

IN THE WORLD OF SPORT

Welker Cochran, Boy Billiard Wonder.



Photo by American Press Association.

Welker Cochran, the boy billiard expert, who has created a sensation in Chicago by his wonderful skill, is but sixteen years of age. He began playing the game while a newboy at Manson, Ill., six years ago. Cochran is said to be a youth of unusual intelligence. The pencils made as a newboy were carefully hoarded, and two years ago he removed to Chicago to attend Lane Technical college, from which he will soon be graduated.

He is not only taking the full course at the college, but has been taught the finer points of billiards during his time. In Chicago he is recognized as the most promising cue wielder of the city. Under able instructors his faults have been corrected, and he has made remarkable progress in the technique of the game. His development has been so rapid that he is now considered a more skillful player than Willie Hoppe was at his age. Cochran is a most consistent player and, like Hoppe, is possessed of an even temperament, which counts for a great deal in playing billiards.

Last Balls Cost Thousands.

If all the baseballs which are hit into the stand and over the stand at the Polo grounds during a season could be recovered enough would be saved to pay the salary of any New York player except Christy Mathewson.

The Giants paid somewhat over \$4,000 last year, and the expense of the Yankees was almost as much, making a total of \$8,000 in round numbers. The Balls are sold to the clubs at \$15 a dozen.

The Boston Braves spent even more. The expense in their case was traced to the short right field fence. Charles Somers of Cleveland reports a wastage of \$2,785, and Schuyler Britton had to write a check for \$3,295 for the 195 dozen balls that were used by the Cardinals last year.

Quigley Teaches Dancing.

From Junction City, Kan., comes the intelligence that Umpire E. C. Quigley of the National league staff is teaching the fox trot to the natives. "With Mrs. Quigley," a dispatch says, "he has completed a course in the latest dances and is now organizing classes over the circuit where he formerly played baseball and umpired. He has a class of thirty-five at Concordia, Kan." All of which proves that an umpire can get away with almost any thing. Shades of Terpsichore!

Havana Not Elated.

Havana does not seem to be highly elated over the prospect of watching Jack Johnson and Sam McVey in action. One Cuban paper calls attention to the fact that the island has its own vice problems and does not relish the idea of two negroes furnishing the first big fight attraction there. The hope of a big influx of spectators from the States also is challenged. That \$30,000 purse for Johnson begins to loom up as rather extravagant.

Why Austin Jumped.

Jimmy Austin, the Browns' third baseman, who jumped to the Reds, is hardly to be blamed. Austin knew that all the clubs in the American league had waived on him and that if the Browns should turn him loose he would be relegated to the minors. So he did business with the Reds, and for the next two years will draw a salary three or four times as big as he would have been offered had he gone to the minors.

Planning Baseball School.

Bobby Gilks, former Cleveland American league baseball scout and last year's manager of the Montgomery team of the Southern league, is preparing to open a school for baseball players in Pensacola, Fla. He will make a specialty of instructing recruit pitchers and catchers.

Groom Lost His Nerve.

Bob Groom, who jumped the National star drill dampen the brick. This will prevent the chipping of the brick at the surface and will also make the drill cut faster and hold its edge longer.

POPULAR MECHANICS

Rope Climbing Machine.

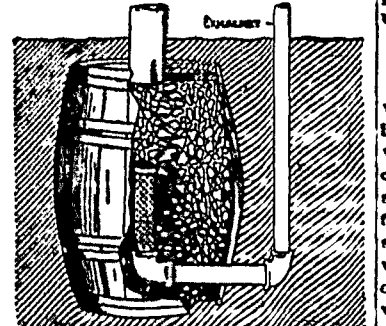
A machine built on the principle of a bicycle that will take a man up a rope hanging vertically has recently been invented. It is designed for practical work by painters and roofers and may be of value even for the fireman in reaching the upper portion of a building without being compelled to find his way through the smoke filled interior of the structure. The apparatus is composed mainly of a piece of pipe through which is passed a rope. In the course of its passage through the pipe, the rope is passed over a pulley. The operator sits on a saddle midway of the pipe and the feet rest on a pair of oscillating pedals which control the operation of the pulley. Every movement of the pedals drives the machine and rider aloft, and a hand controlled brake allows him to descend at pleasure and at any desired speed.

