

ENGLISH RACING NEWS.

The one mile bicycle and twenty-five mile tri-cycle championships were contested on May 30 at Birmingham. The entries for the mile championship were few but representative. First Heat—Geo. Gatehouse inside, W. A. Illston outside. Illston made the running at an easy pace, with Gatehouse waiting, and though the latter challenged, Illston easily held his own, and won by three yards in the slow time of 3m. 1 2-5secs. Second Heat—Osmond, who has been in training for the twenty-five miles tri-cycle championship, cut all the running at a good pace, the wind being, however, rather bad. When the bell rang Syner rushed by, and, drawing away, won easily by ten yards in 2m. 46 4-5s. Osmond's time, 2m. 47 4-5s. Final Heat.—As in his heat, Osmond simply went all the way. Coming down the hill into the straight, Illston suddenly dashed to the front and held the inside. When the bell rang going up the hill Syner challenged and drew nearly level at the top corner, but, going along the top of the ground, Illston, going in marvellous form, drew away, and, turning into the straight with a clear lead, he won handsomely by two yards. Time, 2m. 45 3-5s.

The twenty-five miles tri-cycle championship contained a good representative crowd, without being unduly overdone with mere medal men. Amongst the entrants who were colored appeared the names of R. J. McCreedy, the holder, who rode so plucky a race last year at the Alexandra Palace, when he ran Gatehouse to a standstill on the awfully heavy path; G. Gatehouse, the 1885 holder of the title, won after one of the grandest tri-cycle races ever seen in the best time on record, on the Crystal Palace track, where, under the care of C. Wilson, he had been trained to use his wonderful staying powers to the best advantage, and had such men as Cripps, the two Lees, and others settled before the half distance; Frank Moore, one and twenty-five miles champion in 1882 on the bicycle; F. J. Osmond, who held the three-quarter mile bicycle record, and has shown marked improvement this season, though as yet quite a youngster, being only 19 years of age; P. T. Letchford, who has been many times amongst the records; E. B. Turner, Cousins, G. P. Mills, the road-rider, and others. Moore led for a lap or two, but the main part of the pace-making was done by Mills, who kept getting to the front, and pounding away in rare style. Gatehouse went to the front once or twice, but immediately slowed down, as if his object in taking the lead was to secure a rest, which before 20 miles were covered he sadly needed. Frank Moore, on a Quadrant, went in grand form, and made several big but ineffectual attempts to get away. Osmond, riding with very great ease, kept his position very easily, and but for a mouthful of port wine and egg at 15 miles he had nothing. Some of the others—Moore and Terry, for example—took a little light refreshment, whilst Gatehouse, during the hour and a half he was on the track, appeared to take enough food for a whole day's riding. At 19 miles, reached by Osmond in 1h. 3m. 4 4-5s., the Norwood boy hustled the crowd along for a lap or two, and one or two of the men began to look very bad, Gatehouse conspicuously so, with his shoulders up and his head hanging down, looking nothing like the fine natural stayer he really is. At 21 miles the records began to fall, McCreedy securing 21, 22 and 23 miles, as follows: Twenty-one miles, R. J. McCreedy, 1h. 9m. 57 3-5s.; previous record, R. H. English, 1h. 12m. 20s. Twenty-two miles, R. J. McCreedy, 1h. 13m. 22 4-5s.; previous record, G. Gatehouse, 1h. 16m. 3 2-5s. Twenty-three miles, R. J. McCreedy, 1h. 16m. 51 2-5s.; previous record, G. Gatehouse, 1h. 19m. 41 2-5s. "Four laps more!" shouts the judge, as the string, led by Turner and finished up by Osmond, passed the tape, when, going up the hill, with a marvellous effort, Osmond rushes past the whole field and takes a clear lead, reaching the twenty-four miles in record time as follows: Twenty-four miles, F. J. Osmond, 1h. 20m. 16s.; previous record, Geo. Gatehouse, 1h. 23m. 19s. This bold manoeuvre put Osmond in position for the final rush, but the only question was whether the boy would stay, but he has been

trained on a "staying system," and kept a sharp look-out. Along the top Osmond drew out slightly, and coming down the hill further improved his position. Terry, who was riding third, spurred splendidly, but Osmond, who was decidedly going the easiest of the crowd, took the corner into the straight in excellent form, and, having taken a good look under his arm at Moore, spurred to the finish, and won very easily by three yards in the best time on record for the distance, viz., 1h. 23m. 21 1-5s.; previous record (Gatehouse's), 1h. 26m. 29 2-5s. Terry was scarcely a yard behind Moore. Eighty yards behind the trio came G. Gatehouse fourth, dead beaten; 40 yards further off R. J. McCreedy fifth; G. P. Mills sixth; King seventh, and Turner eighth.

F. J. Osmond, of the Norwood Safety B.C., was trained by Charley Wilson, of the Crystal Palace track, upon the lines laid down in the "Training" chapter of the cycling volume of the Badminton Library. He was trained to stay, and has fully vindicated the correctness of the system. He was scarcely distressed after the race, and was laughing and talking with his friends within five minutes, whilst Moore was quite run out. Osmond rode a direct-steering invincible tri-cycle by the Surrey Machinist Co., and rode in grand force, and with much improved judgment throughout.

PREVIOUS WINNERS.

One Mile Bicycle Championship.

