

DEC 14 '40 A

The RIPOSTE

DECEMBER

VOL. 5

NO. 6



Joseph Vince

*announces several new articles of fencing equipment
ready for distribution January 1st*

NEW DESIGNS
NEW PATTERNS
IMPROVED QUALITY

THESE ARTICLES SHOULD APPEAL TO EVERY ACTIVE FENCER

Write for our descriptive literature

SALLE D'ARMES VINCE
AND
VINCE FENCING EQUIPMENT, CO.
767 BROADWAY
(East 9th Street)

NEW YORK CITY

Telephone GRamercy 7-8120

PAN AMERICAN GAMES IN 1942

When it became apparent that the Games of the XII Olympiad could not be held, the latent interest in Pan American Games which has existed in many countries for many years was brought to life. It was further stimulated by the growing spirit of solidarity among the nations of the Western Hemisphere. After considerable correspondence and discussion, the Argentine Olympic Committee took the initiative and called a Congress in Buenos Aires to discuss the possibility of organizing Pan American Games and, in general, all of the problems concerning amateur sport in the three Americas.

The National Olympic Committee of 16 of the 21 countries in the Pan American Union met at a Congress held in Buenos Aires, August 28-31, and voted to institute a set of Pan American Games to be held every four years, beginning in 1942, under the sanction of the International Olympic Committee. In general, the rules and regulations of the International Olympic Committee, covering the Olympic Games, will apply. The technical rules of competition in all sports are to be those of the respective international federations as in the Olympic Games. All countries of the Western Hemisphere are eligible for membership in the new organization. The Congress, which is to be held every four years, will control the organization.

For convenience in administration, etc., the countries of the Western Hemisphere were divided into five groups as follows:

- Group 1—Canada, United States, Mexico.
- Group 2—Countries of Central America and the Antilles.
- Group 3—Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.
- Group 4—Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, and Peru.
- Group 5—Columbia, Panama, and Venezuela.

One representative from each group was chosen to constitute a Pan American Games Committee which will be the supreme authority during the four years between meetings of the Congress for all matters pertaining to Pan American Sport. The first committee consists of representatives from Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, United States, and Venezuela. The United States was signally honored by having its representative, Mr. Avery Brundage, elected President. Dr. Heroldo Pederneras of Brazil was chosen Vice President.

The objects of the new organization, in addition to the staging of the Pan American Games and the promotion of public interest and participation in amateur sport in the constituent countries, include the development of closer athletic relations between the member countries, and it is hoped that there may eventually be *group or regional* contests.

Buenos Aires was chosen as the site of the first Pan American Games which will be held in the fall of the year 1942, the 450th Anniversary of the Discovery of America by Columbus. Just as in the Olympic Games, there will be an Organizing Committee, designated by the Argentine Olympic Committee, to handle the event. The Organizing Committee will have the authority to choose the sports on the

program from a list similar to—but larger—than that used in the Olympic Games. The tentative list for the first Pan American Games is:

Basketball	Shooting
Boxing	Swimming
Chess	Tennis
Cycling	Track and Field
Fencing	Water Polo
Polo	Weight Lifting
Rowing	Wrestling
	Yachting

All of the countries of the Western Hemisphere are eligible for membership. Organized in a thoroughly democratic fashion, each country will have one vote, although the United States probably has more athletes than the entire population of some of the countries involved.

N. C. A. A. CHAMPIONSHIPS APPROVED

The National Collegiate Athletic Association has approved the holding of National Collegiate fencing championships under its jurisdiction in 1941. The event will be held during the entire day of Saturday, March 29, 1941 on the campus of Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

Preparations for the championships, the first ever held under the auspices of the N. C. A. A., are now going forward under the direction of Dr. John Huffman, chairman of the N. C. A. A. Fencing Rules Committee and president of the A. F. L. A. Other members of the committee include Hugh V. Alessandroni, Jean Gelas, Herman S. Hettinger, and Rene Peroy.

All college and university teams will be eligible for the meet, the preliminary announcement states. For the first year, at least, competition will be limited to individual championships in the three weapons. The probable limit of entries will be two men in each weapon from each college team.

First indications are that from twenty to thirty colleges and universities will submit entries for the championships. The exact scope of these entries is not yet known, however.

Further details will be announced by the committee in charge at a later date. Meanwhile, all college teams having intentions of filing entries are advised to keep the date of Saturday, March 29, open on their schedules.



THE RIPOSTE*America's Oldest Fencing Magazine*

114 Washington Place - New York City

JOSE R. DE CAPRILES - - - - - Founder
 DERNELL EVERY - - - - - Editor
 WARREN A. DOW - - - - - Business Manager
 MIGUEL A. DE CAPRILES - - - - - Technical Advisor

CONTRIBUTING STAFF

DONALD BARNES - - - - - Special Writer
 WILLIAM T. PECORA - - - - - Special Writer
 HANNS FISCHER - - - - - Illinois
 FLOYD TRAYNHAM, JR. - - - - - Illinois
 R. H. HUBER - - - - - Iowa
 HENRY ST. LEGER - - - - - Long Island
 FERARD LEICESTER - - - - - Northern California
 RICHARD F. WARREN - - - - - Philadelphia
 ALAN BECK - - - - - St. Louis
 ALLEN BRAZELL - - - - - Texas
 DOUGLAS P. BOYEY - - - - - Western Massachusetts

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

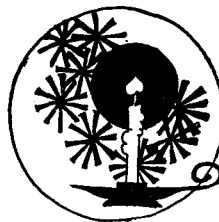
6 Issues \$1.00
 12 Issues \$2.00

THIS IS ISSUE # 59

Mailed on or about December 13th

C O N T E N T S

Pan American Games in 1942	Page 1
N. C. A. A. Championships Approved	Page 1
Editorial	Page 2
American Fencing Potentialities	Page 3
Directory of American Fencing Professionals.....	Page 4
The Agony of Dual Meets	Page 6
The Care and Feeding of Spectators	Page 7
The New Rules Book—Sidelights and Comments	Page 8
Texas News	Page 10
The Remise	Page 12
Philadelphia News	Page 13
Northern California	Page 13
A. F. L. A. Newsletter and National Schedule.....	Page 14
Western Massachusetts News	Page 14
Approved 1940-41 List of Directors	Page 14
Iowa News	Page 14
Oregon News	Page 14
Illinois News	Page 15
A. F. L. A. Competitions in N. Y. C.	Page 16
St. Louis News	Page 16
Long Island News	Page 16

E D I T O R I A L

The season of Peace and Good Will blesses our Nation once more. In a world whose every Continent but ours and South America is fully occupied with carnage and destruction, these

words stand out all the more for their rareness and desirability.

X X

What could be more indicative of the friendships that exist in the Americas than the formation of the Pan American Games at this time? We agree with Avery Brundage when he says, "Sportsmen in all countries speak the same language and, because of this deep community of interest, amateur sport provides a most fertile field for the development of international good will.

"Since the government has displayed so much interest in creating better relations between the countries of the Western Hemisphere, I am sure that the work of the First Pan American Sport Congress, in creating a Pan American Sport Federation, will meet with universal approval."

