

Democratic Watchman

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THE FASCINATING GAME OF BILLIARDS.

By L. A. Miller.

One of the most popular games in which men indulge by way of recreation is billiards. It is claimed for this game that it has advantages over almost any other, both in moral and intellectual culture.

In order to be a good shot with a cue a man must be able to calculate distance and angles correctly. Blind luck cannot be depended upon to any extent whatever; neither will random shots help the player. He must decide as to what he intends to do, then go about doing it with mathematical exactness. This is held to be a mental exercise of no little value in the way of disciplining the mind.

The game is often spoken of as practical geometry, and is accredited with all the advantages and benefits of that branch of study. These claims are quite reasonable, as the player, to be successful, must reason correctly and perform the operation with the greatest precision.

Chess has for centuries past been held up as the game best calculated to develop and discipline the perceiving and reasoning faculties. To this there is no objection, but the fact that there is no physical exercise connected with the game has been used against it, and with little force. The same objection applies to checkers and cards. These, however, do not require a tithe of the mental efforts that chess does, consequently they are not so exhausting; besides they furnish more excuses for talking while the game is going on.

Whist is probably the most scientific of all the games of cards, or at least requires the most thought and attention; yet it is not so exciting or fascinating as poker. The latter is largely a game of chance, and is more or less interesting accordingly as the "pot" is large or small. It is fascinating, not because of the amusement it furnishes, but because of the perils of fortune connected with it.

It is probable that croquet, polo, cricket and football had their origin in this invention. De vigne, as they all belong to the same family. The Chinese claim the invention of the game of billiards, as they do everything else. It is only a claim as yet, because they have submitted no date to substantiate it.

Billiards is derived from the French billé, meaning a piece of wood, or ball. The cue, or billie, originally used was a slender stick of not more than half an inch in diameter, held between the thumb and finger, with which the ball, not larger than a good sized marble, was struck a sharp blow and sent in the desired direction. The table was not heavier than an ordinary dining-table, and without cover.

Notwithstanding the game was crude it took well with the nobility of Germany, Italy and Spain. As people of this class rarely improve anything, much less invent anything, the game remained in its original state until the beginning of the 19th century; with the exception of some changes in the manner of counting, or marking.

Two balls only were used a hundred years ago, about which time pockets around the sides took the place of holes in the center of the table, which in turn had supplanted the loops, or bars. Although the game had been invented by a Frenchman, and was known everywhere as the favorite French game, it was left for an Englishman to develop its finer points.

This occurred about 1810. A billiard marker by the name of Carr, employed in a gaming room in the city of Bath, discovered that by using a cue slightly rounded at the point, and heavily chalked, he could drive balls from side to side at any desired angle. His feat excited a perfect furor. At last, when he discovered the top twist, he was accredited with magical power. His rooms were constantly crowded, and he became the associate of royalty; but he steadfastly refused to give up his secret, except for a handsome consideration; and even then he would not divulge the composition of his "magic chalk," but sold it at almost fabulous prices.

In the course of time the spell was broken, and the people became aware that there was no magic about either the game or the chalk. In the meantime, however, Carr had made a snug fortune, and had he not contracted so many bad habits during his palmy days he could have lived in luxury; but as it was, he soon went to sticks, spending his latter years as a billiard-marker in the very rooms over which he had once presided in such lordly style.

Since 1820, changes in the style of billiards, improvements in tables and paraphernalia have been great. Experts began holding tournaments, and matches were gotten up between rival players, thus creating a general interest in the game.

As the game of whist was too intricate and difficult for the lower classes to master, so with billiards, and the result was the development of simpler games, such as bagatelle, pool and pin pool. These have grown in popularity until pool tables are more numerous and more largely patronized throughout the country than regular billiards.

The game is so simple that any one can play it with tolerable success after once learning to handle the cue. As with cards, these simpler and more popular games have become the most baneful, because they are patronized by the classes who do not play for the benefit they may derive from it, but on account of the fascination there is about it.

There was a time when pool for drinks had become the order of the day in the lower saloons and dives, and it increased the sale of intoxicants very largely; especially among boys and young men. Many of those who were frequenters of the pool rooms could scarcely have been in-

duced to go into a saloon for the purpose of taking a drink, but they played and drank and drank and played like veterans.

