

table being made perfectly level, this gives a smooth, even surface for the balls to roll upon. Around this bed and rising about two inches above it are rails bearing the cushions, the top surface of the bed thirty inches from the floor. The edge of the cushion where the ball comes in contact with it is one inch and seven-sixteenths above the slate, and is or should be slightly pitched, to permit the cue to strike the ball at the proper point. This height is adapted to the regulation size billiard ball; for balls of smaller size the elevation of the cushions should be changed so that they come but one-fourth of an inch above the centre of the ball. The game of billiards is played in this country almost exclusively upon the carom table, which has the rails continuous about the sides and ends, while tables with six pockets—one at each corner and one at the centre of each side—and with four pockets—one at each corner of the table—are used for pocket billiards. The cushion, upon which depends so much for the success of the stroke, should be made as nearly perfect as possible, combining qualities that will assure durability and accuracy; it should possess that nice degree of elasticity the exactness of which requires long experience to learn, that will insure a proper angle when the ball rebounds; it must be unaffected alike by damp weather or dry, and not susceptible to the changes of temperature. Upon rainy and foggy days the cloth absorbs the moisture, offering greater resistance to the ball, making it necessary to use much more force of stroke than in clear weather to carry the ball the same distance.

THE CUES,

when not in use, should be kept in the cue rack, at a distance from the fire or stove, and care should be taken to have them placed in a perfectly perpendicular position, by which means they will be prevented from warping or getting crooked. They should