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TILDEN FENCING ASSOCIATIONS

1943

FENCING CALENDAR FOR THE COMING MONTH

1939	Event	Location	1939	Event	Location
Jan. 27	Sabre -- Novice Individual, G.G.I.A., San Francisco, Calif. (8:00 P. M.)			Epee -- So. Calif. Intermediate Individual Championship, Faulkner School of Fencing, Hollywood (8:00 P. M.)	
	Women's Foil -- Open Individual, So. Calif. Qualifying Round, Faulkner School of Fencing, Hollywood, Calif. (8:00 P. M.)			Sabre -- Philadelphia Individual Novice Championship, Valley Forge Military Academy, Wayne, Pa. (7:45 P. M.)	
	Foil -- Novice Individual, Lower Merion Jr. H. S., Ardmore, Pa. (7:45 P. M.)			Sabre -- New England Individual Novice Championship, Salle d'Armes Peroy, Cambridge, Mass. (7:30 P. M.)	
Jan. 28	Women's Foil -- San Francisco Individual Novice Championship, Univ. of Calif., Berkeley, Calif. (2:00 P. M.)		Feb. 11	Women's Foil -- San Francisco Individual Junior Championship, Mills College, Oakland, Calif. (2:00 P. M.)	
	Dual Meet -- Saltus Fencing Club vs Navy at Annapolis, Md. (2:30 P. M.)			Dual Meet -- St. John's Univ. vs Yale at New Haven, Conn. (2:30 P. M.)	
Jan. 29	Sabre -- New Jersey Intercollegiate Competition, Salle Scafati, Newark, N. J. (2:00 P. M.)		Feb. 12	Three Weapon -- New Jersey Junior Individual Championship, Salle Scafati, Newark, N. J. (2:00 P. M.)	
Feb. 1	Epee -- New Jersey Individual Invitation Competition, Salle Scafati, Newark, N. J. (7:00 P. M.)			Sabre -- St. Louis Team Championship, Southside Y. M. C. A., St. Louis (2:00 P. M.)	
Feb. 2	Women's Foil -- Junior Individual Championship, N. Y. Qualifying Round, Salle Santelli, N. Y. C. (7:30 P. M.)			Epee -- Illinois Team Championship	
Feb. 3	Foil -- San Francisco Junior Team Championship, Olympic Club, S. F. (8:00 P. M.)			Sabre -- Illinois Sabre Championship	
	Epee -- So. Calif. Junior Individual Championship, Hollywood A. C., (8:00 P. M.)		Feb. 14	Sabre -- Individual Senior Competition (limited to Seniors), Salle d'Armes Vince, N. Y. C. (7:30 P. M.)	
	Epee -- Philadelphia Novice Individual Championship, William Penn Charter School, Germantown, Pa. (7:45 P. M.)		Feb. 15	Sabre -- New England Individual Junior Championship, Salle d'Armes Peroy, Cambridge Mass. (7:30 P. M.)	
Feb. 4	Women's Foil -- New Jersey Open Invitation Individual Championship, Salle Scafati, Newark, N. J. (7:30 P. M.)			Foil -- Philadelphia Junior Individual Championship, Haverford College, Haverford, Pa. (8:00 P. M.)	
	Epee -- Northern Ohio Open Individual Competition, Akron, Ohio.		Feb. 16	Foil -- Invitation Competition, Hofstra College, Hempstead, N. Y. (7:30 P. M.)	
	Foil -- Northern Ohio Individual Novice Competition, Akron, Ohio.		Feb. 17	Epee -- So. Calif. Individual Championship, Qualifying Round, L. A. A. C., Los Angeles. (8:00 P. M.)	
	Dual Meet -- Saltus Fencing Club vs Yale at New Haven, Conn. (2:30 P. M.)			Sabre -- San Francisco Junior Individual Championship, Funke Fencing Academy, S. F. (8:00 P. M.)	
	Dual Meet -- St. John's Univ. vs Navy at Annapolis, Md. (2:30 P. M.)		Feb. 18	All Weapons -- Mardi Gras International Tournament, New Orleans, La.	
	Dual Meet -- N. Y. U. vs Army at West Point, N. Y. (2:00 P. M.)			Women's Foil -- Northern Ohio Individual Championship, Cleveland, O.	
Feb. 5	Epee -- St. Louis Team Championship, Fencers Club, St. Louis (2:15 P. M.)			Sabre -- Northern Ohio Individual Novice Championship, Cleveland, O.	
	Sabre -- San Francisco Junior Team Championship, Funke Fencing Academy, S. F. (2:00 P. M.)			Epee -- Northern Ohio Individual Novice Championship, Cleveland, O.	
	Women's Foil -- Michigan Junior Individual Championship, Salle de Tuscan, Detroit			Dual Meet -- Saltus Fencing Club vs N. Y. U. at N. Y. U. (2:30 P. M.)	
Feb. 7	Three Weapon -- Veteran's Individual Competition, Salle Santelli, N. Y. C. (7:30 P. M.)			Dual Meet -- St. John's Univ. vs C. C. N. Y. at C. C. N. Y. (2:30 P. M.)	
Feb. 8	Dual Meet -- N. Y. U. girls vs Waverly Fencers Club girls at N. Y. U.		Feb. 19	All weapons -- Mardi Gras International Tournament, New Orleans, La.	
Feb. 9	Women's Foil -- Long Island Junior Individual Championship, Qualifying Round, Hofstra College, Hempstead, N. Y. (7:30 P. M.)			Men's and Women's Foil -- Michigan Open Individual Championships, preliminaries, Salle de Tuscan, Detroit.	
	Three Weapon -- St. Louis Novice Team Competition, Webster High School, St. Louis (8:00 P. M.)			Foil -- So. Calif. Novice Team Competition, Santa Barbara National Guard Armory (1:30 P. M.)	
Feb. 10	Foil -- San Francisco Individual Junior Championship, G. G. I. A., San Francisco (8:00 P. M.)		Feb. 20	Women's Foil -- St. Louis Novice Individual Championship, Webster High School, St. Louis, (8:00 P. M.)	
				Dual Meet -- St. John's vs Dartmouth at St. John's Univ., Brooklyn (2:30 P. M.)	

Compliments  
of the Fencers  
of the  
New York Athletic Club  
New York City

# The Riposte

Vol. IV

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1939

No. 1

## THE AMERICANS IN CUBA

A Diary By Miguel A. de Capriles.

**December 21, 1938.** At 3 P. M., one hour before sailing time, the American fencing team of four men arrives on board the T. E. L. (Turbo Electric Liner to you) ORIENTE, at the foot of Wall Street. President Harold Van Buskirk is on hand to give his final instructions to our Captain, John R. Huffman. Official word has come from Cuba that a series of three matches — all with the épée — will be held for permanent possession of a trophy donated by Coronel Fulgencio Batista, Cuban Army Chief. We are to try to arrange for the holding of the North American zone final of the Russell International Challenge, if it is at all possible. . . .

We are accompanied by John's mother, Mrs. Eva B. Huffman, and by my wife, Dorothy. As the boat leaves the pier, we meet on board Stanley Sieja, the freshman fencing coach at New York University, who has decided less than an hour before to make the trip as a vacation.

**The Southbound Voyage.** We make the acquaintance of the President of the Amateur Athletic Union, Judge Samuel Hoyt, of New Haven, and of his charming wife. Judge Hoyt and John Huffman, both old Elis, spend many hours talking sports, while the three de Capriles and Warren Dow engage in a marathon bridge contest. . . . Lucky omens: José takes the ping-pong championship (practically no opposition); Dorothy and I win the waltz contest (with a well-organized cheering section); and the fencers draw two free rounds of refreshments at the "lucky table" contest. . . . Training stunts: John, José, and Warren take a "constitutional", 20 times around the deck; while I engage in a series of bitter duels over the chessboard with the famous New York attorney, Arthur Garfield Hayes. . . . The weather: The sea is calm; the air gets balmy as early as Friday the 23rd; by that evening we are all on deck, in summer clothes, watching the bright lights of Miami. We get to bed rather late.