Folding Ribs on Inner Tubes.

Preventing puncture of inner tubes of automobile tires is one of the most prolific fields for the inventor. Hundreds and even thousands of schemes have been devised, some of them working very satisfactorily. One of the latest, which is as unique as it is said to be effective, is the placing of three separate and distinct ribs on the inner tube. The shape of these ribs is such as to form small air spaces when the tube is blown up, thus adding considerably to the resiliency of the tire. The greater thickness of the inner tube would have to penetrate the entire tube recommend this invention to the attention of the motorist. The few tubes made according to this design are stated to have given great satisfaction.—Scientific American.

Muffler For Stationary Engine.

Where it is desired to muffle the noise of an exhaust in a stationary engine a barrel set in the earth and filled with small stones about the size of cobblestones. Dig a hole and set the barrel



AS ILLUSTRATED IN STONE FILLED BARREL.

—an oil or sugar barrel—below the surface; then run the exhaust into it from the bottom. A short piece of pipe at the end is capped and the hole drilled full of small holes. A large opening should be provided at the top for the discharge of the burned gases.

Preventing Gear Box Trouble.

When making repairs on the gear box of an automobile be sure to keep the opening covered to prevent anything falling into the box. One owner had to pay the price of two new gears because a careless workman allowed the box to remain open and a nut dropped in without his knowledge. The nut got in the gears while traveling on the road and ruined them. A thorough examination should be made of the box prior to pouring the grease in to make sure that it is freed from anything that may have accidentally dropped into it.

Motorcar Skidding.

When tires are in danger of blowing out it is dangerous to skid around turns, because if a tire should blow out there is almost a certain possibility that the rear end of the car will change places with the front—this for the reason that the soft, flat tire offers less resistance to the tendency of the back end of the car to skid out under the action of centrifugal force, and as soon as an influence such as this starts a car skidding there is great likelihood that the car will turn a circle or two.

Care of Automobile Tires.

An old tire that is still doing service may be put in the scrap heap by pumping it up too hard, says Auto mobile Dealer. A standard for pressure cannot be set. The right hardness of a tire is just enough so that there shall be no bulging when the car is standing still. The test-up should vary with the load and with the size of the used.

Carbon in Cylinders.

The carbon deposit in cylinders is the result of burning oil, and to reduce the deposit to the minimum requires preventing too much oil from getting above the top of the piston. Poorly fitting piston rings, a loose piston or worn cylinder will increase the carbon deposit. The crank case oil level should not be kept too high.

Polishing Copper and Brass.

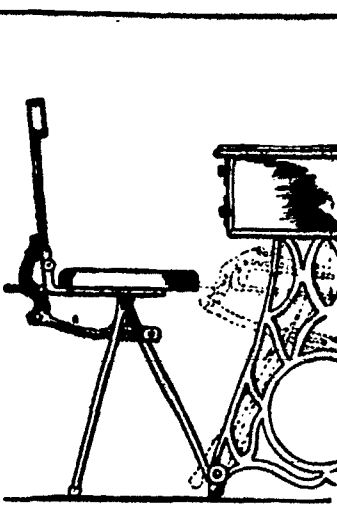
To clean copper or brass use one half cupful of hot vinegar and three tablespoonfuls of salt. After the tarnish has been removed a few drops of olive oil rubbed briskly over gives it a pretty finish, and by frequent applications of the oil it will keep in good condition for months without cleaning.

Drilling Holes in Brick.

When drilling a brick wall with a star drill dampen the brick. This will prevent the chipping of the brick at the surface and will also make the drill cut faster and hold its edge longer.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR HOUSEWIVES

Combined Seat and Table For Sewing Machine.



A two legged chair does not seem as if it might be very substantial, but this two legged chair is built in conjunction with a table, so that it can be relied upon to support any person whose weight is not abnormal. One of the two legs is secured to the horizontal bar of the iron table, which supports a sewing machine or typewriter, and in this manner the seat is held in an upright position, while the weight of the person is supported by the other leg. It will be readily seen how the table really takes the place of the third leg, which is usually required to support a stool. There are two advantages in this style of construction. In the first place the seat is always just right with its relationship to the work on hand, and in the second place it permits of a folding arrangement by which the seat may be entirely disposed of under the table when not in use.

