

RULES OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AMATEUR OARSMEN.

For some time past we have had letters asking us to give certain of the rules of the National Association of Amateur Oarsmen. We have acceded to this request, and decided to publish the rules in extenso. We would give our aquatic readers a piece of advice, and that is to cut this article out and have it convenient in case of emergency, as it will save us a great amount of unnecessary trouble in answering the question:

1. All boat races shall be started in the following manner: The Starter, on being satisfied that the competitors are ready, shall give the signal to start.

2. If the starter considers the start false, he shall at once recall the boats to their stations; and any boat refusing to start again shall be disqualified.

3. Any boat not at its post at the time specified shall be liable to be disqualified by the umpire.

4. The umpire may act as starter as he thinks fit; where he does not so act, the starter shall be subject to the control of the umpire.

5. Each boat shall keep its own water throughout the race, and any boat departing from its own water will do so at its peril.

6. A boat's own water is its straight course, parallel with those of the other competing boats, from the station assigned to it at the starting to the finish.

7. The Umpire shall be sole judge of a boat's own water and proper course during the race.

8. No fouling whatever shall be allowed; the boat committing a foul shall be disqualified.

9. It shall be considered a foul when, after the race has commenced, any competitor, by his oar, boat or person, comes into contact with the oar, boat, or person of another competitor, unless, in the opinion of the umpire, such contact is so slight as not to influence the race.

10. The Umpire may, during a race, caution any competitor, when in danger of committing a foul.

11. The umpire, when appealed to, shall decide all questions as to a foul.

12. A claim of foul must be made to the judge or the umpire by the competitor himself before getting out of his boat.

13. In case of a foul the umpire shall have the power—A. To place the boats, except the boat committing the foul, which is disqualified, in the order in which they come in. B. To order the boats engaged in the race, other than the boat committing the foul, to row over again on the same or other day. C. To re-start the qualified boats from the place where the foul was committed.

14. Every boat shall abide by its accidents.

15. No boat shall be allowed to accompany a competitor for the purpose of directing his course or affording him other assistance. The boat receiving such direction or assistance shall be disqualified at the discretion of the umpire.

16. The jurisdiction of the umpire extends over the race and all matter connected with it, from the time the race is specified to start until its final termination, and his decision in all cases shall be final and without appeal.

17. Any competitor refusing to abide by the decision, or to follow the directions of the umpire, shall be disqualified.

18. Boats shall be started by their sterns, and shall have completed their course when their bows reach their finish.

19. In turning races, each competitor shall have a separate turning-stake, and shall turn from port to starboard. Any competitor may turn any stake other than his own, but does so at his peril.

20. The Umpire, if he thinks proper, may reserve his decision, provided that in every case such decision be given on the day of the race.

HARRY BASSETT.

An important sale of thoroughbred horses occurred at Trenton, New Jersey, Tuesday of last week, the stock coming from Col. McDaniel's stables. The Herald says:

"A smile," a brush-off, and then an adjournment to the barnyard followed, when directly afterward the famous racehorse Harry Bassett was put up for sale.

hurry past it, her master was surprised to observe, the pointer, generally a most obedient animal, make a sudden wheel, and draw rapidly upon the carcass, from which no whistling or command could prevent her. An advance to check her led only to her steady and regular approach, making point after point to the dead sheep. Annoyed at this, her owner seized her by the neck and drew her away, when at that moment a cock grouse rose from the very mass of carrion, where it had possibly been feasting on maggots, and gaily crowing flew down the hillside, but was in a few minutes afterwards safely bagged. After the bird had gone, the pointer at once cheerfully resumed her hunting. The sense of smell was so powerfully discriminative as to detect the presence of one small bird from amid the "horribly tainted air" from the dead sheep.

DOMINION RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the D. R. A. was held in Ottawa on Wednesday, there being a good attendance of members. The annual report presented mentioned that no meeting had been held last summer at Ottawa, owing to the fact of the Government grant being found insufficient for the expense incurred by the Wimbledon team, which had been paid. The team for the present year will be as follows:—Ontario, 1; Quebec, 5; New Brunswick, 12; Nova Scotia, 2. The competitors in Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, and British Columbia, did not obtain a place. The report recommends that the selection be made from a definite number of competitors nominated by the respective Provincial Associations, and whose necessary expenses to and from Ottawa should be paid by the Dominion, and from such other qualified competitors as may desire to enter the competition at their own expense. The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$965.54 to the credit of the Association, against which there are liabilities incurred amounting to \$548. The report was adopted. Colonel Gzowski announced that the Minister of Militia had authorized him to state that the Association would hereafter be acknowledged as a national institution, and that the necessary funds would be provided to have Canada represented at Wimbledon.