It was then a custom and a rule to "set em up" at the end of each game; the loser paying the bill, so that the more games they played the more drinks they took, and the more drinks they took the more they felt like playing. Happily since the elimination of most of the saloons that evil is a thing of the past.

Among the novelties in billiard playing is "finger billiards" and "nose billiards," in which the balls are knocked with the nose or end of a finger instead of a cue. Only a few cranks indulge in this sort of foolish fancy business.

To become a skillful player requires a quick eye, keen perception, steady nerves and a great deal of practice. There are some who never can become expert players, no matter how much attention they give to it; but since the object is pastime, or exercise at most, it is little difference whether they are expert or not. Several attempts have been made to popularize the game with ladies, but somehow they have not taken to it as kindly as croquet, lawn tennis, or even poker.

STATE SABBATH SCHOOL JOTTINGS.

Wonder if you know that last year the members of the board of directors of the State Sabbath School association traveled a total of more than one hundred thousand miles to attend board meetings,—doing this at their own expense, for the board members are not only not paid and pay their own expenses, but they are among the heaviest contributors financially, to the work of the Sabbath school.

The board of directors of the State Sabbath school association at its last meeting adopted the old plan of a mid-year conference of all the county presidents and secretaries. This will be held some time after the first of the year at a convenient point.

Two additional field workers are urgently needed on the State Sabbath school field staff and the men can be secured, but funds are lacking to finance this need. The state association has followed the policy of spending only such money as they have but because of the urgency of this need the Association's board of directors, at its last meeting, decided to continue its financial drive throughout the State in order to fully complete its budget presented at the Williamsport convention.

At a recent meeting of the directors of the State Sabbath School association the following officers were elected: President of the board, James A. Lansing; secretary, H. E. Paisley; legal counsel, R. C. Hassrick.

The board of directors of the Pennsylvania State Sabbath School association held meetings every month (except July and August) to plan the work of the State association in Pennsylvania. Outside of the association's general secretary, Mr. Walter E. Myers, the field staff does not take part in the board meetings, but make their reports through the various committees on the board. There are twenty-one members on the State board, and eleven members on the executive committee who hold their meetings just prior to the board's meeting.

Wonder if those Sabbath school workers who attend the annual State convention is hardly over until plans are in progress for the next convention. With the Williamsport convention scarcely over, the program committee of the State board has already been appointed and also a couple of the local committees at Washington, Pa., the next place of meeting, are working out their plans. Some speakers must be engaged a whole year ahead.

The State Sabbath School association has one division with a non-paid volunteer superintendent, namely the "Publicity," and the association, lacking fully all the funds it should have to carry on the work as it should, will invite such a volunteer State superintendent of temperance, of missions, of parent-training, etc., in order to promptly help further these departments.

Activities of the "field force" of the Pennsylvania State Sabbath School association for the month of October was as follows:

District conventions held	53
District institutes held	20
Special rallies or institutes	57
County conventions held	4
Annual county tours	35
Older boys' and older girls' conferences	20
Association officers' conferences	4
Executive Com. meetings (districts)	113
Executive Com. meetings (county)	33

The demand for field workers for these gatherings was too heavy to be fully met with the State's present force.

In Need of Religion.

The soldiers marched to the church and halted in the square outside. One wing of the edifice was undergoing repairs, so there was room for only half the regiment.

"Sergeant," ordered the captain, "tell the men who don't want to go to church to fall out."

A large number quickly availed themselves of the privilege.

"Now, sergeant," said the captain, "dismiss all the men who did not fall out and march the others in—they need it most."—Continued.

Entirely Innocent.

The prohibition officers had come to the door of Mose Jackson's house on the quest of an illicit still. The door was opened by Mose's youngest boy, a pickaninny about 7 years of age.

STATE GAME COMMISSION PAYS THE FARMERS OF PERRY COUNTY FOR TRAPPING DEER.

During the last year or two deer have apparently caused the farmers in Toiyone, Jackson and Madison townships, Perry county, considerable concern and in some cases these animals have apparently done damage to cultivated crops and fruit trees in that section. In a number of cases investigated, however, it was evident that the actual damage was much exaggerated and not at all sufficient to warrant killing or removing the deer.