**Christmas Eve.** We are up at six-thirty, in time to see a magnificent sun rise upon a cloudless sky. In an hour we are gliding past Morro Castle, so near that we can almost touch the old fortress. A few harbor boys dive for nickles. As we dock we are met by a dozen or two officials. There is a note of apprehension at the pier: It seems that one of our fellow passengers is former President Machado's Secretary of State, and trouble is feared. All goes well, however. The great Ramón Fonst — the only Olympic fencing champion born and raised on this side of the Atlantic — greets us warmly. We meet again a former and most respected opponent, Carlos Lamar, who will be remembered as a member of the Fencers Club ten years ago. But no one is so glad to see us as our good Hungarian friend, George Worth, whose bright debut in American fencing was reported in THE RIPOSTE about a year ago. . . .

We are introduced to our hosts, both in government circles and in fencing. We are whisked into huge Packard touring cars for a sight-seeing trip, including a visit to the beautiful gardens of "La Tropical", a brewery famous for its sports grounds, and to Camp Columbia. Coronel Batista's splendidly equipped Military City. We have our misgivings as we experience the hazards of motor traffic in Old Havana, but we deposit the ladies safely at their hotel,

(Continued on page 7)

## CAPTAIN'S REPORT — CUBAN MEET

John R. Huffman

This international meet was for the Batista Trophy, consisting of three matches in four-man team epee, held on December 26, 28, and 30, 1938, at the Palace of Sports in Havana, Cuba. The AFLA team, consisting of J. R. de Capriles, M. A. de Capriles, W. A. Dow, and J. R. Huffman, won the trophy by close matches from the Cuban Team, composed of Eugenio Garate, Eugenio Sardinas, Carlos Lamar-Schweyer, and Diosdado del Pozo. Comandante Ramon Fonst, Olympic champion in 1904 and 1906, was also a member of the team but illness prevented him from competing.

### Summaries — U. S. vs Cuba

Contestants:

United States — John R. Huffman (Capt.), Warren Dow, Jose de Capriles and Miguel A. de Capriles.

Cuba — Diosdado del Pozo, Eugenio Garate, Eugenio Sardinas and Carlos Lamar.

### First Match — Havana, December 26, 1938 — Epee.

J. de Capriles defeated Garate 3-2, Sardinas 3-2, Lamar 3-2 and del Pozo 3-1.

Huffman defeated del Pozo 3-2 and Garate 3-2.

Dow defeated del Pozo 3-2.

M. de Capriles defeated del Pozo 3-1.

Lamar defeated Huffman 3-2, Dow 3-1 and M. de Capriles 3-2.

Sardinas defeated Dow 3-1, M. de Capriles 3-2 and Huffman 3-2.

Garate defeated M. de Capriles 3-1 and Dow 3-1.

Score 1st Match — Cuba 8 victories with 36 touches against; U. S. 8 victories with 38 touches against.

### Second Match — Havana, December 28, 1938 — Epee.

Huffman defeated Lamar 3-0, del Pozo 3-2, Garate 3-2 and tied Sardinas 3-3.

J. de Capriles defeated Sardinas 3-2, Lamar 3-2 and del Pozo 3-2.

Dow defeated Sardinas 3-2 and Lamar 3-2.

M. de Capriles tied Sardinas 3-3.

Garate defeated J. de Capriles 3-2, M. de Capriles 3-2 and Dow 3-0.

del Pozo defeated M. de Capriles 3-2 and Dow 3-0.

Sardinas tied M. de Capriles 3-3 and Huffman 3-3.

Lamar defeated M. de Capriles 3-2.

Score of 2nd Match — U. S. 8 victories, Cuba 6 victories.

### Third Match — Havana, December 30, 1938 — Epee

M. de Capriles defeated Garate 3-0, Lamar 3-1, Sardinas 3-2 and del Pozo 3-2.

Huffman defeated Sardinas 3-2 and del Pozo 3-1.

J. de Capriles defeated Sardinas 3-1 and del Pozo 3-2.

Garate defeated Dow 3-2, Huffman 3-2 and J. de Capriles 3-2.

Lamar defeated Dow 3-1, Huffman 3-2 and J. de Capriles 3-2.

del Pozo defeated Dow 3-1.

Sardinas defeated Dow 3-1.

Score of 3rd Match — U. S. 8 victories with 35 touches against; Cuba 8 victories with 37 touches against.

Total score: U. S. 2 matches (24 victories); Cuba 1 match (22 victories).

(Continued on page 11)

## THE RIPOSTE

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114 Washington Place, N. Y. City

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## EDITORIAL

We enter a New Year starting another Volume in this magazine's life history. The 1939 fencing season is two months old with new records already in evidence indicating greater interest and participation in the sport than ever before in this country. Old 1938 was a lively year, but, with the 1940 Olympics one year nearer, 1939 should hum with still greater fencing activity.

\* \* \*

It is customary for the so-called experts and all self-styled oracles to make forecasts each New Year. As Editor, we felt obligated to try a forecast for fencing. We tried meditation in the relaxed method but only fell asleep to lose a valuable hour at a time when the printer was pressing for his 'copy'. We tried meditation in the concentrated method but every time we concentrated all we could think of was Hedy Lamarr. Next, we tried a complex form of numerology but unfortunately our fencers have names that put the Fordham backfield to shame. Our system just naturally bogged down with 'wrong numbers'. We thought of doing a bit of star-gazing but the snow was then five inches deep and still falling fast. We have tried the Dow Theory, the Corn-Hog Theory and the strawless vote. We are still in confusion.

Being inept at these highly scientific methods of forecast, we were left to pure surmise. Our guess is that there will be more fencing in the United States during 1939 than ever before and that the quality of that fencing will be improved not only because of increased fencing but also because of the fact that American fencing is rapidly coming of age. We believe that somewhere in the fencing rooms of America the champions of only a very few years hence are but now learning their rudiments and that their rise will be very rapid. We see evidences of youthful fencers pushing upward to threaten the equilibrium of that less than score of fencers who have dominated our sport for the past ten years. We can see no upsets of drastic nature in 1939 but feel that 1939 will prove a most important year in the development of the American 1940-1950 fencing leaders. There will be no change in America's concentration upon the foil as its favorite weapon.

\* \* \*

Although the American fencing team which visited Cuba accomplished its victories in the last few days of 1938, we did not learn of the actual victory and its details until 1939 had already rolled around. Let us be among the first to congratulate our team upon its victories and hope that 1939 may provide many other occasions upon which similar congratulations will be in order.

## A NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATES

The Western Conference, composed of Purdue University, University of Wisconsin, University of Chicago, Ohio State University, University of Iowa, University of Illinois, University of Minnesota, Michigan State College, Northwestern University and University of Michigan will hold its championships on March 11th.

The Eastern Intercollegiate Fencing Conference, composed of Dartmouth, Fordham University, Syracuse University, Amherst, Bowdoin, Lehigh University, Lafayette, Long Island University, Hofstra College, Seton Hall, Temple University, Rutgers University, College of William and Mary, University of North Carolina, Wagner Memorial Lutheran, Panzer, Newark University, Newark College of Engineering, Boston College and Boston University will determine its winners in a Conference Meet to be held at Dartmouth College on March 18th. Dr. Gerald I. Cetrulo, Chairman of the Eastern Intercollegiate Conference, has announced that the 1939 tournament will see an even greater turnout than last year with about 18 colleges participating. A host of new coaches have indicated to him by their correspondence that they will be extremely cooperative in their plans for future progress.

The Eastern Intercollegiate Fencing Conference has provided a special pullman to Dartmouth for the use of colleges from around the New York City area. Twenty-seven statuettes have been provided for the individual first three places in the A, B and C divisions in all three weapons. A gold swordman to be known as the Tetaz Trophy will be a permanent trophy for the winning three weapon team. Other trophies will be awarded the winning foil, sabre and epee teams and a separate prize has been provided for the team taking second place in the three weapon competition.

On March 25th, an East-West Championship Tournament will be held in Columbus, Ohio, between the winners of the two sectional Conferences. Individual winners in each weapon and team champions in foil, sabre, epee and the three weapons will be decided at that time. Dr. Frank A. Reibel, Ohio State University Coach, spokesman for the Western group, reported a unanimous approval of the intersectional match by directors and coaches at a recent Western Conference meeting. Both Conference groups have expressed the hope that other fencing groups such as the Southern, Pacific Coast and the Intercollegiate Association might join with them in their efforts to make fencing a truly representative national intercollegiate sport. The participation of any college fencing team is welcomed. Further details may be obtained by Eastern colleges from Dr. Gerald I. Cetrulo, 234 Mt. Prospect St., Newark, N. J. and by Mid-west colleges from Dr. Frank A. Reibel, 15 West Goodale St., Columbus, Ohio.