TWO OLD VETERANS.

There are at present residing at the River Canard, Ont., two old men who are noted for their vigor. The one, Louis Vigneux, farmer, served at Amherstburg, and in the affair at Raisin River, Ohio, during the war of 1812, and for his patriotism in those troubled days he is in receipt of a pension. He will be 82 years of age in May next, yet he still enjoys all his faculties, is hearty and active, delights in plenty of out door exercise, and chops his own firewood. Sixty years ago on the 2nd of the present month, he led to the altar Miss Angeline Antaya, of Sandwich parish, who is also still active and able to do more work than many women would like to be assigned to them. The other, Basil Drouillard, farmer, a friend and companion of the former throughout the war, attained his 81st year last September. He also was awarded a pension. He can still perform a good day's labour, and has recently been engaged in his favourite winter pastime of driving a mettlesome trotting horse upon the ice—a work in which few of the young men of to-day can equal him. His wife, who is 80, superintends all her household affairs. Both the above couples have numerous families, chiefly residents of the locality of their birth.—Echo.

BEEF-EATING PLANTS.

Mr. Francis Darwin has carried out a series of successful experiments to test the question whether carnivorous plants really live by the insects which they capture and kill. About two hundred plants of *Drosera rotundifolia* were cultivated in soup plates during most of last summer. Each plate was divided as to its contents by a wooden partition; but was wholly screened by gauze. One half of the plants in each plate had a few small bits of roast meat fed to them, at intervals, by being placed on the leaves; the weight of the meat being about the fifth of a grain.

INFLUENCE OF MENTAL IMPRESSION ON THE MALE.

Mr. John Donon, Denon Stock Farm, Patnam, Conn., writes to the Turf, Field and Farm, on this subject as follows:

"As your excellent paper treats so largely on breeding, I wish to be allowed, through its columns, to express briefly my views on the above subject. I believe the mental impression on the male at time of service has its effect on the offspring, and that its effect extends, in a greater or less degree, to all animals. I think in this our greatest physiologists and phrenologists will indorse my views. The old stock breeders of Switzerland religiously believe this to be the case; consequently in Switzerland you will find the cattle all brown in one canton, all gray in another, and no bull is allowed to serve a cow which differs in color from the herd to which he belongs, as it is believed that such intercourse would affect the color of the subsequent get; as, indeed, has been proved beyond a doubt. In this country a breeder of Jerseys has found by allowing a dark gray bull to serve a light fawn and white cow, and then within an hour serve a solid fawn cow, that while the calf of the broken-colored cow was a solid gray that of the solid-colored cow was fawn and white, like that of the first cow served. During the season of 1862 I kept for service a brown stallion. I bred to him, of my own, a pair of matched black mares of Black Hawk blood. One of these mares I bred several days before the other. The day I bred the last one my stallion served a sorrel mare with a white stripe in the face, a short time previous to serving my mare. The result at foaling time was that my first mare foaled a black colt and the last one a sorrel filly with a white stripe in the face, and marked exactly like the sorrel mare served by my horse an hour or two before serving my mare. I would add that there was no white on my stallion or mare.

"Another similar case occurred in my own experience of horse breeding in the Spring of 1867. I had a bay mare served by a bay Morgan horse that usually marked his colts after himself. But a very short time previous to his serving my mare he had served a black mare with white marks, belonging to my near neighbor, and the result of this service was a black colt marked just like my neighbor's mare. Now, the question is, can a mental impression received by the sire from the first female be transmitted to the offspring of the second? Certainly, as regards color, I believe there can. Having for many years been a breeder of an Ayrshire bull was allowed to serve cows outside my herd of a breed whose color was foreign to that of the Ayrshire and then within a short time serve a cow of his own breed and color, that in several instances the calf of the Ayrshire cow thus served was more like that of the cow first served by the bull on the same day the Ayrshire calf was sired. The above facts being my experience in breeding, I can but agree with the Swiss breeders that thoroughbred bulls, intended as stock bulls to found a herd of any special color, should never be allowed to serve cows outside of the herd to which he belongs, or of any other color than that most desired to be established. I believe this rule will apply more or less to all animals, leaving out of question the old superstition of the herd-witch who ringlead

"Fawn Spirits and white,
Dark Spirits and gray;
Mingle, mingle, mingle,
You that mingle may."