X X

As we present this issue we shyly hint that we should be due for Birthday Greetings this month. It was five years ago that The Riposte was launched into the realm of fact and fancy. We have passed through many a childhood crisis under the tolerant protection of innocence. We haven't grown as rapidly as our parents would wish but we have remained healthy and noisy and that is generally a good sign in any child.

X X

Our Birthday is of little importance to anyone but us. A most important Birthday, the 25th of this month, is of importance to all the world. In Christmas Day and the season which immediately surrounds it you find an annual magic which affects man, woman and child. It makes us want to shout our greetings to all our subscribers and friends. That greeting is "MERRY CHRISTMAS."

AMERICAN FENCING POTENTIALITIES

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT there are between 100,000 and 150,000 fencers in the United States. This seems like a good number to anyone who has given little thought to the sport or who has any realization of the size of this country. To hear someone from Europe admit that there are probably more fencers in the United States than there are (or were) in any one country of Europe makes you feel that the United States is doing well by the sport and that we have arrived as a fencing nation. Nothing is more ridiculous.

There are approximately 131,000,000 people in the United States which means that only 1/10th of one per cent or one person in 1,000 knows anything about fencing. The membership of the A. F. L. A., according to the latest records, approximates 1,200 which means that only one person in 109,000 is sufficiently interested in organized fencing to join the League. When viewed in this manner, fencing is still a little known sport in the United States. The fencer is still an American sports' curiosity.

Fencing has certain characteristics in its favor; characteristics which should make the sport popular. In the first place, fencing is fun for the beginner as well as the expert. The rawest neophyte gets a kick out of fencing from the moment he is introduced to the sport. Secondly, no one has ever learned or mastered all there is within the sport. One cannot become surfeited with the sport or gain the feeling that there is no more to learn. There is a constant lure to learn more, to perfect one's game, to fence better and better. Finally, there is no age limit for learning or practicing the sport. The oldsters remain as enthusiastic as the youngsters and there is nothing so satisfactory as seeing the pleasure a man of say 40, 50 or even 60 gets from his fencing when he is introduced to the sport even at those ages. In various ways it attracts and holds the interest of the youngster, the youth, and the man.

On the other hand the sport has certain drawbacks. It is a gregarious sport and therefore has an urban rather than a rural following. It is best taught by example rather than by individual study and here enters the need for a teacher or a professional fencing master. Few can afford the luxury of an individual teacher and therefore clubs are formed by the amateurs or Salle d'Armes are provided by professionals wherein one can obtain professional instruction. This limits the sport to cities or schools which are large enough to support a professional.

With these later thoughts in mind we must now revise our statistical comparisons. We can no longer look upon 131,000,000 Americans as being potential fencers. We should immediately delete our rural population and limit ourselves to 62,800,000 total white urban population. To be on the safe side we will further limit this to the 93 cities having a population of 100,000 or more. Here we find 33,000,000 total white population. We'll cut this by 50% to eliminate all those too young, too old, the halt, the blind, and the urban Americans whose only exercise is in reading the sport section of the newspaper. This finally leaves us 16,500,000 as a potential market. If half of these would try the sport we could hold the interest of 10% of them. That would give us 825,000 fencers with 1% or 8,250 becoming members of the A. F. L. A.

Why are our estimates of potentialities after all of this concentration and after liberal exclusions still between 6 and 8 times as large as our best estimates of actualities? The answer lies in lack of professionals.

The professional is the bottleneck of the sport. Without the professional you do not develop fencers and without the fencers you do not attract the professional. In other words there is a vicious circle within a bottleneck; a horrible thought.

There are approximately 280 professional fencing teachers in the United States. Masters, provosts, teachers, instructors, and poseurs, they are scattered throughout the United States and upon their shoulders lies the responsibility for maintaining and spreading the sport. They are concentrated in the urban areas along the two coasts and in the middle West with occasional exceptions in some cities of the South. Many of them are located in schools and colleges where their teaching is confined to those educational centers. There are nearly 30 of them concentrated in New York City. Los Angeles and San Francisco have about six professionals apiece with every other city getting along with anywhere from one to three, if any.

The professional's life is not an easy one. His living must depend upon the collective return from many pupils. This can be accomplished through a private fencing room, generally called a *salle d'armes* or an academy where pupils pay club or individual fees sufficient to support the club and its respective proprietor, the professional. On the other hand, the professional may become the employee of an established club and work for a fixed salary on a contract agreement. Such a club may be devoted exclusively to fencing as is The New York Fencers Club or it may be an athletic club or Y. M. C. A. where fencing is just one of many sports provided for its members.

From the point of view of many professionals a contract to teach at a school or college is the most satisfactory. Here, the fencing teacher is employed to teach fencing as one of the athletic activities of the school. Here he works under attractive conditions with little restrictive supervision and need not operate under the constant worry that his activities are returning a financial profit to the institution that is employing him. He does have the disadvantage of knowing that his pupils will be lost to him after a few years, four years at most. He also knows that no top-notch fencer can be developed in only four years. Therefore, he is constantly faced with the feeling of being unable to complete the work he has started.

Many professionals combine two or more of these activities. They operate their own *salle d'armes* and have a contract at some school or athletic club for the remainder of their time.

With the approach of summer weather comes the closing of schools and the lessening of competitive activities at clubs. The professional must find means of supplementing his income during the summer. There are a limited number of ways of doing this. Some of these are summer camps, summer theatre groups and resorts.

Throughout the year all professionals are in a position to supply fencing equipment to their pupils.

They profit from this either through manufacturing or importing the equipment themselves or acting as an agent for an equipment concern. They may also be in a year-around position to profit through exhibitions at a charge for such appearances.

At one time, Europe was our only source of supply for fencing professionals. That source of supply still exists but now we have the native professional developing from domestic sources. In the past the native professional was generally an amateur who turned to the sport after achieving considerable success as an amateur competitor. This is no longer necessarily true. Such professionals as Castello, Grasson, Greco, Santelli and Vince have intentionally trained young men to become professionals without their entering the amateur field at all. Furthermore, they have assisted these trained boys to find professional positions in various parts of the country. Then too there is the environmental professional. He is usually an amateur keenly interested in the sport who finds himself located where fencing is little known. In order to continue to enjoy the sport he teaches it to others and soon finds himself engrossed in the teaching angle and eventually turns professional.

Finally there is the fencing professional who more or less had the sport wished upon him. He is generally interested in athletics, is a physical education coach or holds some similar relation to general sports. Fencing is added to the curricula through demand for the sport and he learns the sport in order to teach it.

Thus by one means or another America has today gained the services of at least 280 men and women who claim to be in a position to teach fencing. Many of them are doing a wonderful service to the sport and it is to them that the amateurs owe a debt of gratitude. They teach the sport to many new beginners every year and send them forth with at least the basic principles upon which to build the deeper appreciation of fencing that is gained only after many

years of practice and experience. They separate the chaff from the wheat, working hard with all at the start only to separate the lazy, indifferent dabblers from the earnest, ambitious enthusiasts and help the latter on toward the finer expression that ever lures the true swordsman onward.