## ST. LOUIS

At the Novice Epee competition on January 9th there developed a three way tie for first place. In the fence-off, Alan Beck was first, Louis Shotliff, Washington University, was second and Howard Baker, Washington University was third.

Interest in fencing in St. Louis is reported as having approximately doubled this year with new fencing clubs being formed to take care of the growing supply of fencers. The St. Louis Division has 19 competitions listed on its Schedule. "The Blade", the local fencing newsette, reports a mailing list of 243 individuals interested in the sport.

## THE REMISE

(Editor's note — Space limitations due to the addition of the Cuban — United States fencing reports has made it necessary to delete a considerable part of The Remise this issue. We apologize to our anonymous contributor and his readers for deleting many comments on general fencing subjects that were of interest).

Insofar as classifications go, the men's competitions in late December and early January stiffened considerably. We saw two evenings of strong contrast when the Seniors came out of hiding for the new season. Some of them from early appearances would have done well to stay there another month or two for, like the groundhog, they should have seen their shadows and returned for a further period of hibernation.

The first evening of the Cartier Team Foil contest was apparently well-seeded for all winning teams accomplished their victories with rarely a defeat. It was the final evening, two days later, when what promised to be a strong mix-up among four teams fizzled out to a two-way competition between the defending Salle Santelli "A" team and the revived Salle d'Armes Vince team.

Warren Dow of Santelli's was unquestionably the strongest foiner in action that evening with laurels for aggressiveness going to Nathaniel Lubbell of Vince's. Jose de Capriles proved dependable as did Daniel Bukantz but they were both too cautious to prove exciting. Dernel Every and John Huffman were colorless and, lacking the assistance of Leo Nunes, appeared as a team going nowhere in a great hurry. The Salle Santelli "B" team might have fared better if it had not had to meet its own "A" team first.

Because of the desire to give all teams more opportunity to fence, the former method of direct elimination was discarded and pools of teams were introduced. This seemed a fair and good innovation. The fact that the finals were held over two days was apparently a necessity but a considerable fluctuation in the fencing élan of some of the men was apparent between the two evenings.

Finally, this competition introduced the four man team with permission to substitute number 4 at any time between matches. This, I felt, worked very well and such substitutions were used with success.

The Junior Foils Team Championship on December 20th produced some very interesting individual bouts. However, these were scattered and not restricted to any particular team, making it necessary to search during the evening for the most exciting bout then in progress.

Lacking the excitement of former years, this competition nevertheless ended in true Rover Boy style with the finals tied at 4-4 and the last bout going to 4-4 before the Salle d'Armes Vince put over a final touch to defeat the New York Athletic Club in a camera finish.

It was this competition in which we saw one fencer lunge so hard and stop so suddenly that his mask went on without him.

The Junior Epee Team Championship was a runaway sweep for the Fencers Club. The winning team was only pressed once during the evening and that rightfully in the finals against the Saltus Fencing Club. Hugh Alessandroni, Robert Driscoll and Winslow Cornett, however, were a well balanced team of too great experience to be easily upset. William Ritayik and Ohlsen of the Saltus Fencing Club

(Continued on page 11)

## OUR SERIES OF FENCING ARTICLES CONTINUES

In our December issue we printed an article entitled, "A Winning Argument From the Losing Side". It created both favorable and unfavorable comment, depending very much upon whether the reader favored the French or Italian School of Foil. Since this magazine has always followed the policy of acknowledging the authorship of any articles it has printed, we took it for granted that our readers would understand that an unsigned article was written by the Editor. Imagine our surprise to hear the Article's detractors asking us for the name of the villain who had thus attacked the French School. We actually heard various perfectly innocent devotees of the Italian School accused of trying to smear the great French School of Foil. We herewith take full blame for the Article in question.

In reply to those whom the Article offended we can only say that we still consider it as having been entirely fair. It was fully explained that the writer was a French foilsman who still believes that the French foil is the finest foil weapon ever developed. His success from time to time with that weapon in competition has confirmed his belief in the soundness of principles behind the School under which he has always fenced. However, as a competitor and spectator at the Olympic Games, he could not help but see the efficiency of the Italian foilsman and from year to year see the increasing inroads the Italian School was making upon the dwindling power of the

French foilsman. There must be reasons for these results, and it is up to every foilsman to analyse and endeavor to meet this very serious challenge. Our December Article was our personal analysis. It was also intended as an essay to the foilsman of America, many of whom have never heard the loud, low "Ah-Li" of an orthodox Italian foilsman as he rattled the teeth of a riposted opponent. There are certainly two Schools of Foil and America, predominantly French School, is only sticking its head in the sand as it continues to ignore the other School. Our article was intended to explain the differences in the two Schools and why the Italian School had become so efficient over the past 15 years. If we made you mad, our efforts were partly in vain. If we made you think, we will forget about the few tempers we aroused and consider the Article a success.

We now present our second Article in the series. It is written primarily for French foilsman. All foilsman can make use of some of the exercises suggested, but the strapped Italian foil will not lend itself to certain of these exercises. Never having practiced with an Italian foil we have limited this Article to the weapon with which we are familiar. The principle of alternate exercises holds true however, for all swordsmen and it is a simple matter to adapt these exercises to the particular requirements and license of the weapon involved.

Dernell Every

## HOW TO TRAIN FOR A FOIL COMPETITION

### The Professional

There are three ways to train for a foil competition; training under a professional, using alternate exercises and bouting. Naturally, the first method is to be preferred. Your professional knows your physical and psychological characteristics as well, if not better, than you do yourself. He has worked with you and watched you in competition more carefully than anyone else. He is experienced and knows the needs and requirements of a foil competition. He is also a keen student of fencers and knows the characteristics of the men who will oppose you. He knows which men will give you the most trouble and why. Since he is your trainer and fencing is the delicate sport that it is, it is only natural that training under him for a foil competition is the best you can obtain.

This article was written primarily for the fencer who has not the good fortune to have a professional. It is written for the thousands of American fencers who either have no professional, or whose professional has so many pupils that he cannot give each of them the long, intensive lessons that are needed prior to competition.

### Alternate Exercises

Lacking a professional, the best results may be obtained by the use of alternate exercises. Even with a professional, the use of alternate exercises for a half hour to an hour daily will make you function just that much better. For alternate exercises are not merely a substitute for a professional they are an essential part of the standard training of any fencer. You will see Olympic champions exercising alternately for long periods before they are called upon the strip for their bouts. You will see the better fencers in any club off in the corner, practicing these valuable exercises by themselves. A good fencer does not rush around to find someone with whom to 'go five

touches'. Rather he finds some patient fencer who will alternate in practice with him to smooth out some parry or attack.

Before we enter upon the actual explanation of a program of alternate exercises, let us state here that fencing, contrary to general belief, contains no secret thrusts or parries. The possible movements are limited in number. It is the combination of these known movements that is limitless. Therefore, it stands to reason that if you learn the simple, essential movements correctly and practice them repeatedly and in fresh combinations, correcting yourself as you progress and assimilating as you learn, you will, over a period of time acquire a completely rounded game. It is even simpler than that, for a completely rounded game is not an essential.

Any boy, fencing for two years may know all the attacks and parries that a World Champion uses. The only real difference between the two is that the Champion makes his movements smoother and chooses his time for making these essential movements with greater care. You will notice here that I have made no mention of speed. Speed is important but it ranks third while technique and timing are of prior importance. In alternate exercises it is essential to remember this order of importance for in these exercises you must stress technique and timing above speed.

One must, naturally, have a partner to practice alternate exercises. It is his duty to give you constructive criticism during your practice just as it is your duty to criticize him during his practice. Remember to repeat each exercise at least three times apiece before advancing to a further exercise. It is also advisable for each fencer to repeat the exercise himself the three times before changing about for the

other's practice. Treat the body as a machine during the exercises. Warm it up slowly and do not try fast tempo anywhere until all the muscles and ligaments have been stretched and exercised.

