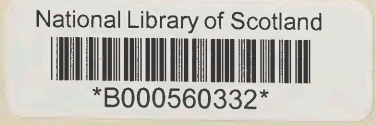


THE COMPLETE CURLER

AGENTS

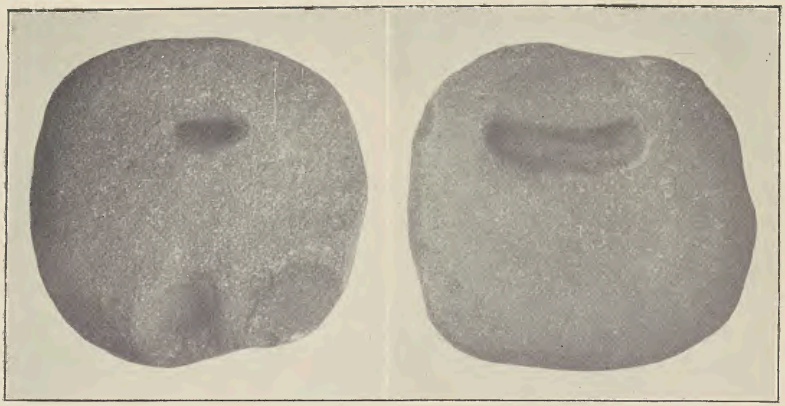
AMERICA . . . . . THE MACMILLAN COMPANY
64 AND 66 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

AUSTRALASIA . . . . . OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
205 FLINDERS LANE, MELBOURNE

CANADA . . . . . THE MACMILLAN COMPANY OF CANADA, LTD.
ST. MARTIN'S HOUSE, 70 BOND STREET, TORONTO

INDIA . . . . . MACMILLAN & COMPANY, LTD.
MACMILLAN BUILDINGS, BOMBAY
387 BOW BAZAAR STREET, CALCUTTA

PLATE I.



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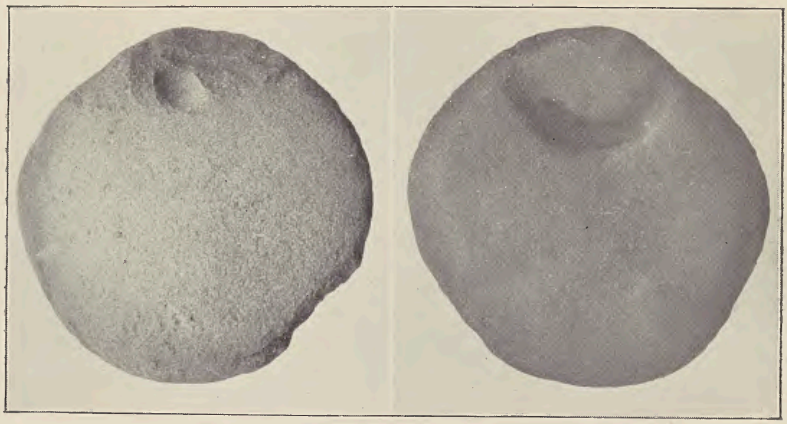

A *B*

2.

1. AN ANCIENT LOOFIE. *A*, TOP; *B*, SOLE. (*See p.* 6.)

2. DO. DO. DO. DO. (*See p.* 6.)

(*From Photographs by Mr. A. Henderson Bishop, of Thornton Hall, Lanarkshire.*)

Frontispiece.]

THE COMPLETE CURLER

BEING THE HISTORY AND PRACTICE OF THE GAME OF CURLING

BY

JOHN GORDON GRANT, M.A.

CONTAINING SIXTEEN FULL-PAGE ILLUSTRATIONS AND FORTY-EIGHT DIAGRAMS IN THE TEXT

LONDON
ADAM AND CHARLES BLACK
1914

PREFACE

WITHIN recent years the game of Curling has taken a new lease of life in Great Britain. Years ago it had been carried by enthusiastic Scotsmen to the uttermost ends of the earth, and the roar of the channel-stane had been heard "from China to Peru," as it were; that is, wherever there was the necessary frost. But now, although the British winter is just as precarious as ever, the frost in question being too often conspicuous by its absence, the game has, nevertheless, received a fresh impetus, is spreading gradually to corners of Scotland and England where it had no sure footing before, and there is little doubt that, before long, it will be a universal winter pastime throughout the United Kingdom. It has become so already in Switzerland, where the spread of the game within the last few years has been simply astounding.

The revival of Curling in Great Britain has been due to two potent factors in the case, namely, the invention of artificial—"Tarmac"—Curling rinks, and the establishing of indoor Curling rinks in several of the principal cities in Scotland and England.

It is hoped that the present book will serve as a useful and interesting *vade mecum* to new clubs and new players who take up the game, and I trust sincerely that it will prove not unwelcome to the "old hands."

I have watched and played the game for over thirty years, from the year 1878 in fact, when as a boy I threw

my first stone on the pond of the Strathspey Curling Club, and I have curled practically every winter since then. (I may, perhaps, be pardoned for mentioning that the introduction of Curling into that particular part of the Highlands of Scotland about the year 1860 was due in a great measure to the efforts of my father; and most of the apparatus used on the pond there at the present time was designed and made by himself.)

It is with unusual interest that I have noted many changes and improvements in the game and its paraphernalia; and I do think—but perhaps, as I am so fond of the game, the wish may be father to the thought—that Curling is now about as near perfection as it is possible to be.

In writing this book I have profited by the works of various Curling writers, from those of the Rev. John Ramsay, the earliest historian of the game in 1811, down to those of the Rev. John Kerr, of our own time, whose list of books on Curling in his *History of Curling* has been invaluable. Besides these I have been indebted to the excellent series of "Annuals" of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. To Sir Henry Lunn (and the "Year Books" of the Public Schools Winter Sports Club) my thanks are due for permission to reproduce several photographs that appear in various parts of the book. I have also been helped most heartily by many fellow-curlers, more especially by Mr. John Anderson, of Moffat; Mr. A. Henderson Bishop, of Thornton Hall, Lanarkshire; Mr. John Crail, of Annan; Mr. W. E. Findlay, Secretary of the Canadian Branch of the R.C.C.C.; Provost Halliday, of Lochmaben; Provost Husband, of Dunfermline; Mr. G. S. Pearcy, Secretary-Treasurer of the Ontario Curling Association; and Mr. James Wyllie, of Mauch-

line; while Mr. George Hamilton, of the Scottish Ice Rink, Glasgow, Mr. A. J. Simpson, of the Edinburgh Ice Rink, and Messrs. Watt & Cumine, of the Aberdeen Winter Recreation Institute, kindly sent particulars and photographs of their "Glaciariums." Above all must I acknowledge the publishers' and my own obligations to the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, who, through their esteemed secretary, Mr. A. Davidson Smith, C.A., have given permission to reproduce Charles Lees' and Martin Hardie's famous Curling pictures—their permission in the case of Hardie's picture being kindly sanctioned by Sir Archibald Charles Gibson-Craig, Riccarton House, Midlothian, who holds the copyright. And, finally, from the very inception of this book until its completion, I have been beholden for advice and help to the author of *The Complete Bowler*, Mr. James A. Manson (of *The Field* and *Sunday Times*), who has been truly a "guide, philosopher, and friend."

In everything I have ever written about Curling I have been actuated by a desire common to all curlers—the desire to further the best interests, and to uphold the prestige of our old game. May the true curler aye flourish like the green bay tree; and, if I may use the words of a curler—and poet—words that were uttered many years ago:—

I wish he may, when active labours close,
Enjoy a period of well-earned repose,
And peace and comfort; and, when that is past,
And human dissolution comes at last,
His "better being" purified, forgiven,
May, like a cloud of incense, *curl* to Heaven.

J. G. G.

LONDON, 1914.

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THE COMPLETE CURLER

PART I—HISTORY

CHAPTER I

THE BIRTH AND INFANCY OF THE GAME

Philosophers tell us that everything has a beginning, and so the game of Curling must have had one. But when that beginning took place, or where, or how, is quite unknown, and probably never will be known. This is not strange; for Curling, like all other sports and pastimes, has gradually undergone the inevitable process of evolution, and the games of to-day are hardly recognisable in their ancestors of long ago.

Comparison of the origin and development of sports other than Curling may be useful and interesting here. Some of them, like Curling, cannot be traced to their inception, while the records of others are such that we can go back to their birth with ease. Let us take a few. Polo, according to the authorities, is the most ancient of games played with stick and ball: it is at least two thousand years old, and Persia was its birthplace; and the games of hockey, racquets, golf, cricket, shinty (in Scotland), and hurling (in Ireland) are probably all derived from it.

Billiards is a game whose time and place of birth are unknown, Spain, Italy, France, and Germany all being claimed as its original home.

Boxing—as distinguished from pugilism, which in all probability began when the human race began—dates only from the eighteenth century, when one Jack Broughton invented the modern boxing-glove. (This same Jack Broughton, by the way, was the first winner of "Doggett's Coat and Badge," the oldest boat race in the world.)

The origin of archery, the oldest British outdoor pastime, is lost in the mists of antiquity. Bowls, the next oldest, is a game which can be traced with certainty to the thirteenth century, anything previous to that being conjecture. The game of quoits, which somewhat resembles the discus-throwing of the ancient Greeks, had its origin on the borderland of Scotland and England at the beginning of the fifteenth century. The very names of some of these sports and of many others cannot be explained derivatively, and have given rise to endless etymological discussions; and Curling is one of those sports of disputed birth and disputed name. In the Annual of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club for 1865 there is a song written for the Dollar and Devonvale Curling Club, in one verse of which the author says—

> Hoo far it dates in bygane years
> Let antiquarians tell;
> But Fergus, first o' Scottish kings,
> We dootna played himsel'.

But the worst of it is that the "antiquarians" are not able to "tell."

From historical and etymological evidence various

authorities have come to the conclusion that the game was obtained originally from the Flemings, from the Germans, from the Icelanders, and from the Bavarians, while a few patriotic Scots writers have doughtily ascribed the origin of the game to Scotland itself. If Caledonia be not the birthplace of Curling, it has every right to consider the sport as its "ain" game, for on the northern side of the Border this game has been played for at least four hundred years, and its development during that time, culminating in its great popularity of to-day, is due to Scotland.

In the evolution of the game, from the earliest time to which we can trace it down to the present day, there are several stages. In the earliest of these, from about 1500 to 1650, the game was played with stones which were natural water-worn boulders, and these were devoid of any semblance of a handle. To make up for this deficiency, however, holes for the thumb and fingers were bored in the stone. It is an interesting fact that this method of adapting the implement to the player's hand still survives, for at the present moment the large balls used in American "bowling" (which is not bowling at all, but merely a glorified version of skittles) are bored in the same way as the early "channel-stanes." This is necessary, for although ordinary bowls can be easily gripped in the hand and played, these American "bowls" are about 27 inches in circumference, and weigh about 16 lb., and therefore it would be impossible for anyone without the hand of a giant to deliver them. This American "bowling," by the way, which has developed in the United States to the dimensions of a national pastime, became very popular in France some

years ago, and within recent years it has secured a sure foothold in London, several magnificent "alleys" having been laid down in the west end of the metropolis, where any evening many skilful players—chiefly American and French—can be seen playing a really scientific game.

But to return to our early curling-stones—or kuting (coiting) stones, as they were called by some of the old writers. The oldest dated one yet discovered is in the museum of the Smith Institute at Stirling. This is a kuting-stone of blue whinstone, with an inscription and the date 1511 cut on the sole, A (see Plate II., 1). The meaning of the letters St. Js. B., it may be remarked, is quite unknown. On the other side, B, are the words "A GIFT." The hole for the fingers is seen cut in the sole, that for the thumb on the top. The stone is roughly oblong in shape and its dimensions are: length, 9 inches; breadth, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; depth, $4\frac{5}{8}$ inches. It weighs 26 lb. The fact that it bears the date 1511 is, of course, no proof that it was actually in existence as a kuting-stone at that time, for the figures may have been cut on it years afterwards; but we shall probably not be far wrong if we ascribe this stone to about the beginning of the sixteenth century.

Besides the famous stone just described, there are three others in the same museum, and particulars of these have been kindly supplied to me by Mr. James Sword, the curator. No. 2 is a stone of triangular shape, weighing $15\frac{3}{4}$ lb., with thumb and finger holes, and *looks* an even older stone than the dated one.

No. 3, weighing 19 lb., is interesting from the fact that, although it has the usual water-worn sole, the top

PLATE II.

1. *A*

B

2. *A*

B

1. THE FIRST CURLING-STONE *A*, SOLE; *B*, TOP. (*See p.* 4.)
2. KUTING-STONE "NO. 4." *A*, TOP; *B*, SOLE. (*See p.* 5.)

From Photographs by Messrs. Crowe & Rodgers, Stirling.)

has been distinctly chiselled and so flattened. It has the usual holes for thumb and fingers.

No. 4 is even more interesting than No. 3, as it is a unique type of kuting-stone. It is about 11 inches in diameter, is nearly circular in shape, weighs 34 lb., and has the usual finger-and-thumb indentations. On the upper side (see Plate II., 2), about two inches from the thumb-hole, is a deep notch near the centre; but what this was for is not quite certain. The under side of this stone is peculiar: it has been carefully chiselled or chipped in such a way as to leave four raised bosses to act as "runners." These knobs have been made smooth by friction, while the chiselled portions are still rough.

Besides the Stirling stones, all of which have been found in the vicinity of that town, many others have been discovered in various parts of Scotland, some in rather peculiar places.

In the Antiquarian Museum, Edinburgh, there are two specimens, one of which was found embedded in the wall of an old house in the High Street. A few have been recovered from the loch of Linlithgow. Several have been found in the Galloway district. Another was got at Doune, in Perthshire, in digging up the foundation of an old house; and a few more were taken from Lochleven.

These ancient stones were often called "loofies," as they were generally flat, like the "loof" or palm of the hand. There is in the possession of Mr. A. Henderson Bishop, of Thornton Hall, Lanarkshire, a very fine collection of these loofies, several of which were found by himself, and in very unlikely places, too: one, for

example, being discovered amongst a heap of field-gathered stones in a marshy piece of ground in Stirlingshire. In Plate I. are shown two of the loofies in this collection.

Although, in the existence of these ancient curling-stones, we have direct circumstantial evidence as to the playing of the game at its earliest stage, we really cannot tell what kind of game was played with these stones, or the exact mode of play. "Kuting" may have been similar to quoiting or to Curling, but it is more probable that the motion was neither a "throw," as in quoiting, nor a push, as in Curling, but partook of both. The stone may have been thrown a short distance so as to fall flat on the ice, and with enough force to send it scudding along after striking the latter.

Actually the first mention of Curling occurs in a poem written in the year 1620 and published in 1638. This poem appears in a work bearing the following curious title: "*The Muses Threnodie, or, Mirthfull Musings, on the death of Mafter Gall.* Containing varietie of pleaſant Poeticall deſcriptions, morall inſtructions, hiſtoricall narrations, and divine obſervations, with the moſt remarkable antiquities of Scotland, eſpecially at Perth. By Mr. H. Adamson." The dedication of this work (which, by the way, was printed in Edinburgh) is no less quaint than the title-page, and runs thus: "To His Native Town of Perth; the Lord Provest; Baillies, And Counsel Thereof, His Worthie Patrons, wiſhing them all happineſſe heere, and hence, dedicateth theſe his recreations, their devoted servant Mr. Hen. Adamson; Student in Divine, and Humane Learning." (In a second edition of the book "Humane" becomes "Human.")

In the Fair City there lived at that time three cronies—

Henry Adamson, "Reader of the Psalms" in the Kirk of Perth; George Ruthven, a "Chirurgeon and Apothecary"; and James Gall, a merchant. The last mentioned died when quite a young man, and his loss was mourned by Adamson through nine "muses" in the *Threnodie*: but the words of the poem were put into Ruthven's mouth by the poet. The worthy "chirurgeon" had gathered together a most extraordinary collection of curiosities, which he called his "gabions" (a word coined by himself) and which he kept in a "cabinet"; and throughout the whole of the "mirthfull musings" he is supposed to be apostrophising these gabions. He tells them of his many doings along with his friend Gall, and in this he incidentally gives a poetical description of the city of Perth.

It is in "The Inventarie of the Gabions, in M. George his Cabinet"—which precedes the "Musings" in Adamson's book—that we have the first mention of Curling. Here is the momentous extract from that quaint "Inventarie"—

> His cougs, his diſhes, and his caps,
> A Totum, and ſome bairnes taps;
> A gadareilie, and a whiſle,
> A trumpe, an Abercorne muſſel,
> His hats, his hoods, his bels, his bones,
> His allay bowles, and curling-ſtones,
> The ſacred games to celebrat,
> Which to the Gods are conſecrat.

Having completed the "Inventarie," the poet enters upon the first "muse" of the *Threnodie* with these lines—

> Now muſt I mourne for Gall, ſince he is gone,
> And yee my gabions help me him to mone.

The first of the "gabions" that the mourner calls upon

for assistance is his "bowes"; then his "clubs"; and next his curling-stones. These he addresses in the following words:—

> And yee my Loadſtones of Lidnochian lakes,
> Collected from the loughs, where watrie ſnakes
> Do much abound, take unto you a part,
> And mourn for Gall, who lov'd you with his heart.

Judging by the length of the *Threnodie*, the "gabions" in general and curling-stones in particular were quite equal to the occasion, and gallantly "helped" the worthy doctor to "mone."

George Ruthven, then, "Chirurgeon and Apothecary" of Perth, has the distinguished honour of being the earliest known curler. He must be one of the oldest of curlers to boot, for he lived from 1546 to 1638, the year in which the *Threnodie* was printed. Adamson himself died a year before his book appeared.

After the year 1638 many references are to be found to Curling in various Letters, Journals, Histories, Memoirs, Proceedings, and other works up to the end of the seventeenth century, by which time the game, as can be seen from the references to it, was known as far north as Orkney.

One of the most honoured curlers of this period was a popular Covenanting minister, the Rev. William Guthrie, minister of Fenwick, who lived from 1620 to 1665, and whose curling-stone—a "loofie," of course—is still to be seen in Craufurdland Castle. Since Guthrie's time "the cloth" has provided many a notable curler, and a fine list of curling parsons could be compiled, extending from the Rev. William Guthrie, just mentioned, to the Rev.

John Kerr of Dirleton, Chaplain to the Royal Caledonian Curling Club from 1897 to 1913.

"Frae Maidenkirk to Johnny Groat's nae curlers like the clergy," says an old Scottish proverb; and Dr. James Taylor, writing on this text in 1884, said: "In Ayrshire [and elsewhere, the worthy Doctor might have added] the clergy have, time out of mind, been keen and skilful curlers, and it must be admitted that they have sometimes carried their pursuit of this enticing game rather beyond the bounds of prudence and propriety." As an "awful example" of this clerical imprudence and impropriety the Doctor cites the case of the young clergyman of Kyle who, soon after his induction, curled for six days one week and then gave an old sermon to his congregation on the Sunday, having no time to make a new one. But the reverend gentleman had some excuse, for he did it at the express request of his curling parishioners, who on the Saturday morning appeared at his window waving their brooms (he had locked the door in order to keep them out), and on his pleading the necessity of his spending the day in preparing the sermon, shouted with great unanimity and cordiality, "Gie's an auld ane!" This manœuvre on the part of those artful parishioners was nothing short of a masterpiece of successful strategy. But there is really no limit to the height to which human ingenuity can soar (or perhaps I ought rather to say, to the depths to which it can descend).

Another ecclesiastic, who was a contemporary of Guthrie's, was a curler and, *mirabile dictu*, played the game on Sunday! This was the Bishop of Orkney, who, by all accounts, must have been a nice pillar of Episcopacy, for, according to the *Letters* of another parson of

the period (the correctness of whose "facts," however, is denied by some authorities), besides curling on the Sabbath Day, he (the Bishop) "oversaw adulterie, slighted charming, neglected preaching and doing of any good there; held portions of ministers' stipends for building his cathedrall."

In indulging (if he *did* do so) in his favourite game on Sunday, this singular ecclesiastic was not unique: many other eminent churchmen of long ago did the very same (only their game was not always Curling), and this fact was utilised as recently as the year 1911 by a powerful London daily paper in advocating Sunday recreations. This newspaper said: "The tradition that makes Sunday a dismal oppression in the United Kingdom is comparatively modern. Surely morality has not changed fundamentally since the day when High Churchmen like Laud did not scruple to play bowls on the Sabbath, and a Low Churchman like Calvin gave his stern countenance to Sunday amusements."

At the present time there are few outdoor games in England that are not played on Sunday, and Curling has the distinction of being one of the few. But—tell it not in Gath—Scotland, of all places in the world, is showing symptoms of an impending change. For, at a meeting of curlers held at Dumfries in 1912, the chairman of the gathering, while admitting that he was a little before his time, suggested to his fellow-curlers that they should play on Sunday! But, by way of compromise, he advised that they should go to church in the morning and curl in the afternoon. This bold suggestion was very like another made almost simultaneously at another place by a Town Councillor with reference to the kindred game of

bowls; for, in advocating Sunday recreations, he suggested that the Corporation greens should be open from two in the afternoon until six on Sunday. "This," said he, "would not interfere with Church attendance or with Sunday school, the average bowler being hardly a Sunday-school scholar." One wonders what is the precise significance of this last cryptic phrase, and how the "average bowler" will construe it. But, whatever it means, the pronouncement applies equally to the game of Curling; for the "average bowler" is very often a curler.

The game of Bowls and the game of Golf both claim the title of Royal and Ancient. And with justice: for there is no doubt whatever that both of them have often been the sport of kings, and both are very ancient. But, if the truth must be spoken, Curling can hardly lay claim to this distinguished title, for, as far as is known, it is young compared with these other hoary-headed games, nor did it (until a comparatively late date) receive the Royal support and patronage accorded to the others. True, there are some enthusiasts who believe, and there have been authorities who have stated, that some of the Stuart kings—James I., James IV., James V., and James VI., to wit—were curlers. But this is merely tradition, in favour of which there is no jot or tittle of evidence. The first monarch who patronised the roarin' game was William IV. That the game should be termed Royal at the present day is right and proper, for does not King George V., as did his father and grandfather before him, head the list of office-bearers of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, and therefore is the figure-head of the Curling fraternity throughout the world?

CHAPTER II

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GAME

In the seventeenth century—up to which time the game had been played with the old "loofies" with their finger-and-thumb holes—some unknown genius conceived the grand idea of affixing a handle to the stone wherewith to propel the latter. This was a truly great invention, and its introduction marks the second stage in the evolution of the game. In the early "sixties" of last century a couple of "loofies" were found in Newton Loch, near Tyndrum, in each of which was bored a hole which could not possibly be intended for the fingers or thumb, but was evidently meant for the insertion of a handle. These are supposed to be the earliest examples of "handled" stones. The loofies were natural, water-worn boulders; the curling-stones of the present day are *circular*; from the loofie period until the circular stone made its appearance the game was played with rough "handled" boulders of all shapes and sizes. And, compared with their predecessors the loofies, they assumed gigantic proportions. The loofies were necessarily not very heavy; but the weights of these "handled" stones which are actually known to us range from less than 20 lb. up to nearly 120 lb.! The heaviest of all is the central one shown in Plate III., "Three Ancient Curling-

PLATE III.

THREE ANCIENT CURLING-STONES. (*See pp.* 12, 13.)

(*From a Photograph taken by permission of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.*)

Stones": it is the "Jubilee Stone," presented to the Royal Caledonian Curling Club in 1888 and exhibited at the Jubilee meeting of the club in that year, since when it has been present at many curling banquets.

Many of these ancient curling-stones can be seen at the present time, as they have been preserved and are now in the custody of various local curling clubs in Scotland. Besides the "Jubilee Stone," the two other ancient stones in the same Plate belong to the Royal Club. The left-hand one with the three-legged handle —a novelty in itself—is very interesting. It comes from Ardoch. Concerning it the Rev. John Kerr, in his *History of Curling* (1890), says: "Several stones were dug out of a pond on the estate of Mr. Drummond Moray when it was drained some years ago. One is dated 1700, and is lettered $\frac{\text{M}}{\text{W H}}$. In the interesting records of the Muthill Club, which go back to 1739, we find the first name entered, 'The Rev. Mr. William Hally, minister, Muthill,' and this stone is supposed to have belonged to him, he being the first minister at Muthill after the abolition of Episcopacy in 1690." The small right-hand stone in Plate III. comes from near Crieff.

The shapes of many of those old curling-stones are those given to them by nature, and some of them are very curious; some, indeed, are nothing short of "fearful and wonderful." And like "Excalibur," the sword of King Arthur, they very often were made the proud possessors of descriptive names, some being given to them, doubtless, on account of their shape. Thus we have several specimens of what a Member of Parliament might term "ornithological nomenclature" (although

there is little doubt that the same Member, were he to adjudicate on the fitness of these names, would call them "terminological inexactitudes"). There are "The Deuk," "The Hen," "The Goose," "The Gander," and "The Whaup" (Curlew). The last of these stones was so named from its handle being something like the shape of a curlew's long, curved bill. (The "whaup," by the way, has been utilised by various old writers in their descriptive names. In *Penrose's Journal*, for instance, we are told that "These Indians wad devour the auld whaap-neb himsel' gin he were weel cooked, and sup the broth after." Here "auld whaap-neb" is a polite name for the Devil. And in one of Gall's books one of the characters bears the graphic cognomen of "Whaup-nebbed Samuel.") Then we have the following terse and self-explaining nicknames: "The Soo," "The Egg," "The Fluke," "The Cockit Hat," "The Saddle," "The Bannock," "The Girdle," and "The Kebbuck." And lastly, there are the old stones which were named, apparently, after certain notabilities, such as "The Baron," "The President," "The Provost," "The Bailie," "The Doctor," "The Prince," "Wallace," "Buonaparte," "Robbie Dow," and "Black Meg."

The handles of these old curling-stones were merely bent pieces of iron, and were, like the stones themselves, somewhat rough. Some of them, according to Sir Richard Broun, Bart., of Coalstoun, in his *Memorabilia Curliana Mabenensia*, were "clumsy and inelegant, being mal-constructed resemblances of that hook-necked biped, the goose."

These boulders with handles were in use up to about the beginning of the nineteenth century — roughly

speaking, from about 1650 to 1800; and during this period the game must have been pretty general throughout Scotland, attaining, indeed, to the position of the national game. As far back as 1740, for instance, Curling went on (so we are told in M'Kay's *History of Kilmarnock*) at the Cross of Kilmarnock (which was converted into a curling-pond for the time being) for twenty-three successive days, excepting Sundays. The water was raised from a well, and was, as M'Kay says, "damned" up for the purpose.

The first history of Curling published was *An Account of the Game of Curling*, by a member of the Duddingston Curling Society, printed in 1811 at the *Correspondent* Office. This "member" (according to a quaint interpolation on the title-page of the copy of the work in the British Museum) was "John Ramsay Preacher of the Gospel Having been Tutor to the family of the R^{t} Honb^{l} Charles Hope the Lord President of the Session, he was, in the end of 1812, appointed Assistant and Successor to the Rev^{d} A. Colvill Minister of Ormiston in East Lothian, in the patronage of the Earl of Hopeton."

Long before Ramsay's time, however, there were many authors who referred to the game of Curling both in prose and poetry. And this is what might be expected, for, according to Ramsay, the "amusement" was in "great repute" as far back as the beginning of the eighteenth century—so great, in fact, that the Magistrates of Edinburgh went to the Curling and "returned in a body, with a band of music before them, playing tunes adapted to the occasion."

The first reference to the game in the eighteenth

century is a poetical one: in 1715 were published the poems of Dr. Alexander Pennycuick, who says—

> To curl on the ice doth greatly please,
> Being a manly Scottish exercise,
> It clears the brains, stirs up the native heat,
> And gives a gallant appetite for meat.

Of the last couplet of this verse there is in the *Memorabilia* already mentioned one of the most grandiloquent paraphrases ever penned. Here it is: "It braces the nerves which, when the wind blaws cauld, have become unstrung from creolizing 'i' the ase'; rouses the social warmth which the howling storms of winter have torpified; kicks out of the pent-house of the mind the chimeras engendered by the leisure perusal of the Dumfries Journals; and lastly, begets, in the gastronomical region, one of those most important vacuums—yclept by Wildrake a bottomless stomach—into which rush those gaseous vapours that cloud and distemper the brain, and which when buried under a trebly replenished plate of beef and greens, with a quantum suff. of whisky toddy, would require even a more startling apparition than the ghost of the Catholic question, a personification of the national debt, or any other political bugbear of the day, to arouse from the abyss whereinto they have fallen, and extricate from that load under which they are quietly in-urned."

Again, in 1724, in a poem on "Health," Allan Ramsay mentions the game—

> From ice with pleasure he can brush the snow,
> And run rejoicing with his curling throw.

And in an Epistle the same poet says—

> Frae northern mountains clad with snaw,
> Where whistling winds incessant blaw,
> In time now when the curling-stane
> Slides murmuring o'er the icy plain.

Later in this century another poet, Graeme of Lanarkshire, composed a poem on Curling, which was published in 1771, and which is really the earliest description of the game. It is rather lengthy to give *in extenso*, but it would be unpardonable to refrain from giving the following verse, in which Graeme describes the game, as Ramsay says in his book on Curling, "with considerable minuteness and precision":—

> The goals are marked out, the centre each
> Of a large random circle; distance-scores
> Are drawn between, the dread of weakly arms.
> Firm on his cramp-bits stands the steady youth,
> Who leads the game. Low o'er the weighty stone
> He bends incumbent, and with nicest eye
> Surveys the farther goal, and in his mind
> Measures the distance, careful to bestow
> Just force enough; then balanced in his hand
> He flings it on direct; it glides along
> Hoarse murmuring, while, plying hard before,
> Full many a besom sweeps away the snow,
> Or icicle, that might obstruct its course.

Nearly forty years after the publishing of Graeme's poem there appeared, in 1810, another description of the game, of a similar nature. And a most astounding description this was in every way, when we remember that the author of it was blind; as he himself says, in the preface to the book in which it occurs: "Owing to the small-pox, from about two years of age, the Author

having seen neither the beauties of Spring, the charms of Summer, the luxuriance of Harvest, nor the sublimities of Winter, precludes the necessity of making any apology for what incorrectness may appear in his descriptions."

The name of the work was "*A Winter Season:* Being an Attempt to Draw, from the Storms of Winter, some Observations, which may warm our hearts, amidst its cold, with Divine Love and True Benevolence. To which is added, an Essay on the good things of this life. By James Fisher." This *Winter Season* is, in reality, a series of sermons, all crammed full of Scriptural texts from beginning to end; and every now and then the author breaks out into verse—and that, too, where least expected. It is in one of these outbursts that we have the description of Curling. In the first edition (1810) of the work it is set down in the form of prose, but in a succeeding edition it is given, with enlargements and emendations, in the form of blank verse—which it is:—

With tramps, and brooms, and stones, a crowd now comes,
The long projected curling-match to try,
For beef and greens, and something else besides,
To cheer the heart, which makes the tongue oft boast
Of great atchievements on the ice performed:
Exciting still fresh challenges to play
That king of games, best cordial for the nerves,
From Solway's Firth to where the mighty Forth,
By curious windings, vainly seeks to shun
His contributions to the German Sea;
A game much us'd, but scarcely ever known
Beyond their bounds, in either South or North.
The rink now chosen out, and distance fix'd,
The tees both made, and hog-scores justly drawn,

The best of three, nine, or eleven shot games,
Agreed upon, the dinner to decide.
A piece of coin is then tossed high in air,
To show which side shall first begin the sport;
Or, not so heathenish, this perhaps to know,
A stone is played by one upon each side:
And now the keen contested match begins;
Stones roar from tee to tee, the ice along.
"Lie here"—"strike this"—"well done"—"guard that"—"well played"—
Alternate cry those whom the game direct.
Soon as a stone the hog-score o'er has got,
And judg'd by those concerned to stop too short,
"Sweep, sweep! O haste and sweep," then's all the cry,
How then the brooms are ply'd to sweep it on!
But when the distance-score one does not reach,
'Tis "Hog it off," with laughter much and loud:
And still the cheering, healthful sport goes on,
Till three huzzas declare the victor side:
Now off they go, with appetite to dine,
And spend in social glee the evening all.

At the end of his account of the game, Fisher immediately goes on to improve the occasion, and to moralise thus: "O that those who have money thus to spend, would scheme something for the relief of their indigent neighbours, in this season: A few matches taken on for that purpose might be productive of much good, and yield more real satisfaction afterwards than money needlessly spent, nay, too often to the hurt of their own morals."

From these words one would gather that in Fisher's time curlers were a selfish set who passed the winter in curling "for beef and greens, *and something else besides*"; and who, when their games were finished, promptly proceeded to spend their spare coin in riotous living, without

a thought for their poorer neighbours. If that be so, curlers have changed mightily since Fisher's time; for, in any part of Scotland where the curlers have their game every winter, not a season passes without their "scheming something" for their "indigent" neighbours. What country curler has not played many a time and oft for a "boll of meal" to be given to the poor? Which reminds me. One Christmas Day, in my own village, the curlers were playing for the customary boll, amongst the onlookers being a little boy — myself. When the game was over, and the fate of the "meal" (*i.e.* oatmeal) decided, my father, who was one of the skips, sent me as his emissary to announce to one of our "indigent neighbours" that he was to be the recipient of part of the "boll." The "indigent" one was a gentleman whose principal means of subsistence was "outdoor relief"; for although perfectly able-bodied, he was no believer in work.

Having arrived at his house, I knocked at the door—which was open.

"Who's there?" said a voice inside.

"It's me," said I. "Are ye in?"

"Ay, ay," said the voice (which belonged to the gentleman in question, who now appeared himself at the door). "What d'ye want?"

"My father sent me to tell you that if you took this 'line' [*Anglicè*, note] to Mr. ——'s shop, he'll gie you two stones of meal."

In truculent tones and with bellicose aspect the "indigent" one replied, "Is IT GOOD?"

In any book on Curling containing poetical references to the game it would be impossible to omit the following

verses from the imperishable "Elegy on Tam Samson," written by Robert Burns in 1786:—

When Winter muffles up his cloak,
And binds the mire up like a rock;
When to the lochs the curlers flock,
Wi' gleesome speed;
Wha will they station at the cock?
Tam Samson's deid!

He was the King o' a' the core,
To guard, or draw, or wick a bore;
Or up the rink like Jehu roar
In time o' need;
But now he lags on Death's hog-score
—Tam Samson's deid!

It may be mentioned that the word "cock," in the fifth line of the first verse, is one of the old names applied to the "tee" in some parts of Scotland.

Since the time of Burns there have been Curling "poets" galore. Many of these have been (and are) brilliant writers, and some of their Curling verses, from a literary point of view, are acknowledged to be very fine, and will remain a perennial delight to all curlers. On the other hand, it must be confessed—and there is no getting away from this fact—that the amount of Curling doggerel that has somehow or other found its way into print—in local newspapers and other publications—from about the early part of the nineteenth century to the present time is simply appalling. As far back as 1828 the "poets" had laid the foundation of what was to come in after years; for in the *Kilmarnock Treatise on Curling*, published in that year, there appeared a number of Curling songs whose value may be gauged from the

fact that the compilers of the work naïvely referred to them in the preface in these apologetic terms: "Some songs of rather moderate merit are inserted: but the small number current left little room for selection."

Since then the game of Curling has produced more rhymesters than any other sport under the sun. And, unfortunately for those who love the good old Scottish songs, a large proportion of the handiwork of these versifiers has consisted of shameless parodies, imitations, and mutilations of those old songs. Verily have many brethren of the broom been afflicted with what, to use the phrase of Juvenal, might be called a poetical *cacoethes scribendi*: of them it might be said, as a satirist said of certain other "poets"—

> . . . The itch for writing verse
> There fell upon them like a curse—

with the woeful result that reams upon reams of rhyme have been concocted for human consumption.

But, when all is said and done, it will probably be found that it is the game itself (with the inevitable enthusiasm that it always creates) that is to blame for this state of matters. For, as old Pennycuick nearly said—

> It clears the brains, *stirs up the native heat*,
> And gives a gallant appetite for—writing verse.

In other words, the Curling "poets" cannot help themselves.

The earliest description of the game is, as has been mentioned, a poetical one—that of Graeme; but very soon afterwards we get the first prose description—that

of Thomas Pennant, whose *Tour in Scotland and Voyage to the Hebrides* was published in 1772. In his reference to Curling Pennant says, what might be said with equal truth at the present day: "The object of the player is to lay his stone as near to the mark as possible, to guard that of his partner, which had been well laid before, or to strike off that of his antagonist."

And all this time, up to about the beginning of the nineteenth century, the game was played with rough boulders (with handles) of all shapes and sizes. But now the *circular* stone gradually makes its appearance. Who was the benefactor of the human race who introduced it? Alas! we do not know, any more than we know who invented Curling itself, or who affixed the first handle to the stone. But, whoever it was, he effected the most momentous change in the whole history of the game, for at one blow he completely revolutionised it. And how simple is the whole thing! When a curling-stone of no particular shape collides on the ice with another of no particular shape, no man can tell where either of them will go; but when a circular stone comes against another one at a certain angle, the curler knows exactly in what direction each will travel. The introduction of the circular stone, therefore, changed the game of Curling from one of strength and chance to one of skill—made it, in short, a scientific game.