The game law for the past six years has permitted land owners to kill deer under certain conditions if they are actually destroying crops in material way. Before doing so, landowners must be in a position to prove that material damage is being done, and if a deer is killed, must remove the entrails, hang up the carcass, and report within 24 hours to a game protector or to the Board of Game Commissioners at Harrisburg. Farly through misreading of the law have been killed where it is very doubtful whether the actual damage justified killing the deer, and two prosecutions were brought within the past two years for the sole purpose of having landowners understand that the Game Commission will not question their right to protect their property when material damage is done but the provisions of the law relative to taking care of the carcass and reporting the killing must be complied with in order that the carcasses of any deer killed may be sent to a charitable institution for the use of the inmates.

Quite recently a deer was killed by Mr. Ralph Smith under one of his apple trees. The justice of the peace decided that under the law relative to the killing of this deer was justified. In view of the testimony and lest the people of that section get the idea that the board of Game Commissioners is endeavoring to oppress them, this particular case will not be carried further.

The board of Game Commissioners must insist on everybody obeying the law relative to the protection of game, but are also willing to aid in relieving conditions that may be detrimental to the welfare of the farmers in any section of the State. As a result of discussions concerning this question during the Legislature, a feature was added to the new game code permitting 200 or more residents from any county to petition the Game Commission for an open season on female deer in any township, or number of townships combined, in an entire county if necessary in order that the number of deer may be reduced and further depredations lessened accordingly. The board of Game Commissioners is given power, upon receipt of such petition, to open any part of a county to the killing of female deer, and to issue such number of special licenses at \$5.00 each as in their judgment will be warranted under the conditions prevailing in the territory affected. Such licenses are issued in the order in which the applications are received.

Immediately after the passage of the new game law proper petition blanks were prepared and the game protector of Perry county and the refuge keeper on the Germantown refuge were supplied with these blanks so that they could hand them to people who might be interested in circulating and submitting petitions to the board in case they actually wanted to reduce the number of deer in that locality. This was done in plenty of time to file the petitions with the board of Game Commissioners before July 1st, so that they might be acted upon for this year. We were informed, however, that the people in the upper end of Perry county did not want any female deer killed and would not file a petition this year.

To convince the land owners in Toiyone, Jackson and Madison townships, in Perry county, that the board of Game Commissioners of Pennsylvania is sincere in their desire to assist them in solving their problems, we hereby offer to pay any land owner or lessor who needs to have a deer in said townships \$25.00 for each deer trapped on private lands open to public hunting, properly crated, and delivered to the railroad station in good condition fit for stocking purposes, and we will return empty crates to said station by prepaid express for further use. We will be glad to advise any one desiring information concerning the terms of the traps that will be most effective under the conditions prevailing in each case, and will issue to each responsible person who may be interested in taking up this offer a special appointment as an agent of the Game Commission legalizing this trapping work. We need several hundred deer for stocking purposes in sections of the State that are not yet sufficiently stocked, and will be glad to have at least 200 of them trapped in Perry county if that section can spare that number.

SETH E. GORDON.

Old Peacock Throne.

The Peacock Throne was a famous throne, formerly standing in the diwani-Khas, or audience hall, at Delhi, India, in the days of the Shah Jehan (1627-1658) and Aurung-sebe (1658-1707), Mughal Emperors.

It measured six feet in length by four feet in width and was supported by six feet of solid gold, encrusted with gems. The throne itself, also of gold, was inlaid with diamonds, emeralds and rubies and surmounted by a canopy of the same metal.

It received its name from the figures of two peacocks, with outspread wings blazing with precious stones, placed behind it. Between these stones was a figure of a parrot, life-size, said to have been cut from a single emerald.

The cost of the Peacock Throne is variously estimated at from \$10,000,000 to \$50,000,000.—Asia Magazine.

Too Much.

Doctor—"Your mother-in-law's condition necessitates a warm climate." Newly-wed (After a moment's reflection)—"You do it, Doc. I haven't the heart."

PROHIBITED THE USE OF COAL

King Edward I of England Ordered Execution of Man Found Guilty of Burning Bituminous Fuel.

