. The programme for this day is in charge of Senator J. H. Stout, of Menominee, one of the best-known and most practical of good roads advocates in the United States. Congressman Davidson, Otto Dorner, F. F. Merrill and F. M. Harbach will also serve on this committee. The Citizens' Business League will encourage a congress of farmers and other good roads enthusiasts on that day, thus bringing into contact the two classes—wheelmen and farmers—who are most vitally interested in the road question.

A novel feature will be a one-mile straightaway multicycle race on Grand avenue, the street made famous by the "fire run" of the Milwaukee Fire Department. There will also be a schooner excursion. Not the kind that made Milwaukee famous, but an excursion in a genuine three-masted schooner upon Lake Michigan.

The National Cycling Association will furnish the races, and these will be among the most prominent features on the programme, as the national championship will practically be decided at that time.

### For Foolhardy Wheelmen.

The reckless bicycle coaster is perennial and omnipresent. He seems to learn slowly, despite the warning reports of those who have either been

(A life-saver for coasters.)

killed or maimed for life by their recklessness. In some communities in Europe they have devised a netting which the coaster unaware of a turn in the road, must run into, willy nilly. It is called the wire net of Raminago, and has been wonderfully efficient in catching poor mortals who would otherwise have coasted into eternity. Of course it brings the wheelman up by a rather rude shock, but it saves his life, and so long as bicyclists will coast down unfamiliar and unknown hills, there seems to be a need of some such thing in this country, especially in mountainous regions.

### Automobile vs. Sleigh.

Rose Coghlan, the actress, recently engaged in a novel race at Rochester, the loser's penalty being a dinner. She was the driver of an automobile and her opponent was behind a fast trotter hitched to a sleigh. The course was from the center of Rochester to a suburban hotel at Brighton. Despite the snow and Miss Coghlan's inexperience as a chauffeur, the last century horse and sleigh were left nearly a block behind at the finish.

### Motor Fire Engines Gaining Favor.

Director English, of the Philadelphia Department of Public Safety, is to visit Boston to investigate the use of horseless fire engines in vogue there, with a view to their introduction in the Quaker City, which is liberally supplied with asphalt roads.

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"What! A man with a nose the color of yours expects me to believe that he has lived on water for three months?" said the lady at the door. "Yes'm," said the tramp; "you see, I'm a sailor just ashore."—Yonkers Statesman.

## REV. T. K. BEECHER'S WAYS

**THE LAST OF A FAMOUS FAMILY OF PREACHERS.**

**"Father Tom's" Eccentricity—Keeper of the Town Clock—Surprises in the Pulpit—Ordination of a Woman—Features of His Church.**

Many admirers of the Rev. Thomas K. Beecher, brother of Henry Ward Beecher, who died at Elmira, N. Y., recently, believe that he was the most original thinker of that famous family. He united to the power of reasoning of his brother Edward much of the poetical thought of Henry Ward. Lyman Beecher, father of the ten Beechers, is reported to have said that Thomas K. was the flower of the family. This has not been the judgment of the world, but on one point there is general agreement. Thomas K. was the oddest of them all. "Father Tom," as he was affectionately called in Elmira and throughout this part of the state, has been accused of rather priding himself on his eccentricity. You never could tell what he was going to do, but you could generally count on his doing something you didn't expect.

"Mr. Beecher," said a woman parishioner to him once, "when I see you out of the pulpit I think you ought never to get in it; but when I see you in the pulpit I think you ought never to get out."

He seemed to enjoy astonishing conventional folk sometimes. Once he took a notion that lager beer would be good for his health. Instead of taking the medicine at his own home he used to walk in at the front door of the most conspicuous saloon in Elmira, pull out a nickel at the bar and quaff the beer. This troubled his parishioners, and they remonstrated with him, but he told them that he didn't care what folks thought about him, he was taking the beer as a medicine, and he din't propose to do it secretly, as if he was ashamed of it. After a while he quit the beer, not, as he was careful to explain, because he thought it was wrong, but because it didn't agree with him.

Mr. Beecher knew a great deal about many things. Many persons may recall the fashion in which he demolished a scientific text-book, written by a well-known man and used extensively in schools. Mr. Beecher pointed out inaccuracies in statement and false reasoning until he completely riddled the work. In his early days he studied mechanics, and at one time ran a locomotive from Buffalo to New York. In the earlier stage of his ministry he used to repair sewing machines for the women of his flock. He could make a watch, and so great was his delight in that sort of work that he once asked the Elmira authorities to make him custodian of the town clock. They granted his request, and for years Mr. Beecher served in this capacity at a salary of $12 a year. He took great pride in keeping that town clock exactly right, and when the timepiece happened to get a few seconds wrong he used to put up a sign on the door of the door of the tower reading like this: "This clock is two seconds late to-day, but it will be all right tomorrow."

He was as peculiar in the pulpit as out of it, and did what seemed to him right. One of the best illustrations of this has already been told, but will bear recalling. One Sunday he preached in the church of his brother, Henry Ward Beecher, in Brooklyn, while the Plymouth pastor was away. Because of Henry Ward's absence the crowd of strangers that used to fill Plymouth Church was diverted elsewhere in part, and the congregation was not very large. Before beginning his sermon the preacher arose and said: "All those who have come here to worship Henry Ward Beecher will now have a chance to retire; all those who have come to worship God will remain."

At the close of another brilliant sermon he startled the congregation by slapping his manuscript together suddenly and calling "Time to wake up!" after which he put his sermon into his pocket and walked out.

Park Church was made by Mr. Beecher into an institutional church, the first of the sort, it is said, in the country. He put in a stage for theatrical productions, bowling alleys, gymnasiums and parlors. It was a great innovation at the time and caused considerable talk, but "Father Tom" did not mind that. It took years to build, because the pastor would not permit a brick or a stone to go into the building until it was paid for, and sometimes there were long waits. The Sunday school he made a remarkable institution. Every lesson was written by Mr. Beecher himself. The school was graded as rigidly as any ward day school, and the children had to learn their lessons just as thoroughly as in a secular school, or quit. In the details the pastor was assisted by Mrs. Beecher, but the plans were all his own. As a result of his personality and his system the school had a phenomenal growth and reached a very large membership. On the first Sunday in each month Mr. Beecher used to preach a special sermon to the children, and attendance at this service was made a requirement for promotion. As a result the entire school used to be there.

For many years Mr. Beecher had been but a shadow of his former self. The old power and vigor had departed, and his eyes no longer gleamed as they used to from that massive forehead which his admirers compared to the Greek conception of Jupiter. This change dated from the tragic death of his brother James, with whom he had lived on terms of peculiar intimacy and affection.

His death has come as a personal loss not only to Elmira but to all this part of the state.—N. Y. Sun.


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