

in office by Mr. Wiss, who held it for four years. It was in 1874 that polo was added to the list of attractions, and it has since been the mainstay of the club. Hurlingham is not the only club in which polo and pigeon-shooting have met under one control, for a similar condition existed at Brighton. At Ranelagh, on the other hand, the first London social club founded exclusively for polo, it was with golf that the game at first threatened to clash.

The decision of the Hurlingham authorities, on the motion of a distinguished sportsman, to throw over its minority of shooting members, and henceforth devote its resources exclusively to polo, would, under any other circumstances, be a matter of internal interest to members only, and no useful purpose could be served by giving the measure wider notice. The committee recognises that pigeon-shooting is a source of weakness rather than a financial asset, and, with the object of assuring future success, determines to sacrifice it. Certain of the shooting members, holding to tradition, maintain that such a reform is invalidated by the original articles of the Club, and have announced their intention of testing this contention.

This controversy, which in the case of any other pastime and any less influential club might have no public interest, cannot be so lightly dismissed in the case of pigeon-shooting at Hurlingham. For many years this recreation has, with some others, been the special object of attack with a section of the community which calls itself Humanitarian, and which its critics call by another name. While much of its campaign is characterised by immoderate propaganda, it would be idle to deny that in respect of pigeon-shooting it has not met with whole-hearted opposition from sportsmen generally. Its criticism has in great measure been directed against the "spurious sport" of the wealthier class. The beagles kept at our premier school, the carted deer hunted formerly by the Royal Buckhounds and still by several private packs, have been singled out for its fulminations, while it studiously ignores the many cruel Sunday diversions that give unconcealed pleasure to pitmen in the North and others of the working class every-