It is to them that we assign the major job of introducing fencing to that 825,000 group of potential fencers. It is no small task and one which their own numbers can never encompass. However, here again we mention the old familiar cycle of more fencers, more masters, more fencers, more masters. As amateurs are developed into better fencers, some will become interested in professionalism and take their turn at developing other amateurs. It is a self-creating proposition without even so much as a hint anywhere of having reached the saturation point. We have just scratched the surface to date. Looking backward we have gone far. Looking forward, we have only just begun.

When assigning the job to the present professionals we know that they stand ready to perform their task. The amateurs can help immeasurably. They stand 150,000 strong. If each brings one more potential fencer to his teacher and exposes him to fencing it would take only the most elementary understanding of arithmetic to appreciate what this would mean. Cries of "More fencing teachers!" would ring out from all across the land. A supply would develop to meet the demand. There would be no alternative. We have already seen the momentum of such movements in the past ten years.

It has surprised *The Riposte* itself during its five years of publication to witness the growth and spread of fencing throughout this country without any promotional fanfare whatsoever. It has been the healthy growth of a healthy sport, finally being recognized by Americans as an exciting, intelligent, low-cost exercise.

—D. E.

DIRECTORY OF AMERICAN FENCING PROFESSIONALS

There are Professional Fencers' Associations in various European countries which publish lists of their members from time to time. These lists serve as Directories of the fencing masters and teachers in those countries, since most professionals belong to their respective Associations. There is no Association in the United States and consequently no list has ever been prepared which would serve as a Directory of American Fencing Professionals. The *Riposte* has undertaken to fill this want and has prepared a list of 231 men and women who teach fencing

throughout the United States. We realize that this list, being the first of its kind, is far from complete. There are probably 50 names missing, primarily those of professionals teaching at schools and colleges where fencing has recently been introduced. We hope that our subscribers will assist us in supplementing this list.

If you know of any professional not listed here please drop us a penny postcard giving us his name and the place where he teaches. His address would also be appreciated, if available.

DIRECTORY

W. M. Adrian, Corvallis, Ore.
Constantin K. Ageoff, Fairfield, Conn.
B. R. Allison, Nashville, Tenn.
Valentino Argento, Philadelphia, Pa.
James Ashley, Berkeley, Calif.
August Auernheimer, Seattle, Wash.
Robert C. Barr, New Canaan, Conn.
R. Beck, Atlanta, Ga.
Prof. A. O. Berger, Cleveland, Ohio.
Bert Bertram, Augusta, Ga.
H. L. Billings, Appleton, Wis.
M. Buford Blair, Blacksburg, Va.

T. Erwin Blesh, San Jose, Calif.
Major Walter E. Blount, Washington, D. C.
Prof. Lyman Bothwell, Walla Walla, Wash.
Allen Brazell, Dallas, Texas.
Dr. Scott D. Breckinridge, Lexington, Ky.
James Brock, Manchester, Ind.
Col. C. L. Brosius, Delafield, Wis.
Rois L. Brockman, Dallas, Texas.
Elwyn Bugge, Stanford University, Calif.
Marcel Cabijos, New York City.
Robert F. Campbell, Washington, D. C.
Thomas L. Canniff, Lansing, Mich.

Leo J. Cass, Cambridge, Mass.
Julio M. Castello, New York City.
Frederic A. Cavens, Los Angeles, Calif.
Don Cetrulo, New Brunswick, N. J.
Gerardo Cetrulo, Newark, N. J.
Hubert Chain, Seattle, Wash.
Col. George V. Cherny, New York City.
Dr. R. G. Clapp, Lincoln, Neb.
Truman W. Clark, San Francisco, Calif.
Capt. Walter Clark, Lexington, Va.
Georges L. Cointe, Ithaca, N. Y.
Eli Cole, Rapid City, S. D.
Joseph E. Corcoran, Woodside, N. Y.
C. C. Craddock, Alcorn, Miss.
H. W. Craig, Urbana, Ill.
Clovis Deladrier, Annapolis, Md.
Major Deming, Ada, Ohio.
Duris de Jong, Hollywood, Calif.
Jerry De Rosa, Montclair, N. J.
Bela E. de Tuscan, Detroit, Mich.
Joanna de Tuscan, Detroit, Mich.
Guy di Carlo, Salt Lake City, Utah.
A. J. Dickman, Laramie, Wyo.
Col. Anton Dietrich, address unknown.
John W. Dimond, West Point, N. Y.
Patrick Dolan, New York City.
Norman Donaldson, Bozeman, Mont.
W. M. Dowell, Abilene, Texas.
Leonard J. Duckworth, San Francisco, Calif.
Ann Schley Duggan, Denton, Texas.
Major E. L. Dyer, Washington, D. C.
Maurice Erdman, Annville, Pa.
Ralph B. Faulkner, Hollywood, Calif.
Celestino Fernandez, New York City.
Joseph Fiems, Annapolis, Md.
Hanns Fischer, Chicago, Ill.
W. E. Fitzsimmons, Tempe, Arizona.
Dr. L. Forest Free, Westminster, Md.
Arthur H. Frederick, New Brunswick, N. J.
W. C. Freeman, Delaware, Ohio.
Arthur Fregosi, New York City.
Frank Freyer, Ft. Collins, Colo.
Erich A. Funke-d'Egnuff, San Francisco, Calif.
J. M. Gelas, Clinton, N. Y.
Thomas Gerrity, Jersey City, N. J.
Thomas B. Godfrey, Louisville, Ky.
R. Henri Gordon, Manoa, Pa.
Dr. Edwin Graeffe, Detroit, Mich.
——— Graham, Los Angeles, Calif.
Albert J. Grasson, New Haven, Conn.
Margaret Grasson, Hamden, Conn.
Maurice Grasson, New London, Conn.
Robert H. E. Grasson, New Haven, Conn.
Anthony Greco, New York City.
W. W. Greenwood, Spokane, Wash.
Jon Matthew Gusick, Portland, Ore.
Mildred Hagan, New York City.
Hans Halberstadt, San Francisco, Calif.
Louis Halfrich, Akron, Ohio.
Dr. Robert T. Hance, Pittsburgh, Pa.
E. Harpole, Institute, W. Va.
Charles MacDonald Heard, San Antonio, Texas.
C. A. Helmecke, Gunnison, Colo.
Thomas Henderson, San Antonio, Texas.
Albert Hern, New York City.
Alvar Hermanson, Chicago, Ill.
William J. Herrmann, Sr., Philadelphia, Pa.
William J. Herrmann, Jr., Philadelphia, Pa.