Spanish Beefsteak.

Have cut a slice of round steak weighing about two pounds and an inch thick. Cover with flour and pound with a mallet until thin. The flour causes the meat to retain its juices, and the pounding breaks the thick fiber and makes it tender. Season with salt and cayenne pepper and cover with slices of thin salt pork or fat bacon. Roll the steak and tie it firmly with a cord, put it into a casserole or other covered dish and pour around it half a cupful of milk and a cupful of water. Cook for two hours, basting it occasionally. In a moderate oven serve with the liquid in the dish as gravy. Cut in slices.

Codfish Balls.

Pick to pieces half a pound of dried salt codfish, grind it and drain it, cover it with cold water and bring to boiling point, drain and repeat this process twice, press dry and add four good sized potatoes, the yolks of two eggs, half a teaspoonful of salt, a tablespoonful of butter and a saltspoonful of pepper; mix and form into balls a little larger than English walnuts, dip in beaten egg, roll in breadcrumbs and fry in hot fat. Serve plain or with tomato sauce—for breakfast preferably without the sauce.

Washing Blankets.

Blankets should be washed through three waters, warm, not hot. The first should have strong—very strong—soapsuds, the second less soap, and the third just enough soap to make the water appear milky. They should then be wrung slightly, thrown over the line and then pulled straight. If they should not be dry when evening comes, fold them and put them in a wash basket and hang again in the sun the following day, and the day thereafter, if necessary, until they are perfectly dry.

Cleaning Plaster Casts.

The following is a simple but effective method for removing the grime which plaster statues, etc., gather in the atmosphere of cities. A thick solution of starch, such as laundry starch, is made and the object is covered with it, care being taken to have it penetrate every crevice. The starch paste is then allowed to dry whereupon it crumbles away, carrying with it the dirt of the surface of the plaster.

Charlotte Russe.

Use the sponge cake left over or else lady fingers. Cut the sponge cake in narrow strips the size of half a lady finger or else split the fingers, line long stemmed glasses with the cakes and fill in the center with cream whipped and flavored with vanilla and a little sugar. A beaten egg or two may be mixed lightly with the cream. Top each glass with a candied maraschino cherry.

Rusty Curtain Hooks.

For rusty curtain-hooks place them in a bowl and cover with cloudy ammonia. Leave for half an hour, and then just stir them around with a stick. The hooks will look like new. If the points are difficult to put through the fabric push them into a bar of soap, and they will slip in quite easily.

Potato Cakes.

Mix mashed potatoes with a little melted butter and cream until they are creamy and smooth; then form them in very small cakes and roll them in flour. Fry in deep fat, sprinkle with sliced onions and serve.

YOUNG FOLKS' CORNER

Lookout Boys of Scandinavia.

Along the coast of Norway and Sweden may be seen little sentry boxes, known as "lookouts" or "crow's nests," perched high on poles near the water's edge.

These sentry boxes are reached by a ladder formed of cleats nailed crosswise to the poles at regular intervals. In a box of this kind sits a boy whose duty it is to watch out for schools of fish and as soon as they appear to notify the villagers by ringing a bell, the cord of which lies convenient to his hand.

All day long he sits there gazing out across the waters searching with his keen eyes for the first signs of the expected schools of fish. He can discern them at immense distances. The villagers place implicit confidence in his watchfulness and work contentedly in the fields awaiting his signal. At the first sound of the bell they drop their field work and rush to their boats to gather in the harvest of sea food furnished so abundantly by the ocean. The catch is then divided among the villagers equally.

Cross Country Run.

This game is suitable for either warm or cold weather provided the ground is dry. It is so vigorous, however, that only those comparatively young and in good health should participate. Select two persons and provide each with a sack full of scraps of paper. Let them start out with instructions to go where they please, but to leave a trail of paper scraps. After they have been gone fifteen minutes start the remainder on the trail. The object of the leaders is to escape, while the pursuers try to catch them. This game has almost infinite variations. The leaders may make matters interesting by crossing and recrossing the trail, though this may be forbidden. Limitations may be set as to the distance between scraps of paper or the territory to be traversed. If the weather is warm both leaders and pursuers may be limited to a walk. For girls and women this is always advisable.—Country Gentleman.