### The One Two

Now for an order of sequence. This sequence should be progressive, starting with the elementary **disengage, extension and lunge** from the two most important positions of quarte and sixte. The next step should be **one-two** attacks from both lines. Do these slowly and smoothly and continue repeating them alternately until both of you feel that your original disengage and extension is smooth and with a real threat, enough so actually to draw the parry of the opponent. Your opponent must use a simple parry for this exercise. You must make the **one** of your **one-two** definite enough to draw that parry. This practice is important for that very purpose. So many one-two attacks are made in routine fashion. They do not draw the parry, as intended, and the attacker finds his opponent holding his line unchanged with the final attack outside. It is through alternate exercises that one can measure the effectiveness of his one-two and correct any deficiencies in threat.

After practicing any attack such as the one we have just described, it is well to use it further for practical **parry and riposte** practice. Repeat the one-two attacks now with the defensive partner privileged to parry the **two** at any time and riposte directly or with a disengage. He must play fairly with you by making his first parry a simple **quarte-sixte** or a simple **sixte-quarte** parry (depending upon his original line). His second or final parry may be another simple parry or a counter (circular) parry, according to choice. Once this type of practice begins, he should frequently lapse to a single parry and test your full attack. Check yourself too to see whether you, with a fear of the parry and riposte, have been anticipating the second parry and failing to go "all out" on the attack. When your attack has full intention to hit, always go "all out" to hit hard, the harder the better, for a hard, full attack carries authority with it and even though successfully parried often 'gums up' the riposte through its sustained momentum.

### The Double

Now we come to the most beautiful, the most difficult and probably the most practical attack in the French or deceptive style of foil play — **the double**. The **double** or **disengage and deceive** requires accuracy, timing, confidence and competitive calm. It is the true test of one's hand. If you did nothing else in the fencing room but practice doubles through quarte, sixte, septime and octave, doubling through all four positions into the high line and low line alternately, your fencing technique would show immeasurable improvement. The very fact that doubles are harder to do than one-twos has made the circular parry more effective and more commonly used than the simple parries. Therefore, since you will generally be opposed more often with counter parries than with simple parries it is most necessary that you practice doubles often and carefully. Furthermore, since it is harder to double past the arm through quarte than through sixte you will find the counter of quarte the favorite parry of most fencers. Concentrate then on the double through quarte. Perfect that attack particularly and you will be improving your hand, your confidence and your fencing effectiveness more than by any other single practice.

Again the defensive partner should come in for his practice in parries and ripostes. For fairness, his first parry should be a counter of quarte, if on guard in the quarte line, or a counter of sixte, if in the

sixte line. His second parry may be a repetition of the first or a simple parry which cuts the line. Again your partner must test your effectiveness by not always making the second parry and check to see if you are flinching from an anticipated parry and riposte.

### The Beat

About here in the practice it is advisable to rest the legs. You have each been lunging three times and then standing on guard to serve as a plastron for the partner's three lunges. Each of you may easily have made at least 60 lunges since you started the exercises and that is a very good start on the workout you plan to give yourselves. However, it is sensible now to rest the legs awhile and give the wrist a harder workout. We should take off time here to practice beats.

The **beat** is a most valuable movement for both offense and defense. On the offense it carries surprise and sting and serves to disconcert the opponent just that fraction of a second that is the fencer's time-objective. On the defense it serves to distract an opponent all set to attack and hence may disrupt his planned attack completely or alter his rhythm enough to make that attack ineffective. The double-beat has the same merits as the beat, but has more value defensively than offensively.

You and your partner should both go on guard in quarte, much closer than you would dare stand in a bout, and practice beating one another's blade in turn. These beats are made from the wrist with a slight opening and closing of the fingers. There should be no slide in the resulting beats. Each beat should be clear in sound with the beating foil stopping at the exact point of contact. The beaten foil when contacted should appear to spring out of line anywhere from two to six inches and then snap back with the same rhythm to execute the return beat. In practicing beats it is important to remember that one foil or the other must always be "in line". If your foil carries through after you make a beat you are not beating correctly. Check this with your eye, check the rhythm with your ear and check the actual snap of your beat with both the ear and the feeling in your wrist and fingers. This practice need not be very extensive, continue it only long enough to assure yourself that your beats are working correctly. However, if you have fenced less than a year there is no better practice for developing your wrist muscles and a feeling for fencing.

Now both move to the sixte guard. Here the beats should sound and feel the same as they did in quarte but are executed from the elbow rather than from the wrist. The foil is held a little more tightly with the fingers and there is more difficulty in putting snap into the foil from the slight opening and closing of the fingers.

### The Double Beat

We should next move on to the **double beat**. With you and your opponent standing on guard in quarte, with foils crossed and touching, you double beat by bringing your point around under the opposing foil and beating on the inside then circling back to your original position and beating on the outside. The snap here comes from rotating the wrist slightly as you circle under the blade and back as you return to the outside. This should be practiced by one man while the other stands on guard steadily in quarte to permit the practice for several times. These double beats should be light and fast and may be practiced in steady rhythm or in a beat-beat-pause, beat-beat-pause sequence. The inside and outside

(Continued on page 12)

## A. F. L. A. COMPETITIONS IN NEW YORK CITY

**Open Foil Team Competition — 15 Teams**  
**2 Team Finals — December 15th.**

**Semifinals:** Salle d'Armes Vince defeated Salle Cherny 5-0 and N. Y. U. 5-1. Salle Santelli "B" defeated Salle Cherny 5-1 and N. Y. U. 5-2. N. Y. A. C. defeated Seton Hall 5-0 and Saltus Fencing Club "A" 5-0. Salle Santelli "A" defeated Seton Hall 5-0 and Saltus "A" 5-1.

**Finals:** Salle Santelli "A" defeated Santelli "B" 5-1, N. Y. A. C. 5-1 and Salle d'Armes Vince 5-3. Salle d'Armes Vince defeated Salle Santelli "B" 5-3 and N. Y. A. C. 5-2.

**Junior Foil Team Championship — 11 Teams**  
**2 Team Finals — December 20th.**

**Preliminaries:** St. John's University defeated the Saltus Fencing Club 5-4; N. Y. U. "B" defeated Columbia Univ. 5-4; C. C. N. Y. defeated Yale Univ. 5-3; Salle d'Armes Vince defeated St. John's Univ. 5-2; N. Y. U. "A" defeated the Fencers Club 5-0; N. Y. A. C. defeated N. Y. U. "B" 5-1; Salle Santelli defeated C. C. N. Y. 5-4;

**Semifinals:** Salle d'Armes Vince defeated N. Y. U. "A" 5-2; the N. Y. A. C. defeated Salle Santelli 5-2.

**Finals:** The Salle d'Armes Vince defeated the N. Y. A. C. 5-4. Nathaniel Bukantz (Vince) defeated Albert di Giacinto 5-2, Ralph Marson 5-4 and Wallace Goldsmith 5-3. Sidney Kaplan (Vince) defeated Goldsmith 5-4. Daniel Bukantz (Vince) defeated Marson 5-3. di Giacinto defeated Bukantz 5-4 and Kaplan 5-4. Marson defeated Kaplan 5-4. Goldsmith defeated Bukantz 5-3.

**Junior Sabre Team Championship — 8 Teams**  
**4 Team Final Pool — January 10th**

**Final Pool:** Columbia Univ. defeated the Saltus Fencing Club 5-2, N. Y. U. "A" 5-1 and Salle Santelli 5-2. Salle Santelli defeated the Saltus Fencing Club 5-1 and N. Y. U. "A" 5-4.

**Junior Epee Team Championship — 10 Teams**  
**2 Team Finals — January 12th**

**Finals:** Fencers Club 5, Saltus Fencing Club 3, Winslow Cornett, Fencers Club, defeated Marcel Brammerel 3-1, William Ritayik 3-2 and Franz Ohlsen 3-0. Robert Driscoll, Fencers Club, defeated Ohlsen 3-1. Hugh Alessandroni, Fencers Club, defeated Brammerel 3-0. Brammerel, Saltus Club, defeated Driscoll 3-0. Ritayik, Saltus Club, defeated Alessandroni 3-2. Ohlsen, Saltus Club, defeated Alessandroni 3-1.

\* \* \*

**Women's Junior Foil Team Championship**  
**5 Teams — 4 Team Final Round — December 8th**

**Final Round:** Salle Santelli defeated Hofstra College 5-2, Brooklyn College 5-1 and N. Y. U. 5-2. Hofstra College defeated N. Y. U. 5-4 and Brooklyn College 5-2. N. Y. U. defeated Brooklyn College 5-4.