In 1306 King Edward I of England issued a proclamation making the use of coal as fuel in London a capital offense.

One case is on record where an accused was tried, found guilty of burning coal, condemned and promptly executed.

Prof. V. S. Babasianin, professor of organic chemistry at Lehigh university, who is just completing extensive research work on coal tar derivatives, recounts several amusing incidents.

The invisible gaseous products of the combustion of coal were early pronounced detrimental to health and vegetation. Resentment became intense when ladies of rank, their fair faces made fairer by liberal applications of powder, underwent a curious change of complexion whenever they sat near a coal fire.

The nature of the smoke and odor from burning coal remained a mystery until after the middle of the Seventeenth century, when an alchemist devised an ingenious process of heating coal in the absence of air. The liquid obtained was known as "oil of coal," and was sold as a most potent remedy for many ailments.

Then followed the isolation of large quantities of the highly inflammable gas, "spirit of coal." When coal is distilled for illuminating gas it yields an enormous quantity of black sticky by-product, now known as coal tar.

In 1845 Mansfield isolated a most important compound, benzene, in this by-product. In 1856 an eighteen-year-old investigator produced the first artificial dye from coal tar.

From 1860 to the present day the research chemist has subjected coal tar to the most searching scrutiny known to modern science. His efforts have been rewarded by the discovery of no less than 150 intermediates from which are produced the most gorgeous colors, the deadliest poisons, the most powerful explosives, solvents, insulators, substitutes for sugar, perfumes, tanning materials, flavoring extracts, accelerators, photographic developers, antiseptics, antipretics, analgesics, diuretics and purgatives.—Kansas City Star.

CAVE MEN RULED BY WOMEN

Female's Cunning and Wit Outcome of Her Lack of Physical Strength, Say French Professors.

Recent research by some French professors into the ways of women of 100,000 years ago have given an unexpected jolt to preconceived ideas. They declare that woman in the days of our cave-dwelling ancestors was regarded as of the more important sex. Men held a secondary position, tolerated for the sake of the food and skins provided.

Women ruled, and were inventors of the earliest arts and sciences. It was the woman's ingenuity which devised snares for animals and made plans for storing food against times of scarcity. Women taught ways of making clothing from skins of animals and by the efforts of their brains improved the lot of all the human race. Woman's cunning and wit were the outcome of her lack of physical strength, which obliged her to resort to strategy rather than force.

On the whole, the prehistoric woman apparently held the same position and ruled man in the same manner that she does today, according to these professors.—Detroit News.

His Unexpected Reason.

After a violent quarrel the betrothed couple had decided to part. During a passionate scene the girl tore the diamond ring from her finger and threw it on the floor at his feet.

Calmly the young fellow picked up the ring, dusted it with his handkerchief and placed it carefully in his pocket.

"So," he remarked, coolly, "you have jilted me. Who has supplanted me?"

"I don't like to tell you," she answered, averting her face.

"Tell me," he insisted.

"No."

"Give me his name and address."

"No, Percy, no," said the girl. "You want to kill him, I know!"

"No, I don't," replied the business-like Percy. "I only want to sell him the ring."

The Customer Had One.

"Yes, sir," said the barber, "my poor brother, Jim, has been sent to an asylum. He got to broodin' over the hard times, and it finally drove him crazy. He and I worked side by side, and we both brooded a great deal. No money in this business now, you know. Prices too low. Unless a customer has a shampoo, it doesn't pay to shave or hair-cut. I caught Jim trying to cut a chap's throat because he declined a shampoo, so I had to have the poor fellow locked up. Makes me sad. Sometimes I feel sorry I didn't let him slash. It would have been our revenge. Shampoo, sir?"—Sydney (Australia) Sun.

Helen Among the Missing. When Rufus Steel and Dick Hotaling met recently they compared notes. "It seems to me," said Steel, "that the last time I saw you there was a hair curl standing over toward the southwest section. What has become of it?" "Ah, yes," said Hotaling, "that was Helen. Helen is dead. You'll notice I'm naming them now instead of numbering them. It seems more affectionate."

BAKE AND CHILL WATCHES

Tests for Timepieces Made in Oven and Refrigerators by the Manufacturers.