A Dog Which Thought.

As a rule, a dog that has been trained to hunt opossums or raccoons wants to be after them all the time. Jeff, a Louisiana dog, was different. Once a week appeared to be his limit, anything more he regarded as an imposition. When forced into acoon hunt while not in the humor he would start into the woods with apparent eagerness, and pretty soon his peculiar bark would be heard. The men and boys would run in the direction of the sound, but couldn't find Jeff. Suddenly from another direction would come the bark, and there would be another rush. This sort of hunt would be kept up for perhaps two hours, and then it would end at the starting point, and Jeff's last triumphant bark would come under the porch, whence he had been routed out. In the end they had to let Jeff pick his own time for a hunting frolic.

What Flies—A Game.

An interesting game to play at a party is called "What flies?" Seat the players in a circle. One player stands in the center holding a cane which he points at a player, exclaiming, "What flies?" Then he begins to count one, two, three, up to ten. Before he reaches number ten the player must give the name of something that flies. For instance, he may say the bluebird flies, this side down flies, a feather flies, a monoplane flies, and so on. The same word cannot be used twice, and a limit to the number of different kinds of birds might be set to make the game more difficult. If the child pointed at cannot answer or if he repeats a name used before he takes his place in the center and later pays a forfeit.

Boy Scout Fire Fighters.

A fire in the mountains near Forty Fort, Pa. was discovered by the Boy Scouts of America, who immediately rounded up their membership and hurried to the scene of the blaze. Within forty minutes the fire had been extinguished.

The Forty Fort scouts are always on the lookout for forest fires, and they have a regular system which they follow in this emergency. The boy who discovers the fire notifies the scout master, and he in turn calls up the other members of the troop by telephone.

Conundrums.

What is the difference between a cat, and a comma? A cat has its claws at the end of its paws, a comma a pause at the end of a clause.

Why is a pig like the letter N? Because he makes "a stg" nasty.

Why is a mouse like grass? Because the cat'll (cattle) eat it.

If a tough beefsteak could speak, what English poet would it name? Chaucer. (Chaw, sir!)

If a pair of spectacles could speak, what ancient historian would they name? Eusebius. (You see by us.)

Nursery Jingle.

Rickety racket-rap!
Boy eating a ginger snap.
Limely-lamidy-lado!
Boy drinking lemonade.

Dimpty-dampety-dum!
Little girl chewing gum.
Hippety-happy-hop!
Girl drinking ginger pop.

Lickety-lackety-lay!
Two little children at play.
Fimty-family-fomal!
New they must both go home.

—Washington Star.

SNAPSHOTS AT NOTABLE PERSONS

General August von Mackensen, German Leader.



General August von Mackensen, who commanded the Ninth army, which led the advance of the German forces against the Russians defending Warsaw, is known as the hero of Lovica.

For his success in capturing that strategic point Kaiser Wilhelm conferred on General von Mackensen the Order of Merit. In his telegram of commendation the kaiser said:

"The Ninth army, under your astute and tested leadership, has again fought with unrivaled brilliancy in a hard and successful battle. Your achievements in the past days will stand in history as shining examples of fortitude, endurance and valor."

"Commendate this to my splendid troops with my imperial thanks, to which I wish to give tangible form by conferring upon you the Order of Merit. God be with you and our standards in the future."

General von Mackensen long has been regarded as one of the most brilliant of the German generals. He was the adjutant of Field Marshal Count von Schlieffen, when he was chief of the general staff, and instructed Emperor William in military history. The emperor later selected him as the immediate superior of the crown prince in the Danzig garrison.

He was born in Hunsleipitz sixty-five years ago and took part in the Franco-Prussian war. After the war he resumed his studies at the university and entered the regular army establishment in 1873. Von Mackensen was appointed an adjutant to the emperor and promoted to the rank of brigadier general in 1898 and the following year was made an hereditary noble. He was elevated to the rank of lieutenant general in 1903 and five years later became general of cavalry and given command of the Seventh teenth army corps.



Russia's Minister of War.

The speed with which Russia mobilized her forces at the outbreak of the European war was a surprise to both friend and foe. While her potential strength was known to be immense, it was generally believed that Russia was not prepared for hostilities. But the war with Japan had its lesson, and the czar and his military advisers have been active in army reorganization.