As to the time of the appearance of the circular stone, we may rely on the statement of John Cairnie of Largs, a writer and curler to whom the game owes much. In his *Essay on Curling*, published in 1833, he says—

"About the year 1770, in many parts of Scotland, where the game is now almost brought to perfection,

the curling-stones were in their natural state as taken from the fields, or from the beds of rivers, many of them in use wanting handles, some of them having merely a hole made for the thumb, and a few only having the benefit of a polished bottom: at that time, too, the stones were variously shaped, few of them so perfectly rounded as to be admissible on the rink of 1833, and some of them of a triangular form, one of which we ourselves well remember, yclept the Cocked Hat, truly formidable on the ice: for, unless it was hit full, it often happened that it was not moved far from the spot, but made the rotatory motion in great perfection. At the present day, the shape of all curling-stones is, or rather must be, circular."

It may be noted, incidentally, that before the end of the eighteenth century about forty Curling clubs (called "societies" in those early days) had been formed, all in the southern half of Scotland; that Curling matches had been instituted; and that in these the curlers played eight a side, each player using one stone.

It is interesting to know that about this time the game made its way to England; for Ramsay (in his *Account of the Game of Curling*) says—

"It has made its appearance in some of the northern counties of England; and, within these few years, has even found its way to the capital of the British Empire. There the first essay was made upon the New River; but the crowd of spectators, attracted by such a novel spectacle, becoming very great, the ice threatened to give way, and the curlers were with reluctance compelled to desist."

It is strange, but true, that the "spectacle" which was

so "novel" on the New River at the beginning of the nineteenth century would be just as novel in the present year of grace; and if the same experiment were tried again at the present time, the result would be identical with that of Ramsay's time; for, *pace* the London Caledonian, and one or two other metropolitan Curling clubs, the game is still unknown in the metropolis. It is amusing to think that when a pair of curling-stones were shown at the Exhibition at the Crystal Palace (Hyde Park) in 1851, Cockney visitors had no idea as to their use; and many weird conjectures were made about them,

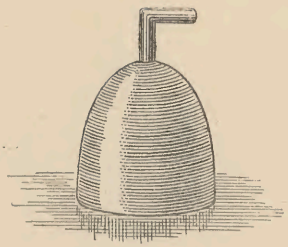


FIG. 1.

one ingenious gentleman opining that they were models for cheeses! And a humorous "poem" containing the following verse appeared in a newspaper of the period:—

> As round as the moon, an' as hard's an auld kebbuck,
> Geologists thought ane a petrified bannock!
> The tither, a haggis! as sure's I'm a warlock—
> An' some ca'd them guid "plum-puddin'" stanes!

In the possession of many clubs in Scotland are circular stones belonging to various periods in the nineteenth century. From these we can trace the different stages in the evolution of the circular stone until we

arrive at that beautiful thing, the present-day stone, which is probably as near perfection as it is possible for any human production to be.

Then, besides the actual stones, we have many pictorial and diagrammatic representations of the curling-stones used during the last century. Thus, in Fisher's *Winter Season*, already quoted, there is one of the earliest illustrations we have of a circular stone. This is shown in Fig. 1. And again, in Sir Richard Broun's *Memorabilia* (1830), we have the three diagrams shown in Figs. 2, 3, and 4. All these stones, it may be noted, are single-

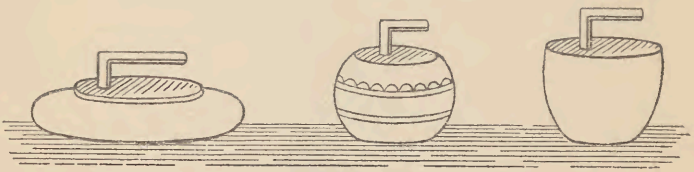


FIG. 2. FIG. 3. FIG. 4.

soled, the handle being a fixture. And, although their weight at that period was rather great, being anything up to about 80 lb., they were much lighter than their predecessors, the gigantic boulders of the previous century. Since then the weight of curling-stones has gradually tended to decrease, and at the present time the maximum weight allowed by the rules of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club is 44 lb., while the average weight of the curling-stones used by modern players is from 35 to 40 lb.

Soon after the publication of the *Memorabilia* there appeared a very famous Curling picture. This was "The Curlers," painted in 1834–35 by Sir George Harvey,

CURLING IN THE HIGHLANDS IN THE 'SIXTIES. (*See p.* 28.)

(*From a Photograph of the original Painting by Alexander Urquhart.*)

R.S.A. (1806–76), and here reproduced. The stones in this picture are again the old single-soled ones, the one on its way up the ice having a double handle.

To the eye of the modern curler this picture may seem to be a caricature (as a matter of fact, I was once horrified by hearing an artist, who was also a curler, allege that it *was* a caricature). But what say the authorities? In the monograph on Harvey in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* we are told that Harvey's pictures—"The Bowlers," "A Highland Funeral," "The Curlers," "A Schule Skailin'," and "Children Blowing Bubbles in

"THE CURLERS."

the Churchyard of Greyfriars, Edinburgh"—manifest the same close observation of character, artistic conception, and conscientious elaboration of details. And again, in the Rev. A. L. Simpson's *Harvey's Celebrated Paintings*, published in 1870, we are told that "The Curlers" is one of the artist's happiest efforts; that it is scarcely possible to imagine the subject rendered with greater spirit and truthfulness.

During the first half of the nineteenth century the game was gradually spreading from the southern part of Scotland towards the Highlands. Writing in the year 1838, a journalist said: "It is very odd that a

pastime so much cultivated in the South should be totally unknown in the North of Scotland. Over the whole of Aberdeenshire a spiel was never played within the memory of man, and it was only during the present season [1837–38] that a beginning was made in the county of Inverness. . . . One of the spirited inn-keepers of the capital of the Highlands not only ordered a supply of curling-stones, but sent the players every day to the ice in an omnibus."

It is in connection with Curling in the Highlands that I have the privilege of presenting to the reader a Curling picture which it is quite certain he has never seen before. It is the work of a house-painter, Alexander Urquhart by name, who lived his life in the village of Grantown-on-Spey (which, by the way, is a village no longer, being now a full-blown borough). Although he never had a lesson in drawing, Mr. Urquhart painted, in the intervals of business, many landscapes and portraits, some of the former being wonderfully good. He was very fond of going to the curling-pond in his spare time to look on at the game, and his picture (Plate IV.), which I have designated "Curling in the Highlands in the 'Sixties," was the result. With regard to this picture, which Mr. Urquhart presented to my father, a few explanatory remarks may be useful. In the first place, it was painted, as near as I have been able to find out, between the years 1865 and 1870. Some of the details were painted from life, but a few were evolved from the imagination of the painter. The crampits, the "marker" (for recording the scores in the progress of a game), the wooden "bottle" (for placing at the tee), the "scraper" (for clearing the ice of snow and other extraneous matter),

the round wicker basket (for carrying a curling-stone), and the "besoms" are those which were then in use on that pond, and are identical with those used on the same pond at the present day, some, indeed, being the original ones. The stones in the picture are nearly all single-soled ones with fixed handles, many of them being the combined workmanship of the local stone-mason and blacksmith. These stones have, of course, given place to the modern double-soled ones in ordinary play, but in the game of "points" on this pond the old stones are still utilised as "placed" ones in "chip the winner" and so forth.

The skaters in the background of the picture are entirely imaginary, for never at any time in the history of this pond has the presence of skaters been tolerated thereon: the pond has always been considered by the curlers here to be a kind of "holy ground," and it is likely to continue so. The dress of some of the curlers at play, especially the headgear, is of a nature never seen in this (or perhaps any other) locality. The square wicker basket (with its contents) in the foreground, and the rather comfortable-looking stone jar beside it, *may* have been observed on the ice here on certain occasions; but it is quite likely that Mr. Urquhart had seen Sir George Harvey's Curling picture, and had been inspired by it in this particular. In any case, this picture, with all its faults (such as the poor drawing of the stones, and its one or two fanciful features), may be taken to be a gallant attempt to depict "Curling in the Highlands of Scotland" in the mid-Victorian period.

Coming a little nearer the present time, we have another curling picture, "Curlers—Duddingston Loch," the work

of R. Anderson, A.R.S.A., in 1880, in which it will be noticed that all the stones have a modern appearance (Plate V.). Anderson's picture, by the way, bears a curious resemblance in two or three points to Sir George Harvey's. The general plan and arrangement of figures is almost the same in both: the player who has just delivered his stone and is watching it as it travels up the rink might have stepped out of Harvey's picture, changed his clothes, and stepped into Anderson's.

The name of Duddingston, incidentally, may claim one of the foremost places in the history of Curling. It was, as we have seen already, a member of this club or "society" who wrote the first account of the game. The club itself dates back to the middle of the eighteenth century, and at the beginning of the next century it held a position in the Curling world (*i.e.* the South of Scotland) something similar to that of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club of the present day.

CURLERS, DUDDINGSTON LOCH. (*See p.* 30.)

(*From the pen and ink Sketch by Robert Anderson, A.R.S.A.*)

CHAPTER III

THE ROYAL CALEDONIAN CURLING CLUB

No book on Curling would be complete without some account of this institution, which, although calling itself a "club," is, in reality, not a club at all. It is a Curling association; and, in the whole realm of sport, it is one of the largest and best-organised associations, having branches in every corner of the habitable globe—wherever the thermometer is in the habit of falling below the freezing-point. In many other branches of sport there are several "associations," some of them in direct conflict with each other, and each one of them claiming to be the fountain-head. Not so the R.C.C.C. There are comparatively few Curling clubs in the world that do not owe allegiance to the mother club, and, with perhaps the exception of immaterial details, play the game according to the rules of the Royal Club—whose objects, according to its own Constitution, are: "To unite Curlers throughout the world into one Brotherhood of the Rink, and to regulate the ancient Scottish Game of Curling by General Laws."

At the beginning of the nineteenth century the laws and methods in vogue among Curling societies were in a state of chaos, and therefore it is not to be wondered at that curlers gradually came to feel the need of a govern-

ing body which should formulate laws and bring about uniformity in the game. Accordingly, in the year 1834 there was issued a prospectus of a society called the "Amateur Curling Club of Scotland," instituted "For Promoting and Cherishing the Noble National Game of Curling." As the "Resolution" of this prospective society stated "that the Amateur Curling Club shall be entirely *exclusive*, embracing the name of such curlers alone as are entitled to be handed down to posterity, as associated *par excellence* with the ice of the nineteenth century," it was self-evident that such a society was foredoomed to failure: and it died at its birth. But within four years there was sown a seed from which sprang the R.C.C.C.

In the *North British Advertiser* of 26th May, 1838, there appeared an anonymous advertisement, addressed to curlers, calling a meeting of the representatives of "Initiated Curling Clubs" in Scotland in the Waterloo Hotel, Edinburgh, on Wednesday the 20th of June following. In response to this, about a dozen curlers met at the appointed place, and would have gone away again without accomplishing anything had not a stranger entered the room at the last moment, and, placing on the table some books that he was carrying, presented his card. He was made chairman of the meeting on the spot. For he was John Cairnie of Curling Hall, Largs. The upshot of the meeting was that a second advertisement appeared in various papers calling a second meeting of curlers for the 25th of July following, in the Waterloo Hotel.

In response to this there met nearly fifty members of Curling clubs, all from the southern half of Scotland.

And there and then was instituted by formal resolution the "Grand Caledonian Curling Club," composed of the different initiated clubs of Scotland. The first office-bearers to be elected were : President, John Cairnie, Largs ; Vice-Presidents, John M'George, Edinburgh, and Captain James Ogilvy Dalgleish, R.N., Lindores ; Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, James Skelton, W.S., Kinross.

The Grand Club having been thus established, its founders adjourned to the 15th November of the same year, the Constitution of the Club to be drafted in the meantime. This was done by a committee entrusted with that duty ; but the burden of the work of framing the Constitution was borne by Mr. Dalgleish, who himself became President of the Grand Club twelve years afterwards.

Since the adoption of this Constitution on the 15th of November, 1838, many additions have naturally been made to it, and various changes have taken place in it ; and now it has become an imposing document, filling, as it does, no fewer than twenty-two pages in the last edition of the Annual of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. (We shall return to this Constitution later.)

In 1843, the Grand Club changed its name. In the previous year Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort visited Scotland, and, while being entertained on that memorable visit by the Earl of Mansfield at the Palace of Scone, were there instructed in the mysteries of the game, the Prince Consort agreeing to become patron of the Club. In the following year the Grand Club, having petitioned the Queen in the matter, was graciously permitted by Her Majesty to assume the designation of "The Royal Grand Caledonian Curling Club" ; and

thereafter, dropping the "Grand" (also by permission), assumed the title which they bear to this day.

In 1861 Prince Albert died, and in the following year His Royal Highness Albert Edward, then Prince of Wales, succeeded him as Patron of the Royal Club, and continued to hold this office after his accession as King Edward VII. and until his death, when, in 1911, King George V. became Patron, and, be it said with all respect, has no more loyal and more devoted subjects than the members of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.

Once a year there is held, generally in Edinburgh but sometimes elsewhere, an assembly of the Representative Committee of the Royal Club, and at this meeting is transacted the whole year's business. The gathering is always well attended by curlers, and so is the luncheon afterwards. Representatives come from all parts of Scotland, from some parts of England, and, as a rule, from Canada, Switzerland, and other Curling countries.

In addition to a Patron the Club elects a President every year, and the list of the occupants of this chair includes an extraordinary number of historic and world-famous names, every grade of the peerage being represented, as well as commoners. Such an assembly of dignitaries may convey the impression that Curling is not a democratic pastime. But such a conclusion will be erroneous, for on the ice as on the green, no question of class arises. Many of the Presidents have been, and many more are, not paper patrons but keen curlers, playing and promoting the game with enthusiasm. It is necessary to give a complete list of the Presidents of the Royal Club from its institution:—

Year.	Presidents.	Year.	Presidents.
1838–39	John Cairney of Curling Hall.	1873–74	The Marquis of Lorne.
		1874–75	The Marquis of Lothian.
1839–40	Sir G. Clerk of Penicuick, Bart., M.P.	1875–76	The Marquis of Huntly.
		1876–77	The Earl of Rosslyn.
1840–41	Sir D. Baird of Newbyth.	1877–78	The Earl of Breadalbane.
1841–42	The Earl of Eglinton and Winton.	1878–79	The Earl of Glasgow.
		1879–80	The Earl of Strathmore.
1842–43	The Earl of Mansfield.	1880–81	The Earl of Mar and Kellie.
1843–44	Wm. Gibson-Craig of Riccarton.	1881–82	The Duke of Roxburghe.
1844–45	Hon. Fox Maule, M.P.	1882–83	Lord Lovat.
1845–46	The Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry.	1883–84	Sir Michael R. Shaw-Stewart, Bart.
1846–47	The Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry.	1884–85	Lord Melgund.
		1885–86	Lord Aberdeen.
1847–48	The Marquis of Douglas and Clydesdale.	1886–87	Sir Archibald Campbell of Blythswood, Bart.
1848–49	The Duke of Atholl.	1887–88	Duke of Montrose.
1849–50	The Earl of Glasgow.	1888–89	Marquis of Breadalbane.
1850–51	James Ogilvie Dalgleish of Woodburne.	1889–90	Lord Balfour of Burleigh.
		1890–91	Marquis of Bute.
1851–52	James Ogilvie Dalgleish of Woodburne.	1891–92	Marquis of Tweeddale.
		1892–93	Sir J. H. Gibson-Craig, Bart.
1852–53	The Earl of Morton.		
1853–54	Lord Kinnaird.	1893–94	Viscount Stormonth.
1854–55	Lord Kinnaird.	1894–95	Duke of Atholl.
1855–56	The Duke of Hamilton and Brandon.	1895–96	The Duke of Buccleuch.
		1896–97	The Earl of Kintore.
1856–57	Sir John Ogilvie of Inverquharity, Bart.	1897–98	The Right Honourable A. J. Balfour, M.P.
1857–58	Sir John Ogilvie of Inverquharity, Bart.	1898–99	The Earl of Hopetoun.
		1899–1900	Lord Clinton.
1858–59	The Earl of Dalkeith.	1900–01	Sir Robert Menzies, Bart.
1859–60	The Viscount Strathallan.	1901–02	The Earl of Elgin.
1860–61	Sir James Gardiner Baird of Saughtonhall, Bart.	1902–03	The Earl of Mansfield.
		1903–04	The Earl of Eglinton.
1861–62	The Earl of Mansfield.	1904–05	Sir James Gibson-Craig.
1862–63	The Earl of Sefton.	1905–06	The Earl of Dalkeith.
1863–64	The Duke of Atholl.	1906–07	The Earl of Haddington.
1864–65	Lord Elcho.	1907–08	The Earl of Northesk.
1865–66	Lord Stormont.	1908–09	Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal.
1866–67	The Earl of Dunmore.		
1867–68	The Duke of Atholl.	1909–10	Lord Dunedin of Stenton.
1868–69	The Earl of Minto.	1910–11	The Earl of Rosebery.
1869–70	The Earl of Minto.	1911–12	Lord Inverclyde.
1870–71	Lord Rollo.	1912–13	Sir John Gilmour, Bart.
1871–72	The Earl of Morton.	1913–14	The Duke of Richmond and Gordon.
1872–73	The Marquis of Lorne.		

Happily, the R.C.C.C. has been well served by its Secretariat, for since 1838 until the present time there have been only five holders of the office. These are—

James Skelton, W.S.	1838–1840
George Ritchie, W.S.	1840–1844
Alexander Cassels, W.S.	1844–1876
David Lindsay	1876–1880
Adam Davidson Smith, C.A.	1880–

With the exception of a short period, 1844–46, each of these gentlemen has been Treasurer as well as Secretary; and it would be difficult to estimate how much the Club owes to these stalwarts, particularly Mr. Cassels, with his thirty-two years' service, and Mr. Davidson Smith, with his thirty-four "not out."

One of the office-bearers in nearly every Curling club is the Chaplain, whose duties are not very onerous, the preaching of an occasional sermon to curlers and the saying of grace at the club dinners being the most important ones. But apart from his clerical duties, the Chaplain is very often a keen curler and one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the game in his club. The Royal Club has had only six chaplains from its foundation until now, namely—

The Very Rev. G. Husband Baird, D.D., Principal of the University of Edinburgh	1838–1840
The Rev. A. L. Simpson, D.D., Kirknewton.	1840–1862
The Very Rev. Thomas Barclay, D.D., Principal of the University of Glasgow	1862–1873
The Rev. Cornelius Giffen, St. Mary's, Edinburgh	1873–1897
The Rev. John Kerr, M.A., F.R.S.E., F.S.A.Scot., Dirleton	1897–1913
The Rev. R. Menzies Fergusson, D.D.	1913-

Of these famous Curling clerics the Rev. John Kerr is

the well-known historian of the Royal Club, and as a curler and writer has done much to promote Scotland's ain game.

In 1888 the Royal Club celebrated its Jubilee. A dinner, held in the Waterloo Hotel, was attended by no fewer than 360 persons, the chairman being the Marquis of Breadalbane. It was in every respect a splendid success, and strongly testified to the growth, popularity, and standing of the R.C.C.C.

The progress of the Club has been remarkable, as is evidenced in many ways. Take, for example, the Club's "Annual." Its first issue appeared in 1839 as a booklet of 48 pages, of which 300 copies were printed; the issue for 1912–13 was a volume of nearly 800 pages, of which 5200 copies were printed and supplied to the affiliated clubs. There are some wonderful statistics in the series of "Annuals." As one instance, consider the number of clubs that have enrolled themselves under the banner of the R.C.C.C. This may be best shown by the following small table (taking the numbers at intervals of ten years):—

Year.	No. of Associated Clubs.
1838–39	28
1848–49	187
1858–59	349
1868–69	414
1878–79	498
1888–89	545
1898–99	655
1908–09	734
[1913–14	747]

These 747 clubs are distributed in the following proportions:—

Scotland, 632; England, 37; Canada, 44; New Brunswick, 1; New Zealand, 9; Nova Scotia, 2; Russia, 1; Switzerland, 16; and the United States, 5. In addition to these, there is a Manitoba branch of the R.C.C.C. with 133 affiliated clubs; an Ontario branch, with 102; an Alberta branch, with 16; an Assiniboia branch, with 21; a Nova Scotia branch, with 19; a New Brunswick branch, with 12; a Kootenay branch, with 12; a Saskatchewan branch, and a British Columbia branch. This makes a grand total of over one thousand clubs! One wonders, in the first place, how many individual curlers there are in this gigantic club; and in the second place, considering there are Curling clubs that do not owe allegiance to the Royal Club, how many curlers there are in the world!

Of the associated clubs in Scotland some are to be found in every county—with two exceptions. Oh unfortunate Orkney and Shetland!

From old records, minute-books, and other documents, we know when most of these clubs were founded. Kilsyth (Stirlingshire) and Kirkintilloch (Dumbartonshire) share the honour of being the first to be instituted, as far as we know. This was in the year 1716. Between that date and the institution of the Royal Club in 1838 others made their appearance, and between 1838 and the present year of grace the R.C.C.C. has been fruitful, has multiplied, and has replenished the (Curling) earth. The county which at the present time boasts the largest number of clubs is Perthshire, with a list of 107! Fifeshire is a fair second with 61. Lanark comes next with 48. And so the number decreases until we find at the

bottom of the list the counties of Bute and Caithness with a total of one each.

England, of course, got her Curling from Scotland. That there were curlers in England as far back as the last part of the eighteenth century is proved by the fact that there is a record of a bonspiel between Scotland and England at Kirtlebridge in 1795. There is also evidence to show that the game was introduced into Cumberland about the year 1776; but before this date there is no vestige of evidence of Curling in England. What, then, is to be thought of the following amazing statement in a presumably authoritative and responsible book entitled *Pastimes in Times Past*, published in 1913: "Curling clubs and bonspiels in the north of England during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were also made the occasion for the hatchment of all kinds of wickedness; even murders being planned and arranged either while the bonspiel was in actual progress or during the feasting which invariably followed this national Scotch amusement"? Such an extraordinary allegation ought to have been supported by the citation of the authority for it. Curlers, however, will read it unmoved, as well as that other assertion, in the chapter on "Kuting," to the effect that: "His favourite stones acted to a Scotchman in somewhat the same way as a favourite cricket bat to the 'flannelled fool' at the wicket, or the pet driver to the golf devotee. They were given, and known by, names—much as pet animals; and a certain stone, 'Whirlie' by name, is well known in Curling history. He was barred the links on account of his peculiarities and the extreme difficulty of removing him when once thrown." Links!

The existing distribution of clubs in England is of

some interest. As we have already seen, there was Curling in London about the year 1810; but the first club to be instituted south of the Border was the Leeds Caledonian Curling Club, founded in 1820. The Liverpool Curling Club followed in 1839; and since then others have made their appearance, the last recruit being the Prince's Club, London, established in 1910. Of the thirty-seven clubs now in England, Lancashire has nine, Yorkshire seven, Cumberland five, and London four; while we find clubs also in the counties of Bedford, Cheshire, Warwick, Derby, Durham, Glamorgan, Northumberland, Stafford, and Nottingham. Three times the R.C.C.C. has held its annual meeting in England—at Liverpool, Southport, and Carlisle; and there is no doubt that these meetings, helped by other things, such as the institution of artificial ice rinks, have given an impetus to the game south of the Border. And that there are some clubs in England that can hold their own at the game is conclusively shown by this remarkable table:—

NEWCASTLE CURLING CLUB—MATCHES SINCE 1878

	Matches.			Shots for.	Shots against.
	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.		
Friendly games with English clubs	37	2	...	2574	1480
Medal games with English clubs	9	0	...	647	340
Friendly games with Scottish clubs . . .	2	4	1	387	393
Medal games with Scottish clubs	4	0	...	505	245
Games in Internationals .	12	1	...	297	163
Scottish Ice Rink Challenge Cup	5	0	...	83	51

According to the Constitution of the Royal Club, any Curling club which has at least eight members is admissible, provided it has a distinctive title and a sheet of ice for play, and is governed by office-bearers elected in accordance with the rules of the Royal; but the admission of any club rests with the Council. Each local club, on admission, must pay an entrance fee according to the number of its ordinary members, and also an annual subscription. Further, every club is required to subscribe for a certain number of copies of the "Annual": two "Annuals" for any number of ordinary members up to thirteen, and an additional "Annual" for every five additional members.

Six or more local clubs (*i.e.* in Scotland) may form themselves into a "province," which elects its own office-bearers and arranges competitions with other provinces.

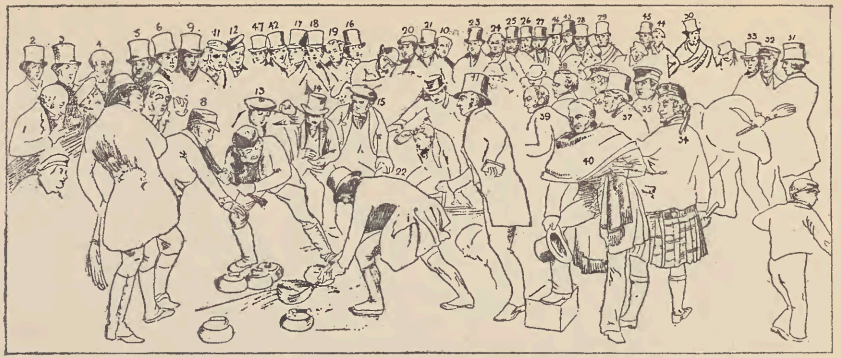
Six or more clubs outside of Scotland may form themselves into an "association" or "branch," which may be affiliated with the Royal Club, and may be either contributory or non-contributory: if the former, it is entitled to all the privileges of full membership.

Under the auspices of the Royal Club there are held the following competitions: (*a*) The Grand Match; (*b*) The International Match; (*c*) Medal Competitions.

The Grand Match

This is the national bonspiel, the annual battle between North and South. The dividing line is the Forth and Clyde Canal.

The first of these contests was arranged for the year 1845; but as there was no ice, there was no match. On the 15th of January, 1847, the first Grand Match was



Key to Lees's Picture of the

ROYAL CALEDONIAN CURLING CLUB GRAND MATCH AT LINLITHGOW

(*By kind permission of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club*)

1. Sir George Clerk, Bt., of Penicuick.
2. Rev. A. L. Simpson, D.D., Kirknewton.
3. Sir W. Gibson-Craig, Bt., of Riccarton.
4. Col. Dundas, of Carronhill.
5. Sir Patk. Murray, Thriepland.
6. The Right Hon. Lord Kinnaird.
7. C. Cowan, Esq., of Valleyfield, M.P.
8. Robert Palmer, Esq., Currie.
9. Allan Pollok, Esq., of Broom.
10. Arthur Pollok, Esq.
11. Major Henderson. of Westerton.
12. Col. M'Dowall, of Garthland.
13. Mr. Piper.
14. T. Durham Weir, Esq., of Boghead.
15. J. Moore, Esq., Solicitor, Edinburgh.
16. F. S. Wedderburn, Esq., of Wedderburn.
17. Capt. H. Maitland-Dougall, of Scotscraig.
18. Col. Low, Cairnie Lodge.
19. D. Gillespie, Esq., of Mountquhanie.
20. Wm. Horsburgh, Esq., Cupar-Fife.
21. Thomas Anderson, Esq., Newburgh.
22. Mr. John M'George, late Medallist.
23. Archd. Thomson, Esq., Edinburgh.
24. Alex. Russel, Esq., Edinburgh.
25. W. Dumbreck, Esq., M.D., Edinburgh.
26. John Haig, Esq., Cameron Bridge.
27. J. W. Williamson, Esq., Kinross.
28. John Cunningham, Esq., Edinburgh.
29. W. Wilson, Esq., of Water Meetings.
30. Robert Moubray, Esq., of Cambus.
31. Andrew Gillon, Esq., of Wallhouse.
32. Robert R. Glen, Esq., Linlithgow.
33. Adam Dawson, Esq., of Bonnytown.
34. His Grace the Duke of Atholl.
35. J. Murray Drummond, Esq., of Megginch.
36. David Wylie, Esq., Edinburgh.
37. Jas. Baird, Esq., of Gartsherrie, M.P.
38. R. B. W. Ramsay, Esq., of Whitehill.
39. Sir John Ogilvy, Bt., of Inverquharity.
40. Alex. Cassels, Esq., W.S., Secretary Royal Club.
41. J. Ogilvy Dalgleish, Esq., of Woodburne.
42. Provost Phillips, of Paisley.
43. George Gillespie, Esq., Glasgow.
44. John T. Renton, Esq., London.
45. Charles Elder M'Ritchie, Esq.
46. William I'Anson, Esq.
47. Robert Craig, Esq.

PLATE VI.

THE GRAND MATCH AT LINLITHGOW, 1848. (*See p.* 43.)

(From a Photograph of the original Picture by Charles Lees, R.S.A., by permission of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.)

held on the loch in the grounds of Sir George Clerk of Penicuick. In this match there were only twelve rinks a-side, but, small as the number was, the event was a great success, for, according to the "Annual" for that year, "The day throughout was one of unmingled pleasure, and, saving the absence of a barrel of exhilarating ale, which was unfortunately omitted among the items of preparation, there was nothing but universal satisfaction felt and expressed."

In the following year the second Grand Match took place at Linlithgow; and in this there were thirty-five rinks a-side. This event was made memorable by the fact that it formed the subject of a famous Curling picture (Plate VI.). It was painted by Charles Lees, R.S.A., and is in the possession of the R.C.C.C. As will be seen from the outline "key" (which appeared in the Royal Club "Annual" for 1898–99), the artist was enabled to paint the portraits of many men famous in various walks of life.

In 1851–52 the R.C.C.C. constructed a grand curling-pond at Carsebreck, about ten miles north of Stirling, and on this pond the Grand Match has taken place every year that ice permitted. Since the year 1908, however, the curlers have been independent of John Frost, owing to the introduction of indoor rinks with ice artificially produced; so that when the Grand Match has been impossible in the open, it has been held at some indoor ice rink.

In 1898 (the Diamond Jubilee of the Club), a companion picture to that by Lees—which had been painted fifty years before—was painted by C. Martin Hardie, R.S.A. (Plate VII.). The artist was commissioned by Sir

KEY TO MARTIN HARDIE'S PICTURE OF GRAND MATCH

(By kind permission of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club)

1. James Small, Strathardle.
2. Marquis of Breadalbane, Breadalbane, Aberfeldy.
3. Rev. John Kerr, Chaplain R.C.C.C., Dirleton.
4. W. M'Clymont, Manchester.
5. David Williamson, Montreal (Canadian Branch).
6. John Pearson, Sheffield.
7. Sir Allan Mackenzie, Bart., Ballater.
8. R. Cathcart, Abdie.
9. Charles Lodder, Largs.
10. James Law, Waverley.
11. J. W. Stewart, East Kilpatrick.
12. Charles Christie, Dunkeld.
13. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Clackmannan and Kennet.
14. Hugh Gilmour, Waverley.
15. A. Johnston Douglas, Ruthwell.
16. The Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, Whittingehame.
17. T. D. Thomson, Dirleton.
18. W. Ainslie, Pitfour.
19. George Ure, Bonnybridge.
20. Rev. Dr. Gillespie, Dalton St. Bridget's.
21. Robert Somerville, St. Boswells.
22. Colonel Home Drummond, Blairdrummond.
23. Earl of Kintore, Inglismaldie.
24. Hon. Charles M. Ramsay, Brechin Castle.
25. Sir R. J. Waldie Griffith, Bart., Kelso.
26. Colonel Menzies, North Woodside.
27. James Telford, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
28. Lord Provost Mitchell Thomson, Craiglockhart.
29. James Riddell, Paisley Boreas.
30. J. Scott Davidson, Colinsburgh.
31. Earl of Elgin, Broomhall.
32. Wm. Logan, Lochwinnoch Garthland.
33. George Scott, Bothwell.
34. W. W. Chapman, New Monkland.
35. Earl of Mansfield, Sconeland Perth.
36. R. Gordon, Bathgate.
37. And. Rankin, New Monkland.
38. Major Robertson-Aikman, Hamilton.
39. Alexander Dun, Buchlyvie.
40. Jas. S. Rogers, Strathmartine.
41. Provost Roberts, Selkirk.
42. W. S. Fergusson, Scone and Perth.
43. Duke of Buccleuch, Eskdale.
44. J. J. Moubray, Naemoor.
45. Marquis of Tweeddale, Yester.
46. R. S. Anderson, Peebles.
47. Earl of Hopetoun, Hopetoun.
48. Laurence Cunningham, Currie.
49. Sir Robert Menzies, Bart., Weem.
50. Alex. Fairley, Holyrood.
51. Sir J. H. Gibson-Craig, Bart., Currie, Waverley Keirhill.
52. John Craig, Blantyre.
53. A. Davidson Smith, Secretary, R.C.C.C.
54. James Bowie, Preston.
55. Wm. I'Anson, Malton.
56. R. Knox, Alloa.
57. W. Keith Murray, Ochtertyre.
58. Mrs. Maxwell Durham, Boghead Ladies.
59. Peter Shaw, Merchiston.
60. Lady Gilmour, Lundin and Montrave.
61. R. S. Murray, Biggar.

PLATE VII.

THE GRAND MATCH. (*See p.* 43.) (THE DIAMOND JUBILEE PICTURE.)

(From a Photograph of the original Picture by C. Martin Hardie, R.S.A., by permission of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.)

James H. Gibson-Graig of Riccarton, Bart., who afterwards presented the picture to the Royal Club. The players comprised a number of representative curlers. Indeed, an examination of the "key" will reveal a perfect galaxy of noted men. To use the words of the "Annual" for 1899–1900: "The present Government is strongly represented by the First Lord of the Treasury, the Secretary for Scotland, the Lord Chamberlain, and a Lord-in-Waiting; the last one by the Lord High Treasurer and First Commissioner of Works. Colonial Government is represented by a Viceroy of India and Governors of Victoria and South Australia; Municipal Government by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh and the Provost of Selkirk; County Government by the Lord Lieutenant of Dumfriesshire and the Conveners of Midlothian, Perthshire, and Fife; the Church by three out of the four Lord High Commissioners since 1888, by the Chaplain, and by the minister of Mouswald; the Press by a proprietor of the leading newspaper in Scotland; Agriculture by two presidents, nine vice-presidents, the treasurer, and several directors of the Highland and Agricultural Society. As representatives of other sports we have the Master of the Renfrewshire Hounds and Captains of the Royal and Ancient and Prestwick Golf Clubs, while Sir R. Waldie Griffith and Mr. I'Anson represent the Turf. Those who have held or still hold commissions in the Army, Militia, or Volunteers, and members of County Councils, Parish Councils, School Boards, etc., are too numerous to mention. The Committee consider they may be congratulated on the success of the selection, and anticipate that the picture and its engravings will be of interest not merely to curlers but to all Scotsmen."

The following description of the picture appears in the same "Annual": "The scene is laid at Carsebreck, with the snow-clad hills in the background. The Grand Match is in full swing, and two rinks form the foreground. In the one to the right, Lord Mansfield (Scone and Perth) is directing his player in his favourite attitude, with his opposing skip, Sir Richard Waldie Griffith (Kelso), standing behind him. On the right of the rink are the Duke of Buccleuch and Sir Robert Menzies. Beside them are Sir James Gibson-Craig, Mr. I'Anson, the Secretary, and Mr. Shaw. . . . On the left of the rink stand the Marquis of Tweeddale, Lord Hopetoun, Lord Elgin, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Colonel Menzies, Major Robertson Aikman, and other noted curlers. In the rink to the left, Lord Balfour of Burleigh (Clackmannan and Kennet) is in the act of delivering his stone, while his veteran opponent, Mr. Hugh Gilmour (Waverley) is preparing to play. Mr. Robert Knox (Alloa) is acting as third man to his lordship, while Mr. Fairley (Holyrood) is ready to perform the same office for his fellow-townsman. On the right are Lord Kintore and the Hon. Charles Ramsay, and on the left Sir Allan Mackenzie, Colonel Home Drummond, the Rev. Dr. Gillespie, and others. Farther to the left the Marquis of Breadalbane is getting a light from the Chaplain, and on the farthest left Mr. Small (Strathardle) is striding up his rink after playing his last stone."

In connection with the Grand Match certain trophies are awarded by the Royal Club. A challenge trophy is given to the club on the winning side having the highest average majority of shots per rink; and to the rink of the winning club which has the greatest majority of shots four

gold badges are awarded. In addition a second trophy is awarded to the club on either side (other than the one which has gained the trophy and badges) having the greatest net majority of shots, and to the rink of the winning club which has the greatest majority of shots four gold badges are awarded.

It should be mentioned that the rinks of the Grand Match are arranged by ballot; and the surplus rinks, or clubs which have not been successful in the ballot for places in the Grand Match proper, are drawn against each other, and form a separate match, called the "President and President-Elect Match."