	M.	S.
1879. H. L. Cortis, Wanderers' B.C.	2	59 1-5
1880. C. E. Liles, L.A.C.	2	55 1-5
1881. G. Lacy Hillier, Stanley B.C.	3	11 3-5
1882. F. Moore, Warstone.	2	47 2-5
1883. H. W. Gaskell, Ranelagh H.	2	55 2-5
1884. H. A. Speechly, Ranelagh H.	3	30 4-5
1885. Sanders Sellers, Preston.	2	47 1-5
1886. P. Furnivall, Berretta	2	46

Twenty-five Miles Tri-cycle Championship.

	M.	S.
1884. C. E. Liles, L.A.C.	1	28 58
1885. G. Gatehouse, C.U. Bi. C.	1	26 29 2-5
1886. R. J. McCreedy, Dub. U. Bi. C.	1	55 40 4-5

On the Coventry track, A. P. Engleheart made a successful attack on the safety records. Everything was against the rider, the track sticky, and a nasty drizzling rain falling all the time. Still, as all arrangements had been made, Engleheart decided to start, and succeeded in easily beating his previous best time from five and one-fourth miles up, his ten miles' time being twenty and four-fifths seconds faster than his record made on August 27th last. We append time:

Miles.	Min.	Sec.	Previous Min.	Best Sec.
5 1-4	15	31 2-5	15	32
6	17	46 2-5	17	48 2-5
7	20	49 3-5	20	51
8	23	46	23	53
9	26	43	26	54 2-5
10	29	34 3-5	29	55 2-5

Racing circles in England have been much exercised over the queer running of Syner and Furnivall for the 10 mile championship cup. To quote from a private letter. "We had something startling at the hitherto exclusive Surrey meeting. Syner rode in such questionable style that the whole of the spectators saw through the game. He let Furnivall win the cup for the second time. The result is that he has been suspended *pro tem.*, and I do not expect that he will be seen on the path for another year or so."

T. R. Marriott undertook to ride twenty-four hours on a tri-cycle at the Crystal Palace track, London, June 8, but he was not in the best of condition, and after covering 150 miles just inside twelve hours (a new record for the tri-cycle) he abandoned the attempt. G. P. Coleman was timekeeper.—On the 10th G. P. Mills set out to demolish Sydney Lee's 50 mile tri-cycle road record, starting from the 80th milestone (a mile on the London side of Peterborough). He rode forty miles in 2h. 27m. 32s. (record), and finished at a tremendous pace in 3h. 7m. 24 1-5s., thus accomplishing his task. Lee's time was 3h. 9m. 15s.—On the 10th, at Coventry, Howell clipped

the professional bicycle records for three-quarters of a mile and a mile, the new figures being 1m. 56 1-5s. and 2m. 35 1-5s.

The team of American bicyclists now in England took part in races at Grimsby June 4. T. Battensby, of Newcastle, beat Ralph Temple, of Chicago, in a mile handicap by a foot. F. J. Lees, of Leicester, and Temple ran a dead heat in the five mile handicap, and Lees won the ten mile handicap from scratch, with W. M. Woodside second and R. H. English, of Liverpool, third.

A quarter mile bicycle contest between R. Howell and Ralph Temple at Wolverhampton, June 20, resulted in a dead heat. Time, 39s.—equal to the best English professional record. Temple led at the start, but alternate spurts resulted in each contestant securing the lead a times.

A STRAW.—In the first twenty who finished in the Catford road race, there were 16 rear-driving safeties, 3 ordinaries, and 1 tri-cycle. G. P. Mills made the quickest time for the 50 miles, doing it in 2h. 54m. 15s., great time considering the wind. Mr. J. A. Smith won the race on a tri-cycle in 3.30, he having a handicap of 1 hour and 15 minutes; A. F. Thompson on trike second with 1 hour 30 minutes start. There were seventy-six starters.

"EDITING" IN INDIANAPOLIS.

The humorist of the *Wheelmen's Record* prints the following imaginary interview, June 2, as evidence of how "the great event of the month" has been received in Indiana:

"I suppose the inventor of the bicycle has died so often that you can't work that snap any longer?" the visitor suggested.

"Not by a good deal; he died a short time ago in San Francisco. We have just written to our Kalamazoo correspondent to kill him off again next week. He has never yet died in Michigan, and of late we have received a great many complaining letters from wheelmen in that State who feel that they have been slighted. It was an oversight. But there is one old familiar story that we shall lose very soon now, we fear."

"Can it be that Karl —?" gasped the startled stranger.

"Yes," we answered huskily; "you have divined the truth. Karl Kron is about to publish his book, for a fact. It will seem strange to us not to make the frequent announcement that 'X.M. Miles' will positively be published next week. It will seem strange, but we will have to get used to it."

"Yes," assented our visitor; "and how odd it will seem to read the cycling papers, week after week, and see no statement of how many thousand words have been put in type up to date. Your subscribers will miss it, too; but you still have the story about the boy who won the two mile novice race on a wooden wheel made by himself, with no other tools than an axe and a cork-screw, have you not?"

"Yes, that is still young and vigorous; time does not seem to tell upon it. We are working that boy and his wooden wheel into hill-climbing contests and State championships this season."

"Well, then, you don't need to feel blue about losing the Karl Kron item, because I've brought you a little lie of my own that can be worked for a few years without hurting it. Here it is, all written out. It's about a man who invented a steam tri-cycle. He took a —"

Apparently a funeral followed.

Men who bolt their food and then put in hard work on their machines without giving their digestive organs a chance, may take warning from the following: At Sidcup, England, an inquest was lately held on the body of Mr. Wm. Dunger, overseer of Plumstead, who was found dead on a tri-cycle at that place. Dr. Poole, who made a *post-mortem* examination of the deceased, said he found all the organs healthy, and assigned, as the cause of death, a syncope brought on by over-exertion after partaking of food. A verdict to this effect was returned.