"In contemplation of the above facts, the vulgar question of one school-boy to another of 'What was your father thinking of when he begat you?' affords more grounds for the question than would at first be admitted, although it may not disrobe it of its vulgarity or impertinence. As regards this matter, I should much like to have other breeders express their views and experience through the columns of the Turf, Field and Farm."

JAPANESE WRESTLING.

In the centre of the amphitheatre a mound has been raised, on which a ring has been formed by banking up the earth to the height of a few inches. Two grave-looking elderly men, apparently the judges, now seat themselves upon mats on the mound, and, unfurling their paper umbrellas, light their pipes, and commence smoking in dignified composure, while the two wrestlers doff their kimono (robes), and enter the ring perfectly naked but for a cloth round the loins. They are very far removed from our idea of what an athlete ought to be, for, though muscular, they have an ungainly heaviness of figure. Weight is, indeed, thought of such importance in these contests that men are fattened for them like prize cattle under the mistaken belief that such size is an advantage to the fortunate possessor! A tedious preliminary performance has to be gone through before the actual business of wrestling com-

THE DOCTRINE OF CHANCES.

It is an indubitable result of the theory of probabilities that every gambler, if he continues long enough, must ultimately be ruined. Suppose he tries the martingale, which some believe infallible, and which is, as I am informed, disallowed in the gambling houses. In this method of playing, he first bets say \$1; if he loses it, he bets \$2; if he loses that, he bets \$4; if he loses that, he bets \$8; if he then gains, he has lost 1—2—4—7, and he has gained \$1 more; and no matter how many bets he loses, the first one he gains will make him \$1 richer than he was in the beginning. In that way, he will probably gain at first; but, at last, the time will come when the run of luck is so against him that he will not have money enough to double, and must therefore let his bet go. This will probably happen before he has won as much as he had in the first place, so that this run against him will leave him poorer than he began; some time or other it will be sure to happen. It is true that there is always a possibility of his winning any sum the bank can pay, and we thus come upon a celebrated paradox that, though he is certain to be ruined, the value of his expectation, calculated according to the usual rules (which omit this consideration) is large. But, whether a gambler plays in this way or any other, the same thing is true; namely, that if he plays long enough he will be sure some time to have such a run against him as to exhaust his entire fortune. The same thing is true of an insurance company. Let the directors take the utmost pains to be independent of great conflagrations and pestilences, their actuaries can tell them that, according to the doctrine of chances, the time must come, at last, when their losses will bring them to a stop. They may tide over such a crisis by extraordinary means, but then they will start again in a weakened state, and the same thing will happen again all the sooner. An actuary might be inclined to deny this, because he knows that the expectation of his company is large, or perhaps (neglecting the interest upon money) is infinite. But calculations of expectations leave out of account the circumstances now under consideration, which reverse the whole thing. However, I must not be understood as saying that insurance is on this account unsound, more than other kinds of business. All human affairs rest upon probabilities, and the same thing is true everywhere. If man were immortal he could be perfectly sure of seeing the day when everything he had trusted in should betray his trust, and, in short, of coming eventually to hopeless misery. He would break down, at last, as every great fortune, as every dynasty, as every civilization does. In place of this, we have death.

THOROUGHBREED TALK.

(Chicago Tribune, London Letter.)

I overheard a conversation, Monday, which may serve to show what is said by thoroughbred men and women. It was between a substantial gentleman, with a very purple nose, an elderly lady, very puffy, and red in the face, and a couple of tall young ladies, whose principal labor seemed to be to look composed, uninterested, but interesting, and altogether oblivious of the fact that there was anybody but their party present at the exhibition. Said the gentleman:

"She has a magnificent top and middle, a wonderful bone, and a very expanded chest."

"Aye," interrupted the elderly woman, "but she lacks depth. She is too narrow in the thighs."

"Yes, I dare say you're quite right," said the gentleman, "but then you see her thighs only appear small because of the great outpouring of her broad hips and loins."

"What a sweet, docile face she meets you with," remarked languidly one of the young ladies.