The following table gives the results of all the Grand Matches since their institution:—

NORTH *v.* SOUTH OF FORTH

Date.	Where Played.	Rinks in Matches.	North Score.	South Score.	Majority for North.	Majority for South.
1847, Jan. 15	Penicuick	12	216	238	...	22
1848, Jan. 25	Linlithgow	35	626	732	...	106
1853, Feb. 15	Carsebreck	176	2488	2155	333	...
1855, Jan. 30	,,	176	3049	3501	...	452
1860, Feb. 3	,,	113	1600	1742	...	142
1861, Dec. 31	,,	136	1898	2255	...	357
1867, Jan. 15	,,	133	1789	1885	...	96
1871, Jan. 26	,,	56	913	894	19	...
1873, Feb. 12	,,	71	1161	1279	...	118
1874, Dec. 24	,,	90	1196	1510	...	314
1880, Jan. 23	,,	165	2830	2802	28	
1880, Dec. 30	,,	196	3226	3456	...	230
1882, Dec. 15	,,	209	2392	2665	...	273
1886, Jan. 12	,,	134	1670	2008	...	338
1886, Dec. 21	,,	135	2071	2496	...	425
1892, Dec. 9	,,	150	1944	2419	...	475
1895, Jan. 8	,,	174	2466	2739	...	273
1897, Jan. 26	,,	247	3242	4148	...	906

NORTH *v.* SOUTH OF FORTH—*continued*

Date.	Where Played.	Rinks in Matches.	North Score.	South Score.	Majority for North.	Majority for South.
1899, Jan. 31	Carsebreck	226	3113	3883	...	770
1900, Feb. 9	,,	221	3047	3856	...	809
1902, Feb. 11	,,	240	3570	4208	...	638
1903, Jan. 16	,,	286	4145	5039	...	894
1908, April 6–29	Glasgow Ice Rink	219	3328	3728	...	400
1909, Mch. 15 to April 9	,,	209	2930	3477	...	547
1909, Nov. 24	Carsebreck	318	4553	5501	...	948
1911, Mch. 7 to April 12	Glasgow Ice Rink	197	2948	3438	...	490
1912, Feb. 2	Carsebreck	208	3038	3477	...	439
1913, Feb. 28 to April 22	Edinburgh Ice Rink, Haymarket	220	2820	3938	...	1118
1914,	Edinburgh and Glasgow Ice Rinks	237	3114	4160	...	1046

NORTH *v.* SOUTH OF CLYDE

1850, Jan. 11	Lochwinnoch	127	2295	2062	233	...
1864, Jan. 8	,,	118	1328	1680	...	352
1878, Dec. 13	,,	67	993	1098	...	105

A careful scrutiny and analysis of these figures will be well repaid. The outstanding feature is the remarkable and continued success of the South. Various reasons have from time to time been ascribed for their superiority over their opponents. Some years ago, for instance, it was believed that the defeats of the North should be put down to the fact that Carsebreck was "too accessible to the North," and that instead of select players only being sent to the field, all and sundry were in the habit of going.

Other hypotheses of varying degrees of feasibility have been put forward. Some player, evidently of a mathematical turn of mind, discovered that South of the Forth the number of curlers was enormously greater than that on the North, and therefore there were far more available players to select from. Hence the South team was bound to be better than the North: hence the defeat of the latter. Q.E.D.

Another philosopher had a very simple explanation: in the South of Scotland, with their many shallow curling-ponds, on which the game could be played after a night or two's frost, curlers had far more practice than they had in the North—with the natural and inevitable result.

The most probable explanation is the simplest: that in the South the players have been accustomed to play a more scientific game (what with their Fenwick or Kilmarnock "twist" and other tricks of the trade), which is bound to tell its tale.

It is interesting to note that, since the Grand Matches have come to be held occasionally at the indoor ice rinks, we still find the same overwhelming majorities in favour of the South.

The International Bonspiel

In 1893, some English curlers, under the leadership of Mr. I'Anson, a well-known trainer, challenged their Scottish friends to try conclusions at the roarin' game. Two years afterwards the first International contest took place; and now it may be looked upon as an annual event. It cannot truly be said that this bonspiel is of much importance, however, for it is "International" in name only, a large proportion of the "English" team always being Scotsmen. The year 1913 is an important

one in the history of the kindred game of Bowls, for then, for the first time, England was, according to a decree of the English Bowling Association, represented in the "Internationals" by Englishmen. It is probably the hope of most curlers that before long the R.C.C.C. will also decree that England shall play her own sons in the International Bonspiel. She is well on the way to being able to do so, if she has not arrived there already. As far back as 1865, in the preface to the "Annual" of that year, there was expressed the pious hope that ere long there might be a Grand Match between the clubs of the North and South sides of the Border. The hope has been realised, for the "Grand Match" then anticipated is the present "International."

The results of these matches since their inception may be expressed in tabular form :—

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

Date.	Where Played.	Rinks.	English Score.	Scottish Score.	Majority for Scotland.	Majority for England.
1895, Jan. 29 .	Talkin Tarn	69	847	1102	255	...
1902, Feb. 14 .	Lochmaben	74	986	1575	589	...
1907, Feb. 8 .	,,	52	790	1040	250	...
1908, April 30 and May 1	Glasgow Ice Rink	16	229	274	45	...
1909, April 9 and 10	,,	13	229	189	...	40
1910, March 30–April 1	,,	17	275	223	...	52
1912, Feb. 8 .	Craigielands	24	358	493	135	...
1913, Feb. 20 and 21	Manchester Ice Rink	24	342	379	37	...
1914, Feb. 18 and 19	Haymarket Ice Rink, Edinburgh	24	351	349	...	2

Medal Competitions

Three classes of medals are awarded by the Royal Club for competition to local clubs, namely, (*a*) Provincial Medals, (*b*) District Medals, (*c*) Local Medals. These competitions are of a purely local character. The Local Medal Competition is another name for the Point Game. It is a game whose demise would probably break the hearts of very few curlers; and yet, from a theoretical point of view, it is of considerable scientific interest—sufficient, in fact, to warrant its having a special chapter to itself when we come to the practice of the game.

In 1914 the Council of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club decided, with regard to the question whether Curling clubs are bound to fulfil their match fixtures by playing on an artificial ice rink, that only by mutual arrangement between the opposing clubs can a match be played on an ice rink.

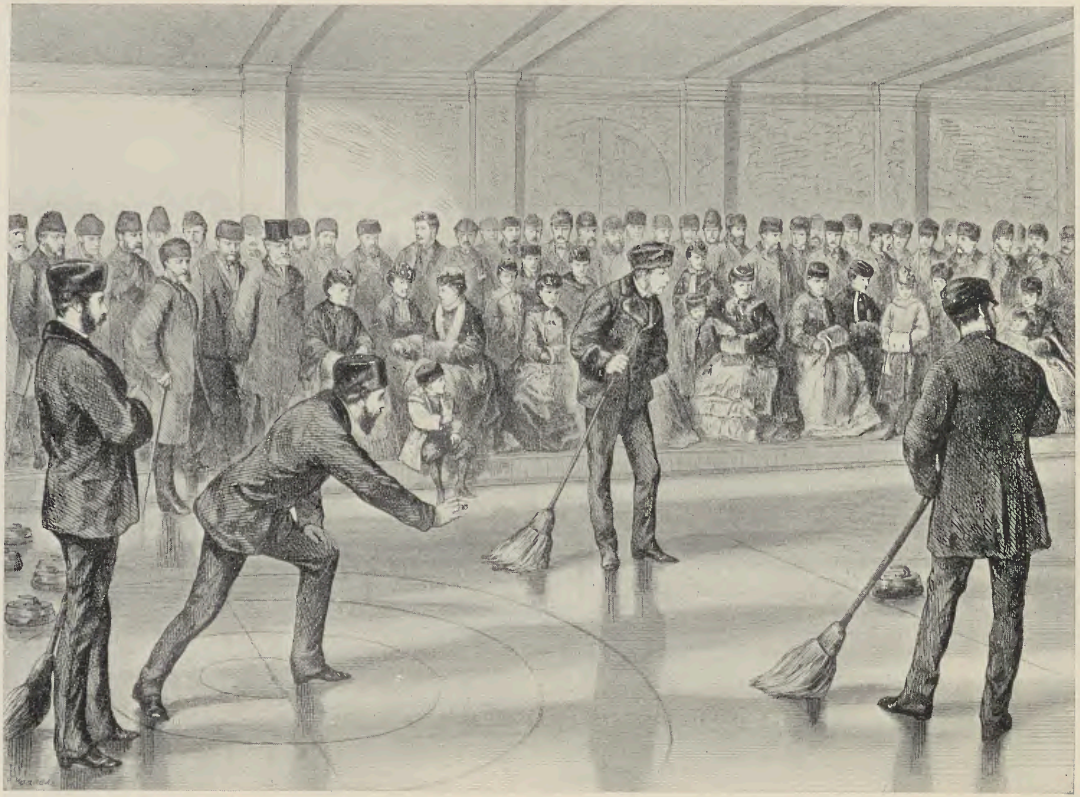
CHAPTER IV

TRANSATLANTIC CURLING

Curling was, of course, taken to the other side of the Atlantic by the ubiquitous Scot. Over a hundred years ago the stream of Scottish emigrants to Canada began to flow—and it is still flowing. And long ago it was suggested—in a jocular spirit, doubtless—that the cause of this emigration by Scots to this splendid country was the magnificent opportunity for Curling that it presented.

It will always be a mystery why, in a country evidently intended by Providence for Curling chiefly, some sort of primitive ice-game of the nature of Curling was not invented and played, before the arrival of the Scots, by the aboriginal inhabitants, the Red Indians. But in all probability these warriors preferred scalps to medals, and tomahawks to channel-stanes; and accordingly, we find no trace in Canada of ancient Curling.

Quebec claims the honour of being the first place where the game found a footing, and this was about the beginning of the nineteenth century. To Montreal falls another honour—that of being the place where, in 1807, the first Canadian Curling club was instituted. It was formed, as usual, by Scots, and by them the



PRINCE ARTHUR OPENING THE CALEDONIA CURLING RINK AT MONTREAL. (*See p.* 55.)

(Reproduced from "The Graphic" by permission of the Proprietors.)

membership was limited to twenty. They drew up, as was right and proper, various rules, and some of these were rather curious. How would this one suit a present-day club?—"The losing party of the day shall pay for a bowl of whisky toddy, to be placed in the middle of the table, for those who may chuse it." It is abundantly evident from this rule that the Scottish colonists had imported something else into Canada besides their curling-stones. Had the Red Indians only known of it, they might have tarried a little longer, instead of clearing out on the advent of the curlers, whose ranks they might have enrolled themselves amongst, and whom they might have joined in "chusing" some of the contents of the "bowl."

It is interesting to note that the Montreal club, almost from its inception, curled with iron "stones"—the forerunners of the modern "stones" used in Canada. The irons they used (for want of Ailsas, Crawfordjohns, and so forth) were of the tea-kettle variety, roughly made and heavy, varying in weight from 46 lb. to 65 lb.

The first Curling club in Quebec City was instituted in 1821. Fourteen years afterwards, in 1835, it played its first match against Montreal at Three Rivers, and had the satisfaction of being the victor. History does not record what kind of curling-stones were used in this match, but we can guess the nature of some of them at least, for in Macnair's *Channel-stane* we read that "in 1829 two hundred pair of 'Ailsa Craigs' were shipped to Canada for the use of the clubs out there."

The sequel to this match was, of course, a dinner—for which the losers, the Montrealers, had to pay. And, when the time of reckoning came, these gentlemen

objected to the size of the wine bill; and to prove that they had been charged too much, one of them produced from his pocket the cork of every bottle that had been emptied, when it was found that the number of corks and bottles did not correspond. But a little investigation revealed the fact that several bottles had been consumed out of sight of the cork-keeper, and the bill was paid without more ado. All these facts were recorded by a notable Canadian curler of the time, Colonel Dyde, who was for some years President of the Canadian branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.

When the Royal Club was instituted in 1838, the Quebec and Montreal clubs soon became associated with it, and so did the following clubs after they were formed: Montreal Thistle Club (1842), Caledonia Club (Montreal) (1850), Kingston (1859), Ottawa (1862), Belleville (1867), Arnprior (1868). Since then many new clubs have appeared from time to time, and by the year 1914 forty-four clubs belonged to the Canadian branch of the Royal Club.

The popularity of Curling in Canada has ever been fostered by the patronage of successive Governors-General from about the year 1840, the time of His Excellency Sir George Arthur. Amongst these have been several keen curlers, and the list has included such notable names as Lord Elgin, Lord Elphinstone, Lord Dufferin, Earl of Aberdeen, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Lord Minto, the Marquis of Lorne (afterwards Duke of Argyll), Earl Grey, and the Duke of Connaught. The last named is also the present Patron of the Ontario Curling Association. It is pleasant to recall the fact that His Royal Highness (then Prince Arthur) began

his Curling career in Canada as long ago as 1870; when, during a visit to that country, he opened the Curling rink of the Montreal Caledonia Curling Club, as shown in Plate VIII.

Lord Dufferin also took so much personal interest in Curling that he founded a vice-regal club (which exists to this day) and instituted a Governor-General's prize. His successor, the Marquis of Lorne, the first year after his arrival, played for the vice-regal club in a match and helped to win it.

A few years after Curling had taken root in Canada, the game spread to the United States. There the first club was founded at Orchard Lake, Michigan, about 1830, by eight Scotsmen, who used neither iron "stones" nor "Ailsa Craigs," but blocks of wood. By 1847 the game had found its way to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Since then many other clubs have made their appearance throughout the States; and in 1867 most of the existing clubs formed themselves into the Grand National Curling Club of America. This and the North-West Curling Association of the United States comprise between them practically all the Curling clubs in the Union. The former body has, unfortunately, fallen on evil days. The Secretary, Mr. Francis Dykes (under date 17th October, 1913) wrote to me as follows: "We have not issued our 'Annual' since 1905. . . . The Curling conditions have not been very good here for the last few years, although we manage to play our fixtures, which comprise a North *v.* South Match, Mitchell and Gordon Medal Matches, and the Gordon International Match between the U.S.A. and Canada."

This last-mentioned match was first played in January,

1865, at Black Rock Harbour (Buffalo), the curlers numbering over 200. The contest lasted from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., "with only a brief intermission for lunch," as the local paper put it; and the Canadians were "heavily victorious." The players afterwards returned to the city and dined together. Dinner being over, an eloquent address (as reported in the *Buffalo Express* of the following day) was delivered by the Chairman, Mr. James S. Lyon, whose "opening" was as follows:—

"Curlers: Gentlemen, I beg to announce to you that the 'hurly-burly's done, the battle has been fought and won.' To the victors we award the spoils—a goodly pile of war-worn besoms. They are yours. From the fragments that remain make for yourselves crowns of victory, and transmit them to your children as a sacred legacy. Teach your children to teach the generation following them that their sires won them on the Bannockburn of Curlingdom, on 5th January, 1865, and that the battle was fought on the dividing waters between the United States of America, during the Presidency of Abraham Lincoln, and the Province of Canada, in the twenty-ninth year of the reign of the glorious matron Queen Victoria. Curlers, the transactions of this day, in which you have been actors, are now a page of history. It will be read throughout the length and breadth of this continent, in Europe, and the islands afar."

Truly it was a momentous day, and well might the *Buffalo Express* conclude its report in this strain: "This match . . . evidences that the watery line which separates us from our Canadian neighbours is bridged over, even in the cold winter, by reciprocal friendship, and at all times will serve as the medium for easy

interchange of open-handed hospitality and vigorous rivalry in all sports and pursuits common to nationalities having the same origin, and really, in interest and feeling, the same objects."

The present position of Curling in Canada is put very succinctly in a letter from Mr. W. E. Findlay, Secretary of the Canadian branch of the R.C.C.C., under the date of 11th November, 1913. Mr. Findlay says, *inter alia*: "Curling is played altogether in covered rinks, the buildings having been erected for the purpose. The season starts about 15th December and ends about 15th March, with perhaps in all about ten days' interruption on account of 'thaws.' These 'thaws,' of course, do not affect the ice in our rinks (the building offering some protection), as would be the case with outside ice. Stones are used in the Maritime provinces (Nova Scotia and New Brunswick), Central and Western Ontaria, and in the Western Prairie provinces. In Quebec and Eastern Ontaria we use irons, which run in weight from 58 lb. to 61 lb. each. The Maritime branch is affiliated with the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, or rather is a branch of the parent club, and has jurisdiction over Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. What is known as the Canadian branch is also part of the parent club, and its jurisdiction extends over Quebec Province and Eastern Ontario—all iron-playing clubs. In the Canadian branch there are thirty-nine clubs and nine ladies' clubs. The ladies use a smaller iron weighing about 35 lb. The Ontario Curling Association (stone-playing) controls Central and Western Ontario. The Manitoba Curling Association controls the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta,

as well as some of the clubs in the north-west parts of the United States—all stone-playing clubs. The 'hack' is used exclusively in all Canada. The number of sheets of ice in each rink varies from two to six, according to the membership of each club."

Between Canadian curlers and those of the Old Country there has always existed the warmest friendship, and this has been cemented and fostered in many ways. In 1898, at the annual meeting of the Royal Club, one of the principal items of business was the presentation of a trophy to the Canadian branch for annual competition among its clubs. The trophy, which took the shape of a beautiful silver cup, was presented, on behalf of the Royal Club, by the late Sir James Gibson-Craig to Mr. A. Williamson, ex-President of the Montreal Club, as representing the Canadian branch. Sir James, in making the presentation, said that he felt that this was an unprecedented event in the history of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, and that the time could not be a more appropriate one. Last year they had celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty; and one of the great events of that celebration was the display of the Colonial Forces, and the strengthening of the bonds between the Mother Country and the Colonies. This year (1898) was the Diamond Jubilee of the Royal Club; it had attained the age of sixty years, and it was going to commemorate it by further strengthening the bonds of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club and her Colonial curlers. It wished this testimonial to be a recognition of the way in which they had maintained the Scottish traits and character, and of the spirit with which they had kept up the national game; this cup

would, it was hoped, be a new bond of affection—a silver link in the chain that bound Canada to the Old Country—a link beside which the proposed penny post sank into insignificance.

This trophy, which is made of sterling silver, is 24 inches in height and weighs 85 ounces, and bears the following inscription: "Royal Caledonian Curling Club: presented to the Canadian branch in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, 1897."

Mr. Williamson, in acknowledging the gift, gave utterance to some momentous words—words which were destined to be the forerunner of a series of important events in the history of Curling. Towards the end of his speech he said: "And now I have a very pleasing duty to perform, and that is to tender to you an invitation from the Canadian branch of this Club to visit Canada. . . . If any of you feel inclined to come out and play one rink, or two or four rinks, or as many as you please, you will be heartily welcome. We have not to sit waiting, watching, and praying for ice, as you have to do here sometimes, but from the middle of December till March we have plenty of it. . . . We can give you the finest ice you ever played on, comfortable rooms to sit in, where you may watch the game, not in a temperature of 10° or 20° below zero, but in 70° Fahrenheit. We will give you a curlers' welcome; and one more thing I can assure you of, 'foemen worthy of your steel,' no matter whom you send."

This was not the first time that curlers in the Mother Country had been invited to visit their Transatlantic brethren. For five-and-twenty years invitations had been

repeated and pressing. And at last, in 1903, there took place the first visit of a team of Scottish curlers, under the auspices of the Royal Club, to the clubs of Canada and the United States.

The team that went out consisted of twenty-four players, and was under the captaincy of the Rev. John Kerr; and they curled from the beginning of the year to the middle of February, 1903. The principal places visited were Halifax, St. John, Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Chicago, and New York. Everywhere the tourists received a welcome which will never fade from their memory. With regard to the games played, it may be said that, although severely handicapped in many ways (having to play under conditions to which they were totally unaccustomed, and against the most scientific curlers they had ever seen), the Scots came through the ordeal with considerable credit; for out of the 99 games which they played they won 47, lost 49, and tied in 3. Of these, 44 per cent. were won in Canada, and 59 per cent. in the States.

In 1908 the Royal Club invited the Canadian branch to send a team to the Homeland. Accordingly, there ensued the first Canadian curlers' tour in Scotland, in January and February, 1909. Their visit was a notable one. The team consisted of thirty-seven players, and their captain was the late Hon. D. C. Fraser, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia. They arrived at Liverpool on 15th January, and on the 20th of that month an event took place which made it the red-letter day of the tour. This was a great reception-banquet in honour of the Canadians in the Music Hall, Edinburgh. The company numbered no fewer than five hundred, and the chair was

THE STRATHCONA CUP. (*See p.* 62.)

(*From a Photograph taken by permission of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.*)

occupied by the late Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, Lord High Commissioner of Canada. His lordship, in proposing the toast of the evening, "Our guests," made a speech worthy of the occasion, which was, as he said, the first time in the history of Curling that Scottish curlers had an opportunity of meeting in Scotland and trying conclusions with Canadian exponents of the great game; and, as his lordship was a curler himself, he spoke with authority. "Curling," said he, "is more than a game, it is an engrossing pursuit. But it is more than all that. It is a great educative and social influence. We know how in these days class interests and prejudices are apt to be excited, and how differences and misunderstandings and even ill-feeling are apt to arise between different classes of the community. All these disappear on the ice, where employer and workman, landlord and tenant, capitalist and old-age pensioner, meet on equal terms, and he is most honoured who draws the finest shot. It is a stimulating and delightful thing to see the cordiality and good feeling that pervade all classes on the ice, and I am sure I am not over-stating the case when I say that the roaring game has done more to cement all classes of society than much of the well-known legislation which has been promoted with that object. . . . I have referred to the educative influence of Curling. Perhaps it would have been better if I had referred to its influence on the development of character. Consider for a moment the qualities that go to make a good curler. He must be cautious but bold, calculating but adventurous, quick to turn the mistakes of his opponents to the advantage of his own side, and far-seeing, so as to judge what may be open to his opponents after his own shots are played.

He must play for his team and not for his own hand; and while quick to take all proper advantage, he must never take a mean advantage. The best curler is the man who 'plays the game,' and the qualities which make a man 'play the game' on the ice make him 'play the game' all through life. The cowardly man, the mean-spirited man, the unfair, selfish man, can never be a good curler."

It was Lord Strathcona's year of office as President of the Royal Club, and the curlers and others assembled at the memorable banquet must have been impressed with some personal reminiscences which he imparted to them. He informed them that he was an old curler in more senses than one, but he was afraid he could not mention the year when he first tried his hand. He was interested to know that the Royal Club dated back as far as 1838, the first year he went to Canada; and he might say that even before it was in existence he had had many a game at Curling.

"Presented by Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal to the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, to commemorate his Presidency of the Club, and of the first visit of a Canadian Curling team to Scotland, January 1909." Such was the inscription on a magnificent cup given by his lordship to be competed for *in perpetuum* by Canada and the Old Country. In Plate IX. is shown one side of the cup, on which can be seen a representation of Harvey's famous picture. Every time the cup is won, the name of the winning side is inscribed on one of its panels.

The result of the first Canadian curlers' tour in Scotland was their winning the trophy, and this, too, most handsomely; for they smote their adversaries hip and

thigh. The following table gives the results of the matches played:—

Canadians' Opponents.	No. of Rinks.	Canadians.	
		Won by Shots.	Lost by Shots.
Scottish Ice Rink Club	24	...	8
Scoto-Canadian Team	6	67	...
Midlothian Province	12	64	...
Glasgow Province	12	67	...
All Scotland. 1st Test Match	6	42	...
West Lothian Province	12	44	...
East Lothian Province	12	64	...
All Scotland. 2nd Test Match	6	29	...
Stirlingshire and Forth and Endrick Provinces	12	56	...
Upper Strathearn Province	6	33	...
Scottish Central Province	6	...	2
Dundee Province	6	46	...
All Scotland. 3rd Test Match	6	30	...
Peebles Province	6	5	...
Biggar Province	6	...	6
Lanarkshire Province	12	47	...
Loch Leven Province	6	52	...
Inverness Province	6	25	...
North-Eastern Province	12	18	...
Balmoral, Ballater, and Braemar	6	9	...
Galloway Province	6	3	...
Dumfries Province	6	47	...
English Province	6	31	...
Twelfth Province	12	44	...
Border Province	12	33	...
Tenth Province	12	91	...
Grand totals: Matches won, 23		Shots up	947
do. lost, 3		do. down	16
Majority of shots scored by Canadians			931

The "Scoto-Canadian Team," which played the second match in the foregoing list, included, with a few excep-

tions, the Scots curlers whose visit to Canada in 1902 had been the means of bringing about the visit of the Canadians to Scotland.

It is noteworthy that, of all the matches in the list, only those against Inverness Province, North-Eastern Province, and at Balmoral, were played on natural ice in the open; all the others were played on artificial ice at the Crossmyloof Rink, Glasgow.

As regards the rules regulating the competition for the Strathcona trophy, the Royal Club decided that it should be played for in 1909 between the visiting Canadian curlers and a representative Scottish team; and that in future years it should be played for on the occasion of such international visits as might be arranged by the Royal Club, the trophy to be held by the winner and to be returned, not later than 1st December following, to the custody of the Royal Club. The three "test" matches in the list were those which decided who were to be the custodians of the trophy until the appointed day. The scores in these three matches were as follow :—

	Canadians.	Scots.
First match	112	70
Second match . . .	106	77
Third match	103	73
Total	321	220

Canadian majority, 101

The trophy accordingly went to Canada in 1909; and while it remained in the keeping of its winners, it was transferred for exhibition from one to the other of the four Canadian branches that had sent rinks, namely, the

Canadian branch, the Ontario branch, the Manitoba branch, and the Nova Scotia branch.

The tour was in every respect a grand success, and the Canadian curlers who took part in it will never forget it. When, in future years, other teams come over from Canada, they may rest assured that their welcome will be as hearty as that given to their brethren of the broom in 1909.

> For the wee drap bluid betwixt us,
> Lo ! the roarin' bonspiel's fixed us,
> And the cup o' frien'ship's mixed us
> In the brugh and up the glen ;
> And a curler's grip we gie ye,
> Blithe's the Mitherland to see ye ;
> Blessing, honour, guid be wi' ye !
> Welcome ! welcome ower again.

Such were the concluding words of a beautiful and inspiriting poem of welcome—"Ceàd Mìle Fàilte"—addressed to the Canadians by the Rev. A. Gordon Mitchell, D.D., Chaplain to the Strathendrick Curling Club. May such sentiments aye continue !

Cordial relations between curlers in the Mother Country and their fellow-curlers in the Dominion were further intensified by a visit of a second team sent out in 1912 under the auspices of the Royal Club, and the captaincy of Col. T. S. G. H. Robertson-Aikman, 4th Batt., H.L.I. This team played several matches in the States as well as in Canada, and everywhere it was received with unbounded hospitality. The Scots, although playing under conditions quite different from those to which they were accustomed at home, made a by no means inglorious display ; for, although they lost the "test" matches,

they succeeded in winning a creditable proportion of all the matches played. The total number of matches played in Canada and the United States of America was 70—these do not include a few ladies' matches that were played—and of these the Scots won 32, lost 36, and drew 2.

There were four "test" matches to decide to which side of the Atlantic the Strathcona Cup should go on this occasion. And again, as in 1909, the Canadians showed their superiority, as was perhaps to be expected on their own "midden." The results of the "tests" were as follow:—

HALIFAX, 3rd January, 1912

Scots Curlers,	84;	Nova Scotia,	100

MONTREAL, 13th January, 1912

Scots Curlers,	82;	Quebec Province,	129

TORONTO, 24th January, 1912

Scots Curlers,	65;	Ontario,	126

WINNIPEG, 13th February, 1912

Scots Curlers,	81;	Manitoba,	112
	312		467

Majority for Canada, 155

So the Cup had another sojourn in the Dominion.

At the annual meeting of the Representative Committee of the Royal Club in 1913 it was agreed to invite the Canadian curlers to pay a visit to Great Britain for a bonspiel and match for the Strathcona Cup in the winter of 1914–15.

It is morally certain that these contests between Canada and the Motherland will go on in future years,

and will be fought in a like spirit to that in which they have been conducted in the past. Moreover, apart from Grand Matches, many curlers will go year by year, on holiday or on business bent, from the Old to the New World, and *vice versa*. To British curlers in Canada during the Curling season, I would commend the following short extract from the "Annual" of the Ontario Curling Association for 1913, which has been kindly sent to me by the Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. G. S. Pearcy: "Location of City Curling Clubs.—Curlers visiting Toronto will be welcomed at all the city Curling clubs. The Toronto Curling Club occupies the Victoria Rink, Huron Street; the Granite Curling Club occupies the Granite Rink, Church Street; the Queen City Curling Club occupies their own rink, corner of Church and Hayden Streets; the Lakeview Club Rink is on Harrison Street; the Parkdale Rink is on Cowan Avenue; and the High Park Curling Club is at 138 Indian Road."

And, when any private individuals or teams of curlers think of packing up their curling-stones and crossing the Atlantic, any anxiety of mind which they may have with regard to the transport of their luggage will be allayed if they recall the words of "Mr. Dooley." For that great philosopher, when writing on "The Tariff" in the *Westminster Gazette*, said: "Ye'd think th' way such as ye talk that ivrything is taxed. It ain't so. . . . Look at the free list, if ye don't believe it. Practically ivrything nicissry to existence comes in free. What, f'r example, says ye? I'll look. Here it is. Curling-stones. There, I told ye. Curling-stones are free. . . . No more will ladies comin' into this counthry have to conceal curling-stones in their stockin's to avoid the iniquitous customs."

CHAPTER V

CURLING IN SWITZERLAND

SWITZERLAND, as well as Canada, has been called "The Curlers' Paradise," and that is just what it is—to the Elect who can afford to pay to pass through the portals and to stay for awhile inside. One has only to look at almost any pictures of Swiss Curling to realise that this is indeed a glorious country. Here, during the Curling season, is none of that hope deferred which maketh the heart sick. Here there is no anxiety about to-morrow's game, no fear of lack of frost; for the sun generally shines and the skies are always—or, at any rate, nearly always — blue. And accordingly, although the thermometer may be considerably below the freezing-point, the curlers may be seen daily at the game in their shirt-sleeves, while round the rinks are many fair spectators armed with sunshades and dressed in a fashion such as not at all to suggest that it is the depth of winter.

Besides Curling there are many other splendid winter sports in Switzerland, such as skating, tobogganing, skiing, hockey, sleighing, golf, and shooting. And, if these are not sufficiently alluring to the traveller in search of pleasure, there are the additional attractions of concerts, dances, masked balls, theatricals and what not.

The game was, of course, introduced into the country by Scotsmen. It was started first in the Engadine in the early 'eighties, but for several years afterwards it did not become popular. At Wengen, for example, which has for some time been well known to summer visitors, the hotels were, until 1911, closed from October to June! But within recent years winter sports in general, and Curling in particular, have spread all over the Alps. And for the accommodation of the sportsmen luxurious hotels have sprung up everywhere, and every year adds to their number. Many of these take the place of the club-house, being situated near the Curling rink. In short, the curler's path has been made smooth with a vengeance—so much so that a writer profanely applied to those who play the game here the epithet of "spoon-fed" curlers.

Do you want to go a-curling? If so, you have your choice of the following places, each one better than the others:—Adelboden, Andermatt, Arosa, Campfer, Celerina, Chamonix, Château-d'Œx, Diablerets, Davos, Engelberg, Grindelwald, Kandersteg, Klosters, Lenzerheide, Leukerbad, Montana, Morgins-les-Bains, Mürren, Samaden, St. Beatenberg, St. Cergues, St. Moritz, Villars-sur-Ollon, and Wengen.

At about a dozen of these places are clubs associated to the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, and some of these have a large membership. During the season 1913–14, for instance, the St. Moritz Curling Club had 141 "regular" members, Davos had 123, and Grindelwald had 77.

Opinions vary as to which is the best of all these places (they are all the best in reality) for winter sports. It is a matter of individual taste. A Swiss newspaper said not

long ago that the Engadine in general, and St. Moritz in particular, was "probably the most favoured spot in the world for the development of the grand old sport of Curling." On the other hand, an enthusiastic admirer of Klosters once gave utterance to the following judicial pronouncement in the *Public Schools Alpine Sports Club Year-Book*: "If you want to skate, go to Davos; if you want to ski, go to Montana; if you want to toboggan, go to St. Moritz; if you want to curl, go to Kandersteg; but if you want to vary your amusements and enjoy all four under almost perfect conditions, take my advice and go to Klosters." It just amounts to this, that you pay your money and you take your choice. And it would be well to remember that paying your money will sometimes be of little avail, for the winter visitors to Switzerland now flock thither in such numbers that, if you have not "booked in advance," you will find yourself left out in the cold (in more senses than one). And every year the inrush of visitors increases. "People who have leisure time in the winter," wrote a London daily of 14th October, 1913, "and prefer to spend it at Continental resorts, where various kinds of invigorating outdoor sports are provided amid snow-capped mountain scenery, are busy booking their quarters. Bookings commenced as early as June on the part of those who know from experience that the early applicant gets the best accommodation; and as the season promises to be a record, the importance of this precaution is being daily emphasised. The rush to Switzerland will probably commence in November, as most of the principal hotels will open their winter season about the end of the month." This prediction was amply fulfilled. *Verb. sap.*—if you

intend to go curling in Switzerland, "take time by the forelock."

In some of the Swiss Curling clubs there are members of many nationalities, showing that the seed sown there by the pioneer Scots has sprung up and borne good fruit. In the St. Moritz Club, established in this most cosmopolitan of places, the members have included Scots, English, Irish, Americans, Germans, Austrians, Russians, Italians, Swedes, Hollanders, and Belgians. St. Moritz, by the way, is about six thousand feet above sea-level, and is the highest Curling club in the world.

Although the game did not take root very rapidly on its introduction, it has progressed and flourished greatly within the last few years. Each winter there are several important bonspiels, while there are local competitions galore for "cups" and other trophies. The "Jackson" Challenge Cup Competition, instituted in 1898 for a cup to be competed for by any one team from any one of the Curling clubs in Switzerland, is held annually, and has given a decided stimulus to the game.

The Swiss International Bonspiel was inaugurated in 1905, and has been held every year since. This is a competition open to curlers from any part of the world for a challenge cup presented by Sir Henry S. Lunn. It is a very well-organised contest, carried out under the rules of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, and under the management of a committee (the Honorary Secretary for several years has been Mr. Robert Husband, Dunfermline). It is open to rinks composed of players residing in any country, the committee hoping that, in many cases, rinks representing certain clubs or provinces will play in their representative capacity. The cup is

held by the skip of the winning rink for a year, and if any rink from the same club wins the cup for three years in succession, the club to which the skip belongs will become the absolute owner of it. The place and date of the contest are decided each year by the donor of the cup.

The first three International Bonspiels were held at Kandersteg (1905, 1906, 1907), and, after the scene had been changed to other Curling centres for a few years, it came back there again in 1912. (This, in the opinion of a recognised authority, is the best place for Curling in Switzerland; but, be that as it may, there is no question that the situation here is splendid. The game, too, has appealed to the natives of the village, and has prospered with them more than it has in other Swiss villages.) In 1908 the Bonspiel was held at Celerina, in 1909 and 1910 at Villars-sur-Ollon, in 1911 at Wengen, in 1913 at Morgins, and in 1914 at Kandersteg again (Plate X.).

A good bird's-eye view of the Swiss International Bonspiel is shown in Plate X.—"The International Curling Bonspiel at Morgins, February, 1913."

The participants in these competitions are enthusiasts (and what curlers are not?), as may be inferred from the picture of the opening of the Bonspiel at Wengen in 1911 (Plate X.). Here we see Lord Lytton at the end of an avenue of curlers and brooms, through which is passing the first stone, which has just been delivered and is at the beginning of its journey. Curlers will doubtless observe from the picture that his lordship has, in delivering the stone, "kettled" it, that is, imparted to it the motion known as the "kiggle-kaggle"; but whether he has done so intentionally and with malice

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PLATE X.

1. CURLING AT KANDERSTEG. (*See p.* 72.) (*From a Photograph by J. W. M'Lellan.*)

2. THE INTERNATIONAL CURLING BONSPIEL AT MORGINS, FEBRUARY, 1913. (*See p.* 72.)
(*By kind permission, from a Photograph by Mr. Will Cadby.*)

3. OPENING OF THE BONSPIEL AT WENGEN BY LORD LYTTON, 1911. (*See p.* 72.)
(*The Photographs from which these were reproduced have been kindly lent by Sir Henry S. Lunn.*)

aforethought, or merely through stage fright at performing in front of such a critical "gallery," is known only to himself.

With regard to the winning of the cup, it may be said that the honours have gone round. From 1905 to 1914 it went to English rinks five times, to Scottish rinks three times, to a Canadian rink once, and to a Swiss rink once. The complete list of winners (for which I am indebted to Mr. Husband) is very interesting.

Year.	Place.	Winning Rink.
1905	Kandersteg	Dalziel Curling Club, Motherwell.
1906	Kandersteg	Selkirk Curling Club.
1907	Kandersteg	Malton Curling Club, Yorks.
1908	Celerina	St. Moritz Curling Club.
1909	Villars-sur-Ollon	Canadian Rink.
1910	Villars-sur-Ollon	Manchester Caledonian Curling Club.
1911	Wengen	Manchester Caledonian Curling Club.
1912	Kandersteg	Manchester Caledonian Curling Club.
1913	Morgins	Preston Curling Club.
1914	Kandersteg	Perthshire Rink.

In connection with this list there are several points that are worthy of note. Firstly, in the "Swiss" rink that won the cup in 1908 we find that three of the four players bear the "Swiss" names of Craig, Lawson, and Campbell; secondly, in the Canadian rink that won in 1909 we observe the names of M'Diarmid, M'Lean, and Riddall; thirdly, the "English" rink that won in 1910, 1911, and 1912 was composed of four gentlemen hailing from Wigtownshire—the redoubtable brothers M'Geoch; fourthly, the "English" rink from Preston contained the names of Gray, M'Donald, Rae, and Kerr.

From these facts it may be concluded that there is

generally a good sprinkling of Scots at the International Bonspiel in Switzerland, and that in that competition they hold their own fairly well. But it is rather surprising that "Swiss" curlers have not won oftener, for, according to an article in *The Standard* of 24th February, 1914, "the Grindelwald curlers are reckoned to be the best in the world"—a pronouncement which our Canadian friends can put in their pipes and smoke.

The Curling season in Switzerland lasts about four months—at least it might last for that time if people would stay as long, but, as a matter of fact, the hotels open in the early part of December and close at the beginning of March. (At St. Moritz they close about the 10th, and at Mürren about the 15th.)