**Limited Women's Individual Foil Competition — 18 Entries — 6 Woman Finals — December 18th.**

**Finals:** Dorothy Locke, Aldo Nadi Studio defeated Mildred Stewart, Salle Santelli, 4-3. Elizabeth Bruskin, Brooklyn College, 4-3. Mrs. Jarmila Vokral, Salle Herrmann, 4-3 and Helena Mroczkowska, Hofstra College, 4-3. Mrs. Jarmila Vokral defeated Mildred Stewart 4-1, Elizabeth Bruskin 4-2, Barbara Cochrane, Salle Santelli, 4-1 and Helena Mroczkowska

4-3. Barbara Cochrane defeated Mildred Stewart 4-3, Elizabeth Bruskin 4-1, Helena Mroczkowska 4-1 and Dorothy Locke 4-2. Mildred Stewart defeated Helena Mroczkowska 4-0.

Elizabeth Bruskin defeated Mildred Stewart 4-1. Helena Mroczkowska defeated Elizabeth Bruskin 4-1.

**Fence-off of Finals:** Mrs. Jarmila Vokral defeated Dorothy Locke 4-2 and Barbara Cochrane 4-3. Dorothy Locke defeated Barbara Cochrane 4-2.

**Voorhees Women's Foil Competition — 22 Entries**  
**6 Woman Finals — January 8th.**

**Finals:** Mrs. Dorothy de Capriles, Salle Santelli, defeated Maria Cerra, Salle d'Armes Vince, 4-2, Mrs. Dolly Funke, Greco Fencing Academy, 4-3, Madeline Dalton, Salle d'Armes Vince, 4-2 and Mrs. Gay Gerns, Salle Scafati, 4-1. Madeline Dalton defeated Maria Cerra 4-1, Mrs. Dolly Funke 4-1, Mrs. Varmila Vokral, Salle Herrmann, 4-1, and Mrs. Gay Gerns 4-1. Mrs. Varmila Vokral defeated Maria Cerra 4-3, Mrs. Dolly Funke 4-3, Mrs. Dorothy de Capriles 4-1 and Mrs. Gay Gerns 4-3. Mrs. Gay Gerns defeated Maria Cerra 4-3 and Mrs. Dolly Funke 4-2. Maria Cerra defeated Mrs. Dolly Funke 4-1.

**Fence-off of Finals:** Mrs. Varmila Vokral defeated Mrs. Dorothy de Capriles 4-3 and Madeline Dalton 4-1. Madeline Dalton defeated Mrs. Dorothy de Capriles 4-3.

**Dorothy Brown Locke Women's Junior Foil Competition — 20 Entries — 6 Woman Finals — January 15th.**

**Finals:** Mrs. Dorothy de Capriles, Salle Santelli, defeated Barbara Cochrane, Salle Santelli, 4-3, Dorothy Wahl, Hofstra College, 4-3, Mrs. Aldo Nadi, Aldo Nadi Studio, 4-1 and Aida Principe, Sala Messineo, 4-3. Barbara Cochrane defeated Elizabeth Bruskin, Brooklyn College, 4-1, Dorothy Wahl 4-2 and Mrs. Aldo Nadi 4-3. (touched 12 times). Dorothy Wahl defeated Elizabeth Bruskin 4-2, Mrs. Aldo Nadi 4-3 and Aida Principe 4-2 (touched 15 times.). Aida Principe defeated Barbara Cochrane 4-3 and Elizabeth Bruskin 4-1. Mrs. Aldo Nadi defeated Aida Principe 4-1. Elizabeth Bruskin defeated Mrs. Nadi 4-1.

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## THE AMERICANS IN CUBA

(Continued)

and then go to the smart Vedado Tennis Club. Here, in movie-set surroundings, featured by giant royal palms, we are to make our headquarters. A huge new outdoor swimming pool has been completed just the week before. We lose no time in getting into our bathing suits to enjoy the clear salty water and the blazing sunshine. It is hard to believe it's Christmas Eve. . . .

In the afternoon, following our training plan, we visit the fencing room of the Colegio de Arquitectos, which seems to be the current fencing center of Havana. It is stiflingly warm, and we enjoy the iced vermouth, served in champagne glasses, between bouts. (Try it sometime). The Cuban board of strategy watches our performance, as we limber up by taking a foil lesson from Warren Dow. We do a little épée but it is mostly practice work. Then George Worth takes on John Huffman and myself in sabre, and this proves to be the big hit of the evening for our Cuban friends. . . . Afterward we are introduced to the "Cuba Libre", and we have a long bull-session with our opponents-to-be. We have dinner rather late, and we are all so tired that we forego the Christmas Eve party at the Havana Yacht Club -- which incidentally is considered the high spot of the social season.

**Christmas Day.** This is a day of rest. We sleep late, swim leisurely, play some bridge. In the evening we go to cheer the Kingsport High School basketball team from Tennessee against the Vedado Tennis "juniors", but our cheers are not enough to compensate for the Cubans' superior speed and team work.

**December 26.** This is a legal holiday, and again we take things easy. We watch with interest the finals of an inter-club tennis tournament organized on the Davis Cup plan. The Vedado Tennis Club wins 3-2, when Lorenzo Nodarse, doubles champion of Cuba, wins his singles match. We decide to "adopt" the Vedado Tennis Club.

After dinner we get ready for the opening match, which is to be held at the Palacio de los Deportes -- a huge indoor stadium, originally built for Jai-Alai, but now used for other indoor games. The starting time is officially 9 P. M., but everybody knows that that means 9:30 or 9:45. As Ramón Fonst is indisposed, our opponents are Eugenio Gárate, Diosdado del Pozo, Carlos Lamar, and Eugenio Sardiñas. Gárate and Sardiñas were first and third respectively in the recent Caribbean Olympic games. The match is hard-fought. We lead 8-5, with three bouts to go, thanks to José de Capriles' four straight victories, when the Cubans stage a splendid rally to tie the match 8-all. When touches are counted, we lose 38-36. Gárate and Sardiñas with three victories each, are the leading scorers for Cuba, and the consensus of opinion in the American team marks Sardiñas as the most dangerous épéeist on the home team.

We are frankly disappointed in the ability of the jury to follow the play, so that when both men are touched the decisions seem to us to be frequently incorrect. Too much emphasis is placed upon "where", rather than "when" the touch lands, and there is too large a number of double-touch decisions. However, we cannot complain, as the bad breaks go against both teams. . . .

After the match, Comandante Jaime Mariné, head of the government's sports organization, is our host at a late supper held at the Palacio de Cristal, in the older section of town. We are served a number of succulent "criollo" dishes, while we talk on many subjects. The Comandante tells me about his plans

for popularizing fencing; we exchange ideas on sports and on political economy. Around 2 A. M., he decides to show us the Gran Casino Nacional, which is located out in the suburbs. Our official caravan, led by Mariné's new lavender Buick, roars through the streets at sixty miles an hour. The Casino is beautiful, but we arrive too late for the best fun, so that an hour later we are back in town, at the Montmartre, which features "hot" music. It is 5 A. M. before the Comandante agrees to leave. Almost immediately the lights go out through the city, and we go home in Stygian darkness. Bed at 6 A. M.

**December 27.** We get up late, and enjoy the newspaper stories on last night's match, which feature José's outstanding performance. We are impressed by the excellence of the stories, and particularly by the critique written for "El País" by David Aizcorbe, which we believe to be keen and accurate. Later we are told that his criticisms of the jury have resulted in a challenge to a pistol duel with one of the members of the jury. We wonder about that, considering the popularity of the sabre for duelling purposes, until we remember that Aizcorbe is the Central American sabre champion. . . .

At noon, a cocktail party at Bacardi's. Then to an official luncheon at the Havana Yacht Club, where we are entertained by our friendly opponents, and by Mrs. Lamar and Mrs. Sardiñas. We must record the American team's devoted appreciation to these lovely ladies, whose gracious charm and hospitality made our visit to Cuba a most enjoyable social event. We talk fencing, then more fencing, and still more fencing. . . .

(Continued on next page)

## METROPOLITAN FENCERS CLUB

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## THE AMERICANS IN CUBA

(Continued)

In the evening it rains for fifteen minutes. It clears up immediately, and never rains again during our stay. . . .

