

BILLIARD GAMES, BOTH CAROM AND POCKET 7

completely dispel languor and inactivity from the frame. The tension of the muscles is tested, and the blood flowing sluggishly in remote and undisturbed portions is urged and quickened in its circulation by the relaxing and contracting muscles. The brain stimulated into new activity by the lively, bounding current within, and unharnessed by disordered functions of the physical life, comprehends and absorbs with swiftness whatever is presented to its spiritual appetite. Such have been the effects of free billiard exercises, and I hope soon to see them become general in use, as it makes the youth *feel* that he is growing up into a new life of physical strength and activity."

Many of our great statesmen and other learned men and our refined women have ever been steadfast supporters of the gentle amusement.

Billiards is a mathematical game and affords scope and exercise for those faculties which discipline and strengthen the mind. A steady hand, a clear head, quick perceptions, and a pleasant exercise of the calculating powers are requisites for an accomplished billiard player, and the practical development of these qualities must naturally be productive of good.

The kings of France have at all times been considered most powerful friends of the game. Mary Queen of Scots was a passionate patroness of the game, and on the evening preceding her execution wrote to the Archbishop of Glasgow that her "billiard table had just been taken away from her, as a preliminary step to her punishment." The Empress Josephine entertained so great an idea of the fascinations of the game that during Napoleon's moody moments she would challenge him to a bout at billiards, and he never appeared more happy than when engaged in the game. Emperors, kings, princes, and titled nobility are competitors at the refined pastime, and the women as well participate in the exhilarating amusement.