During this time other winter sports are in progress; and there are many people who, besides indulging in Alpine sports, write about them. Up to a few years ago it was the custom of some of these writers to deride the game of Curling as played in Switzerland. A well-known journalist, for instance, in writing in a London daily paper on "Ski-ing at Lenzerheide," in 1908, permitted himself to remark incidentally: "Everybody in Lenzerheide skis—except a dozen heavy men who curl on the skating-rink and whose chief proficiency in Scotland's winter game is shouting indifferent Scotch and yelling, 'Soop, man!' instead of 'Sweep, sir!' calling a stone a 'stane,' and going into heughs of delight when a stane sits hersel' doun on the pat-lid." And again in 1909, in describing the delights of Morgins, another writer gave us the following pleasing description of the game: "We have a party of Curling devotees. To become really proficient at this sport you must cultivate a strong Scotch

accent. . . . You play the game with besoms, and the bowler (*sic*) has a trundling granite grindstone shaped like a tea-kettle."

Such effusions are, doubtless, intended to be jocular, but through them all there runs — to use a mixed metaphor — the cloven hoof of the Superior Person. Within the last few years, however, the note of contempt with regard to Curling in Switzerland has gradually disappeared from the literature of Alpine sports; and the game has taken its rightful place as one of the most popular sports in the country. And yet, notwithstanding the fact that its devotees every season include some of the best players in Scotland (and England), it cannot be gainsaid that Swiss Curling is not "Scotland's ain game." But it is a very good substitute, just lacking one very important element of the game proper, and that element is the true Curling "atmosphere." This deficiency immediately becomes apparent to anyone who, fortunately for himself, has been in the habit of curling in the open on a deep-water pond in Scotland. A description of this Swiss Curling is put in a nutshell, in the *Book of Winter Sports*, by that well-known curler and Curling writer, Mr. Bertram Smith: "The game itself is a delicate, dainty, silent performance, with an absence of effort and an ease and grace in all its movements that have earned for it the name—invented no doubt by some contemptuous Scot—of 'drawing-room Curling.' Here Scotland's 'roaring game' has become a game of whispers. The stones glide up the rink as silently as a billiard-ball, and the players on their rubber soles move without a sound."

Just contrast the description of this silent, drawing-

room game, with its "absence of effort," with an account of the game in John Cairnie's *Essay on Curling* (1833): "Our lads," Cairnie is speaking of the Largs curlers, "who practise on the hills near us, can turn out many able to handle and make the best use possible of their massy pieces of blue whinstone, and when at a push for a besom, can mend the pace of a coming stone very dexterously, by plying before it with their Kilmarnock bonnets. These hardy hill-players are not easily hurt by any exposure to cold, and it is no uncommon thing to see several of them practising on the ice (not in crampets), but on their stocking soles, in the coldest day in winter."

The man who can go to Switzerland for a month's Curling is a lucky fellow; for he will almost certainly have a month of unalloyed pleasure. Even a single day's Curling on a Swiss rink, with a company of keen curlers, is an experience never to be forgotten. But, after all, give me in exchange for it a day on a Hieland loch, along with the local "butcher and baker and candlestick maker," and I am content. As for a day at Carsebreck—well, there is nothing to equal it in the wide world.

As recently as 1912 one of the leading London sporting dailies went the length of seriously and soberly opining that "bowls is a pastime that now threatens club cricket in England"! That daily paper might now add that "Curling is a pastime that now threatens all other winter sports in Switzerland." "In this country," said an authoritative writer in *The Field* of 25th October, 1913, "each season sees more and more persons of both sexes and all ages deserting the ski-ing slopes and the skating rink for the curling pond. For some time the number of skaters proportionately to the total number

of visitors to Alpine resorts in winter time has shown a tendency to decrease. Experts have been continually raising standards of proficiency until they are now unattainable, except by people gifted with more than an average share of natural advantages. Time was when hopelessly mediocre skaters almost invariably took to ski for their exercise and their sport. Some of these would find that, although the first steps in ski-running are easily made, they were not suited to face the fatigue and the strain of long excursions, and finally they sought initiation into the game of Curling almost as a *pis aller*. Now the intermediate step is frequently omitted, and a large proportion of those, who have had no experience at home of any winter sport save skating, at once procure a besom and a pair of stones when the amazing feats of the distinguished figure skaters disgust them with their own paltry efforts.

"The beauty of Curling from the beginner's point of view is the apparent simplicity of it. Anyone after half an hour's instruction can lay a stone well enough to please himself, if not to satisfy an exigent skip, and the actions of sweeping need no extraordinary gifts of hand and eye. Real excellence is as difficult of attainment at Curling as it is at golf. But the two games resemble one another in that the congenitally mediocre performer can go on playing at them for an indefinite period without losing interest or hope. *There is no instance on record of a man forsaking Curling for any other winter sport after he has once given it a fair trial.*

"At every winter resort a larger expanse of ice is yearly devoted to Curling, and yet every rink is fully occupied. When a fall of snow comes the curlers are

the first to turn out and assist the ice men in clearing it away. It is a common thing to see the game in full swing an hour or more before the less enthusiastic skaters have secured a surface anything like large enough for the practice of their art. In these days of spectacular athletics it is customary to estimate the merits of a sport by the number of spectators which it attracts. Gates, naturally, run small in Switzerland, but it is no uncommon thing to see upwards of a thousand people looking on at an important Curling match in the more populous centres, such as St. Moritz, Davos, or Grindelwald. Whatever test be applied it can be proved to demonstration that the prosperity of winter sports' places in the Alps will for the future depend very largely on the facilities which they afford to the ever-increasing fraternity of curlers."

CHAPTER VI

A NEW ERA IN CURLING

Up to a few years ago Scotland's ain game was—in its ain hame—the most precarious of all outdoor sports. In a very large proportion of Scottish clubs, especially in the south and near the sea, the curlers had to be content with very little Curling. Sometimes a whole winter, or indeed a succession of winters, would pass without a single game being played. In such clubs a week's Curling was a thing to be remembered, while a month of Curling was almost unthinkable. Of course there were other clubs, principally north of the Forth, that were more favoured by Providence. On the pond in the picture entitled "Preparing to Play," in Plate XII., for example, the brethren have, taking the average, about from two and a half to three months' Curling every winter! (I myself remember one winter when the curlers here curled on practically the same sheet of ice from the middle of November to the end of March; and many a time I have curled here when there was no Curling on any other pond in Scotland.) It is the pond of the Strathspey Curling Club, and it is one of the frostiest spots in the country, the pond being one of the highest above sea-level. Here freezing-point is nothing: the thermometer occasionally falls below *zero*! The lowest temperature I have ever

seen (and felt) at this place was 12 degrees below zero, that is, 44 degrees (Fahrenheit) of frost!

The cause of the scarcity of Curling in so many of the clubs was, of course, an insufficiency of frost. On an ordinary pond of, say, twelve inches' depth, several nights of frost in succession are required to produce ice strong enough to "bear"—and then, just as the curlers are getting ready for the fray, the thaw comes and takes the ice away into the "Ewigkeit." But now the scene is changed: Curling goes on every winter at places which dared not dream of such a joy a few years ago; and before many more years are past the game will be played all over Scotland and a good part of England.

What was the cause of this revolution? Merely the supplanting of the old pond with its water-borne ice by the "Tarmac" (tar-macadam) rink—a thing so astoundingly simple that it is extraordinary nobody thought of it years and years ago. A "pond" with just a *skin* of ice on it! A level, solid surface merely sprayed with water: two or three degrees of frost: and the rink is ready for play!

The overwhelming advantage of a Tarmac "pond" is well demonstrated by statistics of play which have been kindly sent to me by Mr. John Anderson, of Moffat, a well-known and enthusiastic curler. The Moffat "pond" of three rinks was laid down in 1906, and since that time Mr. Anderson has been, like the "chiel," takin' notes; and the following table compiled by him is a comparison of "Tarmac" with deep-water Curling.

It should be noted that in this table the days played on the "Tarmac" are exclusive of the days on which play might have been had but for deep-pond play.

Deep Pond.		Tarmac.	
1906–1907.		1906–1907.	
January . . .	4 days	December . .	10 days
February . .	10 ,,	January . .	13 ,,
	14	February . .	6 ,,
			29
1907–1908.		1907–1908.	
January . . .	3 days	November . .	3 days
		December . .	4 ,,
		January . .	9 ,,
		February . .	2 ,,
		March . . .	2 ,,
		April . . .	1 day
	3		21
1908–1909.		1908–1909.	
January . . .	2 days	November . .	3 days
		December . .	8 ,,
		January . .	11 ,,
		February . .	10 ,,
		March . . .	8 ,,
		April . . .	5 ,,
		May . . .	1 day
	2		46
1909–1910.		1909–1910.	
November . .	6 days	October . .	5 days
December . .	5 ,,	November . .	14 ,,
January . . .	3 ,,	December . .	11 ,,
		January . .	11 ,,
		February . .	3 ,,
	14		44
1910–1911.		1910–1911.	
November . .	1 day	November . .	14 days
		December . .	1 day
		January . .	12 days
February . .	2 days	February . .	2 ,,
	3		29
Carry forward .	36	Carry forward .	169

Deep Pond.		Tarmac.	
Brought forward	36	Brought forward	169
1911–1912.		1911–1912.	
		October	1 day
		November	5 days
		December	2 ,,
		January	10 ,,
February	4 days	February	1 day
	4		19
1912–1913.		1912–1913	
		November	4 days
		December	1 day
		January	7 days
	0		12
Total	40	Total	200

Thus, in seven years, no fewer than two hundred days Curling would have been lost at Moffat, if it had not been for the "Tarmac"!

And many other places can tell the same tale as Moffat. At Lochmaben, for example, the contrast between deep-water and "Tarmac" Curling is effectively shown in the following interesting letter to me from Provost Halliday, writing under date February 21st, 1914:—

"Since the 'Tarmac' rinks were laid down in 1911, curlers have had many games on them, while they have only on some three days been able to play on the lochs. With five degrees of frost the rink is playable, consequently keen curlers have, during the long, dark winter evenings, when the needed frost gave opportunity, turned out and enjoyed splendid games by gas-light, playing from six to ten o'clock at night. Then, again, even in the rare frosts we have had of late years, until the ice

on the lochs was bearing, play was going on on the 'Tarmac,' morning, noon, and night. Had it not been there, curlers in Lochmaben would have had very few opportunities of enjoying their favourite game. . . . The great drawback to Lochmaben being a perfect Curling centre is its situation, in the middle of the beautiful dale of the river Annan, with its mild and genial climate. On many an occasion curlers in the higher parts of the county, such as Wanlockhead, Sanquhar, and Moniaive, are enjoying the game, when in Lochmaben the lochs have not a vestige of ice upon them. So much is this the case that in the last twenty to thirty years the great County Match could only be played, on the average, once in six years, the Inter-County Match between Dumfriesshire and the Counties of Kirkcudbright and Wigtown has only been played once, and the 'International' between England and Scotland twice."

Can it be wondered at that clubs in every part of the country are gradually introducing the "Tarmac" kind of "pond"? But let it not be imagined that, in doing so, they are abandoning the old, deep pond. Curlers will never do such a thing. For the moment the ice on the deep water is "bearing," the "Tarmac" is deserted, and the roar of the channel-stane is once more heard in the land. For, when all is said and done, the "Tarmac," notwithstanding the fact that it is indispensable to very many clubs, is only a makeshift.

The introduction of the "Tarmac" has been the chief factor in bringing about another sort of revolution in the game: to it is due the fact that we now have an immense amount of night Curling in the open. It is a matter of common observation that, throughout

Scotland and England, it is more often during the night (and this includes the evening and the early morning) that it is frosty during the winter months. On hundreds of deep-water ponds, time after time a beautiful sheet of ice is formed during the night, only to disappear the following day; and there is no Curling; perhaps not a game during the whole winter. But, with a "Tarmac" rink, the thermometer has only to fall two or three degrees below freezing-point—as long as it holds there you can keep on Curling. And this night Curling (which, of course, could not be carried on without some system of artificial lighting) must be a great boon to curlers, for it possesses at least two characteristics of inestimable value—it does not interfere with business hours, and it helps to pass the long and dreary winter evenings in one of the pleasantest possible ways. And here it has a tremendous advantage over the kindred game of bowls. For, during the bowling season (*i.e.* the summer time), when the shades of night have fallen, the green, as a rule, gets wet with dew, and would very soon be ruined if play went on.

There are many records of matches played at night during recent years, and some of these tend to emphasize —if that were needed—the enthusiasm of curlers. In the "Annual" of the Royal Club for 1908–9, for instance, there is an account of a match which is described as one of historic interest. Here it is:—"The Largo Curling Club participated in the pleasure of Curling on Saturday morning, 25th of April last, when a full rink of members turned out at 4.30 a.m. The secretary had the pond sprayed several times late on the preceding night when the match was arranged. There was a beautiful sheet

of ice, and the game went on till 7.30." Curling on the 25th of April! And at 4.30 a.m.!! We must always bear in mind, however, that Largo is in the uncanny Kingdom of Fife—a kingdom concerning which the legend runs that it is encircled by a wall which encloses all the daft souls of Scotland. But I wish I had been in Largo on the 25th of April, 1908.

The "Tarmac" is generally termed an "artificial" pond; but the ice is neither artificial nor artificially produced; it is real, natural ice, making its appearance on the rink the moment the temperature falls below the freezing-point, just as it appears on the surface of every water-puddle on the king's highway. And there were other "artificial" ponds long before the "Tarmac" was thought of. As far back as the early part of the nineteenth century a system of artificial pond-making was invented by John Cairnie, who called his famous book, published in 1833, an *Essay on Curling and Artificial Pond Making*. It was in January, 1828, that Cairnie finished the construction of his first "artificial" pond; on which occasion, we are told, "after one night's frost, a party of eight gentlemen had the satisfaction of enjoying Curling on it in all the perfection of the game."

Another important innovation, in addition to the "Tarmac," has materially contributed to the facilities for Curling afforded to present-day players, and to the astonishing revival of the game throughout Great Britain. This is the indoor ice rink, where Curling takes place on ice artificially produced. This, like the "Tarmac," is a mere substitute for the genuine article; and, unlike the "Tarmac," it is a rather expensive substitute.

The forerunner of our present indoor ice rink was a "Glaciarium" which was laid down in London in 1842. This was a sort of small lake, 70 feet long and 50 feet wide, and was used by a skating club, the members of which considered the ice satisfactory. History does not record whether any Curling took place on this lake; but in all probability it did not; for no real curler would think it worth while to waste time on a 70-foot rink.

Some years afterwards, in 1877, another "Glaciarium" appeared. This was in Manchester, where a rink was constructed by "Gamgee's process"; and on this rink, although it also was small, Curling matches actually took place. At Southport, in 1879, another "Glaciarium," constructed on the same principle—at a cost of £30,000—was opened; and here, for several years, many Curling contests took place. This lasted until 1889, in which year the "Glaciarium" had to be closed, much to the disappointment of curlers in general; for these artificial rinks had given a marked impetus to Curling in England, and many new clubs had come into being. These pioneers of indoor Curling had, however, sown seeds which were to spring up and bear fruit; for now there are magnificent indoor ice rinks in various parts of the country—Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Manchester, and London—and before long there will, without doubt, be many more.

To Glasgow falls the honour of having been the first place in Scotland to establish an ice rink—"The Scottish Ice Rink" (Plate XI.), opened on 1st October, 1907, in presence of a remarkable gathering. Scotland had waited long for an artificial rink, and this one at

PLATE XI.

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1. THE SCOTTISH ICE RINK, CROSSMYLOOF, GLASGOW. (*See p.* 86.)

2. THE EDINBURGH ICE RINK. (*See p.* 88.)

3. THE ABERDEEN GLACIARIUM. (*See p.* 88.)

(From Photographs kindly supplied by the Scottish, Edinburgh, and Aberdeen Ice Rinks.)

Crossmyloof was due to the enterprise of a few business men in Glasgow, who promoted a private company to accomplish their object, thus inaugurating a new era in the Curling of their country. Since the formation of the Scottish Ice Rink, its founders have been amply supported by curlers. Here, from October to May, the game is played under conditions quite comparable to those in Canada. The Curling space is large enough to accommodate six rinks, which may be engaged by Curling clubs at fixed charges. Curling-stones can be had on hire, while crampits and brooms are supplied free of charge. And the convenience and comfort of the curler are studied in other ways, for there is, in addition to the pavilion itself (shown in Plate XI.), a dining-room, a smoking-room, a kitchen, and what not. "Spectator learners" can also curl on vacant ice in the evening at a very modest fee. The opportunity thus offered to beginners is one of the most admirable features of the place.

In connection with the Scottish Ice Rink there is a Curling club, which consists of life members, ordinary members, and temporary and honorary members. The ordinary members include town and country members. New members are elected by the committee by ballot, but anyone who is a member of a club affiliated to the Royal Club, and whose name appears in the last published "Annual" of the Royal Club, can be admitted without ballot. Non-members are admitted to the pavilion on payment of a small fee, and may take part in a game. The use of the rinks for Curling can be reserved by any member of the club booking his engagement in advance, but this is the only precedence allowed. Finally, special trains from

all parts of Scotland and England can be arranged to stop at the door of the rink for District Curling matches.

On the 5th of February, 1912, a second indoor rink was opened in Scotland—The Edinburgh Ice Rink. This is at the Haymarket Station, and is a large and well-equipped rink. The ice-surface covers upwards of 16,900 square feet, providing room for six rinks (Plate XI.). Here Curling goes on from about the beginning of October until the end of April under similar conditions to those which hold good at the Glasgow "Glaciarium." There is, in connection with the Edinburgh Ice Rink, a Curling club, the membership of which is open to all curlers. The membership in September, 1913, stood at 400.

The rink is the property of a company, which makes every endeavour to supply the needs of visitors. Curlers can not only be supplied with stones and handles of all kinds, but they can also have their curling-stones cupped, repolished, and repaired. Private matches can be booked; and arrangements made for medal and other competitions.

In the same year that the Haymarket Rink was opened, another one was erected in Edinburgh, the Lochrin Ice Pond, Tollcross. Before the end of that year Aberdeen decided that the south of Scotland should not have a monopoly of indoor Curling rinks; and so the Aberdeen Winter Recreation Institute, with its "Glaciarium," was opened on the 30th of September, 1912, in the presence of fully a thousand guests (Plate XI.); and throughout its first season, 1912–13, it enjoyed a considerable measure of patronage; proving to be a great public asset during the winter, and promising to be a permanent feature in the sporting and social life of the city and county.

This "Glaciarium," at the time of its establishment, was the largest in the United Kingdom. The ice surface covers an area of 18,400 square feet, and is capable of accommodating eight full-sized Curling rinks. Besides catering for the demands of the general public, it has been specially equipped for the accommodation of private Curling clubs. It is lit throughout by electric light; and the City Curling Club meets here for play on two nights in each week.

PART II—PRACTICE

CHAPTER VII

THE GAME AND HOW TO PLAY IT

There are two varieties of the game of Curling, namely, the Rink Game and the Point Game. The former is *the* game: and with it we are now concerned.

The present chapter is intended to be a guide to the beginner who has never seen the game before, and who is now about to have his first game. And I am going to presume that he is to have it under favourable conditions —that it is to be played on a pond in Scotland on good ice, in a keen, frosty atmosphere—and that he is to play in a full rink of eight persons of whom he himself is the only novice; that, in short, he is to be associated with seven men who know how to play the game.

The great day has come, and we have arrived at the pond. It may have been snowing, and, therefore, a space whereon to play must be cleared without delay. If this has not been already done by the pond-keeper, we must all lend a hand; and we shall find plenty of besoms and other suitable appliances within the purlieus of the club-house which stands near the edge of the pond. It may seem strange to say that the rink is cleared by the rink, but such is the case, for, unfortunately, in the game

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1. THE TEE-RINGER AT WORK. (*See p.* 91.)

2. PREPARING TO PLAY. (*See p.* 96.)

(From Photographs by Messrs. G. Myron and Jas. Winchester, Grantown-on-Spey.)

3. DELIVERING THE STONE. (*See p.* 100.)

(From a Photograph kindly lent by Sir Henry S. Lunn.)

of Curling, as in the similar game of bowls, the word "rink" has two meanings, namely, the *space* on which the game is played, and the *team* that play on that space. (In this and succeeding chapters the game of bowls will be frequently mentioned, and several vital differences from, as well as similarities to Curling will be pointed out; so that if our beginner is already a bowler—which is not unlikely—it will be all the easier for him to learn how to play the other game.)

The space or rink having been cleared for play, the snow-shovels, etc., are put away, and other implements are brought forth. The first thing to be done now is the making of the "diagram" on the ice. The essential part of this is a couple of equal circles whose radius is 7 feet, one at each end of the rink, with several straight lines at right angles to the central straight line joining the centres of the two circles. In practice, the diagram is generally made in the following way. Two of the players take an instrument called a tee-ringer, and, placing it on the ice near the end of the rink, sweep out three concentric circles at once, in the way shown in Plate XII. These circles are cut or scratched into the ice by small and sharp steel points which project downwards from the bottom of the instrument. The largest of the three circles is the 7-foot one already mentioned; the two inner ones, whose radii are 4 feet and 2½ feet respectively, are not at all necessary to the game, but it is better to have them, as they are a great convenience in counting the number of "shots" at each "head" of the game. The space within the 7-foot ring is colloquially known as the "house" (*Scoticè*, "hoose"), or sometimes "parish."

The tee-ringer is then carried to the other end of the rink and another set of similar circles scratched on the ice, the distance between the two "tees" (that is, the *centres* of the circles) being 38 yards. (This distance can of course be measured with a tape-line; but, if you haven't

FIG. 5.—The Rink.

got that article, well, step it out.) Then a central line, although it is not essential, should be drawn from tee to tee. The necessary implements for doing this are a long string stretching from tee to tee, a long straight-edge, and a strong bradawl. (A very good thing, also, for scratching lines on the ice is a small, sharpened screw-driver.)

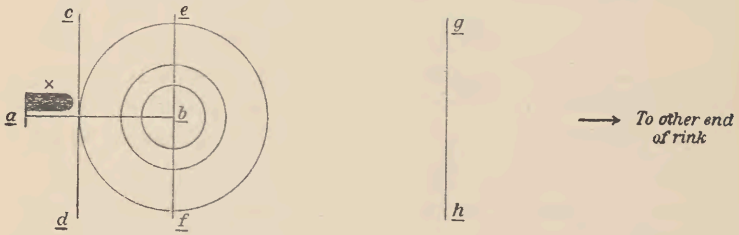

FIG. 6.

All the remaining lines in the diagram (Fig. 5) are necessary, and to make them the straight-edge and bradawl must be used. It will simplify matters if we take one end of the rink only, the drawing being on a larger scale, as in Fig. 6. In alignment with the tees, draw the

central line *ba* to a point *a*, 4 yards behind the tee. At the point *a* draw the "foot-score," 18 inches in length, and at right angles to the central line; then the "back-score," *cd*, behind and just touching the outside of the 7-foot circle; then the "sweeping-score," *ef*, across the 7-foot circle and through the tee; and, last of all, the "hog-score," *gh*, at a distance from the tee equal to one-sixth part of the distance between the foot-score and the farther tee.

After a similar series of operations at the other end of the rink, we shall have the complete "diagram," as in Fig. 5, "The Rink." The length of the playing space then, from foot-score to foot-score, is 42 yards. In certain circumstances this may be shortened, but in no case must it be fewer than 32 yards.

The "diagram" having been completed, there remains only one thing more to be done before the game begins, and that is the placing of some contrivance on the ice by which the player may secure a good foothold when delivering his stone. There are two methods in vogue: some players make a "hack" in the ice at the foot-score, three inches to the left of the central line, and in this the right foot is placed with the sole of the boot resting against the back of the "hack": but the vast majority of curlers in Great Britain prefer to use a foot-iron called a "crampit," and on this the player takes his stand with both feet. A crampit is placed at each end of the rink, with its "heel" at the foot-score and its edge parallel to and six inches to the left of the central line, as shown at x in Figs. 5 and 6.

We are now ready for the fray. So haste, my lads, into the club-house and bring out your stones and besoms, and, if it is not too cold, take off your coats.

And now, my friend the Beginner (to whom, I trust, some good Samaritan has lent a decent pair of stones for the occasion), to you I address the rest of this chapter.

You are going to play a game which, before very long, you will realise is the finest sport you have ever tried. And, grand as it is, it is so simple and easy to learn the rudiments. Put in a nutshell the game is this: the eight players who form your rink are divided into two opposing parties of four a-side, and the sole object in life of each side is to defeat the other. In the long ago, in Curling contests there were generally eight players on a side, each playing only one stone—and quite enough, too, when we

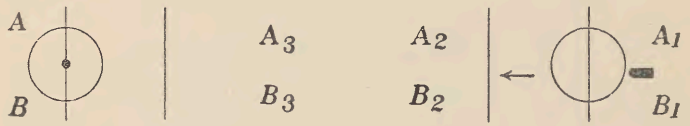

FIG. 7.

consider the gigantic weight and size of the stones used; to-day each player in every orthodox game plays two stones.

Of the eight men who are to play, the two who are to be "skips" during the game toss up a coin for first choice in picking the sides. (There are, of course, other methods of deciding this momentous point.) These "skips" are the men who decide the "order of the going"; who, in short, direct the course of the game; and who are usually genial autocrats.

Do not be offended, friend Beginner, if you are the very last one to be picked (as you certainly will be); for perhaps the time is not far distant when you will be

picked first by the winner of the toss; when, indeed, you may have the pleasure and honour of being a skip yourself.

The two sides having been thus arranged, the players take up their positions on the rink, approximately as shown in Fig. 7. (Here some parts of the diagram have been omitted for simplicity's sake.) A and B are the skips, waiting, besom in hand, behind the empty "house," facing the other end of the rink, and ready to direct their men. A_1 is A's leader, who is just about to step on to the crampit to deliver the first stone of the game; B_1 is B's leader, standing behind the crampit, and waiting to play alternately with A_1. A_2 is A's second man, somewhere about half-way up the rink, and facing him is B_2, who is none other than yourself—you are B's "second." A_3 and B_3 are the two third players: the skips play last.

The skips' reasons for placing their men in their respective positions are quite simple. One of the chief points in the game, indeed the essence of the game, is to get a good stone in the "house"—to "draw"—and to protect it when there. Accordingly, as A_1 and B_1 are good at drawing (and probably have stones adapted to that particular point), they lead. Your skip has placed you, B_2, to play "second," because that is supposed to be the position in which you will be least likely to do any harm. (Some skips, by the way, make the novice lead.) Again you must not be offended: you are only a beginner, and you can console yourself with the fact—for fact it is—that many a game has been won and many a game will be won by the second player. A_3 and B_3 are placed "third," because they are all-round players who can be

depended upon to play almost any shot that may be required of them by their skips A and B, who *are* skips merely because they are very nearly omniscient and omnipotent. Men are never appointed to be skips because they happen to be president, vice-president, or other high officer of the club, but because they are, *inter alia*, the best players in the club.

The game begins. And you, Mr. Novice, will do well to watch carefully everything that goes on. The first move in the game is made by A_1: he places his first stone —A_1's stones are rather heavy and not too keen—beside the "toe" of the crampit and takes up his position on the iron plate something after the manner of the curler in Plate XII., "Preparing to Play."

There is no need for A_1's skip at the other end of the rink to tell A_1 what to do. He, the skip, will merely shout to A_1—"Now then, A_1, my boy, the old firm!" or some other equally cryptic admonition. A_1 knows what is required of him. He takes hold of the handle of his stone—lightly, mark you; he does not *grip* it—and concentrates his gaze on an object resting on the far tee, an object somewhat resembling a skittle, or bottle. (This is made of wood, and indicates to the player the position of the tee. In some clubs the players dispense with the "bottle," the skip indicating the position of the tee—or any other place that he wants his man to play to—by his broom. But very many curlers—and I am one of them—prefer, when playing to the skip's broom, to know the position of the tee as well. So we shall use the bottle in this chapter.)

To return to A_1. His ambition is to place his stone somewhere near the *front* of the "house," say, in the

vicinity of the black dot ● (A_1) in Fig. 8. This is the ideal place for the first stone. It is not so in the game of bowls. In that game the leader should *never* play short, but should pass the "jack" (which corresponds to the tee) and lie a little way behind it. This is because the jack is movable and may be carried farther on by a succeeding bowl; in which case all short woods become worse than useless. But in Curling, the leader should *always* play short (or should never pass the tee), because the tee is a fixture, and a stone in front of the "house"

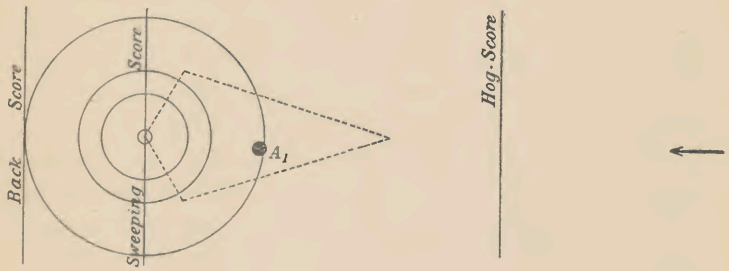

FIG. 8.

is always liable to be "promoted" towards the tee; while a stone that has travelled as far as the tee or beyond it is only a mark for the next player and a rest for his stone. Any stone played by the leader into the space within the dotted lines in Fig. 8 is a very good one.

A_1 has delivered his stone, and it is on its way to the "house." His two friends A_2 and A_3 are lying in ambush, as it were, up the rink, intently watching the stone, and waiting for a word from the skip to help it on its way by plying their brooms, if it shows signs of flagging. Remember, if it does not clear the hog-score

it is a "hog" (it is then "dead") and is removed from the ice (*i.e.*, to the side or end of the rink). Perhaps, then, as it passes A_2, that gentleman suddenly hears a yell from his skip of "Sweep!" In some parts of Scotland (as well as Switzerland) I understand they say "Soop" instead of sweep. A_2 accordingly sweeps. And it is a very wonderful thing how sweeping will bring a stone on, even when there does not appear to be anything on the ice visible to the human eye to be swept off. The stone has now passed the hog-score and is therefore safe, but it is still doubtful whether it will reach the "house"; so A_3 now joins in and lends a hand with the sweeping, and he and A_2 bring the stone along. Then in his anxiety the skip himself, A, may go forward and join his two colleagues, and, between the three of them, A_1's stone is brought to the spot indicated in Fig. 8. In the picture of "Curling at Montana," one of the skips is seen watching the progress of a stone which apparently, for the time being, does not require sweeping (Plate XIII.).

"Well played!" Such (or words to that effect) is A_1's reward from his skip for playing his stone to the position indicated in Fig. 8; although the excellence of his shot may be partly due to the brooms of his colleagues, and "Well swept!" would perhaps be the more appropriate verdict. This sweeping business, by the way, is a very "ticklish" one. Under certain conditions of ice it is sometimes a very difficult matter to know whether to sweep or not, and even more difficult to tell when to begin and when to leave off sweeping. If it be put off too long, the sweepers' most strenuous exertions will be in vain: it is too late, and the stone is a "hog." When

PLATE XIII.

1.

2.

1. CURLING AT MONTANA. (*See p.* 98.)

2. LORD LYVEDEN CURLING AT ST. BEATENBERG. (*See p.* 100.)

(*From a Photograph by A. Ulyett.*)

(*Both Pictures are reproduced, by permission, from the "Public Schools Alpine Sports Club Year Book.*)

it is quite apparent to everybody that the stone is going to be a "hog," and that nothing will save it, the opposing side genially begin to give gratuitous advice to the sweepers, advising them to "take it by the handle," or "push it from behind, boys"—either of which operations everybody knows is illegal. If, on the other hand, by dint of sweeping, the stone has been brought into the "house," the skip sometimes realises that the sweeping has been kept up too long: the stone creeps on to the tee and is still moving: it crosses the sweeping score (Fig. 8): the moment it clears this score the opposing skip begins to sweep with might and main, and perhaps sweeps the stone right out of the "house"—much to the delight of his own side and the chagrin of the enemy.

A_1 having played his first stone, it is now B_1's turn. As he is on *your* side you had better be on the *qui vive* for your skip's cry of "Sweep!" And if you do hear this cry, I hope and trust you will not perform the feat now to be described in a short but true story.

It happened in a Scottish village which shall be nameless. It was a fine frosty afternoon, and His Majesty's Inspector of Schools had just finished his annual examination (or inspection, or whatever it was) of the local school. The dominie was a curler, and invited his visitor to have a game on the ice, although this gentleman had no knowledge of the game. Accordingly to the pond they repaired, and a four a-side game was soon begun, the visitor playing "second." It was when the very first stone of the game was half-way up the rink that our friend was suddenly startled by a whoop of "Sweep, sir!" from the skip. And sweep he did with all his might and

with the very best intentions; but alas! the only effect was a prolonged (but not very polite) roar of laughter from the rest of the rink, friend and foe alike. For the inspectorial broom was sweeping *behind the stone*, which only goes to show that even His Majesty's Inspectors have their limitations like other frail mortals. But then he was only a beginner, just like yourself.

And now, B_2, my lad, it is *your* turn: for A_1 and B_1 have each played their two stones, and your opponent A_2 has played his first stone. So take your position on the crampit; take hold of the handle of your stone (which you have previously placed near the "toe" of the crampit); and look at your skip. *He* will tell you what to try to do. He will indicate with his broom where he wants you to come, probably in the way that that keen curler, Lord Lyveden, is doing it in the St. Beatenberg picture (Plate XIII.), and he will admonish his two other men to be ready to "sweep you up"—which, you may rest assured they are prepared to do, even before he tells them. Then, whatever you do, *keep your eye on the skip's broom*, and don't look at anything else on the pond; and with a gentle swing—and one only—lift your stone and bring it backwards until it is somewhere in the region of the "heel" of the crampit (as you will see from the picture of Sir Duncan Hay curling at Mürren, "Delivering the Stone," Plate XII.), and send it on its journey. Do not think of "style," of Kilmarnock Twists, of elbow-outs and elbow-ins; do not worry about whether your stone is a Crawfordjohn, a Burnock Water, or an Ailsa Craig; do not trouble as to whether your handles are gold-mounted, or silver-plated, or merely poor but honest brass. But, having carefully watched the delivery of A_1,

B_1, and A_2, try to imitate one of them; you will learn the tricks of the trade later by play and practice, and by nothing else in the wide world.

You have now "soled" your first stone. In doing so you have probably done things that you ought not to have done, and left undone things that you ought to have done. You have perhaps smashed and cracked the ice with the "nose" of your stone; but never mind, you will get over that—and so will the ice. You have perhaps not laid your stone well and truly—and flat—on the ice, but sent it off with a wobbly motion which it will probably retain throughout the greater part of its journey—in which case, instead of "drawing" nicely to your skip's broom, it will go raging through the "house." But, more likely than any of these feats, you have "hogged" your stone.

In the event of any of these catastrophes, do not be alarmed or afraid that your skip will severely censure you, for he will do nothing of the kind. He may, in fact, do the very reverse, and praise your shot. If, for instance, instead of guarding your side's best stone (as your skip wished and asked you to do), you knock it away to the side of the "house," your skip will feign the utmost pleasure and reward your atrocious shot with—"Aha! better and better!" or some such genial fiction. He does this for a twofold purpose: firstly, to hearten you and your colleagues; secondly, to pretend to the enemy that what has happened was the very best thing that could have happened. All of which the enemy appreciates at its true worth.

Before many ends have been played you will have entered into the spirit of the game; and you will have

realised that the four a-side game is *the* game of Curling. Each one of the four players takes as much interest in his colleague's stones as in his own, for when he is not playing himself he is always on the alert, as he may have to use his broom at any moment. This is perhaps the reason why most curlers who become bowlers prefer the four a-side game at bowls to any other variety of that game. On the other hand, there are bowlers who, not being imbued with the four a-side spirit—the *esprit de corps* of the "rink" game—cordially detest that game, and preferably play three or two a-side. "You have so long to wait," they say. That being so, to be consistent they ought to play always single-handed games, using eight "woods" each!

Long before you have finished your first game, you will have discovered for yourself the general plan of campaign. You will have noticed how each skip tries to build up a "head" with the stones of his team, while all the time the opposing skip tries to frustrate his efforts and to build up a "head" for himself. You will have noticed how you and your fellow-players are asked by the skips to do all manner of shots; you are asked to inwick, to outwick, to raise, to draw, to guard; to "crack an egg" on this one, to "gie sixty days" to that one, and to "tak' yer wull" of the other one. And you will doubtless have noticed that no two ends or "heads" are the same; that the variety, in short, is infinite. Finally, you will have acquired a great respect for your skip, who, I ought to have mentioned before, plays last, his "third" man for the time being acting as director, and taking his station behind the "house" while his skip goes to the crampit.

The game in which you are playing was arranged before the start to consist of a certain number of "heads" (or ends), or a certain number of "shots" (say, "15 up"); or it was agreed by the players to play for a certain length of time. At the end of the game victory rests with the side that has scored the greatest number of shots. The shots are counted after every end is played, and the score is usually kept on a wooden "marker" standing vertically on the ice near the rink. The method of counting the shots at each end is simple, and can be seen at a glance from Fig. 9, which represents a purely imaginary end, but in which the particular distribution

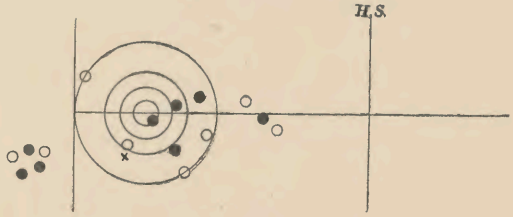

FIG. 9.

of stones shown in the diagram might well take place in a real game. Let us suppose that the stones represented thus ● belong to A, while the others ○ are B's. The stone nearest the tee is the "first shot," and it is A's. (It is very nearly a "pot-lid," being almost entirely within the small circle nearest the tee.) A also has second stone, but not third stone, so he scores two. If he had been able to get rid of one of his opponent B's stones (the one marked with a cross), he would have scored four at this end. The five stones lying huddled in a group behind the back-score are "dead," having either been "hogs," or having passed through the "house," or having been

knocked by other stones out of the "house" past the back-score. The three stones between the front of the 7-foot ring and the hog-score are not "dead," but they would not count in any case, not being inside the "house."