**December 28.** Today is the Day of the Innocents — the Cuban April Fool's Day. The youngsters love to play tricks in the streets upon bewildered Americans, who can't quite make out what it's all about. . . . We pay our respects at the American consulate, and then go shopping. We are in quest of mosquito netting. . . . We have not been able to sleep with closed windows, and the mosquitoes have kept us awake for several nights. There are disadvantages to the beautiful palm trees, which make excellent breeding places for the little beasts. At any rate, we are badly in need of rest. . . .

Our second match begins promptly at 6 P. M. John Huffman's brilliant performance enables us to win, 8-6, with two tied bouts. Curiously enough, we are tied in touches, 34-34. The jury seems more efficient, and we are well impressed by the work of Sergio Luis Barrera, a Cuban épéist who was unable to participate in the matches because he was preparing to take a competitive examination for a professorship at the University. . . .

Afterward the team splits up in the company of Cuban officials, Huffman and Dow attend the Jai-Alai games, featuring the two best players in the world. The de Capriles tribe are invited to dinner by Mr. George Green and his delightful sister at their home in the Edificia América. Mr. Green is the Havana partner of Mr. George Cochrane, our A. F. L. A. Treasurer. A British gentleman, with a manner which reminds us of one of our favorite actors (Clive Brook), Mr. Green introduces us to the game of darts. He and José give Dorothy and me an unmerciful trimming at this enjoyable — and at times exasperating pastime.

**December 29.** We sleep soundly and late under our mosquito netting, and all of us feel much refreshed. Commandante Mariné invites us for an outdoor luncheon at "Vainilla", his finca in the country. Some fifty people are there, including a girls' basketball team from Miami. John Huffman scores a big hit when he makes a speech of thanks in Spanish.

The newspaper reports praise John's performance as well as José's. To the latter they refer as "el toro" (the bull) of the American team. Of course, the bull is the symbol of strength in Spanish countries, but to us it seems that José's nickname should hereafter be "Ferdinand." . . .

Late in the evening, the Cuban fencers tender us an official banquet at the Casino. We go in style. Meet several Americans. Have a fine time. Home at 3.

**December 30.** We are called to the telephone at 9:30 A. M. The President of the Republic, Dr. Laredo Bru, asks us to give an exhibition at the palace in the afternoon. . . . We discover that the President, though over 60, is an enthusiastic sabreman. He has a daily fencing lesson at 6 A. M., from Professor Fernando Alonso, the fencing master who is in technical charge of the government's fencing program. Incidentally, Professor Alonso started fencing as a pupil of our own Julio Martínez Castelló, fencing master at New York University. . . .

At noon we welcome the arrival in Havana of Roman Fischer, the Austrian Olympic star whose excellent work as an official in the various competitions held in New York this season, has won him our unanimous respect. We are happy to learn that the Cuban officials have invited him to serve on the jury. He accompanies us to the President's Palace,

where we perform approximately at 5 P. M. . . . Mrs. Huffman carries on an animated conversation with the President and his wife. We put on a good show, with much help from George Worth. The President enjoys himself and makes a courteous speech in which José and I figure prominently because of our mother's Cuban birth. The President and his wife personally serve us with refreshing drinks after the match — a gesture that "goes over big" with us and with the newspapermen. . . .

We go home for a quick meal, as we have barely enough time to reach the Palacio de los Deportes for the deciding match of the series. I am beginning to wonder whether I came along for the ride, as I have lost six 3-2 bouts in the previous two sessions. Fortunately, it is my turn to be "hot", and I win four. Five times the score is tied, although we are never behind, and it is tied for the sixth time, at 8-all, when Gárate defeats José, 3-2. But we win, 37-35, when touches are counted, and the Batista Cup is ours. It is curious to find that about 48 bouts, the composite score gives us an advantage of only two bouts, and that both teams have scored exactly the same number of total touches. . . .

Since the Russell trophy match is scheduled for 10 in the morning, John Huffman and I go home immediately. José and Warren make a tour of the "spots" with George Worth and Roman Fischer, before accompanying the latter back to his ship, which sails at 5 A. M.

**New Year's Eve.** In the morning, John and I meet Lamar and Aizcorbe in the North American zone final for the Russell Trophy at the Colegio de Arquitectos. Ramón Fonst acts as Director of Combat, and a select fencing audience is present. The conditions are ideal, as the audience understands and follows the play, and discusses the more difficult decisions. The match is a huge success, and all concerned are most pleased: We in winning; the Cubans because of the close score.

Mishaps: John suffers from a sore muscle, sustained in the previous day's exhibitions, but he says nothing in order not to upset me, and in the end he scores the winning points by taking his two sabre bouts. Carlos Lamar sustains a mild muscle injury and retired after the épée in favor of Ricardo Mira.

The American team gives a farewell luncheon to our Cuban friends. We talk fencing until after four P. M. Gárate, the President of the Cuban federation, tells us that their Constitution limits tenure of office to two consecutive terms. . . . Fonst reminisces about his two Olympic triumphs early in the century. . . . We wonder what would have been the result if Fonst had been able to fence — or if Sardiñas had not abandoned his close defensive game in order to make more spectacular touches which could be better seen by the jury. . . . We discuss the judging problem, which is as acute in Cuba as it is with us. . . . The entire Cuban team sings the praises of Harold Van Buskirk and Duris De Jong, who officiated at the Caribbean Olympics in Panamá last February. We are asked to state that the suggestion to use American judges in these games came originally from the Cuban delegation. . . .

Late in the afternoon, we are supposed to visit Comandante Mariné's city home, but we are all so exhausted that we are compelled to decline the invitation. Likewise, we give up our plans to greet the New Year at the Country Club, as our ship leaves at 2 A. M. Packing is a pressing problem, and traffic conditions are said to be very difficult in Havana on New Year's Eve — Sort of like Times Square. . . .

We go on board near eleven, and have a New

(Continued on next page)

## THE AMERICANS IN CUBA

(Continued)

Year's Eve party a la Americana in the company of Judge Hoyt and his family. We are all most grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Lamar, to Dr. Roberto Mañalich, to Eugenio Gárate, and to George Worth, all of whom left their respective parties in order to come to the ship to see us off.

**Homeward trip.** The voyage back to New York is calm and uneventful. We enjoy sunbaths until Monday, January 2. Two charming ladies from Washington are thrilled at being in the company of José and Warren. We all have taken a real liking to Judge Hoyt and his wife, and spend much time in conversation.

On Monday evening, our last night on board, Stanley Sieja gives a brilliant demonstration with Indian Clubs. The team puts on a short exhibition, in which the cruise director plays a successful comedy role.

We arrive in New York at noon on Tuesday, and we are met by our President, Harold Van Buskirk. We are glad to be home, but the memories of Havana and our Cuban friends will long be cherished.

## THE REMISE MEETS A PARRY

To The Editor of The Riposte:

In the "Remise" section of the December Riposte your unhappily anonymous commentator has contributed an interesting and timely article on one of the most important subjects presently claiming the attention of the A.F.L.A. Board of Governors, namely the dearth of competition for the younger fencers in the New York area.

It seems unfortunate, however, that he saw fit to tie this question up with the current difference of opinion with respect to the formation of a Metropolitan New York Division or with the League's financial problems, because neither of these matters has any bearing on the Board's ability to establish additional competitions in any classification or to prepare separate schedules of events for national championships on the one hand and for prep and novice or other prize events on the other.

Whether or not additional competitions can be held in New York depends, first, on the extent to which we can use or expand our present facilities and, second, on where we can obtain the necessary officials.

If memory serves me rightly, few clubs were willing and none was anxious to accept more than its accustomed quota of events when the 1938-1939 schedule was being drawn up. Where then are we to find a host or hosts for the suggested new events in the prep and novice classifications? And who is going to direct and judge these events? Bear in mind that such competitions, if established, will be most important from the point of view of future development of the League and our efforts in this direction will prove only a boomerang if our prospective recruits are discharged at the start by inadequate or incompetent judging and directing.

These problems are probably not incapable of solution. That they must be solved is one matter on which there can be no disagreement. But whatever means are adopted towards this desirable end, I feel that the discussion should be kept clear of controversial subjects, and the Metropolitan Division, as The Remise points out, is controversial.

The financial problem in connection with the scheduling of additional prep and novice events, moreover, is non-existent, because the expenses of any competition are more than covered by the entry fees

which the League collects and the dues of Junior as of Active members go, as they should, to the general support of fencing.

