

MODEL YACHTING.



HERE are few sports which have made greater strides within the past ten years in popular favour than miniature yacht sailing. Although, like its more pretentious prototype, model yacht building dates from the

time of the Stuarts, it has only lately become a recognized sport in England in the same light as cricket, lacrosse, and lawn-tenis.

At the present time there are over a score regularly constituted clubs scattered throughout the United Kingdom devoted exclusively to the promotion of this very fascinating and scientific amusement. The old idea that nothing could be learnt from the performance of model ships and boats has been proved fallacious, and much time, labour, and money have been saved in consequence.

Take, as an instance, the controversy carried on in "Hunt's Yachting Magazine" for 1854, in which the London Model Yacht Club was ridiculed by a certain writer for imagining that, to use his identical words, "the toyshop device of a lump of lead for a keel could ever be applied to real yachts." If the author of that expression was alive now he would see that the so-called "toyshop device" is not only now applied to racing yachts, but even cruisers of three hundred to five hundred tons have solid lead keels.