The utility of the inner circles will now be apparent. The outer circle is, of course, essential to the game; the smaller ones are merely a matter of convenience, and are placed where they are to show which of two stones is nearer the tee. For this they are very often sufficient—but not always.

It is obvious that the greatest number of stones that can be in the "parish" at one end is sixteen; but this is a very rare occurrence (I myself have never seen it, as far as I can recollect). The smallest number that can be inside the 7-foot ring is evidently none at all, and this is fairly common, even amongst good curlers, and is easily explained. While the game is in progress, for instance, a heavy fall of snow may set in, so much so that, notwithstanding the perspiring sweepers, the players are not able to get their stones up to the "house." Or, again, A may be lying two or three good shots near the tee, and B with his last stone may come thundering up and "redd the hoose."

The maximum number of shots that either side can score at an end is eight, and this is occasionally done. (I don't think I have ever seen it myself in Curling, but I have seen it twice in the game of bowls. And, strange to say, the two events happened in the same year, 1913; and, stranger still, they happened within a week of each other; and, even stranger yet, the skip who scored eight shots at one end in the first of the two games—on a North London green—was the same skip who had eight

shots scored against him in the second game—on a South London green! Was there ever such a coincidence, or rather combination of coincidences, in the whole history of the game? Will some mathematical friend kindly tell us what are the "odds" against such a thing happening again between now and the millennium?)

You will have found out by this time that the playing of each stone in the game of Curling is like a "move" in a game of chess: when, for example, a number of stones are placed as they are at almost any stage of the game, it is a "problem" (and sometimes a very tough one) for the skip to see what his next "move" should be. When he has decided, he directs his man accordingly.

Two of these "problems," both of which were sent to me some time ago by a brother of the broom, I should like to include in my account of the game. Being a beginner, you may find them hard nuts to crack; but study them along with an old hand, and ask him what *he* would do in each case; and then, when you have become an experienced curler yourself, have another look at them. Here is one (Fig. 10)—

FIG. 10.

Here the game is 21 up: Blackstone ● is 18: Plainstone ○ is 13: it is Blackstone to play: Plainstone has last stone: what is Blackstone's play?

And here is the other (Fig. 11)—

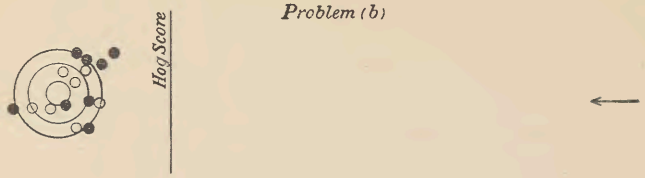

FIG. 11.

In this the game is also 21 up: Blackstone is 20, and lying game: Plainstone is 14, and has last stone: what is his play?

The arrangement of the stones in these two problems may seem strange to some; but, to use the language of algebra, there is really *no* permutation or combination of stones that would surprise an experienced curler.

I cannot do better than, at this stage, impress upon the beginner these wise words of the Right Hon. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, in *The Sports of the World*: "The rudiments of the game are easily acquired; anyone can learn enough in half an hour to enter into the enjoyment of it; and yet, after a lifetime spent in its worship, the most ardent devotee would allow that he has still something to learn, and that there are situations and developments which require a skill greater than he possesses. For anyone to become more than a moderate player much practice is necessary. As well as skilful combination of action between hand and eye, mental qualifications of a high order are required—accuracy of judgment, some decision of character; and while physical strength must be tempered with discretion, enthusiasm must not be daunted by temporary reverses or by defeat. Coolness

in victory and resource in the sudden and ever-varying circumstances with which a player is confronted are absolutely essential to lasting success."

It will be remembered that Bavaria, amongst other claimants for the honour, was held by some to be the original home of Curling; and therefore this is, perhaps, the proper time to refer to the variety of game played in that country.

This Bavarian "Curling" is vastly different from Scotland's ain game. It is also, according to its devotees, the one and only true variety of the game, invented by their ancestors ages before the ordinary game of Curling was heard of. It is a rather curious game, and the following account of it from *The Field*, in October, 1913, will interest bowlers as well as curlers:—

"It is probably owing to topographical and climatic similarity that two countries, otherwise as far apart and as different as Scotland and Bavaria, should have both evolved games which are as like each other as Curling and *Eisschiessen* (ice-shooting). . . . Like Curling in Scotland, *Eisschiessen* is the favourite national winter pastime in Bavaria, indulged in alike by peer and peasant. . . . It is played on rinks, between 27 and 33 yards long, and 16 feet to 19 feet wide, bounded by wooden boards or banks of snow, which, unlike Curling, may be utilised by making the *Eisstock* (ice stick)—such is the name of the implement used instead of the curling-stone—rebound from them. . . . The *Eisstock* is a wooden disc of a radius of about 5 inches, and weighs about 8½ lb.; it is 3 inches thick near the centre, and slopes down towards the edge, which is only half as thick. A handle, from 8 inches to 12 inches long, and shaped like the butt of

a pistol, is inserted in a hole in the middle, and a forged iron hoop, about a ½ inch thick, is laid round the disc, the lower surface of which is planed smooth. Apple tree is considered the best wood for the purpose, but ash is very frequently used. There is no tee and 7-foot circle, as in Curling, a movable jack, known as *Daube*—a cube made of oak, and about 4 inches high—being the target.

"At the beginning of a game, or *gang*, the *Daube* is placed in the middle of the rink about a yard behind the

THE EISSTOCK.
(*Reproduced, by permission, from "The Field."*)

hack, which is cut in the ice at each end of the rink, the hacks on a 33-yards rink being about 20 yards apart. . . . The game, which is mostly played by six players, begins with the formation of sides, each player—the youngest of them first—trying to get his stick as near as possible to the jack; the three whose sticks are nearest form one side, the 'near,' the remaining three being the other side, the 'far.' . . . After the formation of sides—known as *Zusammenschiessen* (shooting together)—the game proper begins, the direction of play now being reversed. A 'near' player starts by trying to get his stick as closely

as possible in front of the jack; if he succeeds in covering the jack entirely this is said to be *die schwarze mass* (the black heap), making it very difficult for the player of the opposing side who plays next to get his stick between the jack and the first delivered stick, which are said to be 'married,' as even when hit they generally stay together. As soon as 'far' has succeeded in getting a stick between the jack and the nearest stick of 'near'—a procedure known as *abtun* (killing)—the remaining players of 'near' try to retaliate in a like manner. This is generally done by getting a safe player to knock the nearest stick of the opponent's out of the way, . . . and then to get as many sticks as possible between the jack and the opponent's sticks. A side gains as many points as it has sticks in this position. To have no points at all is to become 'black'; to have only half the number of the possible points is to become 'tailor,' a profession generally connected in German folklore with lack of physical prowess. Games are generally arranged for three times as many points as a side has sticks, and are played for money, the players of the defeated side paying, if 'black,' three times the amount arranged for one point, and, if 'tailor,' only twice.

"The delivery is very similar to that of the curler. The right-hand player places his right foot into the hack, advances his left about half a step, bends the right knee, swings the stick back, and soles it as smoothly and noiselessly as possible, imparting spin by bending the thumb inwards or outwards when swinging back. As soon as he has soled, a player proceeds to the other end of the rink, in order to assist his side and to report on the progress of the game. But while the formation of

sides is in progress a player must neither ask for nor receive information as to whose stick is nearest the jack —a rule which guarantees a genuinely spontaneous distribution of players. There is no boundary to the movements of the jack, which at times jumps out of the rink altogether; but wherever it may be its position governs the progress of the game. If it falls to pieces, the biggest of them counts."

This "Curling" with "sticks" appears to have been indulged in for centuries in Austria, in addition to toboganning, sleighing, and other winter sports. In a booklet issued by the Imperial Royal Austrian Railway Ministry in Vienna, several curious pictures of this "Curling" have appeared; and the one here reproduced by permission, representing Prize Curling at Zell-am-See, is, perhaps, the most curious and interesting of them all (Plate XIV.). In this picture there are many points to be noted: *e.g.* the number of players and "stones," and the crowd of spectators who have apparently appropriated every conceivable "coign of vantage" from which to watch the play.

In these Transalpine regions there are, as in Switzerland, many other attractions during the winter season. For instance, in a pamphlet extolling the virtues of a place called Kitzbühel, in the Austrian Tyrol, we are informed (in rather quaint English) that "the town, while planted in the heart of the country has yet all the advantages of a larger centre (post, telegraph office, electric light, water supply, four doctors, chemist, etc., etc.), with numerous shops containing all the outfit and implements of sport (also on hire) necessary for a long sojourn there. It has its unions and associations,

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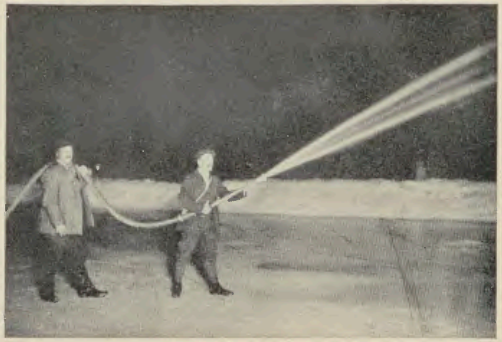

1. PRIZE CURLING AT ZELL-AM-SEE. (*See p.* 110.)

2. TRAMPLING DOWN THE SNOW. (*See p.* 171.)

3. SPRINKLING THE RINK AT NIGHT. (*See p.* 171.)

(Numbers 2 and 3 are from Photographs by A. Ulyett, reproduced, by permission, from the "Public Schools Alpine Sports Club Year Book.")

too, for furthering various sports, or looking after the public weal." As for the length of the Curling season here, just listen to this:—"The Schwarzsee freezes between the 24th and the 30th of November, and remains frozen until the middle of April. When it can no longer be used, an artificial rink of 35,000 square feet is kept in excellent condition for skating and Curling."

Cortina, also, in the same country, would appear to be even more attractive than Kitzbühel: for we are told that "the village with the surrounding cottages contains 3000 inhabitants of a hard-working, simple-hearted, honest race. It has a post and telegraph office, library, doctor, chemist, excellent guides, and English Divine Service during the season." Furthermore—"Special attention is drawn to a 'Vienna Café' where drinks, harmless or inebriating, are served at all hours of the day and night." Likewise—"About the prices, travellers can come to an understanding with the hotel proprietor." Moreover (and to crown all), "The management and service are first-rate, and entirely done by nice, bright girls in Tyrolese costumes." What more could the human heart desire?

CHAPTER VIII

"THE RULES"—WRITTEN AND UNWRITTEN

Every branch of sport has its own particular code of laws. Some games, indeed, have more than one code, each differing from the others in many respects. Football, for example, has two distinct sets of rules; bowls and billiards have several; Curling and cricket have only one. In nearly every Curling club in the universe the game is played under the rules adopted by the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. (Some clubs depart from these rules in a few trifling details.)

The Royal Club's code of laws may be said to be founded on the original "rules" of the Duddingston Curling Society—the first code of Curling laws known to us. In 1803 the Society resolved to prepare a code, "in order to prevent disputes and ensure harmony among the members." A committee was appointed to carry out the work of drafting the rules by which the play should be governed; and these, profiting by the experience of earlier societies, prepared a set of "Rules in Curling to be Observed by the Duddingston Curling Society," which were adopted in 1806. And from them, with alterations, additions, and emendations, we get our present

Rules of Curling

1. The length of the Rink for play, viz. from the Hack or from the Heel of the Crampit to the Tee, shall be 42 yards. The shortening of the Rink is provided for in Rule 21, but in no case shall it be less than 32 yards.

2. The Tees shall be 38 yards apart—and, with a Tee as the centre, a circle, having a radius of 7 feet, shall be drawn. Additional inner Circles may also be drawn.

3. In alignment with the Tees, lines, to be called Central lines, shall be drawn from the Tees to points 4 yards behind each Tee, and at these points Foot-Scores 18 inches in length shall be drawn at right angles, on which, at 6 inches from the Central line, the Heel of the Crampit shall be placed: when, however, in lieu of a Crampit a Hack is preferred, it shall be made 3 inches from the Central line, and not more than 12 inches in length.

4. Other Scores shall be drawn across the Rink at right angles to the Central line, as in the Diagram, viz.:

(*a*) A "Hog-Score," distant from either Tee one-sixth part of the distance between the "Foot-Score" and the farther Tee.

(*b*) A "Sweeping-Score," across each 7-Foot Circle and through each Tee.

(*c*) A "Back-Score," behind and just touching outside the 7-Foot Circle.

[Note.—In forming Rinks the Diagram in Chapter VII. should be referred to.]

5. All Matches shall be of a certain number of Heads, or Shots, or by Time, as may be agreed on, or as fixed by an Umpire at the outset. In the event of the Competitors being equal, play shall be continued by all the Rinks engaged for one or more Heads, as may be agreed on, until the Match has been decided.

6. Every Rink of players shall be composed of four a-side, each using two Stones, and no player shall wear boots, tramps, or sandals with spikes or other contrivance which shall break or damage the surface of the ice. The rotation of play observed during the first Head of a Match shall not be changed.

7. The Skips opposing each other shall settle by lot, or in any

other way they may agree upon, which party shall lead at the first Head, after which the winners of the preceding Head shall do so.

8. All Curling-Stones shall be of a circular shape. No Stone, including handle and bolts, shall be of a greater weight than 44 lb. imperial, or of greater circumference than 36 inches, or of less height than one-eighth part of its greatest circumference.

9. No Stone shall be substituted for another (except under Rules 10 and 14) after a Match has been begun, but the sole of a Stone may be reversed at any time during a Match, provided the player is ready to play when his turn comes.

10. Should a Stone be broken, the largest fragment shall be considered in the Game for that Head—the player being entitled to use another Stone, or another pair, during the remainder of the Game.

11. All Stones which roll over, or come to rest on their sides or tops, shall be removed from the ice.

12. Should the Handle quit the Stone in delivery, the player must keep hold of it; otherwise he shall not be entitled to replay the shot.

13. Players, during the course of each Head, shall be arranged along the sides, but well off the centre of the Rink, as the Skips may direct; and no one, except when sweeping according to rule, shall go upon the centre of the Rink, or cross it, under any pretence whatever. Skips only shall be entitled to stand within the 7-Foot Circle. The Skip of the playing party shall have the choice of place, and shall not be obstructed by the other Skip in front of the Tee, while behind it the privileges of both, in regard to sweeping, shall be equal.

14. Each player must be ready to play when his turn comes, and must not take more than a reasonable time to play. Should a player play a wrong Stone, any of the players may stop it while running; but if the mistake is not noticed till the Stone is at rest, the Stone which ought to have been played shall be put in its place, to the satisfaction of the opposing Skip.

15. If a player should play out of his turn, the Stone so played may be stopped in its progress, and returned to the player. Should the mistake not be discovered till the Stone is at rest, or has struck another Stone, the opposing Skip shall have the option of adding one to his score and allowing the Game to proceed, or of declaring

the Head null and void. If another Stone be played before the mistake is discovered, the Head must be finished as if it had been properly played from the beginning.

16. The sweeping shall be under the direction and control of the Skips. The player's party may sweep the ice from the Hog-Score next the player to the Tee, and any Stone set in motion by a played Stone may be swept by the party to which it belongs. When snow is falling or drifting, the player's party may sweep the ice from Tee to Tee. The sweeping shall always be to a side, and no sweepings shall be left in front of a running Stone. Both Skips have equal right to clean and sweep the ice behind the Tee at any time, except when a player is being directed by his Skip. At the end of any Head, either of the Skips may call upon the whole of the players to clean and sweep the entire Rink. If objected to, this shall be subject to the approval of the acting Umpire.

17. (*a*) If, in sweeping or otherwise, a running Stone is marred by any of the party to which it belongs, it may, in the option of the opposing Skip, be put off the ice; but if by any of the adverse party, it may be placed where the Skip of the party to which it belongs shall direct. If marred in any other way, the player shall replay the Stone.

(*b*) Should any played Stone be displaced before the Head is reckoned, it shall be placed as nearly as possible where it lay, to the satisfaction of the Skip opposed to the party displacing. If displaced by any neutral party, both Skips should agree upon the position to which it is to be returned; but if they do not agree, the Umpire shall decide.

18. No measuring of shots shall be allowed previous to the termination of the Head. Disputed shots shall be determined by the Skips; if they disagree, by the Umpire; or, when there is no Umpire, by some neutral person chosen by the Skips. All measurements shall be taken from the centre of the Tee to the nearest part of the Stone.

19. The Skip shall have the exclusive regulation and direction of the Game for his Rink, and may play last Stone, or any part in the Game he pleases, but he shall not be entitled to change his position when that has been fixed. When his turn to play comes, he shall select one of his players to act as Skip in his place, and take the position of an ordinary player. He shall not have

any choice or direction in the game till he returns to the Tee as Skip.

20. If any player engaged in the Game shall speak to, annoy, taunt, or interrupt another, not being of his own side, while in the act of delivering his Stone, one shot for each offence may be added to the score of the party so annoyed.

21. If from any change of weather after a Match has been begun, or from any other reasonable cause, one party shall desire to shorten the Rink, or to change to another, and if the two Skips cannot agree, the Umpire shall, after seeing one end played, determine whether and how much the Rink shall be shortened, or whether it shall be changed, and his decision shall be final. Should there be no acting Umpire, or should he be otherwise engaged, the two Skips may call in any neutral curler to decide, and his powers shall be equal with those of the Umpire. The Umpire shall, in the event of the ice appearing to him to be dangerous, stop the Match. He shall postpone it, even if begun, when the state of the ice is in his opinion not fitted for testing the Curling skill of the players. Except in very special circumstances, of which the Umpire shall be judge, a Match shall not proceed, or be continued, when a thaw has fairly set in, or when snow is falling and likely to continue during the Match, nor shall it be continued if darkness comes on to prevent the played Stones being well seen by players at the other end of the Rink. In every case of such postponement to another day, the Match, when renewed, must be begun *de novo*.

22. Every Stone shall be eligible to count which is not clearly outside the 7-Foot Circle. Every Stone which does not clear the Hog-Score shall be a Hog, and must be removed from the ice, but no Stone shall be considered a Hog which has struck another Stone lying in position. Stones passing the Back-Score, and lying clear of it, must be removed from the ice, as also any Stone which in its progress touches the swept snow on either side of the Rink.

Let us examine these Rules *seriatim*, or, at any rate, such of them as call for comment.

Rules 1, 2, 3, *and* 4.—These have been practically disposed of in Chapter VII. It is interesting to note that

although, in Great Britain, the rink is sometimes shortened to 32 yards, in many parts of Canada the minimum length is 33 yards. And in the Dominion the largest circle in the diagram often has a radius of 6 instead of 7 feet; while the inner circles usually have a radius of 4 feet and 2 feet respectively. Also the "scores" occasionally become "lines"; so that we have the hack-line, the back-line, the sweeping-line, and the hog-line, with an additional one—the front-line, which is in front of and just touching the 6-foot circle.

Rule 8.—No stone must weigh more than 44 lb. (According to the rules of the Ontario Curling Association, "no stone, including the handle, shall be of a greater weight than 50 lb."; the Manitoba Branch of the R.C.C.C. puts the limit at 47½ lb.; the Ontario Branch at 50 lb.; and by the rules of the Canadian Branch of the R.C.C.C., "any iron stone played in a match under the control of the Canadian Branch shall not weigh less than 56 lb. or more than 64 lb.") Before the institution of the Royal Club in 1838 there were no restrictions as to the size and weight, or even the shape of curling-stones. In the early days of the game the stones ("loofies") were necessarily rather small, varying in weight from about 5 to 25 lb., as they had to be flung by the hand, having no handles. On the addition of the latter the stones increased to gigantic proportions, weighing anything up to 120 lb. Since the introduction of rules by the Royal Club, the weight of the stone has naturally, as the game became more scientific, tended to decrease. It is only a few years ago that the maximum weight was reduced from 50 lb. to 44 lb.: but the fact is that very few players use a stone over 40 lb. in weight. In Great Britain,

Switzerland, and New Zealand, the great majority of curlers prefer to play with stones of from 34 lb. to 36 lb.; and the stones selected for himself by any player are of that weight which, by trial and experience, he finds is best suited to himself.

In selecting a new pair of stones, the beginner (or, indeed, the old hand) need not worry about the circumference or height of the stone—the manufacturer will see to that.

Rule 9.—This rule exemplifies the advantage of a curling-stone's having reversible soles, one being dull and the other keen (or, at any rate, one being keener than the other). Suppose a game begins on keen, hard ice, and in a frosty atmosphere. Every player puts his stone on the dull side. During the course of the game a sudden thaw sets in. It gets more and more difficult at every "end" to send up the stones, and accordingly the players, one after the other, change them on to the keen side. Perhaps even then, as the game goes on, it will be found none too easy for some of the curlers to send their stones up; and "hogs" may then be plentiful.

Rule 10.—It is very seldom that a stone is broken in play: in fact, I myself have not seen such a thing happen for years. When it does occur now it is almost certainly due to a flaw in the stone; and these are very few and far between. Many years ago, however, when brute force more than skill was occasionally a factor in the play, stones were, of course, broken much oftener than now; and more especially as there used to be many players whom nothing delighted so much as to be asked by their skip to "come thundering up" with their utmost strength. (I am afraid that there are still a few of such players, and

that there always will be some—there are plenty such in the game of bowls—but, fortunately, most skips do not countenance such proceedings.) But the game has become more scientific now, and the raw material of the stones is selected by the makers with the greatest care; so that a broken stone may almost be said to be a thing of the past.

Rule 11.—The contingency provided for in this rule is also one of rare occurrence, and is generally due to the inexperience of the beginner who has not yet mastered the proper delivery of the stone. But even by an

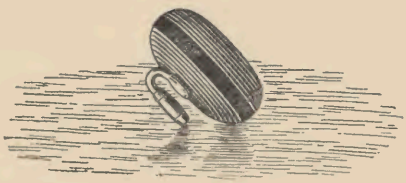

FIG. 12.

experienced curler the stone is sometimes delivered so badly that it turns over and travels up the rink upside down, as shown in Fig. 12, with the handle scraping against the ice all the way. So recently as 1911 I saw an illustration of the turning over of a stone which was one of the most extraordinary things I ever witnessed on a curling-pond. A player was directed by his skip to "chap and lie": he did so, and with such force that his stone (which was travelling with a slight "wobble"), after impact with the one to be driven out turned a complete somersault and remained there upside down.

With regard to a stone coming to rest on its "side," this again does not happen often, and is also the result of a bad delivery, which causes it to rise up on its edge, on which it rolls along just like a wheel, and comes to rest still standing on its edge or "side" (Fig. 13.)

Rule 12.—Here is a rule that many curlers think might very well be altered. When the handle leaves the stone in delivery—a thing that seldom happens—it is always accidental; and yet the player is penalised unless he retains his hold of the handle. It is not every player who has the presence of mind to do so: at and after

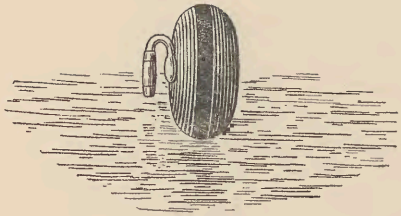

FIG. 13.

delivery what he wishes chiefly to retain is his own equilibrium. If the rule read—"Should the handle quit the stone in delivery, he shall be entitled to replay the shot"—probably most curlers would agree.

Rule 13.—The arrangement of players during the course of each "head" is shown in the diagram in Fig. 7, Chapter VII. "Skips only shall be entitled to stand within the 7-foot circle." This section of Rule 13 is often broken by novices who do not yet know the rules and—I regret to have to tell the strict truth—by old and experienced curlers who ought to know better. In bowls it is even

worse: it is quite a common sight, say, when a skip is playing his last bowl, to see all the rest of the players on the rink crowding round the "head" and within a yard or two of the jack. This will continue to take place occasionally in both Curling and bowling as long as human nature continues to be what it is, or until *a penalty is imposed* for each breaking of the rule.

Rule 14.—The first section of this rule is of prime importance, and yet it is continually and habitually broken by any number of players—much to the annoyance and irritation of the other players who observe the rule. Not only is this class of player not "ready to play when his turn comes," but he also has not even begun to look out his stones from amongst the others. And judging by the time he sometimes takes to find them—although they are under his nose—one would think that he was totally unacquainted with his own curling-stones, or had never seen them before. Then, when he *has* found them, the time he takes to play is very far from "reasonable." It is always a good plan (and necessary when it is thawing) to turn up the stone before playing it to have a look at the sole; and, if anything is observed sticking to it, to give it a wipe with the broom. This our slow player always does; but he does it with such extreme slowness and intentness that one would think he was making a microscopic examination of the sole of the stone with a view to writing a disquisition on its mineral constituents. Then, having finished this part of the performance, he steps on to the crampit—while everyone in the rink is itching to accelerate his pace—and awaits his skip's instructions. These he promptly gets. And, if he then plays at once and without proceeding to discuss the

situation or argue with the skip at the other end, everybody is surprised—and relieved.

It is because no attention is paid to the first part of Rule 14 by some curlers (and bowlers) that a large number of games have to be finished in the dark—or not finished at all. At least that is one of the reasons.

It is interesting to note that sometimes there *is* a penalty attached to the breaking of this rule. For, amongst the rules of the Ontario Curling Association, there is this one :— ". . . Any player failing to play instantly when ordered by the umpire shall forfeit that turn of play, and the game shall proceed."

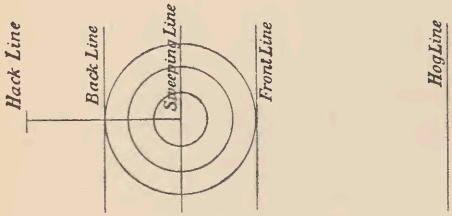

FIG. 14.

Rule 16.—Here again, in connection with this plain and straightforward rule, is another interesting extract from the "Annual" of the Ontario Curling Association, which shows a considerable difference between the rule of that Association and the Royal Club's rule. (The Ontario diagram is here given, Fig. 14.) "Except when snow is falling upon or drifting over the rink, a stone shall not be swept until it has crossed the hog-line nearest the player, and may be swept by the party to whose side it belongs, *until it comes to the front-line*; after passing the front-line a stone may be swept only

by the skip to whose side it belongs until it shall have passed the sweeping-line, when it may be swept by either skip. . . . The sweeper must be at one side and in advance of the stone being swept. . . . It shall not be allowable for the party to whom a running stone belongs to place their brooms before it, or behind it, to screen it from the wind, unless with consent of both skips; and the use of a broom or any other instrument as a fan, either to promote or retard the running of the stone, is strictly forbidden, and it is to be dealt with as a 'running stone' marred by the party to whom it belongs. After a stone has been delivered, the skip of the party not playing may sweep in front of any of his party's stones likely to be moved by the running stone, but in so doing he must not obstruct the skip of the party playing in front of the sweeping-line."

Rule 18.—"The Termination of the Head"—this phrase implies that the last stone of the last player on the rink has been played and has come to rest. But the "head" is very often practically finished *before* this last stone is played. For if there is only one stone to go, and the last player's side is lying one or more shots, he plays the last stone so that it will be certain to do no harm, and "throws it away": *i.e.*, he takes one of three courses open to him—he intentionally "hogs" the stone; or he plays it wide of the "house"; or he calls out "We take the end," and then plays some "fancy" shot, the result of which is immaterial. For the old skip's maxim, "Let well alone," is a very good one to bear in mind, not only near the "termination of the head," but also all through the game.

Exactly the same thing occurs in bowls, and especially

at the termination of the *game*. Here, let us suppose that one side is lying "game," and that the last player is on that side and has one bowl to go. "Turn the jack," he shouts before playing; and the jack is promptly "turned" by one of his partners—a proceeding which, according to the rules of the game, is entirely illegal. And yet it is done on very many greens; for the great bulk of bowlers (who do not know the rules) labour under the delusion that the "turning" of the jack is the legitimate and customary operation for annulling the effect of the last bowl.

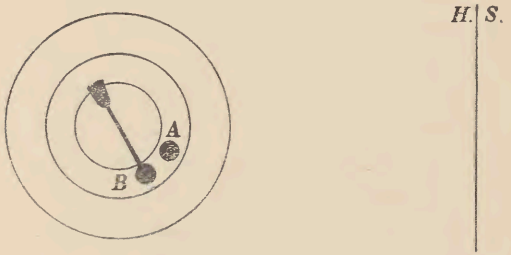

FIG. 15.

With regard to measuring the distances of stones from the tee, this is greatly facilitated by the small inner rings. By these the skips can nearly always tell which of two stones is the nearer to the tee. But when they are unable to decide, the stones are "measured"—generally with the broom handle, as in Fig. 15. Theoretically the distance of the stones A and B should be taken, as the rule says, from the centre of the tee to the nearest part of the stone, after removing intervening stones. But as it is often impossible to locate the exact *centre* of the tee (that important spot being often indicated by a coin of the

realm—generally a ha'penny—imbedded in the ice), in practice the distance is measured between the stone and the ring nearest to it. If this is not sufficiently exact, then a large pair of compasses (or any other of the contrivances usually employed for "measuring" bowls) may be used.

Rule 19.—"The skip . . . *may* play last stone." The italics are mine, for in all my Curling experience I have never once seen the skip do anything else. The rule might just as well read: "The skip shall direct the game and play last; and when his turn to play comes, his 'third man' shall act as skip in his place." I for one have never seen a game of Curling conducted in any other way.

In bowls the corresponding rule is much more definite —the skip *must* play last—for it says: "A rink or team shall consist of four players, each playing two bowls, and called respectively according to the order in which they play, leader or lead, second player, third player, and skip or driver." And again: "The skip shall have the control of the play, but he may delegate this duty at any time to a substitute, who is usually the third player."

Rule 20.—This is really more a part of the etiquette of the game than the written laws. It is a rule that might be easily omitted altogether, for *it is never broken.* True, a good deal of chaffing goes on during a game—ay, and sometimes even wrangling—but never while a player is "in the act of delivering his stone." That moment seems to be a sacred one to curlers—as sacred as when a player is "on the stroke" in billiards, or "addressing the ball" in golf. The last part of Rule 20—the idea of

adding "one shot for each offence to the score of the party so annoyed"—is very quaint.

Rule 21.—In conjunction with this rule we must take Rule 1. These (and all the other rules) apply strictly to match play; but in ordinary club games very little attention is sometimes paid to them. As long as the ice (or a part of it) is "bearing" nothing will keep the curlers off the pond; and they may sometimes be seen curling on a rink a good deal shorter than 32 yards, and long after "a thaw has fairly set in." In these circumstances they may often be seen curling in half an inch (or more) of water, with the ice bending or cracking under them at every step, until at last, perhaps, one of them goes "through." This generally puts an end to the fun.

A match shall not be continued "when snow is falling and likely to continue." But no friendly game was ever stopped by a fall of snow. The sweepers, however, are often busy.

A match shall not be continued "if darkness comes on to prevent the played stones being well seen by players at the other end of the rink." But many an encounter on the ice has been prolonged until it has been so dark that not only were the played stones not "well seen" by players at the other end of the rink, but were not seen at all—except by the aid of lighted matches or a candle or lantern commandeered from the club-house.

Rule 22.—Last but not least. "Every stone shall be eligible to count which is not clearly outside the 7-foot circle."

Suppose Fig. 16 to be a vertical section through a curling-stone resting on the surface of the ice BC, and at the 7-foot circle (which passes through the point A), the

"house" being to the *left* of the stone. Here, clearly, the *sole* of the stone is resting completely outside the "house": and yet the stone is "in the house," and therefore eligible to count. For if it be looked at from above, it will appear as in Fig. 17, when it is seen to be

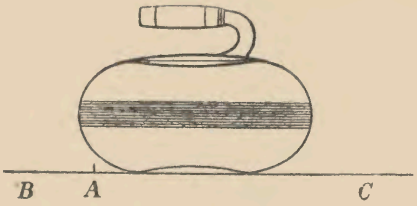

FIG. 16.

"not clearly outside the 7-foot circle." If it is doubtful whether it is in or out, a flat board with a right angle in it (or a carpenter's "square") applied to it will soon settle the matter.

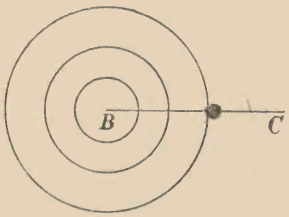

FIG. 17.

"Every stone which does not clear the hog-score shall be a hog." Thus the stone C, in Fig. 18, is a "hog," but the stone B is not. And the stone A is also a "hog."

Suppose another stone D comes up and strikes B squarely. The latter goes towards the "house," while

D stops dead, as shown in Fig. 19. D has not "cleared the hog-score," and yet, according to the rule, it is *not*

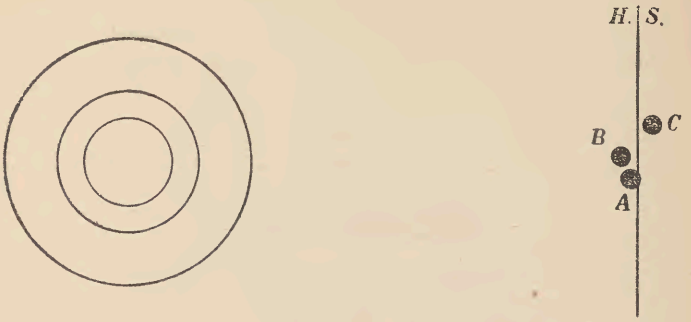

FIG. 18.

a "hog," for it has been kept back by the stone B which was "lying in position."

The origin of the term "hog," as applied to a stone

FIG. 19.

that does not pass that important line in the diagram which stands like a sentinel "distant from either tee one-sixth part of the distance between the foot-score and the

farther tee," is rather obscure. Cairnie in his *Essay* explains it in this way: "The term 'hog' in Curling is supposed to have been taken from that of sheep that are one year old, and are called hogs. At this age they are often ill and apt to lag behind the flock."

With regard to stones passing the back-score, it may be pointed out that the stone E is not "dead," while the stone F is, although it is nearer the tee than E. (The "clearing" of a line on the ice by a stone is exactly

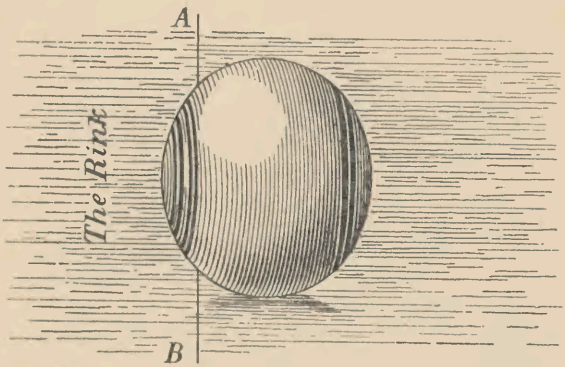

FIG. 20.

analogous to the "clearing" of the "string" by a bowl on the green. In Fig. 20 the bowl, although the part in contact with the green is entirely outside the string AB, is yet "alive." Indeed, it may have travelled many inches outside the string during its journey, and have come back to the string, as in Fig. 20, but when it comes to rest it is not "dead" unless, according to the rules of bowling, it is *wholly* outside the boundary.)

Such are the laws of Curling. Let us now turn to

the unwritten rules—the etiquette—of the game. And the beginner will be well advised to pay as serious attention to these as to the written ones; for some of them are of really vital importance, and reflect the spirit of the true curler. A very extensive list might easily be compiled, but we shall content ourselves with some of those which every right-minded curler should obey. We cannot do better than begin with a list of some "Don'ts for Curlers" which appeared some time ago in the *Engadine Express*, and which should be posted up in every Curling club-house in the world. They are as follow:—

1. Don't forget to clean your stone before each shot.
2. Don't throw the stone: lay the sole on the ice.
3. Don't let it fall with a crash: if you dig a grave in the ice the other players will be fully justified in utilising you to provide the requisite corpse.
4. Don't skip from the crampit. The person in charge of the "house" will attend to the skipping, and sweepers should obey nobody else.
5. Don't argue with your skip. He may be, and probably is, an escaped idiot who knows much less about the game than you do. Still, he *is* your skip, and as such must be obeyed.
6. Don't try shots that have not been called for: the skip can judge far better what is wanted than you can possibly do from the crampit, and strict obedience to orders is the first essential of a curler.
7. Don't cry if you make a bad shot. Salt water injures the ice.
8. Don't be unduly elated at a fluke. Your opponent will probably follow with a worse one.
9. Don't cross the rink while an "end" is in progress under any pretence whatever; when you have played your last stone go to your place along the side of the rink on which you are to sweep; if you must get on the other side go round the crampit.

10. Don't stand watching the stones of your own side go by you; be with them and be ready to sweep the moment the command is given.
11. Don't sweep until you are told to do so.
12. Don't, when skipping, let the stones go on the crampit. Many a poor wretch is languishing in jail for a far less heinous offence.
13. Don't drop tobacco ash on the ice and omit to clean it up with your broom. If impelled by some uncontrollable impulse to drop matches, orange-peel, or anything else, pick it up again and put it in your pocket, to be disposed of at a more suitable time and place.

From this list of "Don'ts" a few have been omitted, as they are only variations of the written laws. And a good many more might be added to the list. Let us try a few.