After the many small parts of a watch have been assembled and fitted into the case, a number of tests have to be made before the watch is ready to pass into the possession of a new owner.

One of the most necessary things to look out for is the action which changes of temperature have upon the works. Extremes of heat and cold affect the running of a watch considerably. You may, perhaps, have noticed with your own watch that it cannot be relied upon to keep accurate time if the weather makes a sudden jump from heat to cold, or vice versa.

It will either gain or lose, and you will wonder what is happening to it. When the weather becomes normal again, the watch will behave properly. Expensive watches are adjusted for temperatures varying between 35 degrees and 95 degrees.

Each watch is put in a tightly-fitting case, and placed in a chamber the temperature of which is slightly above freezing point. Its movement is observed very carefully, and adjusted from time to time, until the watch is going correctly.

The timekeeper is then moved from the cold chamber, and gradually heated in a specially constructed oven, the temperature of which is between 90 and 100 degrees. Here its internal arrangements are still carefully watched and adjusted from time to time. When the watch is going correctly in this temperature, it is returned to the cold chamber for further adjustment, if necessary. It spends about a week in each chamber.

By the time a watch has passed the temperature tests, it will go correctly in any climate. Chronometers ordered specially by explorers and travelers who are going to places where great extremes of temperature are encountered undergo very searching tests to make them thoroughly reliable.—Lorion Tit-Bits.

PAPYRUS GROWS IN ITALY

Plants Are Grown Stems Like Reed or Bamboo and Have Spray of Flowers at the Top.

Syracuse, in Sicily, is the one place in the world where papyrus still grows wild. Even in Egypt, home of its origin, it is extinct. And the origin of that papyrus is a charming episode in history, writes Henry James Forman.

Hero, king of Syracuse, at about the time Theocritus was at his court composing the Idylls, built and fitted out a marvelous ship equipped with gardens, stalls for horses, and stairways and columns of Teorminian marble—a ship of 4,200 tons in those days. Archimedes doubtless helped to build it—a present to Ptolemy of Egypt.

As a part of the acknowledgment of the gift from Alexandria came the papyrus planted along the banks of the Anapo and there it has been growing ever since.

The papyrus plants are green-stemmed like reeds or bamboo, the thickness of a man's wrist, with a circular spray of flowers at the top, unique among plants.—Harper's Magazine.

Spirit Renamed at Death.

During the life of a person in Luzon, his spirit is called Tako. After the death it receives a new name. It is believed to go about in a body invisible to the eye of man, yet unchanged in appearance from the living person. If a man becomes unconscious, the natives think a vengeful spirit has lured away the soul of the sick man and they hold the ceremony of "Calling Back the Soul." Then they hold a big feast to which they invite all the spirits in order to induce them to bring back the sick man's soul.

A pronged spear is supposed to protect the people from the ever vengeful Arlo, or evil spirits, who are always waiting to trip one up on the trail, to cause him to fall and hurt himself or to kill him.—Detroit News.

Six Stock Salesmen to Avoid.

The Northwestern Banker (Des Moines) puts a deal of good advice into a small compass when it tells its readers that the six stock salesmen for the investor to avoid are:

The man who tells you how stockholders in similar concerns became rich over night.

The man who wants to help you in "keeping the contract away from Wall Street."

The man who talks about the "transferability" of stock.

The man who says that the stock will later be "listed on the exchange."

The man who wants you to buy because "the price is surely going up."

The man whose chief selling points are letters of recommendation from "leading citizens."

There was a new attendant at the spiritualistic circle, and he had formerly been employed in a big drapery shop.

The fact came to light when a client requested him to tell the medium that she wished to speak with a Mr. Green.

"Certainly, madam," said the attendant. "Can you give me his Christian name?"

"I'm afraid I've forgotten it, but he died quite a short time ago."

The attendant cleared his throat and approached the medium. "Please show the lady some of the latest shades of Greens," he said.

FARM NOTES.

An attractive label and container helps sell honey. Make the selection very carefully. It is your trade mark.

Remember that the time to prepare for a good crop of corn is in the fall. Selecting and curing a good supply of seed corn is a good start on the 1924 corn crop.

Pullets are often thrown into a fall molt because they are not housed before they begin laying. Place the pullets in winter quarters ten days or two weeks before they lay their first eggs.