James Herslow, Madison, N. J.
Charles Hertler, Missoula, Mont.
Edward Houser, San Francisco, Calif.
Abraham A. Hurwitz, Baltimore, Md.
C. M. Hutchings, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Anthony Iannucci, Philadelphia, Pa.
Glenn Jacoby, Moscow, Idaho.
R. P. Jameson, Oberlin, Ohio.
Julia Jones, New York City.
Lee Tucker Jones, Williamsburg, Va.
T. H. Kalenoki, University, La.
John S. Kenyon, La Grange, Ill.
Jean Kilgour, Waukesha, Wis.
William H. Knapp, address unknown.
Charles Koch, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Alfred Krakusin, Hamilton, N. Y.
Col. John V. Krashenninnikoff, Astoria, L. I.
J. Kripner, Chicago, Ill.
H. M. Krutter, State College, Pa.
Arthur Lane, San Francisco, Calif.
Prof. Walter Langford, Notre Dame, Ind.
Hollie Lepley, Beloit, Wis.
Joseph L. Levis, Cambridge, Mass.
Lester Liebmann, St. Louis, Mo.
Les Lindou, Greeley, Colo.
Jane Logan, Portland, Ore.
Robert MacKenzie, Granville, Ohio.
Robert H. Manzeck, San Diego, Calif.
A. L. Masely, Madison, Wis.
Austin McFadden, Albuquerque, N. M.
DeLoss McGraw, Los Angeles, Calif.
John McKee, Los Angeles, Calif.
Anthonino Messineo, Washington, D. C.
Harlan G. Metcalf, Nashville, Tenn.
Orest Meykar, New Orleans, La.
Raymond W. Miller, Staten Island, N. Y.
R. Russell Miller, Dayton, Ohio.
Robert B. Miller, address unknown.
Joan Millington, Eureka, Ill.
James Montague, New York City.
Major C. H. Moore, Alton, Ill.
Prof. Richard T. Morenus, Atlanta, Ga.
Lucien Morris, Cleveland, Ohio.
Edward Murphy, Los Angeles, Calif.
James Murray, New York City.
Aldo Nadi, New York City.
Irvén Naiman, Washington, D. C.
Dr. J. H. Nichols, Oberlin, Ohio.
A. J. O'Donnell, Springfield, Mass.
L. Offenthal, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Emanuel Olster, New York City.
L. M. Oliver, Golden, Colo.
Anthony Orsi, Hanover, N. H.
Getty Page, Syracuse, N. Y.
Marcel Pasche, Upper Montclair, N. J.
Sydney Paul, Philadelphia, Pa.
Generoso Pavese, Baltimore, Md.
Rene Peroy, Cambridge, Mass.
Rene Pinchart, New York City.
Hubert Pirotte, Princeton, N. J.
J. Rulon Poole, Provost, Utah.
G. W. Postgate, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Gail Potter, Honolulu, Hawaii.
Edwin Preussler, Milwaukee, Wis.
Thomas Prouse, Fort Worth, Texas.
George H. Quinby, Brunswick, Me.
James Raport, Lawrence, Kansas.
Averd Rasmussen, Reading, Pa.

Lawrence Ralstad, Cheney, Wash.
 Romulus Reese, Columbia, S. C.
 Dr. Frank A. Riebel, Columbus, Ohio.
 Willard Ronayne, St. Paul, Minn.
 William L. Roney, Winter Park, Fla.
 L. Robinson, Baltimore, Md.
 Steven M. Rostis, Amherst, Mass.
 John Roth, Boston, Mass.
 Michael Sage, New York City
 Dr. Herbert Sanborn, Nashville, Tenn.
 William Sandoz, Cleveland, Ohio.
 Henry St. Leger, New York City.
 George Santelli, New York City.
 Joseph Savich, Detroit, Mich.
 Anthony Scafati, Newark, N. J.
 Capt. Theodore F. Schmidt, New York City.
 Charles Schmitter, Detroit, Mich.
 H. G. Schurecht, Alfred, N. Y.
 Prof. Semmler, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Louis Senac, New York City.
 William H. Setterberg, Chicago, Ill.
 Arthur Sharp, Colorado Springs, Colo.
 Arthur Smith, Alma, Mich.
 Ernest B. Smith, Auburn, Ala.
 Guy M. Shockley, Rantoul, Ill.
 Stanley Sieja, New York City.
 John P. Sigrist, Chicago, Ill.
 Harry J. Smith, Ames, Iowa.
 Joseph M. Smith, New York City.
 Leroy Snell, Olivet, Mich.
 Bruce Snow, Boulder, Colo.
 Anton Sobocinski, Providence, R. I.
 F. L. Soverign, Troy, N. Y.
 Robert Stetson, Pullman, Wash.
 Paul Stevens, New York City.
 Capt. J. H. Stodter, Fort Riley, Kansas.
 Dean E. P. Stout, Detroit, Mich.
 Capt. Stone, Culver, Ind.
 William F. Strobel, New York City.
 Kurt Suskind, Memphis, Tenn.
 Willis H. Summers, St. Louis, Mo.
 John J. Sylvestri, Loretto, Pa.
 Lieut. K. V. Taylor, Charleston, S. C.
 Leonardo Terrone, Philadelphia, Pa.
 F. Ernest Terry, Portland, Ore.
 Harvey S. Therrien, Richmond, Ind.
 Gervase C. Thomas, Minneapolis, Minn.
 Carl Trieb, Los Angeles, Calif.
 Henri J. Uyttenhove, Los Angeles, Calif.
 Philemon Utley, Wake Forest, N. C.
 Ella B. Vandergrift, Chico, Calif.
 Thomas Vanosdall, Ashland, Ohio.
 George K. Vapaa, Harrington, Delaware.
 Louis Vauthier, West Point, N. Y.
 Carl Veith, New Haven, Conn.
 Capt. Charles Vical, Boston, Mass.
 Joseph Vince, New York City.
 Edward Visconti, San Francisco, Calif.
 Boris Von Arnold, Riverdale, N. Y.
 Russell K. von Wieder, Mansfield, Ohio.
 Rev. Stephen Wendell, Latrobe, Pa.
 Ricard West, Philadelphia, Pa.
 L. R. Wilson, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
 John Winter, Easton, Pa.
 W. J. Wittich, La Crosse, Wis.
 Christopher Wuest, Ithaca, N. Y.
 Norman Wyckoff, East Orange, N. J.
 Verle Young, Northfield, Minn.
 Dr. Henry J. Zettleman, Evanston, Ill.
 Martin L. Zubres, Schenectady, N. Y.

THE AGONY OF DUAL MEETS

BY WILLIAM T. PECORA

IN A RECENT ARTICLE in *The Riposte*, Mr. John Dimond of West Point voiced the common opinion of all followers of intercollegiate fencing by deploring the length of time it takes to complete a college dual meet. In my few years of recent experience as a fencing official, I have noted that the average dual meet will require between 3 to 3½ hours; and it is only by the application of dictatorial powers by the director that the meet can be finished under 3 hours. This article is written with the purpose of arousing fencing alumni to interest the athletic associations and fencing groups at their specific colleges in modifying the present plan of dual meets.

Under the present scheme of a twenty-seven bout meet, there has been a marked decrease in public following at dual meets, a noticeable decrease in efficiency of judges after one or two hours, and an impatience of the fencers themselves. Confusion is a common feature of the present method.

Mr. Dimond has suggested one plan of modification which would result in a saving of time. My objection to his plan is only that it does not save enough time. The dual meets must have a drastic reduction in required time in order to achieve a favorable impression among the public, officials, and fencers.

Two alternative plans are offered; and of these, the first is the favored one.

