

Forget Business Worries-- Play Billiards

UNLESS a man has something interesting to do at home in the evenings he's almost certain to sit and think about his business and its attendant worries. His mind keeps on travelling round and round the same old circle. And that's not good for a man.

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His mind gets the needed relaxation. He enjoys himself. Gets some excellent exercise. And quits the game feeling bright and cheerful.

Only the man with a billiard table appreciates what a splen-

did, wholesome and healthful game English billiards is. And only the man with a Burroughes & Watts' table realizes the full possibilities of the game.

Burroughes & Watts' Tables are the only tables with Steel Vacuum Cushions—the fastest and the only absolutely accurate cushions known to science. Rapidé Pockets, too, from which the balls are instantly removable without putting your hands in the pockets.

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ness. He was a lonely old man. In his twenty-third year he had married a lady of considerable charms, and, what was more important to his thinking even then, of purest pedigree. The aristocratic beauty had presented him on three separate occasions with a son. The first had died in infancy; the second in childhood; the third, the pride of the old man's heart, in early manhood. Then Fate, as if determined to box the stiff neck, took the mother also. But the Freiherr of Kraag never flinched, even under these bludgeon blows. His temper soured, his heart hardened, but he held his head high, and his gaze was the gaze of an eagle at prey. Wifeless, sonless, he was still the Freiherr of Kraag, and nothing else counted or was allowed to count.

His eye wandered over the numberless quarterings on the great stone mantelpiece, and a white hand trembled a little as it conveyed the '62 kurdesheim to his thin lips. He looked sternly at the hand as if rebuking it. He stretched it out open-fingered before him. The digits became like steel bars for rigidity—the will had overlorded the nerves. "A pity," he muttered, "a very great pity." He was thinking of his third son.

His butler, a thin, sad old man, a sort of plebeian reflection of his master, brought in coffee and cigarettes on a silver salver. With him entered the great wolf-hound Apollo, also lean and dignified, a worthy canine apapanage of the noble house. The beast went straight up to his master, and putting his head on his knees looked up with golden eyes full of the wistful, affectionate expression that is so much more common in the eyes of a dog than of a human being. He was the same animal that had accompanied the Freiherr in his sleigh on that stormy journey through the streets to his club the previous evening. The Freiherr stroked the old hound's head lovingly, and gave him a biscuit. His affection for Apollo was the most human thing about him.

"Will your lordship see anyone?" demanded the butler.

HE looked at his watch. It was 8.30 in the evening, though that had nothing particular to do with his butler's question. Then he took the coffee from the tray, and deliberately set the cigarette box in front of him. There were times when he would see no one. At the present moment he would have seen anyone—but not for the world would he have said so.

"Does anyone wish to see me?" he asked.

"There was a ring at the bell, my lord."

"See who it is, and let me know." A minute later the man reappeared bearing Saunders' card on a tray.

The Freiherr scanned it musingly for several seconds.

"Show him in," he said at length; then, with the ghost of a smile, to himself, "After all, why not?"

Saunders was ushered in wearing a fur coat over evening dress.

"Good evening," said the Freiherr. "You wish to see me?"

"If it will not inconvenience you." "Not at all. Pray take off your coat." The Freiherr's politeness was formal, but it was not forbidding.

Saunders explained that there were reasons which made it less troublesome to keep it on.

"A glass of wine then," said the lord of Kraag, with the pale reflection of a hospitable smile.

"Thanks."

"A cigarette."

"Thanks, I never smoke them. May I light a cigar?"

"Most certainly."

Saunders managed to produce a cigar from his breast-pocket with his left hand, the Freiherr holding a match for him to light it. The Englishman sat for several moments puffing in silence. Then he said: "May I speak quite frankly, Freiherr?"

"I should prefer it."

"If you and I can come to an understanding it may save a good deal of human life."

The Freiherr flicked off the ash of his cigarette with his little finger. "I have not much respect for human life," he returned pensively. "I

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