Arrange your hog quarters this winter so that the brood sow will have plenty of exercise. Be sure and give her plenty of protein and mineral matter for maintaining her own body and developing a good litter of pigs.

Old "bossy" likes to be fed regularly. She objects to a late meal just as strenuously as you do. The regularity of her feed is more important than the exact time. Set an hour for serving the dairy herd and then stick to it.

Don't forget the dates for the winter course at State College. The eight weeks of practical training in general farming, animal production, horticulture, poultry production, or dairy manufacturing will open on January 3. Send in your application immediately.

The old hens and pullets when put into winter quarters should be treated for lice. A small pinch of sodium fluoride applied under the feathers on the neck, under the wings, around the vent and on the back will kill the pests. One pound will treat 100 to 125 birds.

The ideal fat lamb weighs about eighty pounds. Lambs that are much heavier will not bring as good a price on the market as the smaller lambs. When they get up to a hundred pounds, the cut in price is usually quite heavy regardless of the condition and quality.

Insect pests that harbor over winter along the fence rows and among the weeds on the ditch banks may be destroyed by burning all of this obnoxious growth. Many injurious insects survive the winter in fence corners, along waste ditch banks, and in piles of debris ready to attack crops in the spring.

Now is a good time to begin the use of artificial lights for the poultry flock, twelve hour day has been found satisfactory where the light is used either in the morning or in the evening, or both. Leaving the lights on until eight or nine in the evening, giving the birds an opportunity for the so-called midnight lunch, has given good results.

The amount of salt required daily by the dairy cow varies according to the milk production and feed consumption. Allow the herd to have free access to salt or give them a certain amount regularly with their feed. Many dairymen mix about one pound of salt with each 100 pounds of grain feed and in addition supply salt to the cows can have free access to it.

Plants which may be dug into the garden soil with comparative safety include: Weeds, the refuse of salad, spinach, parsnip, onion, horseradish, corn, lettuce, turnip, cauliflower, cabbage and carrot. If additional vegetable material is desired and a good supply of barnyard manure is not available, the leaves of shade or other trees make a good substitute.

Parsnips and saladify require freezing to be most palatable. Many home gardeners fail to dig them in the fall before the ground freezes up and hence cannot dig them before spring. Dig these vegetables before solid freezing weather, place them in a box or barrel, and cover them with earth. In this way, small quantities can be secured for use at any time.

Care of the Strawberry Bed.—Sufficient space should be left between the rows for pickers to walk without tramping the fruit. If the rows are well filled with plants to the desired width, all further plants should be considered weeds and destroyed. For best development, plants should not be closer than three to six inches apart, depending upon the variety. When closer they stunt each other and reduce instead of increase the yield.

A boy thirteen years of age has qualified for membership in Pennsylvania's "400 bushel potato club." Donald Snook, of the Oxford Potato club, of Chester county, produced 417.6 bushels on an acre measured and certified by county agent William Vandergrift.

Donald is one of about 12 boys in potato club work growing an acre or more of potatoes and is the only member who has succeeded in attaining the high honor thus far. The medal, which will be awarded to every grower producing 400 bushels, will be given to Donald at a meeting of the potato growers at the Farm Products show in Harrisburg, in January. To date, 25 growers in the State have gone over the top and Professor E. L. Nixon, of State College, expects several more to be added to the list in the next two weeks.

War has been declared on the rat population of Pennsylvania. Following a discovery that a single rat will eat between 13 and 14 pounds of feed in a year, farmers in many communities are waging a battle to get rid of these thieves.

The Wayne county Farm Bureau is offering a prize to the man who turns in the largest number of rat tails at the end of the year. One poultry farm reports a casualty list of 277 rats last year. The manager figures that by destroying these pests, he cut down his feed bill by at least \$250. In addition to consuming great quantities of grain the rodents have a habit of enjoying a feast on young chickens at regular intervals.

The rate of multiplication of the rat population is astounding. It has been found by experimentation that a single rat may produce more than 50 offspring in a single year. Traps, poisoned food, cats, dogs, and guns are all instruments of war that are employed in the battle against the pest. Poison food is a dangerous method, especially on a poultry farm.