PLAN 1. Nine-man team, three weapons, and each weapon matched man to man to give a total of nine bouts. Victory in foil and sabre acquired when a fencer has scored seven touches (instead of present five). Victory in the slower and more exacting epee acquired when a fencer has scored five touches (instead of the present three). This plan makes a better combination of skill and strength of the individual, places a greater responsibility on the individual, make the entire team interested on the outcome of each bout, and will create a greater public interest. Most important of all, it will save about 1½ hours or 50% of the present method. Only a loss of common sense would require a fencing meet to last more than one or two hours.

PLAN 2. Twenty-seven bouts as per present scheme, with epee reduced to one or two touches for victory, and foil and sabre reduced to four touches for victory. This would save about one hour in fencing time, but retain the confusion of the robin which should be retained only for the Intercollegiate Championships (Joke!).

From my many inquiries among college fencers, officials, coaches and spectators I have concluded that a drastic reduction in the required time for a dual fencing meet must be negotiated before the sport returns to its primeval stage in the United States. Plan 1, above, is favored because of the simplicity, captivation, and greater benefits on the individual fencer because of the greater responsibility he must face.

A drastic reduction in time will aid in procuring more willing officials for these dual meets, increase the spirit of the meets, increase the number of spectators which help make a meet more interesting and finally give fewer headaches all around, please believe me.

The Care and Feeding of Spectators

By DONALD BARNES

IT SEEMS HIGHLY UNLIKELY that fencing will ever become a great spectator sport. Twenty thousand people are never going to jam Madison Square Garden to see an epee bout (even a one-touch epee bout). But just on the off-chance that a spectator might wander into a salle during the course of a competition, there might be a movement set under way to cope with the situation.

When fencers are confronted with spectators, there seems to arise a general attitude of helplessness about making the casual onlooker feel at home or helping him to understand the rites that transpire during a competition. In fact, officials sometimes seem to go out of their way to make the whole thing as abstruse as possible.

On the surface of it, fencing appears to be a fine sport for the novice spectator, the person whose knowledge of swordplay stems mostly from undergraduate performances of Hamlet, Cyrano or Henry IV. You either hit or are hit and that's all there is to it, he thinks. Little does he know!

A series of cardinal rules seem to have been drawn up about the relationship of spectators to fencing, rules to which all competitions adhere religiously. Let's outline a few of them:

1. Identities of all fencers shall be carefully concealed. They shall have no distinguishing numbers and their names shall be announced once at the most during each bout. And even when names are announced, it shall never be mentioned which of the two competing fencers bears which name.

2. Scores of all bouts in progress shall be rigidly concealed. If the scorer goes so far as to give the current standing, he shall only say "Three-two," or whatever the count may be, without mentioning which of the competitors is ahead.

3. Under no conditions shall the relative won-and-lost standing of the fencers be revealed, unless the bout is obviously a fence-off for a medal. In addition, there must never be a scoreboard of any type. If there are two pools, there shall be no announcement of which competitors are fencing in which pools.

4. The technical phraseology of decisions during bouts shall never be explained. The ideal of such decisions is something like this: "Halt! Attack-takes-blade-envelopment-parried-riposte-parried-foul-counter-riposte-for-you-yes-for-you-foul-for-me-no-benefit-of-the-doubt-nothing-done-fence!" Any further explanation shall be looked on as callow.

5. Occasionally there shall be a ceremony known as "the debate." When a fencer does not agree with a director, or when judges and directors cannot agree, the debate shall be quiet and prolonged. In spite of the fact that the director's decision is always final and always prevails, there shall be no time-limit on any debate at any time.

There was a time, historians of competitive fencing tell us, when spectators were definitely unwelcome even at such events as National Championships. This attitude has long since been outmoded, but spectators receive less of a break today at a fencing competition than in almost any sport with the possible exception of underwater swimming contests. Simply because

there are few spectators, there are few facilities for them. What seats there are are usually taken up by contestants or contestants' gear. And then, as we have already said, very little effort is made to acquaint the spectators—or even the fencers themselves, sometimes—with what is going on. There is practically no other sport known to mankind that goes its merry way without benefit of either scoreboard or public address system.

A recent occasion will serve as an example of how this works out. The final round of the 1940 foils championship had a good deal of drama in it. Warren Dow got out in front at the very start, and by the midway point had compiled what seemed to be an unbeatable lead. Then, with only three rounds of the round-robin to be fenced, Dernel Every and Norman Lewis began to creep up on him. A magnificent situation for a triple-tie developed. But did the spectators know about it? Not very many of them did.

Then came a bout that seemed to hold little interest: Mr. Dow, undefeated in six bouts, versus Nathaniel Lubell, who had won none of six bouts. It was fenced in comparative privacy, yet actually it was most important in deciding the championship. Who knew this? Only a few of those aficionados who had been keeping their own score-sheets.

It is logical that fencing will never become a great spectator sport, because the whole theory and action of fencing is so precise and so minute that it requires close and careful attention. But only a pretty hopeless pessimist would contend that it cannot attract a larger "gate" than it does now. There are many little ways which, since they would let the spectators in a little more on the secret of what's going on, might help to increase general interest and stimulate the same kind of amateur and casual attendance that makes up the bulk of the audience at almost any sports event. Here are a few of them:

Require all competitors to wear a number, which shall be keyed either to a printed program, a scoreboard or a blackboard on which contestants' names are printed.

Require the scorer to announce the score of every bout—including competitors' names—after the scoring of every touch.

Require the announcement of standings of the fencers or the teams at frequent intervals—after every six bouts say—during the course of a competition.

Request directors to be as explicit as possible in their discussion of a phrase d'armes so that spectators may understand the interpretations of the jury.

Try to speed up bouts and shorten intervals between bouts. Ban any and all arguments after a decision has been announced by the director.

If at all possible, provide a scoreboard for at least the final strip in each competition, showing the won-and-lost record of each competitor.

Maybe these ideas wouldn't increase attendance at fencing competitions at all. At any rate, they would do two other things, almost equally important: they would lend a dignity and coherence to important tournaments that are now almost totally lacking, and they would help the fencers themselves to understand what's going on.

THE NEW RULES BOOK—SIDELIGHTS AND COMMENTS

BY MIGUEL A. DE CAPRILES

Chairman of A.F.L.A. and I.C.F.A. Rules Committees

IF I MIGHT BE PERMITTED to paraphrase the late Mr. Justice Holmes, it is not sufficient that you admire a father's newborn babe; you must agree that it is the healthiest, handsomest, and most perfect infant you have ever seen; or you must fight; and to a large extent the same is true about authors and their books. The Remise, in the last issue of *The Riposte*, has been complimentary enough to satisfy the conceit of the Rules Committees who produced the new Rules Book. Perhaps the compliments have led you and all our readers to expect too much, and you will be even more critical than usual when you receive your copy of the new Rules. However, I think you might be interested to know more of the details attending the preparation of the book, the specific problems that had to be met, and the reason why a certain solution was preferred to a host of other possible solutions.