I. "Don't swear—if you can help it; and don't lose your temper." The former is, of course, the result of the latter. Some philosopher has said that swearing is sometimes *beneficial*; but, even so, don't swear on the pond, as it is entirely foreign to the spirit of the game. In this connection it is interesting to recall what was said at a meeting of the British Medical Association held a few years ago in Belfast, in which a discussion took place on the "Medical Aspects of Athleticism." Sir James Barr, in the course of a speech dealing with various games, said that the more hazardous the game the better the development of character, and for that reason he preferred for youths, boxing, fencing, wrestling, jumping, running, swimming, football, cycling, rowing, and cricket; while golf, bowls, and Curling might be reserved for elderly gentlemen with not too much reserve energy. It was, he remarked, only the three last-mentioned games which

seemed to be essentially associated with profanity and Scotch whisky. As regards the "essential" connection between golf and profanity, everybody who has ever played that game will be in complete agreement with Sir James; but that gentleman must have had a very unfortunate experience of the other two games, and, if he ever belonged to a Curling or bowling club, we should all like to know its name. It was natural that Sir James's remarks should have given rise at the time to a good deal of comment and newspaper criticism. Some of the critics even "dropped into poetry," like Silas Wegg; and one of their effusions, which appeared in the *Scarborough Evening News*, may be commended to curlers, bowlers, and golfers who are inclined to use "language." It is as follows:—

Ye youths who plough the fields in play,
And through the green so proudly strut,
Smite still the "gutty" while ye may,
But if ye foozle, smile and say—
"Tut, tut!"

And ye who love the roaring sport,
What though the stone ye thought would lie
Within the ring is three feet short,
Curse not, but solemnly retort—
"Oh, my!"

Ye mellow men, who twist and twirl,
At bowls observe a saintly calm,
When "narrow" let no wild oaths whirl,
But at the offending bias hurl—
"Oh, ham!"

It is amusing to think that long ago many of the ancient Curling "societies" not only passed laws against swearing, but even went the length of imposing penalties

for breaking these laws. Thus we have amongst the "Rules and Statutes to be observed by the Society of Curlers in Muthill, November the 17th, 1739," the following decree: "That there shall be no wagers, cursing or swearing, during the time of game, under the penalty of Two Shillings Scots for each oath."

Again, in the Coupar-Angus Club (1772), there was this rule: "That if any brother in the course of play, or at society meetings, shall be guilty of swearing or giving bad names to any member, he shall pay twopence for the first offence, and be at the mercy of the court for repeated acts of said crimes."

Blairgowrie Club (1783) also had a similar rule: "No member, while on the ice and in society, shall utter an oath of any kind, under the penalty of twopence *toties quoties*." The famous Duddingston Club (1795) also decreed that "he who utters an oath or imprecation shall be fined in the sum of 3d."

From these local rules it is apparent that the monetary value of an oath was variable in the old days, and so was the amount of swearing, for in the Coupar-Angus Club just mentioned there was collected on 2nd February, 1795, —"Cash for oaths . . . £0, 3. 2."—all in tuppences! On 30th January, 1795, however, the total amount collected was only "£0, 0s. 9d." One wonders how this latter amount was made up of twopenny fines: perhaps some of those old worthies got a reduction on "taking a quantity."

In an old book published in 1824, *The Scottish Gallovidian Encyclopedia*, by John Mactaggart, there is a metrical description of a bonspiel which would tend to show that swearing was not unknown at that period.

The bonspiel in question was played between two local potentates, yclept respectively "Laird Nurgle" and "Laird Nabble," both their teams of players being composed of "their farming slaves." The stake for which they played was "a puncheon o' gude rum." Having partaken of a little preliminary liquid refreshment ("ilk stamock got a cauker"), they opened the proceedings by birling a bawbee for the lead:

> Laird Nurgle had that trifling luck,
> Sae his first player led;
> The stane to his direction stuck,
> But by the cock it fled:
> At which began to fidge the laird,
> And muttering to blame him;
> Laird Nabble's man na better fared,
> For Nabble loud did damn him,
> At first that day.

This was not a very good beginning: but far worse was to follow. The next stone that Nurgle's man played was a "hog"! Accordingly:

> What language now frae Nurgle fell,
> His phiz had on a horrid thraw;
> What oaths he let, ne'er heard in hell,
> Warm frae the Gulph of Florida:
> . . . . . .

I regret that I am unable to complete this verse here, as the rest of it—containing Nabble's observations addressed to *his* man—is much too coarse. If these remarks of Nabble's were really uttered by that worthy, he must have been a choice blackguard: but it is comforting to think of himself and Nurgle that, in the words of the "poem," "abroad they baith were bred." If fines

for swearing were in vogue at that time, Lairds Nurgle and Nabble must have been a grand source of revenue to the club of which each was such a distinguished ornament.

II. "Don't smoke cigars or cigarettes on the pond." This is really an *addendum* to the 13th of the *Engadine Express* rules. If we *must* smoke when curling—and I am afraid that some of us must—let us smoke our briar-root or clay. If, however, we do try an occasional cigar (or that other apology for a smoke, a cigarette), sooner or later the ash will fall on the ice, no matter how careful we think we are; and cigar ash on the rink is diabolical, especially when it is thawing. And when we are lighting our pipe or cigar, let us remember to do it at the side of the pond (if that is not far away), and to throw the match over the bank. Many a well-played stone has been totally wrecked by a lucifer lurking half-way up the rink.

III. "Don't bring sand or earth on to the ice with your boots—it is far worse than tobacco ash." In other words, "Wipe your feet on the mat" before going on to the pond.

IV. "Don't borrow stones, but keep a pair of your own"—after you have learnt to play. The old Abdie Club once fined a member A for playing with B's stones, and B was fined for lending them. And quite right, too, even if it *was* at a "Curlers' Court." "Every residing Member of the Society . . . shall provide himself in a curling-stone, to be kept in this place under the penalty of One Shilling Sterling." Such was another rule of the Muthill Society: and other societies had similar rules, enacting generally that two stones should be provided by

each member, the penalty sometimes being as much as ten shillings.

V. "Don't come on the pond without a broom, besom, or *cowe*." A curler curling without a broom is an atrocity. And let the broom be a decent one, and well "tied," so that pieces of its substance do not get scattered all over the rink. How many stones that have been well and truly laid have had their smooth-gliding career suddenly ruined by a beastly bit of broom lying on the "slide"! The old Curling societies recognised the essential nature of the broom, and, as usual, fined members for being without that necessary equipment. For instance, the Blairgowrie Club, in one of their rules framed in 1796, decreed that "no member shall be seen on the ice as a player without a broom, under the penalty of twopence stg."

Although you must bring your broom with you on to the pond, there are, *per contra*, many things that you must *not* bring. And one of the chief of these is in our next rule.

VI. "Don't bring dogs on the pond." This is a rule which, I regret to say, is broken not infrequently by curlers who ought to be ashamed of themselves. The dog on the pond is, like the "Derby dog," an unmitigated nuisance. He is in everybody's way. His favourite performance is to walk slowly across the rink just as you are delivering your stone. This he does so often that you would almost think he was doing it "of malice prepense." His owner shouts to him, and the others wave their brooms at him (and also shout): and off he goes. And in another minute or two he is there again. It is a delicate point whether it is the dog or his master that ought to be shot.

Therefore leave your dog at home. Also your umbrella : for no curler can retain his dignity on the ice with a "gamp" in his hand.

VII. "Don't boast of your skill as a player, and don't brag of the medals and other equally useless things you have won—and are going to win." For, remember that pride goeth before a fall.

VIII. "Don't object to the place allotted to you in the rink by the skip." Whatever that place may be, cheerfully do your level best to win the game.

IX. "Don't forget to learn the rules."

CHAPTER IX

THE POINT GAME

In the whole realm of sport there is probably not a more unsociable game than the Point Game in Curling; and that is the reason why, in clubs in Scotland that are blessed with two or three months' Curling every winter, only one or two days (or rather half-days) are devoted to this game. I have never met a curler who in his heart of hearts really had any love for the game, and I have yet to meet the curler who, when he is engaged in playing it does not fervently and devoutly wish it were over, so that he and his fellow-sufferers could join in the good rink game.

The reason of the unsociability and wearisomeness of this game is not far to seek. Every man is for himself, and against everybody else; and this, too, with a total lack of energy or enthusiasm. The Curling spirit is entirely absent. The procedure of the game will explain this. Imagine, for a moment, that you are in a game just about to begin; and suppose the "field" consists of twenty players. Two parallel rinks are prepared, and all the competitors play in rotation up one rink and down the other. The order of play is determined by ballot, all the names being usually placed in a hat and drawn out one after the other. Suppose you have the misfortune to draw No. 1. (This is a real misfortune, as, in

playing, you have to "show the way" to the others at each "point" of the game.) What do you do? The first "point" is Striking, and accordingly you play your two stones, one after the other, up one rink and then down the other, so that you have four successive shots at Striking. *You then wait* until all the other nineteen players have had their four shots each in succession at striking! And there are nine separate "points" in the game, so that you have a similar wait for every one of them. And each and every one of the other nineteen players, whether he is No. 2, No. 9, No. 16, or No. 20, has to go through the same ordeal. (Might I commend this "waiting" game to those curious *bowlers* who do not like the four a-side game "because you have so long to wait"?) To relieve the monotony, you can now and then lend a hand with the scoring-sheet, but as the scoring consists, to a great extent, of jotting down a succession of "0's" with an occasional "1" or "2," the scoring in itself becomes a superadded monotony. And the tedium of the whole thing is intensified by the fact that there is practically no sweeping. You can, if you like, sweep *your own* stones (not that you are very anxious to sweep anybody else's in this game), but it is seldom that the broom is used. There is, therefore, in the intervals of waiting, only one thing left for you to do, and that is—to smoke. And it is probably a good thing that the club does not possess a refreshment bar —otherwise you might be "called" to it oftener than would be good for your health or your play. And it is also, probably, another good thing that the thermometer is a considerable number of degrees below freezing-point. Otherwise, some of the players might be found wandering

into the club-house, "between the acts," to have a hand at "nap" or some other equally scientific game.

During the Point Game the two rinks in use, at any given time (say, when a player has just played his last stone at any of the nine "points," as Drawing), present the extraordinarily curious appearance shown in the accompanying diagram, Fig. 21. Let A be the player who has just played his fourth and last stone at Drawing: let B be the player following A: C the one following B. A played his two stones up Rink 1, then he crossed over

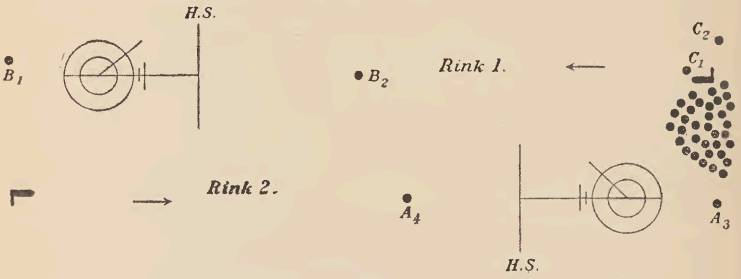

FIG. 21.

and played his two stones down Rink 2. Thus he had four shots at Drawing. His first stone down Rink 2 was really his third shot at Drawing, and as soon as it came to rest the scorer at that end noted its position and entered the score, removing the stone out of the way (to A_3). Meantime A's last stone (A_4) is on its way down Rink 2. A follows it, and having had his four shots at Drawing, he pushes his two stones across to join the general crowd near the crampit in Rink 1, so as to be in readiness for the next "point." But for this he has to wait until all the stones in the crowd have been played.

While A is performing on Rink 2, B is at work playing

up Rink 1. His first stone (B_1) was removed by the scorer (there is, of course, a scorer at each end) out of the way after it had finished its journey, and his second stone (B_2) is on its way up the rink. When he has finished on Rink 1, he will follow A across to Rink 2. And C, who has placed his first stone (C_1) at the crampit in readiness to take his turn (with his other stone, C_2, not far off) then follows B.

The crowd of stones near the crampit on Rink 1 is there during the whole course of the game; for, although it loses two stones for every player that goes up Rink 1, it is being continually reinforced by the stones coming down Rink 2.

And now we come to the manner of playing and scoring in this Game of Points: for, although it is a weariness of the flesh, it can on no account be omitted from any account of the game of Curling, were it only for the beginner's sake. For all the various shots that curlers are called upon to play in the four a-side rink game will be found to be included among the nine "points" that are played in the Point Game.

The diagram on the ice for Point play is slightly different from the one in Chapter VII. We have the 4-foot and 7-foot circles, but only at one end of each rink, as in Fig. 21, the crampit being at the other end. Then there is a line drawn from the tee at an angle of 45° with the central line.

The "Points" of the Game

Every competitor has to play four shots at each of the nine following "points" of the game, namely, Striking, Inwicking, Drawing, Guarding, Chap and Lie, Wick and Curl in, Raising, Chipping the Winner, and Drawing

through a Port. In the following nine diagrams, which are explanatory of the nine "points," there are two kinds of stones represented—"placed" stones are shown thus ●, and played stones thus ○. The Points are :—

1. *Striking*

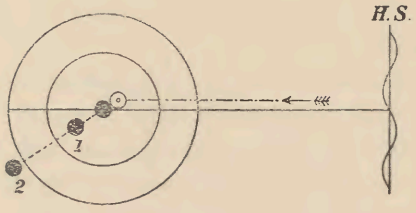

FIG. 22.

A stone being placed on the tee, if struck, shall count 1; if struck out of the 7-foot circle, it shall count 2. (In all these "points" no stone shall be considered *without* a circle unless it is entirely clear of that circle.)

2. *Inwicking*

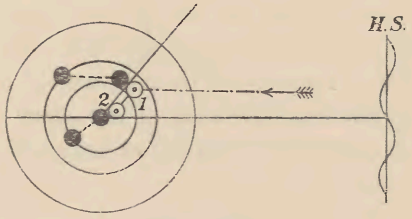

FIG. 23.

A stone being placed on the tee, and another with its inner edge 2 feet 6 inches from the tee, and its fore edge on a line drawn from the tee at an angle of 45° with the central line, if the played stone strike the latter on the

inside, it shall count 1; if it perceptibly move both stones, it shall count 2. (In this second "point," as also in Nos. 6, 8, and 9, and at *Outwicking* when played, two stones must be played on the right and two on the left. See diagram, Fig. 21. The first two stones will go up Rink 1 on the right, as the side "placed" stone is on the right of the tee, but coming down Rink 2 both stones will be played to the left, the placed stone being on the left of the tee.)

3. Drawing

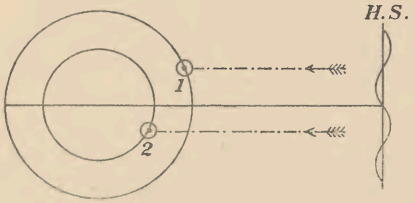

FIG. 24.

A stone being played, if it lie within or on the 7-foot circle, it shall count 1; if within or on the 4-foot circle, it shall count 2. (This is the "point" in the playing of which the competitors will be occasionally seen "sweeping up" their own stones.)

4. Guarding

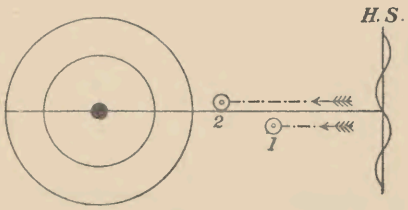

FIG. 25.

A stone being placed on the tee, if the stone played rest within 6 inches of the central line, it shall count 1; if on the line, it shall count 2. It must be over the hog-score, but must not touch the stone to be guarded. (If it does touch this stone it counts *nil.*)

5. Chap and Lie

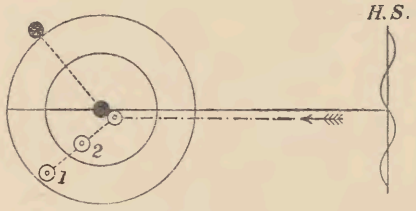

FIG. 26.

A stone being placed on the tee, if struck out of the 7-foot circle, and the played stone lie within or on the same circle, it shall count 1; if struck out of the 7-foot circle, and the played stone lie within or on the 4-foot circle, it shall count 2.

6. Wick and Curl in

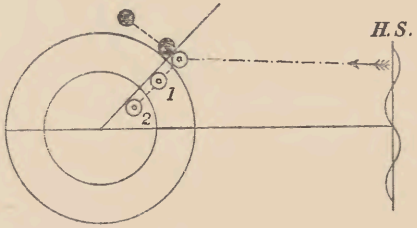

FIG. 27.

A stone being placed with its inner edge 7 feet distant from the tee, and its fore edge on a line making an angle

of 45° with the central line, if the same be struck, and the played stone curl on or within the 7-foot circle, it shall count 1; if struck, and the played stone curl on or within the 4-foot circle, it shall count 2. (Note that it is of no consequence what becomes of the "placed" stone when struck. See also note to "Inwicking.")

7. *Raising*

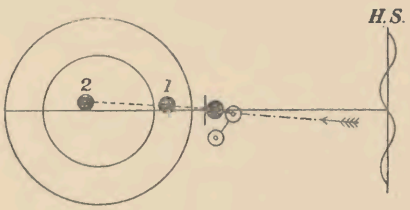

FIG. 28.

A stone being placed with its centre on the central line and its inner edge 8 feet in front of the tee, if it be struck into or on the 7-foot circle, it shall count 1; if struck into or on the 4-foot circle, it shall count 2. (Here it does not matter what becomes of the played stone after it has struck the "placed" one.)

8. *Chipping the Winner*

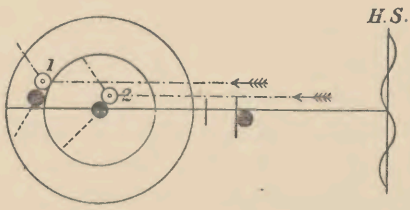

FIG. 29

A stone being placed on the tee, and another with its inner edge 10 feet in front, just touching the central line, and half guarding the one on the tee, and a third stone being placed 4 feet behind the tee, with its inner edge touching the central line, but on the opposite side from that on which the guard is placed, if the played stone strike the stone placed behind the tee it shall count 1; if it strike the stone on the tee, it shall count 2. (The played stone need only *touch*, *i.e.* perceptibly move, either of the "placed" stones. See also note to "Inwicking.")

9. *Drawing through a Port*

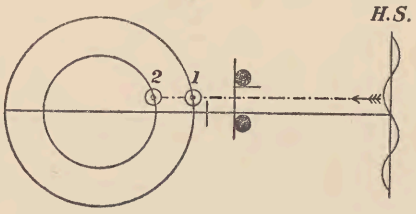

FIG. 30.

A stone being placed with its inner edge on the central line 10 feet in front of the tee, and another stone on the opposite side with its inner edge 2 feet from the central line, if the played stone pass between these two stones without touching either, and rest within or on the 7-foot circle, it shall count 1; if within or on the 4-foot circle, it shall count 2. (See note to "Inwicking.")

Such are the nine "points" of the Point Game. If, in a "points" contest, it is found that two or more competitors have gained the same number of shots, an extra "point" must be played by these competitors, namely:—

10. *Outwicking*

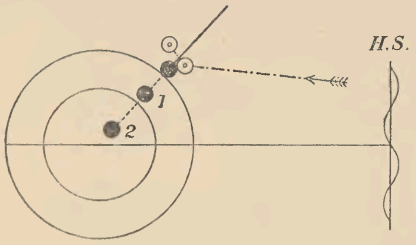

FIG. 31.

A stone being placed with its inner edge 7 feet distant from the tee, and its centre on a line making an angle of 45° with the central line, if struck within or on the 7-foot circle, it shall count 1; if struck within or on the 4-foot circle, it shall count 2. (It does not matter what becomes of the played stone after it has struck the "placed" one. See also note to "Inwicking.")

If, after Outwicking, some of the competitors have still equal scores, the umpire shall order one or more of the preceding "points" to be played again by those competitors.

The Point Game has, naturally, been noticed by various writers on Curling, and, as far as I know, they have all, *with one exception*, treated it with good-humoured tolerance and some of them with undisguised contempt. The one exception in question is so curious that I cannot refrain from putting it on record here and now.

In 1901 there was published a large volume on *Ice Sports*, in which the writer on Curling, after premising that "Science and skill in Curling are as much required as in a game of draughts or chess," went on to speak of

the Point Game in this strain: "The game of points is the alphabet—the beginning and end of a curler's education. Beginners who are anxious to improve, and old experienced curlers who wish to retain their position, practise these different points as carefully and as faithfully as a musician would his scales, or a marksman his position before the target."

This is perilously near the comical. It will be generally conceded by curlers that the Point Game is the alphabet of Curling, but to say that it is the *end* of a curler's education is enough to make all ancient curlers turn in their graves, and all modern ones leave off playing the game. One would be inclined to pass over such statements more in sorrow than in anger, were it not that our author commits several other indiscretions which are almost crimes, and which are quite unpardonable. For example: in writing of the noise to be heard at a bonspiel he speaks about "the monotony of this constant hum." O Carsebreck! what hast thou done to deserve this? The glorious roar of thy channel-stanes has become a "monotonous hum"!

Need we now be surprised at our author when, in referring to the immortal Tam Samson, he says: "He was the King o' a' the *corps*"? And what shall be said about his manner of quoting from the poet, when he talks of ministers

> Wha hae been kenn'd in holy rapture,
> Arousin' which at times to vend and na'lt wi' Scripture?

It would be difficult to find a more "awful example" of literary mutilation.

The history of the Point Game is not without interest

to the modern curler. Here again the Duddingston Club were the pioneers, for they instituted the game in 1809. But they had only three "points" in the game, namely, Drawing, Striking, and Inwicking, and at each of these a player had four chances. And, although the "possible" was thus the very modest score of 12, they played for a gold medal "with proper inscriptions and embellishments."

In 1836 the Currie Club drew up a set of diagrams for the Point Game. The number of "points" was eight, and every one of these eight is included in the nine "points" now in vogue. The Currie system was adopted by the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, who gave and still give local medals to associated clubs for the Point Game. Under the Currie code each player had still four chances at each point, it being therefore possible to score 32.

In 1888, much to the satisfaction of curlers in general, the old method of allocating one point for each shot was abolished; and a new, and, as most curlers thought, a more equitable system of scoring was instituted. This, with the exception of one point, "Drawing through a Port," is the system now in use, which is fully set out in the present chapter. And as now, with four shots to each player at each of the eight "points" of the game, each shot might score 2, it was possible to score a total of 64.

The ninth "point" of this game, "Drawing through a Port," which had been played in Canada for several years, was introduced into the game in Great Britain in the winter of 1894–95, thus completing the list of "points" as it now stands. The "possible" is now 72.

The evolution of the Point Game might be tabulated in this way :—

Date.	No. of Points.	No. of Shots at each Point.	Score per Shot.	The "Possible."
1809–1836	3	4	1	12
1836–1888	8	4	1	32
1888–1894	8	4	2 or 1	64
1894–	9	4	2 or 1	72

Let us now consider some of the scores that have been made at the Point Game, as chronicled in the "Annuals" of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, from its institution in 1838 to the present time. The critical reader who is *not* a curler may perhaps think that the scores registered at this game are woefully small when compared with the "possible." For instance, in the Royal Club "Annual" for 1912–13, there are only 29 scores thought worthy to be recorded for nearly 700 clubs in the United Kingdom; and they certainly do not look very good on paper. Out of these 29 scores there is one score of 35 (the possible is 72), and that is the best! Then there is one of 33; after that come four of 31, two of 30, two of 29, three of 28, four of 27, four of 26, and eight of 25. Now all these scores, although they *look* so poor, are in reality very good: in fact, any score above 30 is splendid. In this respect Curling differs from most other games. At shooting, for example, marksmen often score the "possible" at a given range, finding the bull's eye every time; but in Curling the "possible" has never been scored, and it is safe to say that it never will be scored, and every curler who has played the Point Game fully recognises that.

During the first fifty years of the Royal Club's existence, from 1838 to 1888, while the "possible" remained at 32, about 250 scores were recorded by which medals were won, ranging from 13 to 21, the latter figure being attained by only two players! And any number of medals were won by scores of less than 13. To take a few examples: in 1865 the members of the Carsebreck Club engaged in a game of "points"—in which every member of the club played—and the winner of the medal scored 10 points: in the same year twenty members of the Liddesdale Club played for a medal, the winner scoring 8 points: in 1883 eleven members of the Torphins Club played, and the winner scored 6 points: in 1887 the Barrow-in-Furness Rose and Thistle Club competed for a medal, which was won with a score of 3 points!

From 1888 to 1894 the "possible" was 64, and during this period the record score was made in 1892 by a member—one of the youngest—of the Strathspey Curling Club, who scored 38 points—the highest score ever made in Scotland, while the Point Game comprised 8 "points." I take the following interesting extract from the Royal Club "Annual" for 1892–93:—

"On the whole, the figures returned show an improvement in the Point Game. Two clubs (Strathspey and Strathpeffer Spa) sent us such a list of good scores that we put ourselves in communication with the secretaries, as it occurred to us that curlers generally might be interested in seeing at what points the best scores were made, for the purposes of comparison and competition with a 'Colonel Bogey,' such as is now practised in a good many golf clubs.

"As the result of our communication, we here give the

tabulated scoring in both of these club competitions of all who were engaged in the play:—

I. STRATHSPEY C.C. POINT SCORING. *27th February*, 1892

PLAYERS (11).	Striking.	Inwicking.	Drawing.	Guarding.	Chap and Lie.	Wick and Curl in.	Raising.	Chip the Winner.	Total for each Player.
1. R. Winchester .	1222	0000	2222	2201	2202	0210	1020	2112	38
2. James Cameron .	0222	0000	0222	0222	2122	0000	2200	2021	34
3. Thos. Macintosh .	2222	0000	2102	1222	2222	2000	2000	1010	34
4. James Grant . .	2202	0002	0202	2222	2202	0000	1201	0210	33
5. Charles Grant .	2202	1000	2202	2220	0222	0200	2001	0011	32
6. Wm. Macdougall .	2222	0000	0000	2001	2220	0010	2220	0100	25
7. George Harvey .	2222	0000	1210	1222	0000	0000	1000	0000	20
8. Alex. Hunter .	1211	1010	0022	2212	0000	0002	0000	0000	20
9. George Anderson .	2101	0010	0222	2001	0002	0000	0000	0020	18
10. Francis Macbean .	0222	0000	2002	1100	0000	0000	1200	0020	17
11. Alex. Templeton .	0220	0000	0100	2012	0020	0000	0201	0000	15
Total .	68	6	48	59	43	10	29	23	286
Average for each Player . .	6·18	·545	4·36	5·36	3·90	·909	2·63	2·09	26

II. STRATHPEFFER SPA C.C. POINT SCORING. *27th February*, 1892

PLAYERS (13).	Striking.	Inwicking.	Drawing.	Guarding.	Chap and Lie.	Wick and Curl in.	Raising.	Chip the Winner.	Total for each Player.
1. David MacDonald	0122	0000	1012	0021	2212	0102	1110	2220	31
2. Kenneth Cameron .	0222	0200	1212	0012	0001	0200	0222	0021	29
3. Andrew Lunn .	0120	1000	1122	0012	0220	0002	0012	0022	26
4. Wm. MacDonald .	0022	2000	0120	1202	0202	0001	1012	2010	26
5. Alexander Cross .	2202	0100	1102	0122	2020	0001	1021	0000	25
6. David Gordon .	2202	2000	2000	0012	0002	0000	2222	2000	25
7. Donald Cameron .	0000	0020	1202	2020	2220	0000	0210	0022	24
8. Arch. M'Dairmid .	2022	0100	0221	0211	0000	2000	1011	0002	23
9. Andrew Whyte .	2222	2000	0202	0000	0000	2000	2022	0000	22
10. Robert Lunn . .	0220	0002	0200	0021	0202	0100	0011	2010	21
11. Robert Ross . .	1202	0000	1010	2002	2000	0000	0022	0012	20
12. Wm. F. Gunn .	2002	0000	0001	0020	0212	1000	1001	1220	20
13. Alex. Wallace .	1002	0020	2212	0101	0000	0000	1011	0021	20
Total .	60	17	51	41	39	15	51	38	312
Average for each Player . .	4·61	1·30	3·92	3·15	3·00	1·15	3·92	2·92	24

"From a glance at these two tables, it will be seen that both competitions took place on the same date, and that 'Inwicking' and 'Curl in' are the two most difficult points (speaking from an average) in the present eight, while 'Striking' is the easiest point of all, a fact that we commend to those who cultivate the 'Striking' game in preference to the quiet one. Strathpeffer, though averaging 2 points less, we must, however, place before Strathspey in a fair contest, and for this reason—that, as it came out from the correspondence, the Strathspey rink was only 38 yards, whereas that of Strathpeffer was 42 yards according to the law. It will, however, be granted that both are splendid scores taken all round, and highly creditable to northern clubs and curlers."

The introduction of the additional "point," "Drawing through a Port," raised the "possible" to 72; but even with this addition, Mr. Winchester's score of 38 at Strathspey has been beaten only ten times, in the open, from 1892 to the present. On these ten occasions the winning scores were—three of 39, four of 40, two of 42, and one of 43. The last one is the record score for open-air Curling in the United Kingdom, and was made by the Rev. S. MacNaughton, of the Preston Curling Club, in the winter of 1904–5. Since the introduction of indoor rinks, however, several higher scores than these have been made. In April, 1914, Mr. R. Morton, Lanark, scored 49 at the Scottish Ice Rink, Glasgow—a record for Great Britain up to the present.

The superiority of Canadian curlers at the Point Game is very marked. These players, what with their iron "stones" and their "Kilmarnock twist," their grand rinks and great opportunities, are able to compile much better

scores than are their brethren in the Old Country. Take, for example, the scores in the "Annual" for 1912-13 of the Ontario Curling Association. This Association in that year comprised 105 clubs, out of which only six sent in returns; and their scores of 30 or over included ten scores of 30, five of 31, three of 32, nine of 33, six of 34, four of 36, two of 37, one of 38, one of 39, four of 40, five of 42, one of 44, and one of 47. For the preceding year the figures were even better, the scores of five clubs including seven of 30, four of 31, five of 32, one of 33, six of 34, three of 35, two of 36, two of 37, one of 38, three of 39, four of 40, one of 41, one of 42, two of 43, one of 48, and one of 55. The last score was made by Mr. J. W. Wilson of the Harriston Club.

There were famous curlers long before the Point Game was invented, and I have often wondered what sort of scores some of these worthies would make at this game could they only return from celestial (or other) regions and take a spell on a modern rink. How, for instance, would Tam Pate fare? The redoubtable Tam was the best curler that ever lived—if all accounts of him be true. His fame rests chiefly on his great exploit in 1784, when he played in a celebrated match at Lochwinnoch, a description of which is to be found in Cairnie's *Essay*. This match was between the Duke of Hamilton and M'Dowall of Garthland, and the former won, his victory being due chiefly to Tam, who, we are told, *never missed a single shot*! No wonder they called him a warlock. But if this warlock could revisit Lochwinnoch now, what sort of "show" would he make in the Point Game? Would he score the "possible"? I trow not.

In Sir Richard Broun's *Memorabilia* (1830) we get an

account of another wonderful ancient curler, Deacon Jardine to wit, who lived about the beginning of the eighteenth century at Lochmaben, and "whose name," says Sir Richard, "has survived the lapse of an hundred and thirty years." The worthy Deacon would have been a formidable Point Game player, if we may judge by his success at a peculiar "point" that he was in the habit of playing; the account of which in the *Memorabilia* is as follows: "Of Deacon Jardine's *forte*, it was said that he could, with his stone, birse a needle—*i.e.*, he could wick a bore so scientifically that he would undertake, having first attached, with a piece of shoemaker's wax, two needles in the side of two curling-stones, just the width of the one he played with apart, and upon two stones in front, similarly apart, and in the line of direction, having affixed two birses, to play his stone so accurately that, in grazing through the port, it should impel the birses forward through the eyes of the needles!" Compared with this, the modern "Drawing through a Port" must hide its diminished head. Were this needle-birsing Deacon a member of the Lochmaben Club now, he would in all probability attend the annual general meeting of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club and propose a motion to this effect—that to the nine "points" now in vogue in the Point Game there be added a tenth one, namely, Birsing the Needle.

Such tales as those of Tam Pate and Deacon Jardine, although very interesting, are not, of course, believed by any living curler, although they do great credit to the inventive genius of their authors. The most atrocious Curling story of this *genus* I have ever read, appeared only a few years ago, in that book on *Ice Sports* already

mentioned. I have tried to refrain from retelling this shameless tale, but I cannot. Here it is: "On a certain occasion there was a stone on the tee; two other stones lay in front, one on each side of the centre line, thus forming a port, and so close together that no one stone, so far as could be seen, at least, could get through. The skip, therefore, asked the player to raise one of the stones, whereby he would either expose the winner or remove it altogether. A very safe and proper direction, but the man said that he saw the winner, and could run the port.

"'No, no,' said the skip, 'it could not be done.'

"'Let me try it,' said the man. 'I see the winner, and could very soon lift him.'

"'Ah, well,' said the skip, 'come on! You will take your own way, at any rate.'

"Up he came with a vengeance, rushed the port with a fury that nothing could withstand, struck the winner dead, and left the two stones which formed the port whirling round and round"!

It is a miracle that a bolt from the blue did not do to the author of this story what "the man" did to "the winner."

CHAPTER X

THE CURLING-POND

I AM afraid—and I am sorry for it—that the word "pond" will have to include several kinds of "pond" that are, strictly speaking, not ponds at all. There are ponds and "ponds"; but roughly speaking—or, perhaps, even scientifically speaking—they might be classified thus :—

1. Deep-water Ponds.
2. Artificial Ponds.
3. Tarmac Rinks.
4. Swiss Rinks.
5. Indoor Rinks.

1. *Deep-water Ponds.*—On deep-water ice—and there only—do we get the roarin' game proper, the genuine article, the sport of our forefathers. Think of the great and glorious bonspiels that have been played at Carsebreck, Lochwinnoch, Lochmaben, and many other lochs, and then compare them with the "drawing-room" games played on modern rinks. But the glory has nearly departed, for these bonspiels, owing to the lamentable changeability of the climate in Great Britain, are almost a thing of the past.

In only a few clubs in Scotland do we find deep-water

Curling every winter. And by the word "deep" is meant anything over about a foot in depth: for the Curling conditions on ice borne by a foot of water are the same as those on ice over twenty feet of water. Most of the old curling-ponds were natural lochs, mill (and other) dams, flooded meadows, old quarry holes, and so forth. (And Curling has occasionally taken place even on rivers in Scotland.) Some of the lochs had no outlet or inlet, and the water in these always remained during frost practically at the same level. Some of them had both an outlet and an inlet, and then the curlers, by means of sluices and what not, could regulate the level of the water according to their requirements. On deep-water ice it required (and requires now) usually nearly a week's frost—not two or three degrees, but nearer twenty—to make ice strong enough to curl on. The old deep ponds were not safe unless the ice was over two inches in thickness (although ice less than two inches thick will actually "bear"). The strength of ice depends, of course, on two things—its thickness and quality. If we turn to books on physics, we shall get a lot of information from the professors about the strength of materials —including ice. But a good deal of the information given does not appeal to the Curling mind. What curler, for instance, cares a brass button (or "a white-smith's imprecation," as an ultra-genteel journalist once termed it), whether the "crushing strength" of ice varies (as it does) from 160 to 1000 pounds per square inch? Or that the "tensile strength" of ice varies from 140 to 230 pounds per square inch? Or that its "shearing strength" is about seventy-five pounds per square inch? What curlers do want to know is the answer to the

momentous question—when is the ice strong enough to carry a rink?

And here we shall find the "Army Rules"—that gold mine of information on everything under the sun—most interesting. According to these "Rules," ice 2 inches thick will support a man, or infantry spaced 6 feet apart; when 4 inches thick, it will carry a man on horseback, or cavalry, or light guns; when 6 inches thick, it will support heavy field-guns, such as 80-pounders, and waggons drawn by horses; when 8 inches thick, a battery of artillery, with carriages and horses, may be driven over it; when 10 inches thick, it would sustain an army or "an innumerable multitude"; and on 15-inch ice, railway lines have been laid and used for months. It is evident, then, that, on ice that is just 2 inches thick, curlers had better not get too close together; and they should also guard against crowding a number of their stones near each other; otherwise they may find the latter suddenly disappear from human ken—and these will have to be fished out later. But anything above 2 inches will do.

Personally speaking, I have often curled on 4-inch and even 6-inch ice; but I have never observed a light gun or an 80-pounder on the pond. The only kind of ordnance I ever *have* observed while curling was a pocket pistol—whose fluid ammunition was smokeless (if not tasteless), being, in short, the liquid that cheers but eke inebriates (if sufficient be "taken"). The purposes to which this liquid, by the way, has been put by curlers have been sometimes rather curious. It has actually been used for *cleaning the ice.* There may be curlers who will hardly credit the statement: if such there be, I can

only tell them that in the minutes of the ancient Muthill Curling Society there occurs the following remarkable entry:—"February 7, 1789, To Isabel White for whisky for cleaning the ice, £0, 1s. 8d." If Isabel White had survived until the year 1908, she would have found that there was still some sort of connection between Curling and usquebaugh; or if Robert Burns, who wrote the immortal line—"Freedom and whisky gang thegither"—could have revisited this terrestrial sphere in the same year he would have seen that whisky and Curling (sometimes) gang thegither. For in that year a curler gave some interesting evidence concerning the liquid in question, as a witness before a Royal Commission on whisky and other potable spirits. This witness said that he made an experiment in his own house, where the members of a Curling club committee were holding a meeting. After the *business* (the italics are mine) was finished, he put before the meeting three whiskies—one a pure malt, one a blend, and one a pure patent-still whisky (all of the same age), and asked the members to give their opinion of each; no one but himself knowing what the whiskies were. The voting was three to one in favour of the blend, and the patent-still spirit received more votes than the pure malt pot-still whisky!