By all means let us work for the greatest possible growth of the New York group, either within or without a divisional form of organization. The Remise has called attention to what undoubtedly would be an excellent means of attracting a greater number of New York fencers to join the A.F.L.A. But we should strive to avoid confusing the issue and thereby delaying this highly desirable development.

John Howard Hanway

January 13, 1939.

## SAN FRANCISCO

The Olympic Club foil team composed of Ferard Leicester, DeForest Rodecape, Walter Westman, Merton Davies and Harold Seal won the Heron Trophy competition by defeating the Funke Fencing Academy 11-9 in the finals on December 2nd. The Funke team was handicapped through the absence of William G. F. O'Brien, its strongest fencer, and forced to fence its four men, Maj. S. R. Irwin, Lt. Kermit Schweidel, Truman W. Clark and Arthur Lane, against a full 5 man Olympic Club Team.

On December 9th, Alfred R. Snyder, Olympic Club, won the Handicap Foil competition against a field of 20. Despite a heavy handicap of minus 4 touches, he went through the evening without losing a bout. Harry Mortimer of the Olympic Club was second and Richard Mercer of the San Francisco Y.M.C.A. was third. Handicaps varied from minus four to plus two.

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ALDO NADI REPLIES TO  
"THE HORNETS' NEST"

Our December issue carried an article containing an exchange of letters pertaining to a fencing writeup in the Bulletin Index. That writeup quoted Aldo Nadi as having said "There is little wrong with American fencing other than downright incompetence". The article terminated with a letter by George Santelli in which he stated that this quotation was "probably a misrepresentation", but in which he also went on to add statements concerning Mr. Nadi's fencing record which that professional desires to clarify.

We herewith present a statement of record which the Editor believes represents the greatest competitive fencing record ever attained. There is nothing in the records of modern fencing which can equal this record in foil, in all three weapons and in the number of years in which such supremacy was maintained. We are pleased to submit Mr. Nadi's letter.

Dear Editor:

I thought I would never again have the opportunity of writing in your magazine, but it just happens that my name is being mentioned in your columns perhaps too often. I do not want to sound like the great Garbo, but, like her, I sincerely wish "t obe left alone."

\* \* \* \*

I have read in your December issue that according to the Editors of the Bulletin Index of Pittsburgh, I have stated in the past that "American fencing is downright incompetent." I flatly deny that this statement was ever uttered by me, and even less countersigned by me. I must here say that the fencing teachers in this country who first developed this sport in the U. S. A. deserve the highest praise. Giorgio Santelli is unquestionably one of them, and as far as the tremendous amount of work accomplished in the last twelve years is concerned, he might perhaps be put at the head of the list.

\* \* \* \*

Now, I would like to answer the letter in your last issue by my old friend, Giorgio Santelli, himself. After that issue was out, he told me that he had just stated some facts, and that obliges me to state some others.

Comparisons should always be avoided, but considering that some have been made, it is my right to discuss them.

Giorgio Santelli says that in Los Angeles, Joseph Levis "bettered Aldo Nadi's best Olympic Foil achievement." It is true, for in Antwerp (1920, the only Olympic Games in which I took part) I was third in foil, with the same number of victories in the final as the fourth and fifth. Let us not forget that another Nadi, whom I had to help anyway, was first. At that time I was twenty-one, with scarcely any record — because of the war — except that I had won the Italian Amateur Championship and a few other tournaments.

Anybody who has followed my career knows that at twenty-one my strength was about *one-fifth* of that reached at the age of twenty-five, and maintained for at least ten years. This is confirmed by the fact that Cattiau, second in Antwerp and many times champion of France and Europe, was twice beaten by me later: 10-4, Milan, 1922; 14-8, Paris, 1929. And if Giorgio Santelli *just thinks* that my very good friend and excellent fencer, Joseph Levis, has ever been or is a stronger fencer than I was or am now in spite of my forty years, I will just let him *think* what he likes. But only *think*.

As far as my Olympic Sabre achievement is concerned (sorry, Giorgio, but I am afraid I shall have to go into this, for the opportunity is not to be passed), I must remind my Italian colleague that in the same games at Antwerp in 1920 I was second in that weapon, while another Nadi, six years older than I, was first. Incidentally, Giorgio Santelli himself was eliminated in the semi-finals of that same competition, just as he was no better than *fifth* in the pre-Olympic Italian "Tournament of Champions" held in Venice in July 1920, immediately before Antwerp, while I was second again — another Nadi first, as usual.

It is true that I have never met any American amateur fencers in a regular match. But perhaps I am not quite finished yet, and for a few more years I am ready to meet any American amateur, giving him a handicap of three touches in a twelve-touch bout, in any weapon. This, of course, is not meant to diminish in any way the high opinion I have of more than one American fencer. But I think I could take the chance, considering that more than one of France's title holders have been beaten by me, *in France*, with the score 12-3.

Giorgio Santelli continues: "Unfortunately, Aldo Nadi turned professional before winning either any Olympic or World Amateur Championship. His greatest claims for supremacy were all established as a professional, which obviated the necessity of entering the long, gruelling tournaments that are the real test of a champion. In a single ten-touch challenge match he should prove supreme in foil and very high in either sabre or epee."

And I say: Considering that an older Nadi *had to win the games at Antwerp, it was rather difficult for me to do more than reach second place*. But I most certainly challenge the second statement in the above quotation. As a professional I have won, from 1924 to 1927, four years in succession, the Italian Professional Championships in foil, epee, and sabre, always without a single defeat; amongst those professionals there were some who could beat the best amateurs in the world of that time in all weapons. As a professional I have beaten fourteen Champions of France in regular matches (foil and epee, because in France nobody was ever allowed to meet me in sabre), from Haussy to Gardere, the greatest Professional and Amateur champions France has had in two generations. This record, incidentally, has not been equalled by anybody, and all those victories were obtained in France. As an amateur and as a professional I have won fifty-three competitions, twenty-two tournaments, and thirty-one individual matches against championship title holders of Italy, France, and Europe, in all weapons.

If this is not sufficient for what Giorgio calls the "test of a champion", I am indeed sorry that my past cannot offer him a more "gruelling" record.

In the third sentence of the above quotation, Giorgio was very generous in stating that I "should prove supreme in any foil test." But when his generosity is really great is when he states that in a sabre or epee test I should prove to be "very high."

I am very sorry that I had to bother you, dear Editor, as well as the readers of the Riposte, with such a long self-apology of my career; but you will perhaps agree with me that after reading your last issue something had to be said, once and for all. I hope.

With many thanks and kindest regards,

Very Sincerely yours,

Aldo Nadi

AN:AB

## CAPTAIN'S REPORT

(Continued)

### Summaries — Russell Trophy — U. S. vs Cuba

#### Contestants:

United States — Miguel de Capriles and John R. Huffman.

Cuba — David Aizcorbe, Carlos Lamar and Ricardo Mira.

#### Foil — Havana — December 31, 1938.

M. de Capriles defeated Lamar 5-4 and Aizcorbe 5-4.

Aizcorbe defeated Huffman 5-3.

Lamar defeated Huffman 5-3.

Score in Foil — U. S. 2; Cuba 2.

#### Epee — Havana — December 31, 1938.

M. de Capriles defeated Lamar 5-4 and Aizcorbe 5-3.

Huffman defeated Aizcorbe 5-4.

Lamar defeated Huffman 5-3.

Score in Epee — U. S. 3; Cuba 1.

#### Sabre — Havana — December 31, 1938.

Huffman defeated Aizcorbe 5-3 and Mira 5-3.

Aizcorbe defeated M. de Capriles 5-2.

Mira defeated M. de Capriles 5-4.

Score in Sabre — U. S. 2; Cuba 2.

Total Score — U. S. 7; Cuba 5.

## THE REMISE

(Continued)

showed very good promise.

The N. Y. A. C. Annual Intercollegiate Invitation Foil Contest on December 22nd attracted a great number of college fencers on vacation. The superior skill and experience of the fencers from the metropolitan colleges was never more apparent. **Silvio Giolito** of N. Y. U. swept through to repeat his victory of last year. As a lefthander with a light, fast hand he has a decidedly individual style of heady play. Although he swept through with good speed and a sureness that the others could not counteract. **Giolito** at the same time has competitive color and attracts the spectators even in the most one-sided of bouts.

