

DEAR CYCLING,—For some time past I have felt the promptings of the muse, and struggle as I might the dread spirit came upon me like a thief in the night. Below is the result. You have my deep sympathy in the affliction that I have just thrust upon you, as the crocodile at the Zoo remarked as he gobbled the fat woman's poodle. Kindly bear in mind that the Ottawa Bicycle Club as such is not responsible for this production. I had half a mind to blame it on T.A.B. It is certainly below par. If you think, Mr. Editor, that my liberty is endangered thereby kindly tip the wink and I'll off to the States, as there is no extradition provision for literary offences. Yours fraternally,

MARK G. McELHINNEY, D.D.S.

(*What blows the horn for the O.B.C.*)

Ottawa, May 11, 1892.

AN EFFORT "POATIC."

I.

An O.B.C. member ecstatic,
Paid his boodle, received his pneumatic,
Then quite democratic—
Not aristocratic—
He hustled it home to his attic,
With the air of a man acrobatic.

II.

On the way he met an erratic
Old boozier who said "You're a flat (hic),
To know what you're at (hic)
I'd give my new hat (hic),
But I'm sure you are a lunatic,
With a tire like a life-buoy aquatic.

III.

"Is that thing a machine hydrostatic,
Dynamic, hydraulic or static,
For use thermostatic
Or just mathematic?
Its meaning is quite problematic,
It looks as it were automatic.

IV.

"Was it caught in the blue Adriatic,
Or grown on the blazing carnatic,
Or classical attic,
Or town Hauseatic,
Or allowed by the sanction Pragmatic,
Or is it a product climatic?

V.

"Would it cure an old crippled rheumatic,
Or quell all the horrors sciatic,
Or author dramatic,
Or lesion traumatic,
Or e'en make a good hæmostatic,
Or reduce a congested lymphatic?"

VI.

Then answered the rider, dogmatic—
"Your questions are quite enigmatic,
You whiskey fanatic,
With your wabble and that ("hic").
But your method is truly Socratic,
For a man with a breath aromatic.

VII.

"To prove that I am not phlegmatic,
Kindly climb on my brand new pneumatic,
Tho' your breath so emphatic
Is quite emblematic
That you drink on a scale quite chromatic,
And it makes your complexion prismatic."

VIII.

So he climbed him upon the pneumatic,
Did the jay with the jag so emphatic,
But his state thermostatic
Blew up the pneumatic,
And he's now in the heavenly attic,
Which to doubt would be very schismatic.

Zimmerman Again Defeated

Zimmerman has again been defeated and that by another of those mysteriously unknown men. The cable says: "There was a big crowd present at the spring race meeting of the London County 'Cycling and Athletic Club at the Herne Hill track on Saturday. A. A. Zimmerman, the noted American athlete, was the favourite for the mile safety scratch race, but he was defeated by Edwards in the heat, after a desperate struggle, and Schofield, who was almost unknown, won the race."

It seems strange that the English should reserve all these "unknown" riders for Zimmerman's special benefit. But however illknown they may have been before, there is no doubt that both Fowler and Schofield will be well remembered on both sides of the Atlantic from this out. Edwards is a well-known rider and member of the Polytechnic C. C. team, and has trained nearly altogether on the Paddington track.

H. C. Martin, promoter of the Martin Road race, has been three years in the bicycle business and never rode a wheel until a couple of weeks ago.

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