But to return to deep water. Who would imagine that it is possible to have too much frost for Curling? Nobody. And yet in Cairnie's *Essay* there is the following extraordinary story, which was communicated to the author by one Andrew Crauford:—

"There was an extraordinary and tedious frost in 1745 or 1746. The inhabitants of the south side of the loch [Lochwinnoch] walked over the ice to the kirk on

thirteen Sundays successively. The wells, fountains, and burns were dried up by hard frost. . . . The ice was bent, and bowed down to the bottom, because no water entered into the loch. The Curling ceased on account of the curve of the ice."

In Scotland there are numerous deep-water ponds that have been made somewhat after the way in which a bowling-green is made. In many of these the water is sometimes less than a foot in depth, but that is, to all intents and purposes, "deep"; for, supposing the water to be, say, nine inches in depth, the same amount of frost will be required to produce a sufficient thickness of ice for Curling as would be required on the deepest pond in the kingdom. And, with a pond 9 inches deep, there will always be, in Great Britain, *some* water underneath the ice, between it and the bottom of the pond. The ice, in short, is water-borne, and that is the essence of a deep-water pond.

In making a deep-water pond, heed should be paid to the natural advantages of the locality. The first thing to be considered is its situation. A fairly level piece of ground, near which a burn or small stream of water flows, can easily be converted into a pond without much excavating or building up. Then there is the nature of the soil which is to form the bottom of the pond; and this is of great importance. The best bottom is evidently that which is the least porous; and a clayey soil, being more impervious to water than others, is accordingly to be preferred. Another important consideration is the accessibility of the water-supply. All these things can be safely left to the ingenuity of the local engineer and contractor, as these practitioners will be found to be generally equal to the occasion. And one thing should

be borne in mind, and that is, that it is better (and cheaper and easier) to make a curling-pond nine inches in depth than nine feet.

2. *Artificial Ponds.*—Although no other kind of pond will ever supplant the open-air, deep-water one in the affections of those fortunate individuals who have had any experience of deep-water Curling, it cannot be gainsaid that the various substitutes for deep ponds have been, especially in recent years, a real boon to hundreds of curlers in Scotland and England who would otherwise have had little or no Curling at all.

The great desideratum in outdoor Curling in the United Kingdom is a pond which, instead of requiring a strong frost lasting about a week in order to produce sufficient ice for Curling, will secure the necessary ice with a very few degrees of frost, and this, too, after one night or even one hour of frost. The solution of the problem is wonderfully simple. For every day's Curling that we enjoy on our deep pond in any winter we shall get many days' Curling if we use a shallow-water pond; that is to say, a pond in which the depth of the water is so small (say half an inch), that it *all* soon freezes, thus giving us a solid sheet of ice resting on a solid, level surface. And it is this surface—the bottom of the "pond"—that is the factor of prime importance.

The forerunner of such ponds as these was an artificial one constructed by Cairnie, who thus added to his other Curling distinctions that of being the first artificial pond-maker. His pond was made in this way. Having selected a suitable piece of ground, forty-four yards long and seven yards wide, he first had it levelled, and then freed from grass and weeds. The bottom was then lined

with clay (with which was mixed some lime—for the benefit of the worms), and a "wall" five inches in height was built round the pond. This wall was also of clay and was sloped and covered with turf. To make a quarter of an inch of ice on this pond five hundred gallons of water were required. In constructing this pond Cairnie came near to inventing the modern "Tarmac," and although he just missed doing this, curlers none the less owe him a debt of gratitude. As one of his contemporaries said: "Thanks, therefore, to the man who has taught us to scoop a curling-rink with the same certainty that we level a bowling-green, and obviated all the accidents of drowning and drenching that sometimes occur on those lochs which are as deep in the middle, if not at the sides, as the hills around them are savage and high." (The saving clause—"if not at the sides"—is, by the way, distinctly canny.)

Modern authorities agree with Cairnie that the best bottom for an artificial, shallow-water pond is clay. It is also the one that entails least work in the making of the pond, if the clay happens to be found where the pond is to be made, for in that case almost the sole operations will consist in levelling and rolling.

Besides clay, the other substances that have been tried for these ponds are concrete, asphalt, cement, wood, and tarmacadam. Whichever of those materials is used the principle is the same—the rink is flooded with water until it is covered. The surface of the water then, of course, is level, even if the concrete or other material underneath is not quite level. Accordingly the depth of water (and therefore the thickness of the ice) will sometimes vary at different parts of the pond.

The first concrete ponds that were tried held from half an inch to one inch of water. Although much more Curling was obtained with these than was possible with deep ponds, there were several drawbacks to them. The concrete often cracked and developed such things as bumps; and, in addition, the rink was rather expensive to construct. Nevertheless, a large number of clubs laid down these artificial ponds, but they are gradually being superseded by the "Tarmac" rinks which were originated in 1903. The concrete artificial rink is, in fact, the link between the deep-water pond and the "Tarmac"; and there is very little doubt that, before many years have passed, it will be the *missing* link. For, although with it many days are available for Curling when it would be impossible to play on deep water, on the other hand its utility is not to be compared to that of the "Tarmac."

3. *Tarmac Rinks.*—The great difference between these and the old artificial ponds is that, instead of the ice being an inch or so in depth, as on the latter, it is, on the "Tarmac," only a mere skin of about the thickness of a sixpence, and this is obtained by spraying water lightly over the rink, which instantly freezes. Whenever the temperature falls below freezing-point the pond can be sprayed and the game begun almost at once!

Cairnie, as has been mentioned, nearly discovered the "Tarmac," for that he had the idea of the spray is clearly shown by his own words in his *Essay* (1830). His artificial pond required, it will be remembered, five hundred gallons of water to cover it with ice a quarter of an inch thick; "but," says he, "where haste is required the fourth part of that quantity will be found sufficient, and may be applied by two men in the course of an hour, who, of

course, find it no great hardship to walk backward and forward and sprinkle the surface with the roses of watering-pans."

It is a great pity, and much to be regretted by curlers, that Cairnie did not carry his experiments farther, for not until over seventy years afterwards do we hear again of the spray. It was about 1902 that some other genius conceived the idea of spraying water, during frost, on a level surface, and thus forming a thin coating of ice "while you wait." And in the same year the first artificial rink with a tarmacadam bottom was laid down in Edinburgh. Since then hundreds of "Tarmac" rinks have been constructed throughout Scotland and the northern half of England. And, whereas the concrete pond often cost over £100 a rink, the "Tarmac" can be laid down, under reasonably favourable conditions, for an outlay of £20 to £30 a rink! And its unique advantage, compared with other ponds, is demonstrated by the vastly greater number of games played on it every winter. Thus, in the Moffat district a few winters ago, during the Curling season only one day's play was possible on deep-water ice, and six days' play on the concrete, while as many as seventy games were played on the "Tarmac"!

Soon after the principle of the spray had been established, the question arose as to what was the best kind of surface to be sprayed; how, and of what materials, should it be made. Accordingly, experimenting went on; various surfaces were tried, some were discarded, others were improved, until at the present time there are several in use, all agreeing in the main structure, and differing only in minor details. In other words, there

are various recipes for the "Tarmac." The following is an example: The levelled space for the rink is first covered with a thick layer (about 9 inches) of broken stones or bricks, on the top of which is spread a layer of ashes. This is levelled and consolidated by rolling. Another layer of rough ashes is spread over this, and it is again rolled level. An inch of sand is then placed on the top of this, and again it is rolled; then an inch of fine ashes, and more rolling. Lastly tar is run on evenly, sprinkled with fine sand, and rolled once more. The tar sinks into the ashes, and binds the mass together, thus providing the surface for spraying. On this surface is generally painted the circles, hog-scores, etc., of the diagram, and these are seen through the ice when formed.

The foregoing is only the general principle of the construction of a "Tarmac" rink. Any club intending to lay one down will, naturally, have recourse to the expert contractor (of whom there are now several) who will carry out the work.

In laying down a rink it is advisable—indeed, imperative—that it should lie east and west, and that it should be well shaded on one side, if full benefit is to be got from it. The most effective shade is a belt of trees, on the *north* side of which the rink should lie. On a deep-water pond the action of the sun's rays affects only the *condition* of the ice, there being a good thickness of it; but on a "Tarmac" rink the heat of the sun affects the very *existence* of the ice. The trees shading the rink should, preferably, be conifers, such as spruce or fir; deciduous trees shed their leaves, and these get frozen into the ice of the rink sometimes—which does not add to the pleasure of the game.

The "Tarmac" rink having been got ready, the spraying of it is the next thing to be considered. This is simple. There are various kinds of spraying apparatus, the simplest of all being a hose-pipe terminating in a nozzle. Then, the atmospheric temperature being below freezing-point, the spraying can be begun; but it is always better to delay it until the surface of the rink has had the frost for, say, an hour or two. The rink has then to be sprayed slowly from one end to the other, and then resprayed, and so on, until a sufficient thickness of ice is obtained for Curling. The water in the spray should be projected into the air before it falls on the rink; because, through contact with the frosty air, its temperature is considerably lowered (especially if the spray is fine) in the interval between leaving the nozzle of the appliance and reaching the surface of the pond—at which moment it has almost already begun to freeze. This projecting of the spray into the air has another effect: a certain proportion of minute air-bubbles will be found in the ice-sheet formed on the rink, and to this is due the "whiteness" of the ice—which differs vastly in appearance from the "black" virgin ice formed on deep water.

Since the introduction of the "Tarmac" rinks there has been a large and increasing amount of night Curling. In the days of deep-water Curling, when the game was played only by daylight, there might be a long spell of frost, with several weeks of Curling; but the days were short, and darkness soon put an end to the play, as there was no efficient means of lighting the pond artificially. Hundreds of games had actually to be finished in the dark; for curlers are always enthusiastic, and, having

once begun a game, they are loth to give it up until compelled to do so. How often have we seen something like the following occur! It gets too dark for the player to see the skip's broom, and the skip indicates its position with a white handkerchief. Soon the handkerchief cannot be seen, and then matches, candles, and even lanterns are sometimes requisitioned; but after a few ends the game has to be abandoned. This, to a keen curler, is heart-breaking, for he knows that the beautiful sheet of ice he is leaving may be unplayable on the morrow—and for a good many morrows.

It was inevitable, then, that the "Tarmac" rinks, which have been laid down in recent years, should be artificially lighted for night (and morning) play. The effective lighting of the pond will depend chiefly on local conditions, and therefore may be placed safely in the hands of a lighting engineer. The best method of lighting a pond is by the electric light; and when the rink is near a town or other place where electric power is used and can be obtained, it is a case of plain sailing. When electricity is not available, gas is often employed, and is very efficient when its lighting power is increased by the incandescent method.

Many clubs have their "Tarmac" rinks lighted by gas. As a good example, the Annan Curling Pond might be cited. The particulars of the lighting arrangements, according to information kindly supplied by an Annan curler, Mr. John Crail, are these: Four rinks were laid down (in 1911), the lighting installation of which consists of six standards, three erected between the first and second rinks, and three between the third and fourth rinks. The four corner ones are supplied with copper lamps, each with

three powerful incandescent burners, and the two middle ones with one lamp, each with four burners, the combination lighting up the whole area most effectively. The whole work of making this pond was carried out at an approximate cost of £200, this sum including the lighting installation, water-supply, fencing, and also the erection of an unpretentious but neat and handy wooden house, comfortably fitted up with a stove and other things.

Many clubs possess ponds for which neither electricity nor gas is available. In these cases the curlers have to fall back on lamps of various kinds—naphtha, paraffin, acetylene, and so on. Of all these varieties the best is a portable acetylene flare-light. This light had been in use for some years for tramways, shipyards, mines, works, and railways, when, in September 1908, it was experimentally tried for the lighting of a London bowling-green at night, on which occasion the players—of whom I had the pleasure of being one—continued their game after darkness had set in. The green was about 38 yards square, and four rinks were at work. A couple of portable flares were placed on one of the "banks," and these lit up the whole green so well that, even beyond the fourth rink (which was the farthest from the lights), a newspaper could be easily read. For the information of Curling clubs it may be mentioned that the manipulating of an acetylene flare-light is a very simple affair, the instructions accompanying each lamp being concise and easy to follow; and the cost of working is very moderate.

4. *Swiss Rinks.* — There is in Switzerland, at some places, deep-water Curling on some of the natural lakes, but the rinks referred to here are those into whose construction artifice enters to a great extent. A very large

proportion of these are in connection with the splendid hotels throughout Switzerland which are thronged with curlers, skaters, ski-ers, tobogganers, and other Alpine sportsmen during the winter. The secret of ice-making on these rinks was very lucidly explained by Mr. Humphrey H. Cobb in the *Public Schools Alpine Sports Club Year Book* for 1912. It is, we are informed by Mr. Cobb, to Rudolf Baumann, the consultant ice-man to the Club, that visitors to Switzerland are indebted originally for the wonderful sun-proof ice there. The following are the details of his initial experiment in ice-making. He took two wooden tubs, one of which he filled with water, and, there being a strong frost, it froze solid in a single night. The other tub was slowly filled by means of a tap dripping into it for a fortnight, the ice meanwhile being gradually formed as the water filled the tub drop by drop. The two tubs were then broken up, and the two blocks of ice were allowed to stand in as much sunshine as possible. The quickly-made ice entirely disappeared in a week, but at the end of three weeks there was still a considerable quantity of the other block left.

This, then, is the secret of making good, sun-proof ice —it has to be made slowly. But, before beginning to make ice on the rink, the foundation of the latter has to be prepared. The procedure is generally as follows : The ground is levelled in the spring, and about the middle of November—by which time the grass has grown on it—the ice-man and his workmen begin operations. It is necessary to have at least a foot of snow on the ground ; therefore, if that amount has not conveniently fallen from the clouds, snow has to be carted on to the ground and then spread out level. The men then form in long lines, with

their arms round each other's shoulders, and tramp to and fro, beating the snow down with their feet firmly and evenly (Plate XIV.). After this, water is squirted on, but it requires at least three days and nights to "take." The snow at first absorbs all the water squirted on to it; and afterwards, when it really begins to form a surface, it is flooded during the day and sprinkled during the night (Plate XIV.). The flooding has the effect of levelling up the ice. The alternate flooding and sprinkling go on until the surface is made perfectly level and the rink is ready for use. It then varies from ten inches to two feet in thickness.

When these rinks are finished and have been in use, they show—more particularly the ones used by the skaters—the effects of wear and tear. Accordingly the sprinkling process has to be applied periodically. This is always done at night, the ice-men sometimes being up the whole night through, sprinkling the rink by means of a hose with a very fine nozzle, the work being done with great skill. Result—the splendid ice to be found on Swiss rinks.

5. *Indoor Rinks.*—These are, (1) Rinks under cover, such as those at Aberdeen, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, where the ice is artificially produced by refrigerating machinery; and, (2) Rinks under cover, such as many of those in Canada, where the ice is naturally produced as the direct result of the low temperature of the atmosphere.

The building of a glaciarium, with the accompanying installation of refrigerating machinery, involves great expense. There are various systems of producing ice artificially, one of those most generally employed being the "ammonia compression system" to be found in the

Aberdeen Glaciarium. Here the system is worked by an engine driven by an electric motor, the current being supplied by the Corporation. There is a circulation, by means of pipes, of chilled brine (which is produced as a result of the ammonia compression) throughout the length and breadth of the floor; and water is put on the floor until it is a fraction of an inch above the level of these pipes. The machinery is then set in motion, producing and circulating the chilled brine, and in a short time the water is frozen, thus forming a solid sheet of ice. (Any curler who would like to go into the details of the "ammonia compression"—or any other—system of refrigerating, must consult some text-book of physics; in which case he has my best wishes.)

The Canadian Indoor Rink is the last word in luxury. The rink itself is part of a building which contains everything essential to the comfort of the players and spectators alike. The ice itself is of a quality that cannot be surpassed. A good sheet of it is secured at the beginning of the Curling season, and during that season it is looked after and kept in order with great care—as in Switzerland. In Scotland we try to get ice as smooth as possible for Curling, but in these Canadian covered rinks they actually roughen the ice artificially. This is done by a process termed "pebbling," which consists in spraying the ice with hot water. In laying down the rinks the different lines of the diagram (circles, hog-scores, etc.) are marked permanently under the ice.

CHAPTER XI

THE CURLING-STONE

It will be useful to divide our discussion on the curling-stone itself into "heads," like a sermon,—concerning, firstly, the material of the stone; secondly, its manufacture; thirdly, its shape; fourthly, and in conclusion, its motion.

Let us take these points in the order mentioned:—

1. *The Material.*—Since Curling began in Scotland nearly every kind of stone obtainable in that country has been tried at some time or other for curling-stones —except, for obvious reasons, such "stones" as sandstone, slate, clay, and coal. Out of the large number of stony materials that have been thus utilised, about a dozen varieties were in time found to fulfil the requirements of a good curling-stone; and these are the kinds used by the makers at the present day. On a modern pond, however, where (say) forty players are at work, there will generally be observed only about half a dozen different sorts of stone.

The qualities chiefly required in a curling-stone are hardness, toughness, elasticity, and, above all, freedom from flaws. Nearly all modern curling-stones possessing these qualities are granitic in structure, and are, accordingly, often referred to as "granites," although, in reality,

they are not true granites. Their mineral constituents are mixed together somewhat after the manner of the ingredients of a plum-pudding—or a haggis. Sometimes the grain is coarse, sometimes it is fine; and, as a rule, the finer the grain (and the more uniform) the better. These stones are not liable to break in any particular direction, whereas a true granite possesses certain "lines of fracture" which render it unsuitable for making curling-stones. Many years ago, however, a good many stones used in the north of Scotland were made of Aberdeen granite, and can be seen in the club-houses to this day. They were generally the handiwork of the local stone-mason, were nearly all single-soled (and flat-soled as well), and, when the ice was soft, they could with difficulty be sent to the nearest "hog." For many years I knew a pair of stones made of Peterhead granite—the only pair I ever saw of that particular variety. They looked rather pretty, and, being a deep *red*, were somewhat of a novelty on the pond. They lasted for a surprising number of years, considering that they were in constant use; but time *will* tell, and so, losing a piece here and a piece there every now and then, they at last presented an appearance somewhat like a miniature "Jubilee Stone" with a modern handle, and had to be relegated to the shelf.

Which is the best kind of stone? It would be difficult to say. It all depends on what kind of ice it is to be used on—whether on keen, hard ice, or dull, soft ice; whether on indoor rinks or outdoor rinks; whether in Great Britain or in Canada. The most widely used of all curling-stones are those made from the rock obtained from Ailsa Craig, the famous island in the Firth of Clyde, from which thousands of "blocks" are sent every

year to the curling-stone manufacturers. There are three varieties of Ailsas—the red hone, the blue hone, and the common Ailsa (grey). The first-mentioned is the dearest, as it is scarcer than the other two. The blue Ailsa is a very pretty stone, and a very good one, but speaking from personal experience I have found blue Ailsas, when recently polished, to be so keen on good ice that it is difficult to "keep them back"; you almost try to "hog" them when playing, but even then they often creep on and on and go right through the "house." If, peradventure, one of them does stop near the tee, the slightest touch from another running stone knocks it to Jericho. On good ice the common Ailsa (which is found all round the Craig) is very serviceable, and, on indoor rinks, where the ice is always in much about the same condition, it is as good as any. The Ailsa is a hard stone and will withstand a very low temperature; and accordingly many pairs of Ailsas are annually sent to Canada.

Ayrshire is represented by the "Burnock Water," which is declared (by those who use it) to be the best of all curling-stones. Anyhow, it is very uniform in structure, hard, heavy, and tough.

The "Crawfordjohn," from south-east Lanarkshire, is also a splendid stone, beautiful in appearance, compact and heavy, and will last for generations.

Besides the Ailsas, Burnocks, and Crawfordjohns there are several other varieties of stone—Blantyres, Tinkernhills, Carsphairns, and Crieffs—to be seen occasionally on the pond (and in the makers' establishments). All the varieties of stones mentioned have a more or less mottled appearance: one variety of Crieff stone, however, is black when polished.

The curler who is at the beginning of his Curling career, and who is thinking of buying a pair of stones, would do well to remember that the most beautiful curling-stones are not necessarily the best; beauty is only skin-deep in a curling-stone, as it is in something else (I forget what). A fair exterior may, like charity, cover a multitude of sins. But, nowadays, the stones are selected with such care by the makers that our novice may safely trust himself in their hands. For, although buying a pair of stones is like investing in a lottery, it is consoling to think that it is the very best kind of lottery—a lottery which is nearly "all prizes and no blanks." And the beginner, seeing that his curling-stones will probably last his lifetime, need not be in too much of a hurry in making his investment. He should play a considerable number of games with different stones borrowed from his friends, so as to find out, above all, what *weight* of stone suits him best; for this he must find out for himself, as nobody else can tell him. Then, before very long, he will have a pretty good idea as to the kind of stone he is going to buy.

Let it not be forgotten that curling-stones which in process of time have become "the worse for wear" can be repaired. They can be redressed, repolished, resoled, or reduced; and an odd stone can be matched. If a curler is in doubt whether a pair of old stones, badly chipped, are worth sending to the manufacturer to be reduced, he should weigh them, and allow at least four pounds for the operation; he will then know himself if the weight remaining will suit him.

With regard to the price of curling-stones, it may be mentioned that a pair of Crawfordjohns (without handles)

costs, roughly speaking, between three and four pounds; Ailsas vary from two to three pounds; Burnocks and Tinkernhills cost between thirty and forty shillings. A pair of handles costs anything from ten shillings upwards.

2. *The Making of the Stone.*—A large proportion of the work entailed in making curling-stones is done by machinery. Between the time when they are sent out as rough "blocks" from their "native heath" to the curling-stone makers, until the time when they are ready for use, they have to go through many stages of treatment. The "blocks" of the same kind of stone are first "paired" (having regard to colour and quality chiefly),

FIG. 32.

and then roughly "dressed" to the size required. They are then bored through the centre with a hole through which will pass the handle-bolt; after which they are "turned" in a lathe, being cut down and smoothed, during the latter operation, until the requisite weight and shape are obtained. The next step is the grinding, and after that the polishing.

The two sides of the stone are not exactly of the same shape, and, in addition, one of them is given a higher degree of polish than the other, so that every stone has a *keen* and a *dull* side.

After the polishing, two parallel lines are drawn round the stone, in its equatorial region, and the zone or belt between them (A B, Fig. 32) is slightly roughened with

a fine hammer. This roughened space is the "striking band," where one stone comes into contact with another when in play on the ice.

Only one thing now remains to be done to the stone —the fitting of it with a handle. Through the central hole an iron bolt is passed, and this is kept in its place by its flanged head underneath the stone, which fits into a depression in the sole of the latter, while the handle is screwed on to the top end of the bolt, which just projects above the stone. Between the flange of the handle and the stone is a leather washer, by means of which the handle grips the stone without slipping round. The handle is generally made of brass or gun-metal—and, of course, there being no sumptuary laws now, it may be mounted in silver or gold, or ornamented with precious stones.

3. *The Shape of a Curling-Stone.*—The shape and size of a curling-stone are both circumscribed to a certain extent by the rule which stipulates that all stones must be circular in shape, that their circumference must not be more than 36 inches, and that their height must not be less than one-eighth of their circumference. All curling-stones, in short, have now practically the same shape as seen by the naked eye; the great point in which they differ is the shape of the *sole*. The latter is shaped by the manufacturer to suit the requirements of the particular ice on which the stone is to be used. Therefore, any curler who thinks of buying a new pair of curling-stones should tell his manufacturer where he is going to curl.

The curling-stones used in Great Britain are now more or less concave on both soles. In the early days of the

circular stone it had only one sole, and that was, as a rule, flat, as shown in the vertical section in Fig. 33. Here the whole of the sole A B rested on and touched the ice; and, on soft ice or in thaw, such a stone required the strength of a Goliath to send it to the "hog." Nowa-

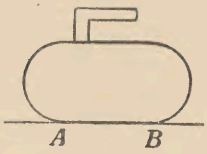

FIG. 33.

days, owing to the presence of the "cup," B C (Fig. 34), which is always made at the central part of the sole, and to the rounding off of the edge of the sole (at A and D), the stone evidently rests on the ice on a circular ring of contact whose breadth is A B (and C D). This ring is the "running" portion of the sole and is the shaded

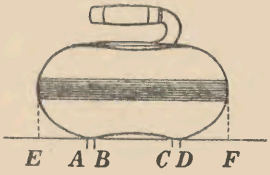

FIG. 34.

portion shown in the horizontal section of the stone in Fig. 35. The diameter of the "cup" and the curvature and breadth of the ring of contact vary in different stones and affect their running.

In the stone-playing parts of Canada the stones are also concave on both sides (or soles), the "cup" of the dull

side being wider and deeper than that of the keen side; the diameter of the "cup" of the dull side is usually about five inches, while that of the keen side is about four inches. Therefore, as the "bearing" (or ring of contact) of the sole is only a fraction of an inch, the sole

FIG. 35.

of the stone would present the diagrammatic appearance shown in Fig. 36, where the outer circle represents the circumference of the stone at its "equator," and the thick inner circle is the ring of contact.

The shape of a curling-stone sole has always been

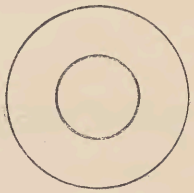

FIG. 36.

a bone of contention amongst curlers, and even at the present day they are not all agreed on the subject. If there were only one kind of ice, and that kind were always in the same condition, the matter would be simple; experience (which is another name for experiment) would soon solve the problem of the best form of

sole. But, unfortunately, ice is variable; deep-water ice is quite different from "Tarmac" ice, which in its turn differs from indoor ice. Not only that: on deep-water ice alone, besides there being different qualities of ice, the Curling conditions may vary greatly during the course of a single game; you may start the game on hard, keen ice, on which the stones run almost too easily; in the middle of the game a thaw may come on and make the surface of the ice soft, while you may perhaps finish the game by curling in a quarter of an inch of water.

In dealing with the shape of the sole we have to consider another factor besides the kind of ice it runs on. It is essential nowadays that a curler should be able, by "twisting" the handle of his stone, to make it diverge from a straight line as it travels on level ice, to make it take "bias," as it were, and almost to cause it to go round a corner; and it has been found that the extent to which a stone while travelling responds to this "twist" depends on the shape of the sole. Here, again, experience shows that the "cupped" concave sole is the best, and the dimensions of the concavity in the sole can be varied by the makers so as to suit different Curling requirements and conditions.

Any description of the shape of a curling-stone would be incomplete without some reference to the handle. Since the days of the old stones, with their square, bent, and curved handles (such as those shown in Fig. 37), there have been various—but not very drastic—changes in the shape of the handle, until now practically all modern curling-stones possess a handle more or less like that in Fig. 34, the only variation in shape of different handles being in degree of curvature.

I am not quite sure that, with the present shape of handle, perfect balance of the stone, during the swinging and delivering of it, is secured; for, with the ordinary handle now in use, a leaning of the stone to one side can often—too often, in fact—be observed. And this may account to some extent for that far from rare occurrence —a bad delivery. It might be mentioned that in 1903 there was introduced a T-shaped handle for curling-stones which appeared to give complete satisfaction to those who tried it. From theoretical considerations (I have never seen it in use) it appeals to me as being a common-sense handle, and one specially adapted for easily communicating "twist" to the stone. Can it be

FIG. 37.

(or do my eyes deceive me?) that this kind of handle is to be seen on one of the pairs of stones used in the game depicted in Plate X., "Curling at Kandersteg"?

4. *The Motion of a Curling-Stone.*—There is something very mysterious in the "running" of some curling-stones. Two stones—apparently identical in every respect, and running with equal ease on hard, keen ice—will sometimes show a very great difference on soft ice. Why is this? Various theories have been propounded to account for the singularity. Some have held that the retardation of a stone is partly due to suction! That is to say, the concavity of the sole acts on the ice like a sucker. And it has been held, further, that the deeper

the cavity the greater the retardation. This explanation may be put out of court at once, for it is quite evident that, whatever may be the depth of the cavity—whether it be the fourth or the fortieth part of an inch—this cavity is *always* full of air at the same pressure as the external air: and suction could only occur if the cavity were a complete or even a partial vacuum—which it never is.

The retardation of some stones more than others was said by other theorists to be due to the fact that the area of the sole in contact with the ice was greater in some stones than in others. This theory may also be put on one side, for it has been demonstrated *ad nauseam* by mathematicians, engineers, and other scientists, that friction (which is the principal resistance to the motion of one body sliding over another) is quite independent of the area of the surfaces in contact. This is probably diametrically opposed to the "popular" idea; but the laws of friction are not theoretical; they have been determined and verified by actual experiment. Accordingly, it does not matter—as far as friction is concerned—how much of the sole of the stone touches the ice; the friction will be the same whether the breadth of the ring of contact in a concave sole is a quarter of an inch or ten times as much.

But is sliding friction the only resistance to the stone's motion? It practically is—on hard, dry ice. But on soft ice there is something else called into play; there is *abrasion* of the surface of the ice (comparable to the abrasion which takes place when a heavy iron weight is pushed over a slab of soft sandstone). And the amount of abrasion (and consequently retardation) will evidently depend on the "rounding off" or curvature of

the outer and inner edges of the ring of contact—where these edges meet the ice. It will now be apparent why it was impossible, on soft ice, to send up the old, flat-bottomed stone with a sharp-edged sole; and why, in Canada, where the ice is always hard and dry, the edge of the ring of contact is sharper than it is in stones used in Scotland or England, where the ice is very often soft.

The friction between the stone and the ice depends to a great extent on the pressure between the two; in other words, on the weight of the stone. It depends also on the smoothness of the part in contact with the ice. This part after a time becomes dull, increase of friction follows, and this, too, to such an extent, that we are at length compelled (much against our will sometimes) to send our stones to be repolished.

Another factor that determines the amount of friction is the nature of the materials in contact: if two bodies identical in weight and smoothness, but of different materials, slide over the same surface, the friction will not be the same for both. (This is another of the laws of friction). In Curling this law is not of much importance, for there is little difference between the running of two stones which are identical in everything except material. (The keenest stone I ever curled with was a blue "Ailsa.")

"The friction is independent of the velocity of one body sliding over another." This is yet another law of friction (and again I am afraid it is contrary to popular opinion). Therefore, from the moment the stone leaves the hand of the curler until it arrives at its destination at the other end of the rink, the friction is unchanged, although the velocity of the stone is continually decreasing.

The fact that a stone responds more readily to the "twist" when it is moving rather slowly is due, not to an increase of friction, but to something else which will presently have to be considered.

A curling-stone, in addition to its forward motion over the ice (technically termed its motion of translation), possesses nearly always a twisting or "curling" motion (termed its motion of rotation). This rotatory motion is sometimes set up by inequalities or other defects in the ice, but, as a rule, it is communicated to the stone by the player—often intentionally, sometimes unintentionally. This rotation of the stone is analogous to and has the same result as the "bias" of a bowl or the "side" which is sometimes put on a billiard-ball. A curling-stone travelling without rotation on perfectly true (*i.e.* level) ice would always travel in a straight line; but, by giving it a rotatory motion, it can be made to deviate from a straight line to the right or left, and that, too, to a considerable extent. The curler knows the value of so doing. And of still greater value is it when the ice is not true—when it has a "bias"—for in that case the stone is given a twist, so as to make it rotate while travelling, in order to compensate, as it were, for the fault of the ice.

It is interesting to consider the nature of this rotatory motion—quite apart from its effect or utility. And, while doing so, let us imagine that the sheet of ice over which the rotating stone is travelling is frictionless. In such a case the stone as a whole will travel for an indefinite length of time in a straight line, but any given point on the ring of contact of the sole will not travel in a straight line; it will travel in one of three curves. (Let the

point on the sole, A (Fig. 38), in the following discussion, be at the outer edge or circumference of the ring of contact; this ring being the shaded part in the diagram, while the dotted line is the circumference of the entire stone.)

In studying the motion of a curling-stone, it will be convenient to compare it with that of a cart-wheel. (I do not know whether my own pair of red-hone "Ailsas" will feel flattered at the comparison; but, whether they do or do not, they will have to put up with it—in the cause of science.) The stone generally possesses, as has been mentioned, two motions simultaneously, and so does

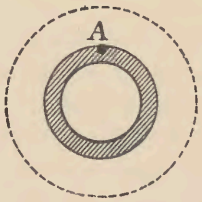

FIG. 38.

the wheel—a forward motion and a rotatory motion—but, while the stone rotates horizontally about its axis, the wheel rotates vertically. In the case of the wheel, the one motion depends on and is always proportional to the other: if the wheel rotates quickly it also travels forward quickly, if it rotates slowly it travels slowly. But a curling-stone can do (and often does) what no cart-wheel ever does—it can travel quickly while rotating or "twisting" slowly, and it can travel slowly while twisting quickly; and its velocity of rotation depends in no way on, in fact, has nothing whatever to do with, its forward velocity. Now—

(i) The stone's velocity of rotation may bear the same relation to its forward velocity as the rotational velocity of a cart-wheel bears to *its* forward velocity. In this case each and every point on the rim of the cart-wheel travels forward in a curve (or rather a succession of curves), called by the mathematical fraternity a "cycloid," the curve shown in Fig. 39. (This curve looks like a

FIG. 39.

succession of semi-circles, but, in reality, it is not.) Anybody can easily demonstrate this ocularly to himself by sticking a small piece of paper on the rim of the cart-wheel and observing the motion of the paper as the cart moves forward. (Before going farther, I wish to impress on the reader that this is not part of a mathematical treatise, but an attempt to give him a bird's-eye view, as it were, of how a curling-stone sole

FIG. 40.

actually moves.) When a curling-stone, accordingly, travels with its rotational and forward velocities like those of a cart-wheel (both velocities being simultaneously great, or both medium, or both small), every point on the circumference of the ring of contact will travel along the ice in a cycloid.

(ii) The velocity of rotation of the stone may be great

while its forward velocity is small, *i.e.* in plain English, it may be travelling slowly and, at the same time, twisting quickly. In this case every point, such as A, on the edge of the ring of contact, travels in a curve of the nature of the one shown in Fig. 40. In a curve of this sort, the greater the speed of rotation compared with the forward velocity the nearer the "loops" of the curve

FIG. 41.

will be to each other: when the speed of rotation is very great while the forward velocity is very small (as occasionally happens in the case of a curling-stone—when it is nearly at the end of its journey and on the point of stopping, but still rotating quickly), the "loops" of the curve actually cross each other, as shown in Fig. 41. (It may be stated, for the benefit of readers who are of an

FIG. 42.

inquiring turn of mind, that a curve of the nature of those in Figs. 40, 41, is termed a "curtate cycloid.")

(iii) The velocity of rotation of the stone may be small while its forward velocity is great; or, in other words, it may be travelling quickly and, at the same time, twisting slowly. In that case every point on the edge of the ring of contact travels in a curve of the nature of the one shown in Fig. 42. If the forward velocity is very great

compared with the speed of rotation (as sometimes happens in the case of a curling-stone at the beginning of its journey), the curve is merely a wavy line, something like that shown in Fig. 43. (A curve such as those in Figs. 42, 43, is termed a "prolate cycloid.")

The motion of a curling-stone as it travels from crampit to tee with a considerable twist imparted to it by the player might, accordingly, be described thus: It performs the first part of its journey with every particle on the edge of the ring of contact describing a prolate cycloid; when the forward speed decreases (while the twisting motion keeps on with very little decrease of speed) the prolate cycloid becomes a common cycloid somewhere during the journey; when at last the stone

FIG. 43.

is nearing the tee (with its forward velocity very small, while it is still twisting comparatively quickly) the cycloid becomes a curtate one. This explains why a stone *appears* to twist more and more quickly as it travels along, whereas in reality its speed of rotation (as well as its speed of translation) is, owing to friction, continually diminishing. If, at the beginning of its journey a stone performs one rotation while travelling, say, twelve feet, its twisting motion will be hardly noticed (and it may be thought by an observer to *have* very little); but when, near the end of its journey, it performs one rotation while travelling one inch, the "curl" will be very apparent.

Let us now consider the effect of the rotatory motion of a curling-stone on real ice, and not on the frictionless

sheet that we imagined. It is a thing that can be demonstrated on the pond quite easily by anyone. If the stone, S, is rotating in the direction of the arrow in Fig. 44, and travelling up the centre of the rink towards the tee, T, instead of moving along the straight line to the tee it will (especially when nearing the end of its journey) deviate to the right of the central line, and travel along a curved line, and, if it has the right strength, stop somewhere in the region of S_2. If it rotates in the opposite direction to the arrow, it will deviate to the left of the central line, and stop at S_3. This deviation, then, whether to the right or left, is palpably the result of two things acting in conjunction, namely, the twisting motion

FIG. 44.

and the friction between the stone and the ice. And it must be borne in mind that the deviation will take place when the ice is perfectly true (level).

Why does the rotation of a stone produce the greatest effect with regard to deviation when the forward velocity of the stone is small, that is, when it is almost at its journey's end? It is often supposed that, as the motion of the stone gradually becomes slower, the friction gradually increases. If this were so it would certainly help to explain the business. But such is not the case: the friction, as has been stated already, is unchanged from the moment the stone starts on its journey until it stops.

Let the reader imagine a heavy wheel rolling quickly

along a horizontal surface in a straight line. Owing to its great weight and speed it possesses a large amount of "force" (momentum is the correct term), and it would be a matter of some difficulty to make it change its direction: a lateral push or blow (even if very considerable) would have little effect on the wheel. But wait until the speed (and consequently the momentum) of the wheel has greatly decreased, and then apply a side thrust to it: it will then be found to respond to this thrust and to deviate palpably from its course.