The Columbia University team was unquestionably the strongest and best-balanced team in the Junior Team Sabre Championship on January 10th. There were more experienced men there that evening but the Columbia team succeeded as a unit, as any team aggregation should do. **Kevis Kapner** of the Salle Santelli was probably the individual star of the evening by actual count, but one star does not make a team competition.

\* \* \* \*

On December 4th, **Mrs. Aldo Nadi** confirmed the promise that she showed in her first competition only two weeks before. We confess questioning her ability to win against the stronger novice fencers, but the fact remains that she did so in fine style by winning eleven of her twelve bouts. Her only loss was suffered in her last bout when she lost to **Miss Emile Hocher** of the Salle d'Armes Henry IV. **Miss Hocher's** fencing was erratic all evening but she collected herself to fence very well against **Mrs. Nadi** to win 4-2. **Miss Jean Voorhees** of the Salle Scafati won a well-deserved second place in the competition. She was in good form all evening and gives promise of higher competitive possibilities.

The Women's Junior Foil Team on December 8th

was topheavy. The Salle Santelli trio of **Miss Barbara Cochrane**, **Mrs. Dorothy de Capriles**, and **Miss Mildred Stewart** won 15 out of 20 bouts in their three matches of the evening. Never pressed very hard, the Santelli team appeared to be fencing only well enough to win, which is easily understandable when we realize that this team was comprised of the nation's 5th, 7th and 10th ranking foilswomen. The Hofstra College girls won a second place creditably and, representing a college in only its second year of fencing competition, appear to be rushing forward to a high standing in girls' Intercollegiate fencing circles.

The Women's Foil competition on December 18th brought out the Juniors and Seniors in numbers. These girls produced the best fencing thus far shown this season among the women. Out of six finalists we found three, **Mrs. Jarmila Vokral**, **Miss Barbara Cochrane** and **Miss Dorothy Locke** tied for first place with four victories and one loss apiece. In the fence-off, **Mrs. Vokral** of the Salle Herrman of Philadelphia defeated both her rivals to win first place with **Miss Locke** of the Aldo Nadi Studio taking second place. **Mrs. Vokral**, former Czechoslovakian champion, was fencing very well as was **Miss Cochrane**. **Miss Cochrane** fenced excellently all evening, but was just unable to defeat **Miss Locke** in the fence-off after defeating her 4-1 in the semi-finals and 4-2 in the finals. **Miss Locke** did not show her usual zest in this her first appearance of the season, but her competitive experience proved a valuable asset which enabled her to take second place.

We did not feel that the fencing in the Voorhees competition on January 8th was as good in general as the preceding women's foil competition. Again we saw six finalists go into a triple tie for first place with four victories apiece to cause a fence-off. **Mrs. Jarmila Vokral** duplicated her victory of three weeks before but in this competition her good sense of distance and fast, accurate-coupees netted her the two victories in the fence-off with only one touch made against her. She clearly outclassed her opponents on this evening. **Miss Madeline Dalton** of the Salle Vince defeated **Mrs. Dorothy de Capriles** of the Salle Santelli in a close 4-3 bout to take second place.

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## HOW TO TRAIN FOR A FOIL COMPETITION

(Continued)

beat should have the same strength and sound alike if properly executed. The practice is primarily for the wrist muscles and to develop feeling. The double beat has a practical value in a bout through its nuisance value. In preparing an attack it holds the opponent's attention and nullifies the possibility of his taking the attack during your preparation. Defensively, it distracts your opponent as he is prepared to attack and may change his offensive intentions back to the defensive. Double beats are more useful than they are given credit for and are not used by French fencers as often as they should be. They are excellent and should certainly be given some time in your exercises during every practice.

We have rested our legs now and may continue to the strenuous legwork and parry practice that we have been leading up to. By now we should feel sufficiently warmed up to go "all out" in all our attacks and answering movements. However, until each practice unit is working smoothly we should keep our first few practices of each new movement slow, not adding tempo until we are satisfied that its component parts are being done correctly.

### Simple Beat Attacks

Our first practice following our practice of beats should naturally be the **simple beat attacks**. These are among the most valuable attacks in foil because of their simplicity, directness and usual lack of any need for more than a direct lunge. On guard now in either quarte or sixte, start practicing the **beat-lunge**. A sharp snappy beat and, as the beat is made, a direct extension in the opened line and a straight lunge in that momentarily-exposed line. It must be straight, fast and true for the split second time allowance is little enough to accomplish your purpose. Practice these in both quarte and sixte. The next step is the **change beat and deceive** or the **change beat and disengage**. An alternative would be the change beat and lunge but this is only possible against a stupid opponent whose reactions need not be considered here. The change beat is the first half of the double beat we have just been practicing. It is the dropping of the point under and around the opponent's foil and beating on the inside. Your opponent naturally tends to close the line after your beat on the inside and will do so either with a counter, closing the line as before, or a simple parry closing the threatened line from the other side. If your beat starts his counter you must deceive and lunge. If your beat starts his simple parry you must dip under his hand with a disengage as it crosses over. The usual reaction is the counter and therefore the **change beat and deceive** is the more valuable practice attack.

### Attacks With Pressure

There are two kinds of **pressure attacks** which must next be practiced with the variations explained in the above paragraph on beats. By substituting the pressure for the beat in the above explanation, we have these attacks outlined. There are, however, two types of pressure and these may be varied two-fold by making the pressure in either case light or hard. A **pressure** varies from a beat in that it makes little or no sound and is a push against the blade rather than a blow. One type of pressure is done while extending the arm, a sliding along the blade with point forced in line with the pressure as the arm is extended. In this case you have the right of way and the opponent must press back if you are pressing from the outside or parry if you have disengaged and are pressing from the inside. In the other pressure, you press with arm bent just as you beat before. This has little value as a primary threat, but upon resistance permits the disengage lunge or, if counter-

ed by the opponent, permits the deceive of that counter. This pressure has great value in the preparation of an attack but gives no right of way until the arm is extended. It ranks high with the coupé as the best invitation for a stop thrust in foil fencing, for an attempt of this type of pressure, that a wily opponent deceives, usually finds your foil badly out of line through its very attempt at pressure. It is good to practice this pressure with its dangers well in mind with a partner keyed to stop thrust you if he can.

Such practice will better equip you for its careful use in competition.

We have as yet made no mention of marching or balestre attacks. From the article thus far it might be assumed that the opponent each time was required to stand frozen and permit the direct lunge to serve as all the footwork necessary in each attack. On the contrary, you should intermix marching attacks with each practice just as you have mixed in riposte practice with each type of attack. First, make several direct attacks and then have your opponent step backward, forcing you to march forward with the extension of the arm before the final lunge. You march by moving the front foot forward and bringing the other foot behind it to the original "on guard" position. This may be done in two ways: first by making a fast march which has the purpose of sneaking up on the opponent, second by jumping forward with both feet almost simultaneously to surprise the opponent. By one method you glide in upon your opponent, by the other method you practically jump upon him. Each has its purpose and both should be practiced. This variation in legwork plus the riposting practice makes each item of practice almost a study in itself. Fencing truly offers infinite variety.

### Conclusion

Books have been written about the various refinements of the movements thus far explained here, necessarily in brief. It is really up to you to get yourself a partner and try 'alternate exercises'. In practice you will develop your own routines. There is no end to the combinations of movements that make up the total of fencing. We have dealt here with a suggested program. We have left out the practice of **remising**, **fleching**, **counter-riposting** and even that important attacking weapon, the coupé. **The coupé**, for instance, is an upside down disengage. Instead of dipping under the opponent's blade as in the disengage, you cut up over the opponent's blade with the same eventual result. By substituting the coupé for the disengage in all or part of the times the disengage is mentioned anywhere in this article a whole new series of practice sessions is possible. And so it goes with all the variations of handwork and legwork that the sport offers. The important thing is to practice intently with the idea of learning and perfecting the movements themselves. After that, one must "get" the feel and timing of the combinations so they become units of thought and action. Once this is accomplished you will have the equipment to enter competition. What is more important you will have the confidence in your ability to carry through with these by-now familiar routines. Your body will be trained and in the bout you will be free to think about your opponent. If he is not similarly trained, he will have to think about himself and one more victory will be marked up to the credit of "alternate exercises".

### NEW ORLEANS

All fencing activity in New Orleans is being directed toward the Mardi Gras International Tournament scheduled for February 18th and 19th. Inquiries have been received from Lt. Fred Weber at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and fencing groups in Florida, Texas, Missouri and Georgia.