While the members of the Rules Committees have reason to be proud of the final result, they are the first to recognize that their effort is far from perfect. But the road to real improvement lies with the great body of fencers rather than with a small committee. The fencers who are active in competition must make a real effort to understand, not only the individual rules, but the general theory of rule-making; and they must keep in mind the fact that, in a sport as ancient and widespread as ours, there are many diverging and legitimate points of view. Then, on the basis of actual experience, suggestions for improvement can be made which will truly be of value in drafting the fencing rules of the future.

In this first article, on sidelights and comments, I wish to take up the first part of the rules book—the introductory material that has never before been included in the rules—and shall leave the actual rules of competition for later examination. In the meantime, please read the Preface, so that you may be familiar with the fundamental attitudes that guided your Committees in solving points of conflict.

SECTION A is frankly a bit of propaganda, using this word in its pure meaning, without unfavorable overtones. It was our intention briefly to acquaint fencers who are not members of the A.F.L.A. (and many who are), with the function, history, and organization of the League. It is propaganda born of the belief that the strength of our sport is intimately tied up with the strength of its official amateur organization. The factual material, we believe, is strictly accurate.

The history of the A.F.L.A. is extremely condensed. It was not intended to be complete, since the Rules Committee did not have adequate data to write a real history. Greater detail would have run the risk of serious omissions. Then, too, we felt that even a brief mention of our history might stimulate some of our fencers to a more ambitious effort. The golden opportunity is here: The current fencing season will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the A.F.L.A. What better time than this for someone to tell you about the famous 1912 Olympic fencing team, or the epochal victory of the United States over the champion French foil team in the

1932 Olympics, or the Sesquicentennial fencing events in Philadelphia, or the origin and highlights of the British-American matches, the Cuban-American matches, and the Canadian-American matches? Or the details of the 1933 national outdoor championships at the Chicago World's Fair, or of the excursions of American fencers in European competitions and the World's championships? Or about the achievements of the great names in the history of American fencing, such as Dr. Graeme M. Hammond, our first President and still active as Honorary President; W. Scott O'Connor, A. G. Bothner, the only man ever to win the three individual championships; John Allaire, Henry Breckinridge, Sherman Hall, George C. Calnan, the first American to place in the Olympic individual championship; Joseph L. Levis, now a professional, but runner-up in the 1932 Olympic foil championship; and many others who are still active in the amateur ranks?

There is little to tell about the section on "organization", except that, since the time of writing, the Board of Governors has cancelled the charters of the inactive divisions, and has granted a new charter to the Oregon Division. To this extent, our beautiful new rules book is already obsolete!

SECTION B reproduces the Constitution and By-Laws of the A.F.L.A. without change. Of course, the job of the Rules Committee was simply to see to it that this material was readily available to our fencers. We had no power to make changes, and no desire to do so. In the course of reading proof, however, we did find a few minor inconsistencies in the By-Laws which were called to the attention of the Board of Governors, which made the necessary corrections in accordance with the provisions of Chapter X. Your copy of the By-Laws is up-to-date.

At the same time, we discovered certain weaknesses in the Constitution that led us to suggest the desirability of appointing a Constitutional Committee to study our basic document and report. For instance, a minor defect in draftsmanship is to be found in Article III, as part of the long paragraph on Active Membership really applies to all types of membership; the adequacy of our definition of an Amateur might be questioned; Chapter I of the By-Laws might be clarified on the subject of admission of new members; part of Chapter VI might be improved, as refers to fencing rules; Chapter VII might need rewriting if the Board of Governors should transform the Metropolitan Committee into a full-fledged division in the future.

THE AMATEUR CODE. SECTION C was one of the most difficult and yet most interesting parts of the new Rules book, from the point of view of the Rules Committee. It was difficult because it covers a controversial subject, upon which the members of the Committee were far from agreement, either as to fundamental concepts or as to details. It was interesting because of its history and ramifications.

The subject of amateurism, as an abstract concept, has always fascinated me. Clear though it may seem in general terms, it continually presents subtle and baffling paradoxes when specific situations are en-

countered, and the tenuous line between amateur and professional (or non-amateur) has to be drawn. For example, in our own Constitution, we find that Army and Navy officers are exempt from the prohibitions of ARTICLE III, SECTION 2, when in the discharge of official duty. This, of course, is based on the theory that an Army officer has no choice; he must obey orders for the good of the service. Now, the Federation Internationale d'Escrime has ruled on this same question and arrived at the same general result, but with an important difference of detail. According to the F.I.E., an Army officer, who is assigned to supervise courses in fencing in military establishments, is an amateur; but if he is required to give lessons, he is a professional. This resulted in a peculiar situation some years ago, when Jack Dimond, Army officer assigned to fencing instruction at West Point, was an amateur as far as the A.F.L.A. was concerned, and yet was considered a professional by the F.I.E. (and the F.I.E. rule governed for Olympic competitions.) It would perhaps be a waste of time to consider here the justification for one or the other view; but this case illustrates rather sharply how thin the dividing line can be in specific situations.

The A.F.L.A. has consistently followed the policy of determining each case on its merits. I believe this is fundamentally sound, and in the long run the only satisfactory method of handling the problem. However, there is a strong body of opinion that the members of the A.F.L.A. should be given general rules as to what is permissible and what is objectionable, as revealed in the decisions of the Board of

Governors, in the interest of a "government of laws, and not of men" upon the question of amateur standing. It is in this connection that we find some interesting historical data.

About ten years ago, a committee of the Board of Governors (headed, I believe, by Leon M. Schoonmaker) was appointed to study the rules of the Amateur Athletic Union and to make recommendations for the adoption of an amateur code by the A.F.L.A. This was eminently proper, in view of our Articles of Affiliation with the A.A.U., and the provision for A.A.U. enforcement of penalties inflicted by the A.F.L.A. The committee rendered a divided but well-considered report; it was ceremoniously accepted—and then it was filed out of sight. It never appeared in print; it never was made known to the general membership; and even the Board of Governors eventually forgot all about it. Only the painstaking research through the official minute book by John Huffman brought it back to light, although technically it has been a part of our official rules for these ten years. With very minor variations of language, you will find it under the sub-heads "Acts of Disbarment" and "Reinstatement" in SECTION C of your new Rules book.

About five years ago, the F.I.E. published a summary of the decisions of its international Congresses covering a period of fifteen years on the subject of amateurism. This was done in order to acquaint the affiliated fencing organizations with the rules that would prevail in connection with the 1936 Olympic Games. A translation from the original French was done either by George Breed or myself, and I re-

The Amateur Fencers League of America Presents:

1940 FENCING RULES

Official Rules Book of the Amateur Fencers League of America, the Intercollegiate Fencing Association, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

New, up-to-date, thoroughly revised, complete.

PRICE: FIFTY CENTS

(Bound in Paper)

Active Members of the A.F.L.A. are entitled to One Free Copy.

Limited Library Edition, Bound in Buckram, \$1.25

Address the National Secretary of the A.F.L.A.

