



"A REALLY good painstaking history" of the game of curling, which should "hand down to posterity all that was known" of the game at the present time, was said by Lord Balfour of Burleigh to be a want which might be filled. This want has been at last filled by a work entitled "The History of Curling, and Fifty years of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club," by the Rev. John Kerr, M. A. From reviews of this work we learn that the game can boast of a history of at least 400 years. It appears that the curling stone, like the cricket bat, has assumed a variety of shapes at different periods. At the Glasgow exhibition of 1888 some very ancient curling stones were exhibited. Two of these were sent by the Marquis of Breadalbane, which had been found in Newton Loch about thirty years ago, when it was being drained; and the Marquis, deeming these stones to be valuable relics of antiquity, insured them for £25 before shipping them to Glasgow. At the station they appear to have been taken such care of that they were almost too late for exhibition. However, a porter was sent for them, and the value of his load was carefully impressed on him. What the weight of the stones was we are not told; but, with perspiration streaming down his face, the messenger reached the exhibition just in the nick of time, and, not unnaturally, remained to see the contents of the package about which so much anxiety had been manifested. On witnessing the extraction of what he deemed—he was evidently not a disciple of the "roaring game"—two common stones, he reckoned his work labor in vain; and used, according to Mr. Kerr, "such words as railway porters in our country are, unfortunately, too often heard to utter."

Some of the old rules and regulations are very quaint. The members of a well-known club—the Duddingston Club—like many others, felt it to be their duty to uphold virtue in every way; and so, among other wholesome enactments, it was provided that any one uttering an oath or an imprecation should be fined threepence. Then came a novel rule. It was no doubt discovered that the "peace and unanimity," declared by the club rules to be the great ornaments of society, was sometimes rendered impossible, owing to the introduction of topics of conversation giving rise to somewhat heated language. To combat this state of things it was enjoined that "Any member introducing a political subject of conversation shall be fined in a penalty of sixpence, to

be paid immediately." It will therefore be noticed that, while it was possible to swear on credit, ready money was the rule to be applied to political arguments, and the penalty was double that exacted as the price of uttering an imprecation.

The book is a most valuable one, and will be read alike with relish by both green players and the skilled curlist. The publisher is David Douglas, Edinburgh.

BOB FITZSIMMONS the Australian wonder, of whom we shall give a sketch next week, won the middle weight championship of the world and \$10,000 last week, at New Orleans, by fairly defeating Jack Dempsey in a fiercely contested fight which was ended by a knock out in the thirteenth round. Dempsey was clearly outfought, Fitzsimmons' wonderful reach enabling him to badly punish his adversary. Dempsey fought bravely, but it was evident in the fifth round that he was whipped. Fitzsimmons seemed to have Dempsey at his mercy and repeatedly knocked him down. Dempsey, after the third round, was on the defensive and in order to escape punishment clinched with Fitzsimmons whenever possible. When the fight ended Dempsey was bleeding from numerous cuts on the face, and was completely exhausted, while Fitzsimmons was without a mark on his face, and was apparently as fresh as when the fight began.

Interest in the event was unprecedented throughout the country, for many of the visiting sports were deluged with despatches asking their opinion or requesting that money be put up on one or other of the two men. 11 to 10 were the figures posted on the blackboard of the main local main pool room, although Jack Farrel, bookmaker, and representing a visitor, bet \$5,000 even, taking the Dempsey end of it. Robert C. Dan, of St. Louis, placed \$5,000 at even money.

THE meeting of horsemen, held at the Royal Hotel on Friday last, was most successful, as far as it went, but we should have liked to have seen a larger number of breeders attending. However, a step in the right direction has been taken. It was decided that stakes for colts foaled in '88 and '89, both running and trotting, be open to all colts owned by actual residents of the Territories on 1st of April, 1891; that the entrance fee in total be \$25; 1st payment of \$10 to be made on or before the 1st of April, at which date entries close; 2nd, of \$10, on or before the 1st of June, when parties name their colts; balance, of \$5, before 6 o'clock of the evening before the meeting.

The following were chosen as an executive com-