Probably to General W. A. Sukhomlinoff more than to any other man is due the strength of Russia's forces today.

PORTRAIT WITH A LIVING EYE

Weird Experience in a Deserted House.

My nerves having given out, I concluded for a tonic to ride on horseback from Boston to Nova Scotia, keeping the coast all the way. It was in July, and the weather was delightful.

One evening after I had been out a week I was riding on a beach, looking for a house in which to put up for the night. On a point of land standing out into the ocean I saw an octagon shaped building and rode toward it. When I reached the place I was disappointed to find it deserted. I cast my eye northward along the beach for an inhabited dwelling, but could see none. As it was growing dark, I determined to dismount and see if I could effect an entrance and spend the night there. I found the house securely locked. After examining every door and window on the ground floor I went down to the water's edge to look again for another habitation. While there I noticed a stone built opening that had evidently been used for a sewer. Hending, I entered it and walked till I came to a trapdoor, which I removed, and came out into what had been the kitchen.

To my surprise I found a house that had evidently been shut up for many years. There were bar stools and mahogany chairs and sofas and four post bedsteads. Pictures, all old fashioned—some were engravings of General Winfield Scott, labeled "Our Next President"—hung on the walls. Some of them were old portraits, one of a fine looking old gentleman who might have been the owner of the place.

In the kitchen pantry was food that had crumbled to dust. I found a candle on the shelf, which I appropriated and took with me into the principal bedroom. Opening the curtains, I saw that the bed was made up, though the bedding was yellow and had a musty smell. But I was tired and concluded to cover it with a blanket I carried with me and sleep there. Before doing so I amused myself for a few minutes examining the furniture and the pictures. That of the old gentleman interested me most.

A deserted house is not a slumber winning place, and after a futile effort to get to sleep I opened my eyes, glancing from one article in the room to another till they fell on the old man's portrait. Great heavens! The right eye was not painted at all! It was real; not only real, but it was looking straight at me. I sat up in bed and stared at it as it was staring at me. The other eye was still a painted eye, with the same expression I had noticed in both before I went to bed. I glanced from one eye to the other in a vain endeavor to detect the cause of the difference.

No effort of self control could keep me from looking again. It seemed to me five or ten minutes at least—it was doubtless the fraction of a minute—when I threw off the blanket. There were the two eyes, the one of paint, the other of reality, forming a grotesque contrast, the right eye looking straight at me. Then suddenly there was a quick side glance and return to the same position as before.

This was too much for my already overstrung nerves. I gave a cry of agony and buried my face again under my blanket.

It occurred to me that there was but one chance of my retaining my reason—that was to occupy my mind till morning. I had often put myself to sleep by repeating the multiplication table, and after many ineffectual efforts to repeat the multiples of 2 I succeeded in fixing my mind on the table and went through with it to the end. As soon as I had finished I went over it again and continued the process till I at last fell asleep.

The sun rising out of the ocean cast his first beams upon me and awakened me. He was very beautiful to look upon, but I was no sooner awake than I remembered my experience of the night before and turned to the portrait. Both eyes were painted and harmonious as the night before. I got up and stood directly beneath the picture. There was something like a line circling the pupil of the right eye. Drawing the table to a position where I could stand on it and face the picture, I mounted and put my finger against the pupil of the uncertain orb. To my surprise, my finger went through it without assistance. I withdrew the finger and the pupil was again in place. Then I saw that it had been cut so that it swung from the upper edge by a few threads of the canvas. Some one had used it for a peephole.

There has never been a moment in my life of such exquisite mingled joy and relief as the discovery that I was not on the verge of insanity. So interested was I that I resolved to probe the matter till I had discovered a complete explanation. In the adjoining room I found a hole in the wall covered by a picture and under it a stand on which I mounted and, lifting the pupil of the old man's portrait, looked down upon the bed in which I had slept. Then I explored the house and in the cellar found under a pile of rubbish an entrance to a subcellar in which were stored boxes and boxes without number. It was plain that the place was a den of smugglers.

It turned out that the owner was a grandson of the gentleman whose portrait had been pierced, who had gone to the bad and to sea as well before he came into the property. He was the leader of the smugglers and had looked at me through his ancestor's eye.