Dr. Ervin S. Acel, 25 Beaver Street, New York City.

member it was considered very seriously by the Board of Governors, and duly noted. It was then filed away—and lost—until Dernell Every resurrected the material a few months ago. The Rules Committee then went over the F.I.E. decisions, noting similarities and differences in point of view as compared with the rules based on the A.A.U. code, eliminated duplications as well as certain internal inconsistencies, and you may now find the net addition to our body of general principles in the sub-section entitled "F.I.E. Precedents".

Finally, during the last two years, a number of troublesome questions have come up before the Board of Governors. The action of the Board has been summarized in the subsection "Questionable Situations" and in the footnote on "Amateur Coaching." These situations are exceptionally troublesome because proof of professionalism is difficult without, at times, embarrassing investigations; and yet, these are the cases that in the past have given rise to "whispering campaigns" or rumors which have tended to destroy the easy *camaraderie* and mutual confidence that should prevail in amateur sport. In the interest of maintaining morale, such whispers should be stilled, and the problem is how to clean up the matter before it gets out of control. There was strong opinion on the Board and on the Rules Committee in favor of requiring the fencer in these questionable cases to prove his amateur standing; that is, to prove that he had never been guilty of acts of disbarment. However, as Norman Armitage pointed out, such a requirement leads to an impossible result: How can a man prove that he has never been guilty of an act of disbarment? It is very much like requiring a man to prove that he has never been married. In order to prove it, he might be required to produce evidence that not a single woman ever claimed him as a husband; that is, you would have to question every woman whom he might have married, and if you omitted a single one your proof might be worthless! Of course, this is an extreme illustration but very apt. The solution which has been incorporated in the Rules book is the one adopted by the Board of Governors, and is intended to give warning to people who might find themselves in such questionable situations, so that they will not, perhaps inadvertently, subject themselves to criticism.

In brief, the Amateur Code is a compendium of actual rules adopted by the A.F.L.A. and of actual decisions of the Board of Governors. It is by no means a perfect code, but I think it serves a useful purpose, in presenting this information to the general body of fencers for the first time in printed form. Any improvements must await familiarity of the fencers with the problems involved, and a crystallization of their opinion.

Many interesting questions could be raised. For example, our Constitution exempts writing, editing, or publishing articles, magazines or books on fencing, from the range of objectionable activities. What about lecturing? What about producing motion picture films? Is not the rationale of the former applicable to the latter? Or, to inquire further into the amateur code: Is it desirable for fencers to follow the A.A.U. rule which makes a professional in one sport, or a teacher of physical education, automatically a professional fencer? Or is the rule followed by golfers more suitable? Or, to go to the root of the whole problem: Is our distinction between ama-

teur and professional a valid one? Or is the rule in polo sounder?

These questions have been raised in Rules Committee meetings; they have been argued strenuously; but the members of the Committee have not reached unanimity of opinion. It seems that there are good arguments on both sides. This being the case, the Committee as a whole concluded that no one view commended itself above all others as to wisdom and expediency. Therefore the Committee did not attempt to frame an ideal amateur code, but only to summarize what the Board of Governors had done heretofore.

Finally, a word about SECTION D. The rules on exhibitions were originally drafted by Dernell Every about a year and a half ago. Their purpose, like that of the amateur code, was to give fencers a general idea of the principles which guide the Board of Governors in approving or disapproving exhibitions. These rules were published in the Secretary's News Letter in the fall of 1939. The present draft in the Rules book rearranges the sequence of the original rules with minor verbal changes. The footnote on Professional Certificates of Merit was added by the Rules Committee, and is intended purely as a description of what the Certificate is.

This article, then, completes the story behind the non-competitive rules of fencing. In the next article, I shall begin with the rules of organization of competitions, and follow through the Rules book in order.

X X

TEXAS

A round robin series of team matches among the men's and women's teams of Texas will constitute the major part of the Southwestern Division's winter schedule.

The six teams entered in the men's round robin, contested from November 22 to March 22, are the Dallas Y.M.C.A., Southern Methodist University, the Galveston Anicos, Fort Worth Y.M.C.A., Texas A. & M. College, and Baylor University.

Competitors in the women's round robin will be two teams representing the Dallas Women's Fencing Club, the Dallas Aces, Richelieu's Guards of Dallas, the Royal Assassins of Dallas, and El Florete of Fort Worth. The competitive season runs from November 8 to March 13.

The division's open tournament will be held in Houston during December.

Early-season meets included a challenge match between the Dallas Women's Fencing Club and the men's team of the Dallas Y.M.C.A., contested at the Y.M.C.A. on October 25. The men's team triumphed, 5-3, after a hard struggle. Following the matches, the contestants fenced in practice bouts at the regular Friday family-night session of the Y.M.C.A.

Mildred Haskins, representing the Dallas Women's Fencing Club, won the Texas women's open foil meet at the Dallas Y.M.C.A. on October 5. Second place went to Lovicy Eckstein of the Ace Fencing Club and third to Peggy Hunt of the Dallas Women's Fencing Club.

The board of governors of the Southwest Fencing League, at their fall meeting, authorized the publication of a league magazine, and the first issue, a 32-page mimeographed booklet, was published in November and carried items of general interest to all southwest fencers.

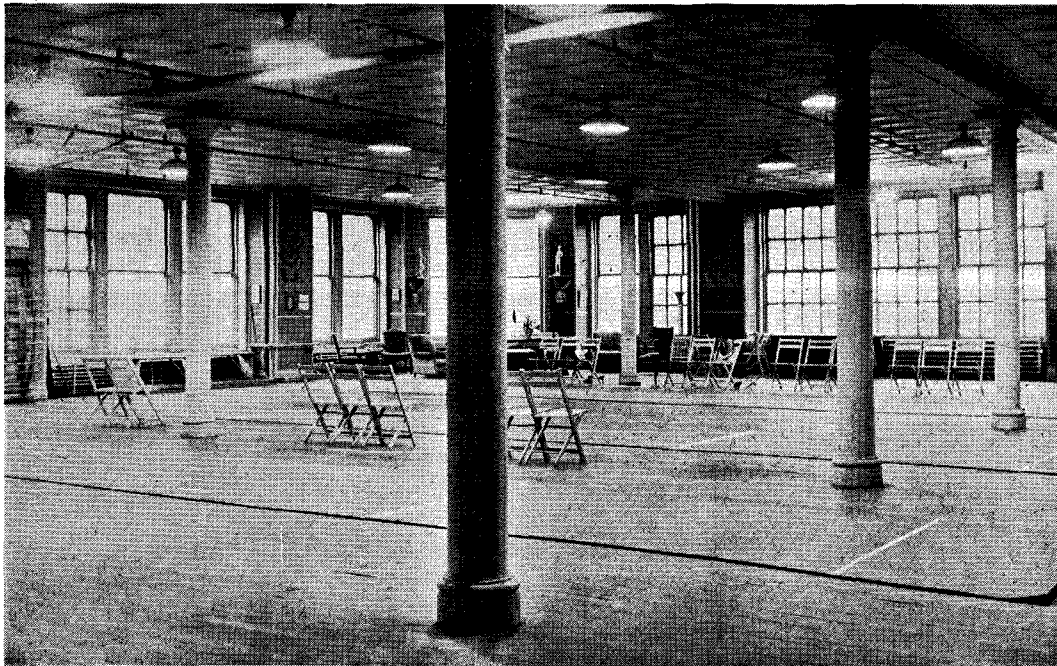
THE SALLE D'ARMES SANTELLI

HOME OF

THE SALLE SANTELLI

THE METROPOLITAN FENCING CLUB

THE UNITED STATES FENCING EQUIPMENT CO., INC.