"Yes, but don't you think she has a quite odd expression?" said the other. "And such a lovely head and waxy horns."

It was only when the word "horns" was uttered that I learned that the conversation did not refer to some lady, but to a short-horn heifer belonging to a gentleman from Ipswich, and which has taken more prizes than any animal on the ground. I ought to have known sooner that the conversation did not refer to any woman, because it was altogether too complimentary, considering that three women were in the group of four who were engaged in the discussion.

A SPEECHLESS RACE OF MEN.

Dr. Field's book on Java says:—"This part of the world would delight Mr. Darwin by the strange races it contains, some of which approach the animal tribes. In the Island of Rhio the Resident assured me there were wild men who lived in trees, and had no language but cries;

A TERRIBLE ENCOUNTER.

As Mr. J. L. Ingraham and son, of West Camden, Maine, were hunting on Thursday, they discovered the tracks of some large wild animal, and after putting their hound on the track they followed for a distance of two miles, when they came in sight of a catamount of the largest size. Separating and running around and ahead of the animal, they met at a point half way up the mountain. At this place the beast turned upon the hound, which was pursuing, and after a terrific combat hurled him away to a distance of at least ten feet, the men not daring to fire for fear of killing the dog. Immediately after whipping the dog the catamount jumped to the top of a high cliff, from which it made a leap upon Mr. Ingraham's son, who stood over 35 feet below him. His father, seeing that his only chance was to kill the animal in his leap, a once fired, breaking one foreleg, but the animal struck his son, tearing his coat in shreds, knocking him down and rolling with him down the mountain some 20 feet. The hound followed and attacked the animal, when he left the young man and turned on the dog and threw him into the air again, and he struck on a ledge below nearly dead. Mr. Ingraham arriving at this point, took the gun which his son had dropped in the struggle and shot the animal, and with the butts of their guns both dispatched him. He measured five feet in length,

A LONDON GAMING CLUB SUPPRESSED.

The sensation of the holidays in London has been the rapid rise and sudden fall of the Baccarat Club. Some of the members of the Turf and Marlborough came to the conclusion that they could not lose money fast enough at whist at £25 points, £500 on the rub; hence a gentleman very well known in certain clubs as a skillful and successful whist-player arranged to open a proprietary club, which should be devoted exclusively to playing baccarat. At baccarat one player holds the bank and deals out two cards to the right and left and two to himself. The object of the game is to get as near nine as possible, and the banker wins or loses according as his cards approach nearer or not to the number in question than those on the table. The London Baccarat Club admitted its members by ballot, as usual, but charged a heavy fee—£2 a night and £50 when the player held the bank. The authorities, always reluctant to deal with private clubs, declined to consider the L. B. C. a regular gambling hell, but sent the managers a broad hint that a special act to close it up would be applied for, and the managers took it, and dissolved the club, the process being materially hastened by the discovery that most of the members were playing on credit, and couldn't pay if they lost.

REMARKABLE CONTENT

A correspondent of a French paper relates a remarkable contest, which he witnessed in the Isle of Java, between a parrot and a gigantic spider. The spider, whose body was as large as a small bird's, dropped down upon a young parrot whose mamma was from home, and, spreading its huge claws over the nest, began sucking its blood. When the mother returned she naturally "went for" the enemy, and seized hold of one of its legs; but whether it be that legs are not a sensitive portions of spiders' organizations, or that this particular insect had an overpowering penchant for the blood of young parrots, he wouldn't let go, until his pain became too intense for endurance. He turned on the mother, and, twining all his legs firmly around his neck, was just arranging for a good long suck in that quarter, when she gave him an awful dig in the belly with her beak, whereupon he fell over, dragging her to the ground with him. The naturalist then shot him and released the parrot.

Horse Notes.

DECLINING FAME.—The bay trotting gelding Dave, eight years old, and known in Philadelphia as the Lancaster horse, was recently sold at auction for \$40. Two years ago Dave could trot his mile handily in 2:40, and was purchased at a cost of \$800; and now there are "none so poor as to do him reverence."

MYSTIC.—The big Mystic, by Holiness (son of Cassius M. Clay), record of 2:22, is wintering at Newton, N. J. He is a very promising horse, and bid fair to beat 2:20, but going amiss in his training last year, was laid up for a season. He is all right again, and undergoing a preparation to go through the Eastern Circuit.