

The Martin Road Race.

The "Martin Twenty five Mile Handicap Road Race," which takes place in Buffalo on Decoration Day, May 30, promises to be a big event, and will certainly be the largest "Road Race" ever held in this part of the country.

Over *One Thousand Dollars* will be expended in prizes, the complete list of which is as follows:—

First prize, Diamond Frame Warwick Pneumatic, value \$150; second prize, Union 2-10 Pneumatic, value \$150; third prize, Oxford Cushion Tire, value \$135; fourth prize, Unique Cushion Tire, value \$90; fifth prize, Fashion Cushion Tire, value \$75; sixth prize, Gold Watch, value \$75; seventh prize, Standard No. 3 Cushion Tire, value \$50; eighth prize, Gold Scarf Pin, value \$10; ninth prize, Garford Saddle, \$6; tenth prize, Jones Baby Saddle, value \$2.50; eleventh prize, subscription to *American Wheelman* one year; twelfth prize, subscription to *Referee* one year.

The first time prize, or, in other words, the prize for the man making fastest time, will be a Buffalo Light Roadster Pneumatic, value \$150, and the second time prize will be of the value of the entrance fees. D. H. Lewis, of the *American Wheelman*, has full charge of this race, and entry blanks are now ready, and can be had on application to his office, 48 Chapin Block, Buffalo, N.Y.

Riding "Hands Off."

A prominent rider in one of the city clubs was coming down Jarvis Street last week at a pretty good pace, with handle bars free, when he became "rattled," and in grabbing for the handles caught only one, thus turning the front wheel completely across the rear, in which position he sailed along for some twenty yards before falling. Needless to say that the front wheel presented a somewhat battered appearance. It has since been repaired and is apparently "as good as ever," but the rider finds it cheaper to keep control of his handle bars.

For Beginners.

Beginners are very apt to get discouraged soon after they begin. It is so much harder work than they thought. Now, Mr. Beginner, this is just what's the matter with you. As soon as you can make the thing stand up you fancy that you have caught on to it all.

But you haven't. The first few times you go out on the road the strength you expend in doing five miles would take you fifteen miles, if rightly used. You tug and pull at the handle-bars, you yank your front wheel this way and that, you jam down the pedal too soon, and you stop jamming too late, and you flop your body first to one side and then the other, to preserve your balance. This superfluous tugging, pulling, yanking, jamming and flopping is what tires you out, and not the propelling of the machine. Your experience is that of every beginner. Don't give up. Keep right at it. It's the only way. Much sooner than you think your finger tips will attend to the handles, your legs will work automatically, and you will have no more consciousness of keeping your balance than you have when you walk.—X. C. C., in *American Cyclist*.

Some Points for Pneumatic Riders.

If you have purchased your wheel for pleasurable road riding instead of scorching, be sure and have the gear low; say, from 52 to 57. Low gear and fast pedaling are much easier to the average road rider than heavy pushing, particularly when hills or head winds are encountered. Inflate your tires to the fullest extent in a warm atmosphere only. If too much inflated in a cool atmosphere and ridden over a hot, dusty road, the consequent expansion of the air will have a tendency to burst the tires. Keep the tires free from oil or grease. Do not pick out the roughest part of the road just to see what the tires will stand. Do not forget your pump or repairing kit.

Our next issue will contain a photo of the Wanderers' officers.

New Jersey is likely to have good roads, as a new law has been passed providing for their construction under a State supervisor, the State paying one third the cost, the property owners along the route one-tenth and the country the remainder. Already a large number of petitions are in preparation to take advantage of the new law.

On Saturday, the 2nd inst., the Torontos, Wanderers and Royal Canadians held their initial runs, which, though a little early, were yet fairly attended. What a difference one noticed from the first runs of last year, when every rider who could mounted a "Rational," whereas out of some fifty riders only four rode the high wheel; seven or eight, solid or cushioned safeties, and the balance pneumatics.