In the same way a curling-stone at the beginning of its journey has so much momentum that the rotation of the stone (and the accompanying "biting" of the ice, owing to friction) has not much effect in producing deviation; but as the stone goes slower and slower its momentum decreases and the influence of the rotation begins to be felt.

The utility of the "twist" in Curling is obviously great, and no modern curler can afford to dispense with it. Its inventor is unknown; but it has, as a rule, been called the "Fenwick twist," as it is generally believed to have been practised first at that village in North Ayrshire. (It is also sometimes called the "Kilmarnock twist.") To the player who is an adept at the "twist" it is a valuable asset, for, with its assistance, innumerable shots can be brought off that would not be possible with straightforward play.

To acquire proficiency in playing the Kilmarnock twist practice alone will "make perfect." It looks easy enough on paper, but I have known many curlers who played the old-fashioned straight game to perfection who acquired the "curl" with great difficulty. It is all

done by the "turn of the wrist" in soling or delivering the stone, when, as in Fig. 44, it can be made to deviate in its journey to the right or left. The "turn" indicated by the arrow has often been called "elbow in" play, and the reverse, "elbow out," which is a pity, as the elbow has not much to do with the communicating of twist to the stone.

Let us now take a typical case in which the ability of the curler to play the "curl" would be useful. (Here I am addressing myself to the beginner.) A player, let us suppose, is on the crampit, A, Fig. 45, and ready to play. He is asked by his skip to "draw" to the tee, T, which, as is seen from the diagram, is blocked or guarded by

FIG. 45.

several stones lying in front of the "house." If the player were playing bowls instead of Curling, he would simply send his bowl up outside the guards, and its bias would bring it in to the "jack." But, as there is no bias on a curling-stone, he gives it the Kilmarnock twist. If he plays up the rink round the right-hand side of the guards, he will, in delivering the stone, twist it in the direction of the arrow in Fig. 45. The stone will begin to bend to the left as it travels along, and if it clears the guards, as in the diagram, it will arrive at the desired spot. Its maximum deviation from the central line is evidently at the point B in the diagram. But the position of this point is variable: it is often a long way up the rink (towards the crampit), for the stone often

PLATE XV.

A CURLING SCENE IN NEW ZEALAND. (*See p.* 193.)

(*From a block kindly lent by Messrs. Andrew Kay & Co., Mauchline.*)

begins to bend inwards before it reaches the hog-score. The position of the point, B, and the amount of deviation, BC, will depend on three things, namely, the pace of the stone, the amount of "twist" on it (the velocity of rotation), and the state of the ice.

There is more than one opinion as to the best way of holding the handle of the stone so as to give it the "curl." The great majority of curlers hold it as in the picture "Delivering the Stone" (Plate XII.), and in the picture of "A Curling Scene in New Zealand" (Plate XV.), where it is seen that the handle is at right angles to the edge of the crampit or nearly so. Others hold the handle parallel to the edge of the crampit, as in the picture "Preparing to Play" (Plate XII.). In my own experience I have noticed that about one curler in twenty makes use of this kind of grip, which would, perhaps, tend to show that the other is the more natural. But it is really a matter of taste and habit.

The greatest exponents of the Fenwick twist are the Canadians, who, on their level and hard ice, take a much wider "curl" than players in the Old Country do. They hardly ever play a straight shot, and are so expert at the twist that they can make a stone during its journey deviate six or seven feet from a straight line.

When a stone is played so as to remove another stone resting in the "house" (the shot called "chap and lie"), the stationary stone is driven forward, while the running stone almost always stops dead; and very seldom does the latter "follow through" (in the way that a billiard-ball, when hit near the top, follows another ball that it is driven against). Mr. Bertram Smith, writing on this some time ago, said: "It is generally recognised that

there is no 'follow through' in a curling-stone—that is to say, however hard it may be played, if it strikes another stone fairly in the centre it stops dead. I was myself so certain of this fact that, when playing on perfect ice at Grindelwald, I was completely amazed and disconcerted by what I could only regard as a phenomenon quite outside of the accepted order of things. I think I would hardly have been more shocked at the sight of water running uphill. For a stone in the game that I was playing deliberately followed through at least two feet." I also can testify to the rareness of this circumstance, for in all my curling experience I have seen it only about a dozen times. With the iron "stones" used in Canada, however, it is a common enough occurrence.

We shall not discuss here the reason of this "follow through," as that would require a study of the laws of impact (or collision), which, in its turn, would entail, *inter alia*, a knowledge of such fearsome things as the "Co-efficient of Elasticity" of Ailsas, Crawfordjohns, and other stones (for, be it remembered, all curling-stones are elastic, and some are more so than others). But the subject is not of much importance to stone-playing curlers, for the occurrence is so rare as to be practically a negligible quantity in their game.

CHAPTER XII

THE PARAPHERNALIA OF THE GAME

THE two great essentials of the game—the curling-pond and the curling-stone—have been discussed in the two foregoing chapters. With regard to the pond, my last word to any club or community which is thinking of laying down an open-air rink anywhere within the four corners of the United Kingdom is—Have a "Tarmac," and this, too, an artificially lighted one. You will then get *some* Curling—although it may not be the roarin' game—every winter. If you can afford it, have a deep-water pond as well: you will then say good-bye to the "Tarmac" occasionally.

Next in importance to the pond is the club-house. This (as well as the pond itself) should be built not far from a road along which a horse-drawn vehicle or motor-car can be driven. If you are a bowler and are going out to do battle against another club on foreign territory, you simply pop your "woods" and rubber-soled shoes into a small handbag and set out for the fray. But a pair of curling-stones is a horse of a very different colour from a pair of bowls. By the time you have carried your stones out of the club-house a distance of a few yards, you have had quite enough of it. Therefore let the club-house be in such a position that a horse and cart, or a motor-car,

can be driven up nearly to the door. The pond-keeper can then stow away in the vehicle all the stones and crampits that are going to be used in the match, leaving only your besom for yourself to carry.

The club-house may be a simple affair; it can easily be merely a wooden structure, consisting of a main room with an annexe. The principal things in the main room are lockers for the stones, racks for the brooms, pegs for hanging up coats, a substantial table, a stove, a cupboard, and a lamp (or some other kind of lighting apparatus). The lockers can be arranged in tiers along one or more sides of the building. When, after an evening game, you have brought your stones into the shanty, place them on the table; then, having wiped the soles carefully and slightly loosened the handle (by unscrewing it just a fraction of a turn), place the stones in your locker. Do not at any time, or on any account, place them on the floor; for, on every club-house floor, no matter how well swept it may be, there is always *some* sand, and sand does not do any good to the polished sole of a curling-stone. And, besides, it would be well to remember that at a Curling "court" of a certain club, a member was once fined "for wearing the curling-house floor by rubbing his curling-stones on it."

Racks for holding the brooms should always be provided, and that these racks should be *used* should be insisted upon by the committee of management. Even then it is more than likely that occasionally a broom or two will be flung aside anywhere by their owners as soon as they enter the club-house door. These brooms get trampled on and broken, and are a perfect nuisance to everybody. Most curlers, in addition to a broom, possess

a pair of wicker baskets for carrying the stones when the latter are going on a journey—either to be played in a match or to be sent to the maker to be repolished. These baskets can very conveniently be hung, when not in use, from the rafters of the club-house, and they will then be in the way of nobody.

Occasionally during the winter there is a "field day" on the ice—a reminiscence of the old bonspiel between parish and parish—and during its progress a halt is called so that the players may go through the necessary (and rather pleasant) performance of partaking of the wherewithal to keep body and soul together for the day. Then is seen the great utility of the stove and cupboard. Out of the latter is produced, amongst other useful things, the fluid (or fluids) which it is entirely unnecessary to mention. On the former is placed a very substantial pot of steaming Irish stew obtained from the nearest hostelry. "Beef and greens" are of course the traditional curlers' fare—and fare that cannot be beaten—but, for an *al fresco* (and rather hurried) meal, you cannot have anything better than Irish stew. As this is usually very hot, and you have not much time to spare, you can take your plateful out into the open and lay it on the ice for a minute or two. But do not leave it there too long. I remember a player once putting his plate on the ice covering a little reservoir of water close to the club-house. The ice here was very thin, and the plate was very hot, and the result was that, when its owner came to retrieve it (he having gone to have a look at the cupboard for a minute or two) both plate and contents had disappeared through the ice.

An annexe to the club-house has been mentioned.

This is the stronghold of the pond-keeper, and here he keeps his tee-ringers, crampits, scrapers, snow-shovels, and other *impedimenta.*

Next in importance to the stones themselves, the most important implement on the pond is the broom. Time was when the home-made broom "kowe" was universally used: and it was almost as dear to the heart of its possessor as his curling-stones. It is now almost as extinct as the ichthyosaurus. The favourite sweeping implement used nowadays is the common carpet-switch or housemaid's besom. This is not to be wondered at; for this household necessity is cheap, handy, easy to get, light, strong, and, on the ice, really very serviceable. It is not of much use, however, in clearing the ice of snow—for that purpose the pond-keeper generally keeps in his annexe, amongst his apparatus, a number of heavy stable-brushes, which are energetically wielded by willing hands when the time comes. The housemaid's broom, also, has this fault; as it gets on in years it has a habit of losing its hair (or rather "straw"), and, although these "straws" are admirable as pipe-cleaners, a lot of them lying about on the ice is very far from nice. All the curlers that I know are agreed that the perfect besom for the curling-pond has yet to be invented.

"What on earth are you fellows sweeping away there for where there is nothing to sweep?" Such is the question sometimes asked of the players by the onlooker who is not a curler. And it is a reasonable question: for, on a bright, dry day, with keen, hard ice, with the thermometer below freezing-point, and with not a breath of wind blowing, it would certainly seem that the curlers were sweeping away nothing at all in front of the running

stones. But if you examine minutely the "slide" (the ice in the region of the central line of the rink), you will find small specks of something which are loose and can be swept off; it may be a grain of sand here and there (and a few grains of respectable dimensions have a wonderful effect if they get between the sole of the stone and the ice); it may be a shred or two of tobacco; it may be the least bit of a match; it may be a little piece of the "straw" from the brooms; and, in the "house" and neighbourhood thereof, it may be tiny morsels of Crawford-john and Ailsa—the result of stones striking against each other. But, whatever it is, when your skip tells you to sweep—SWEEP. Sweep for all you are worth: while there is life there is hope; and, while there is motion in a running stone, never despair, but keep on sweeping and polishing the ice with your besom until you have brought the stone over the "hog," or into the "house." The distance a lagging stone can be brought along by good sweepers is truly wonderful. And for proof of this you have only to watch a Canadian team of curlers at work—if ever you get the opportunity.

The broom is used on the pond for purposes other than sweeping. A skip without a broom, even if he did no sweeping whatever (which in itself is unthinkable), would feel like a fish out of water. His broom is continually in use in directing his men, as will be apparent from all the Curling pictures in existence. On country ponds, where only two or three rinks of players are at work, the skip can (and does) make himself heard to his man at the crampit; but, in so doing, he assists and emphasises his instructions by means of his broom. Whether it is a guard, or an inwick, or a draw, or indeed any shot whatever, he

indicates with his broom either the exact spot where he wants his man to play to, or the amount of ice he must "borrow" to come to the said spot. At big bonspiels, where there is a crowd of players (and, consequently, a considerable uproar), the skip has to depend more on his broom than on his voice. Therefore it is not surprising that various codes of signals-by-broom have been devised by enthusiastic curlers, each code being practically a species of wireless telegraphy, or like the "tic-tac" signalling of the racecourse. I am afraid, however, that few skips would take the trouble to learn anybody else's

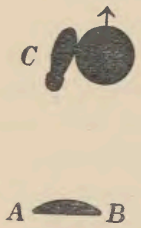

FIG. 46.

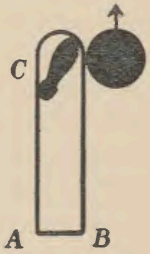

FIG. 47.

code: nearly every skip has a code of his own which is perfectly well understood by his men.

All curlers can, in one respect, be divided into two camps—hack-players and crampit-players. The former, in order to secure a foothold on the ice when playing, place the right foot in a transverse hack cut in the ice, with the sole of this foot pressing against the back of the hack, AB, Fig. 46; the left foot is at C, and the stone is delivered in the direction indicated. The crampit is an iron plate with small spikes on its under-surface: this is laid on the ice, and the player takes up his position

PLATE XVI.

CRESTA PALACE HOTEL, CELERINA (*See p.* 203.)

(Reproduced by permission of Messrs. Thos. Cook & Sons.)

on it, with the sole of his right foot pressing against a flange or upturned part of the crampit at AB, Fig. 47, and his left foot near the point of the crampit at C.

Hack-players cannot tolerate the crampit, and those who play from the crampit cannot endure the hack. Moreover, all hack-players are firmly convinced in their own minds that they never *will* play from the crampit, and *vice versa.* That may be so; but, as surely as the sun will rise to-morrow, the time will come when both hack-players and crampit-players will use the same kind of foothold. In every sport or game that is played there goes on the inevitable process of evolution, the tendency of which is to standardise the game in every detail, and so lead towards perfection. (I believe I said at the beginning of this book that I thought Curling was *already* perfect. Well, there are exceptions to every rule, and this hack and crampit dissension is the exception that proves the rule in this case.) Why does not some genius invent something in the nature of a compromise, or, better still, devise something clever enough to supplant both hack and crampit, and therefore to be acceptable to both parties?

The first known ancestor of the crampit was the "cramp" or "tramp," which contrivance, instead of being laid down at a particular place on the ice, was fixed on the player's foot, much in the same way that we fix on skates now. It was provided with spikes on the under-surface to prevent slipping on the ice.

After the "cramp" came the "trigger" (or "tricker"), a sort of small crampit, generally of triangular shape, which, instead of being fixed to the player's foot, was laid on the ice. The "trigger" could be shifted by the

player to the right or left to his heart's content—a very convenient arrangement when the player wanted to get at a stone that was guarded. And this reminds me of a story, the truth of which I can vouch for personally. It was on a curling-pond in the far north. One of the players was a novice. He was standing on the crampit ready to play when his skip at the other end shouted to him: "D'ye see this stone?" indicating with his broom his opponent's winning shot. This shot was entirely invisible to our novice, as it was dead guarded by another stone in front, but he, like most novices, was very willing; so he stepped off the crampit, took a few paces to the *side*, shaded his eyes with his hand, and looked anxiously to the other end. Then in triumph he roared back to his skip: "Ay, I see it fine!" Had it not been for the fact that the other players were in convulsions he would probably have shifted the crampit to the spot from whence he "saw" the stone.

The name "trigger" is of some interest, for, at the present time, the small sheet of rubber which is used in the game of bowls for the bowler to play from, and which is generally called the "mat" on flat greens, and the "footer" on crown greens, is called the "trig" in some parts of England where they still play the old-fashioned game of English bowls. The modern "trigger" (*i.e.* the crampit) was, in its original form, invented by Cairnie.

In addition to the bottle which is occasionally to be discovered in the "press" of the club-house, another "bottle" can sometimes be observed on the pond—a solid wooden "bottle," totally unconnected with *aqua vitæ*. It is usually about the size of an ordinary quart bottle, and stands on and indicates the position of the tee to the

man on the crampit. It is not an indispensable adjunct of the game (as many consider the *other* bottle to be), and, accordingly, some clubs never make use of it. Its shape is very often more like that of a ninepin. Sometimes it is like a candlestick, and often it is a mere block of wood, as in the picture of a rink at Celerina (Plate XVI.). Here, as will be seen, it is decorated with a flag, which is to the curler what the flag in the hole in every golf "green" is to the golfer. Besides indicating the exact position of the tee to the player at the other end of the rink, it can be made to act as a certain signal to him. Thus, a well-known skip some years ago devised a very simple and ingenious method of signalling with the "bottle": he had it made with three sides; one of these was coloured red and meant "Guard," another was coloured green and meant "Draw," the third was white and meant "Clear" (or "Come to it").

To give the "bottle" stability, and to prevent it from being blown over by the wind, a quantity of lead is run into the bottom. But if it is not blown over it is very often knocked over by the stones and by the skips' besoms. Of course, if the "bottle" is in the way of a moving stone, it ought to be removed temporarily out of the way of the stone, but often the skip is too late in trying to reach it, and accordingly the "bottle" is knocked down or sent skimming along the ice. But this is not really of any consequence, as the collision with the "bottle" has no appreciable effect on the motion of the stone; the "bottle" gets the worst of the encounter.

Wherewith shall we be clothed when we go a-curling? Well, that is a matter of taste (and sometimes very bad taste at that). I know a Londoner who plays the game

of billiards at a certain club frequently during the winter months; never once have I seen him play except in his overcoat and silk hat. I know another who plays the same game (the worst player I know), who, previous to going into action, first removes his hat, then his coat,

"IT."

then his waistcoat, then his braces; finally turning up his shirt-sleeves to the utmost extent. These, of course, are extreme cases; and doubtless, such are to be found on the curling-pond as in the billiard-room. I have, for instance, seen men curl in the kilt. And, possibly, for

freedom of action, it is the best Curling dress extant. The footgear, also, is a matter of great anxiety to many curlers. Some wear goloshes, or rubber-soled snow-boots such as those worn by the immaculate individual in the illustration. This gentleman, by the way, seems to have sent up a splendid stone, and to be fully aware of that fact; to be, indeed, somewhat in the position of Little Jack Horner, who, having performed what he himself considered to be a most praiseworthy feat, gave himself a pat on the back for so doing (there being nobody else in the immediate vicinity to do it for him), uttering at the same time the historic and self-congratulatory exclamation—"What a good boy am I!"

CHAPTER XIII

CURLIANA

In the history of Curling there are many things, as we have seen, of which we are entirely ignorant, and which, like *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, will probably remain unsolved. We do not know who invented the game, who was the first to use a handle to his stone, or who introduced the circular stone. Furthermore, we do not know how the game was played in its early days during the "loofie" and boulder periods. Recently, however, a gallant attempt was made by two well-known enthusiasts to resurrect, as it were, the ancient game of Curling; and on 3rd January 1914, there appeared in *Country Life*, an intensely interesting article, by Mr. Bertram Smith, describing the experiment.

The experiment consisted in playing an actual match with "loofies" and boulders, a combination which, as Mr. Smith says, is historically accurate, as the boulder superseded the "loofie" very gradually. The match took place at the close of season 1912–13 at the Scottish Ice Rink, Glasgow, the contending rinks being skipped by Mr. A. Henderson Bishop and Mr. Smith himself.

There were eight men a-side, each with a single stone, and the rink was thirty-five yards long. The "house" was marked in the usual way, but the stone nearest the

tee was to count, whether it was in the "house" or not. There was no hog-score, and the player could play from the "tricker" anywhere within the side limits of the rink. Of the stones used (all of which came from Mr. Bishop's famous collection), four were "loofies," and these were played by the two "leads" on both sides.

One of the most interesting factors in the game was the method of delivery of the "loofies" by the experimenters. The latter had no difficulty in the matter. The "loofie" was held vertically by the edge, with its sole facing away from the tee; it was first swung back and then forwards, and laid down a couple of feet or so in front of the left toe, turning during the forward swing from a vertical to a horizontal position, and being soled horizontally. The soling was so easy and effective that most curlers will probably be inclined to agree with Mr. Smith when he says that it is reasonable to suppose that the method adopted by the players on this occasion was that in common use four hundred years ago.

With regard to the running of the stones in this novel game it is interesting to know that both "loofies" and boulders ran very keenly; but, whereas the former were rather difficult to control (as they were very erratic in their movements), the latter ran remarkably truly, and many of them finished wonderfully near the tee, making the game a very close one—a game which was perhaps the most notable ever played at Crossmyloof Ice Rink.

In connection with the games of Curling and bowls we are often told that on the pond and on the green peer and peasant are equal. This is so—especially when the peasant happens to be skip: in which case he is generally

more than equal to the peer (and to the occasion as well). The natural consequence of this equality of players is that on both pond and green we often find a queer and interesting mixture of folk. And it has ever been so. On the green, for instance, as far back as 1700, there appears to have been occasionally a curious assemblage of players; for, in a pamphlet, published in London in that year, containing a description of Bath, there is the following quaint sentence: "About five in the evening we went to see a great match at Bowling, at which was Quality and Rev. Doctors of both professions, Topping Merchants, Broken Bankers, Noted Mercers, Inns of Court Rakes, City Beaus, Strayed Prentices, and Dancing Masters in abundance." As far as I can remember I have never, in all my experience, seen a dancing master either bowling or curling, but I have often seen him dancing; and, judging from the way he did it, I have no hesitation in affirming that he would be a very great acquisition to both the green and the pond.

Again, at a later period, the democratic nature of Curling was maintained: and this has been testified to by many writers, including Cairnie, who, in his *Essay* (1833), says: "We have surgeons, writers, butchers, fishers, weavers, masons, wrights, grocers, farmers, smiths, tailors, shoemakers, *publicans and sinners*; and the President of our rink, the minister of a neighbouring parish, is one of our keenest curlers, and an excellent player." These words of Cairnie's, as far as open-air Curling in Scotland is concerned, might be applied with complete truth to many a pond at the present time. And long may it continue to be so! "A man's a man for a' that."

I do not think that curlers, whether they are grocers, or ministers, or publicans, or sinners, are so much given to talking about their favourite recreation as, say, golfers or anglers; but, if they don't talk much, I am afraid they think a good deal about the game, and that, too, at most unexpected times and on most inappropriate occasions, as witness the following true story. Some years ago I was travelling on the Great North of Scotland Railway, and I had as my fellow-traveller an old gentleman who was the keenest curler (and one of the best players) I have ever known. It was a sweltering, hot day in June, and I went to open the carriage window. As I did so I noticed a farmer (and curler) of our acquaintance crossing one of his own fields.

"Hullo!" said I, "there's John —— looking at his crops."

My friend looked out at the window, stroked his beard pensively, and said: "Ay, ay: that's him: but, ach! he's no much use."

"Why? What's the matter with him?" I asked.

"Och! he's always *too strong*!"

Off the pond (as well as on it) the Curling fraternity is one of the most sociable in the world. Hence the Annual Dinner. This is one of the most festive functions that can be imagined. To a new member it is a thing never to be forgotten, especially if, as is often the case, a "Curling Court" and an initiation ceremony are held during the evening. Compared with this ceremony, the corresponding function of Freemasons, Foresters, Oddfellows, Buffaloes, and similar wildfowl would probably "pale its ineffectual fire."

This "Curling Court" used, to a great extent, to take

the place of the usual "sing-song" that nowadays generally follows a club dinner. It still continues to be held by a few country clubs at intervals, but there is no blinking the fact—and many curlers regret that it is so—that, slowly but surely, it is going the way of all the earth. It was (and is still, where it is held) productive of much fun and hilarity, as can readily be imagined when one considers the procedure. The usual time for constituting the "Court" is when the dinner proper is over, when the orthodox "beef and greens," the haggis and other comestibles have been done full justice to. The room having then been cleared for the "Court," the routine of the latter begins. The chairman is first appointed "my lord," and he in his turn immediately proceeds to elect his "officer," whom he at once orders to "fence the Court." "My lord's" officer knows his business. Taking a pint stoup (into which "my lord" drops a few coins) he shakes it and its contents vigorously so as, like the village bellman, to command silence: then he proceeds to "fence the Court" with the following proclamation, which he gives out with much "pomp and circumstance": "Oyez! Oyez! Oyez! I defend and I forbid, in His Majesty's name and authority, and by the authority of my lord, presently in the chair, that there shall be no legs owre 'm, no hands a-bosy, or across; no support on your neighbour's chair, or on the table. No rising up or sitting down, or going to the door without leave first asked and granted by my lord. No touching the cup or glass but with the curler's right hand, which is understood to be every ordinary man's left. No private committees. Every man his name and surname. Every breach of these articles one halfpenny. Every oath one

penny. My lord's my lord, and I'm his officer—both absolute. God save the King!"

Then, beginning on "my lord's" left hand, the "officer" goes round the whole company, addressing each initiated curler present in this way: "John M'Nab is John M'Nab: Peter Piper is Peter Piper: Alister M'Alister is Alister M'Alister" . . . (and, on coming round to "my lord" again) "my lord's my lord, and I'm his officer—both absolute. God save the King!" No sooner is the "fencing" completed than the fining begins, and goes on merrily for a time, each one calling "my lord's" attention to the breaking of some one of the "articles" by his neighbour. The fines are collected in the stoup, with much rattling, by the functionary who carries that convenient dish. Later, at the end of the festivities, the contents of the stoup are sold by auction, by "my lord," to the highest bidder—who, as a rule, discovers that he has got a bad bargain.

If there are new members to be initiated into the "mysteries" that appertain to the brotherhood of Curling, the "Court" is temporarily dissolved in order to hold the initiation ceremony. This is usually carried out by a member of the club to whom the "mysteries" are known, and who might therefore be called the Official Initiator: he is always assisted in his task by several of the "old hands" who are only too willing to do so. If there is no member present who is competent to perform the duties of initiator (and this might very well happen in new clubs), arrangements should be made, previous to this important evening, to obtain the services of an initiator from some other club. This is "the only way."

The candidates for admission to the brotherhood,

having left the "Court" room, go into a neighbouring small room to get ready for the ordeal through which they have to pass. Here they are blindfolded and taken one by one into another specially prepared room where the initiator and his myrmidons are waiting for them. The room in which the novices wait their turn is within earshot of the initiating-room, so that, when the first victim is being "made" a curler, the others may get a slight foretaste of what they have to go through, and so may be in the right frame of mind when *their* turn comes.

Surrounded, apparently, by demons making hideous noises—such as the clanking of chains, the beating of tea-trays, and the hissing of red-hot pokers in cold water—in semi-darkness, and half-choked with sulphurous fumes (emanating from a plate of burning brimstone, which, by the way, is the only source of illumination in the room), the trembling novice has to do certain things demanded of him; and is at last rewarded by receiving the curler's "word" and "grip," an inheritance that has been handed down ever since Curling clubs existed. He is now a full-blown curler, and, as such, he usually shows excessive zeal in assisting at the initiation of the novices who follow him into what has been aptly termed the Chamber of Horrors.

The initiating over, the "Court" is reconstituted. Each newly initiated member in turn approaches "my lord" and *gives* him the "grip"; then from each of the old members present he *receives* it in rotation. If any of these has forgotten the proper "grip"—which is more than likely—he is reported to "my lord" by the new enthusiast and promptly fined. "My lord" then roups the stoup and dissolves the "Court." The evening then

wears on with songs, and toasts, and stories, until the time allowed by the special licence is up, and "Auld lang syne" is duly sung.

It was while doing the long journey from London to Inverness one winter's night some years ago, for the express purpose of attending a "Curling Court" held by a country club, that I had the most extraordinary experience that ever befell me, and, incidentally, met a great man. It was about one o'clock in the morning that my train—the Scottish night express—drew up for a few minutes at one of its few stopping-places. A hurricane whirled the snow in gusts that obscured and threatened at every moment to extinguish the wretched lamps that flickered and spluttered out their feeble light in a vain pretence to illuminate the woe-begone platform. The door of my compartment (in which I was all alone) was opened from the outside, and, in company with the icy blast, there entered a brace of travellers, looking like polar bears, and smelling like an ancient tap-room. The carriage door was banged after them by a porter in a way that seemed to indicate that he had considerable pleasure in getting them off his hands. After these unwelcome newcomers had taken a long pull and a strong pull at a substantial bottle they both winked at each other and sat down. Thereupon, without any loss of time, one of them—the drunker of the two—attempted to oblige the company with what, I presume, he intended to be a song; but, the attempt proving abortive, he subsided (or rather, collapsed), and instantly went to sleep, and in two minutes he was snoring like a pig, or, to speak the strict truth, like two pigs.

The other man, who sat opposite to me, then pro-

ceeded to favour me with a curious performance, which included frequent winkings of the eye and other pleasant facial contortions. At first I felt rather alarmed, thinking he had a sudden attack of something such as St. Vitus's Dance, or that a fit was imminent. Soon, however, I began to feel reassured: as a matter of fact, in a short time it occurred to me that he was making signals to myself; for, during the whole of his performance, he would look first at me and then (with the tail of his eye) at his slumbering companion.

At last he leaned forward, and, with an air of the utmost mystery and of quite supernatural solemnity, said to me in a hoarse whisper—"D'ye know who *that* is?" indicating the sleeping partner by a tremendous emphasis on the pronoun, as well as by a jerk of a very unclean thumb. The question dismayed me. Was I travelling in company with some great potentate in disguise, perhaps, say, a member of the Town Council, or it might be even the chairman of the Sewage Committee? Or was it some escaped murderer or dangerous lunatic fleeing from relentless pursuers? I looked at The Unknown with fear and trembling; my flesh began to creep; drops of perspiration nearly stole down each cheek. Assuming a tone of humility I cleared my throat and replied that I was very sorry, and would probably regret to the end of my life, that I did *not* know the gentleman; that, of course, I could not be quite certain (the human intellect being liable to err), but I was afraid I had never seen him before.

"What!" shouted his henchman, with a look of horrified surprise, not unmixed with pity, at my gross and culpable ignorance—"What! D'ye not know *him*?"

I took another look at the slumberer and tried to recall all the famous men whose portraits I had seen in the shop windows and in *The Police News*. In vain. I was quite decided in my own mind that I had never in all my life set eyes on that face before. "No," said I at length, "I again regret to have to confess that I do not know who it is. Who is it?"

With an inconceivably solemn and confidential air—so confidential was it, in fact, that I did not catch the mysterious traveller's name after all—he bent forward and whispered—"That is Mr. ——, The Great Confectioner!"

Brethren of the Broom, my tale is told. In laying down my pen I cannot refrain from expressing the hope—and it is a hope in which I feel sure you will all join—that the curler, the great and glorious game that he plays, and the spirit of that game, may never be different from what they are now.

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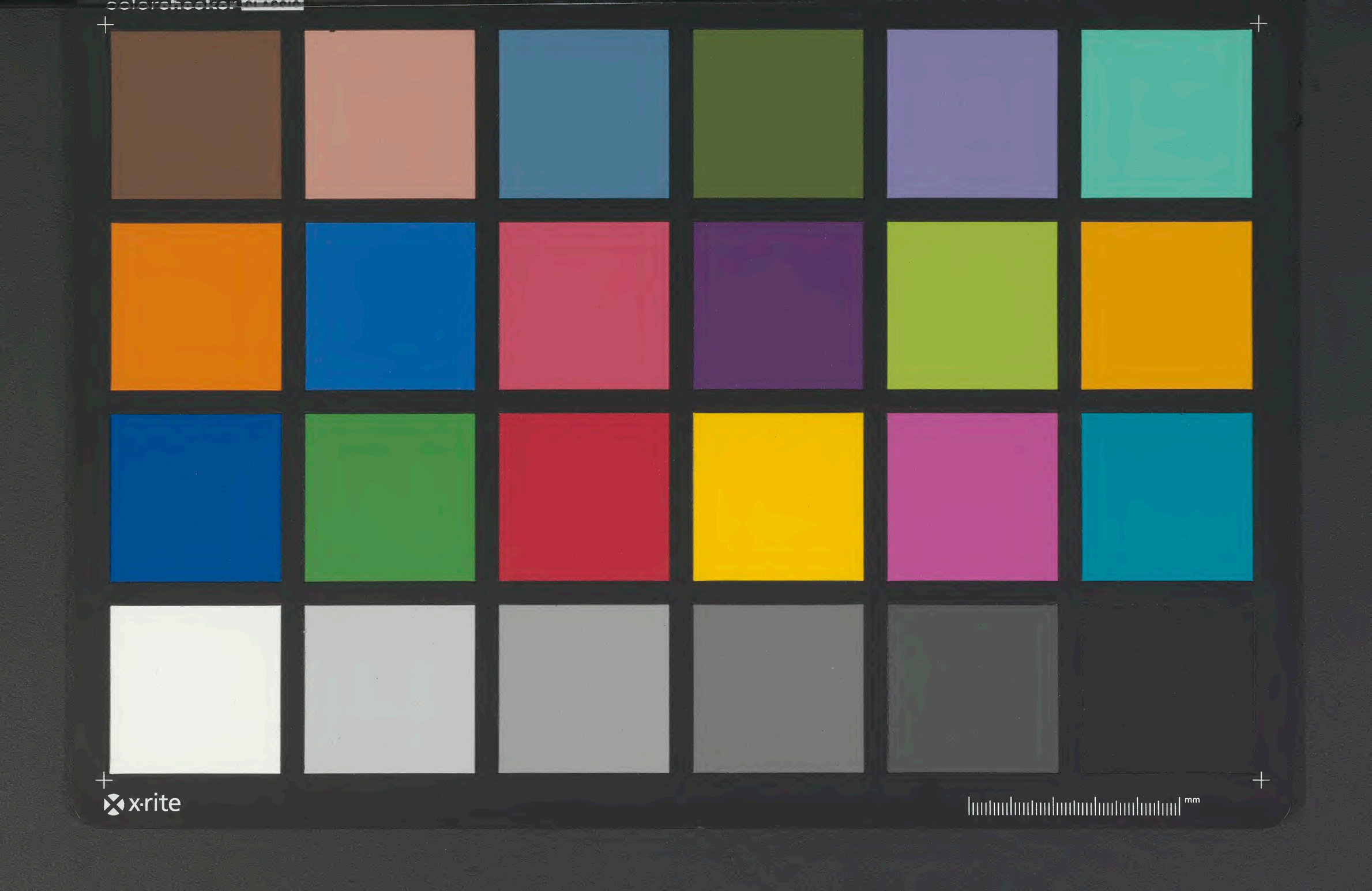
Printed by Morrison & Gibb Limited, *Edinburgh*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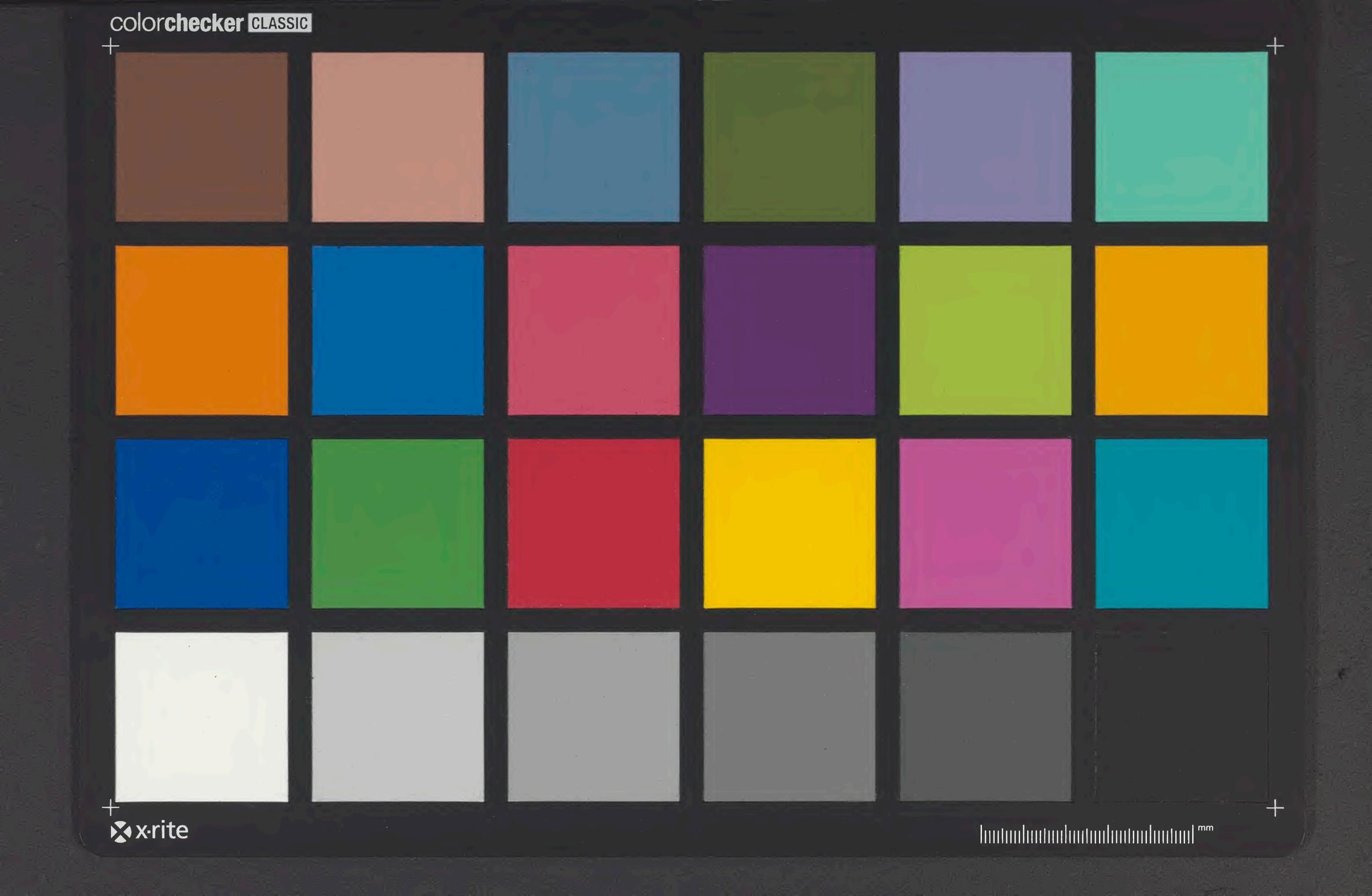
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