THE WORLD'S LARGEST PRIVATE SALLE D'ARMES

Private Instruction at Moderate Prices

Season Membership - \$50.00 Per Person

Special Equipment Catalog Upon Request

24-34 UNIVERSITY PLACE
NEW YORK CITY

TELEPHONE
GRamercy 5-9516

The Remise

Of course all of you saw the picture of Orest Meykar, the New Orleans professional, in one of the November issues of Look Magazine. Many of you have brought it to our attention already and so we are only mentioning it in passing. Look Magazine featured ten pictures showing a typical (?) day in the French Quarter of New Orleans with Meykar showing up in picture nine in a terrible fencing pose. He never looked like that when I fenced with him this summer.

X X

Meykar's pose in the fencing picture brings up a subject that has been troubling us for some time. Press photographers generally have a keen imagination for the picturesque but no idea of fencing. If you permit them, they will shoot you in poses that would make thousands of dead duelists turn over in their graves and say, "Good Lord, even we weren't that bad and see where we landed."

Fencers should take the position that Helena Mroczkowska's coach took recently. As American Women's Foil Champion, she was approached for some fencing pictures. They all but hung her from a chandelier when her coach asked, "Do you want these pictures?" "Certainly." "You can have them only in correct fencing positions. None of this funny business. I don't want her to look ridiculous to the real fencers who see these pictures." Correct pictures were then taken.

Fencers have to put up with a certain number of publicity pictures taken of people who never before saw a foil. These phonies bear some such caption as, "Hazel Twerp, beautiful Streetville debutante, returns from the polo field daily to don fencing ensemble and enjoy a fast joust with her private fencing master." Then there is the one of the row of bathing beauties straddled out in a line on a beach with foils in hand—"Lifesavers beware as these beautiful girls lunge and parry at Miami Beach." No one with sane mind takes such pictures seriously.

The pictures we really hate to see are those of good fencers who because of photographic economy are crowded so close together that they resemble Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy. This usually demands a definite overlunge by one and fencing's least practical parry, prime, by the other. You can count such pictures by the score during the season. (Meykar worked the prime in his.)

Last but not least we hope never again to see those two favorite cliché captions, "Touche" and "Foiled Again." Although hope is said to spring eternal we have definitely given up hope of ever outliving those two old chestnuts.

X X

We have always looked with scorn upon the occasional fencer who may be termed a "medal-chaser." He enters competitions primarily to win a medal and, if he is good enough, he becomes a collector. To enter a competition implies that you will do your best to win and rightfully so. A medal should be considered a reward and never an objective in itself.

We, therefore blush to admit that we nearly dusted off our sabres and entered the Junior Sabre competition on November 30th. Nothing but an unusual enticement would make us do such a thing. Mind you, we think that sabre is an excellent weapon for

others and we always enjoy watching its devotees belt one another with them, but we long ago learned that a left-hander takes a horsewhipping on his upper arm and shoulder and that you cannot parry a head-cut by merely shutting your eyes. Nevertheless, we were definitely tempted and the reason was no other than the beautiful set of medals designed and presented by Nicholas Muray.

We have seen a great many fencing medals in our day; others have been kind enough to show them to us. Of these, three have stood out particularly in mind; the Arthur S. Lyon medals, one set of the Pieter Mijer medals, and the German Helmet medals in Hans Halberstadt's collection in San Francisco. We are now placing Nick Muray's new gift along with these as medals which are intrinsic art in themselves.

The new medal was especially conceived by Muray, whose artistry as a photographer is recognized throughout the world. He employed a fine sculptor to execute the work which is simply a sabre handle gripped in Nick's bare right hand against a background of flag stripes and stars to symbolize the American flag. The sabre guard is polished, the remainder of the medal is in dull finish. Robert Stoll, Inc., produced the medals.

X X

In Mike de Capriles' article in this issue, he mentioned the opportunity and need at this time for some energetic writer to undertake a history of the A.F. L.A. He gave mention of a few of the personalities and incidents that should not be omitted from such a work and whose accomplishments, until now passed on by word of mouth, must soon be inscribed in written history or be irrevocably lost with the passing of time.

It would be a crime to permit the amusing controversy of 1891 be forgotten. In those days fencers were all men of means and few in number. The National Foil Championship was the only competition of the year, and as Donald Barnes mentioned in his article, the fencers didn't particularly care if any spectators attended or not. The controversy arose as to the site of the Championship. Samuel Shaw offered his estate at Oyster Bay. Eugene Higgins offered the special fencing Salle aboard his 306 foot yacht, The Varuna. Each offered to pay all expenses for a full week-end with champagne and all the trimmings. Personally, I would have voted for the cruise, but the fencers were so evenly divided in choice that the Championship was finally held at the New York Athletic Club, followed by a banquet specially prepared by William Munchenheim, the A.C.'s famous chef of the 90's.

Incidentally, William Munchenheim and his brother Fred, were names in the culinary art which caused epicures to sit up and drool. The fencers appreciated this skill and often retained these chefs for their special annual banquets. The record banquet cost such fencers as W. T. Lawson, H. K. Bloodgood, C. G. Bothner, Samuel T. Shaw, Eugene Higgins and George Lord Day \$28 per plate. The present Hotel Astor is said to have been built to give William Munchenheim a proper dining room for the exploitation of his art.

You should be told about James P. Parker, Sr., of

Boston, who placed in the Finals in 1901 but suffered an accident in the following six months which required the amputation of his right hand. He returned to the Championships the next year, fenced with his left hand and won.

Then there is the paradoxical story of G. W. Postgate, present professional at Carnegie Tech, who won the National Sabre Championship in 1908, because he was hit more times than his opponents. Sabres in those days were heavy and wielded with a vim and carry-through that would have shamed a Roman gladiator. Welts were the order of the day and the average sabreman became so injured to a sound thumping that he ceased to feel anything that didn't jar his teeth. Even though hit, he continued on to slam his bold opponent in return. A special rule had to be made to prevent hitting after being hit. It stated that if any fencer hit an opponent after he, himself, had been scored against he not only lost the touch but had one touch deducted from his own score.

Postgate was a light hitter, a forerunner of the modern sabreman. His opponents seldom realized that he had hit them. His light touches were invariably followed by a return action from his opponents. This meant a plus one touch for him and a minus one score for his opponent. He went about piling up his own score and cancelling his opponents' scores and won the Championship after a full evening of "whams" received.

These are a few of the yarns that could be woven into any history of the League. Mike has mentioned others and there are countless more. Someone should collect them for posterity.

XX

Two of our former Olympic Team members have just won their bouts against white-masked surgical knife-wielders. George Breed came off with a head-cut and Al Strauss took a mean cut in the mid-section but both are reported as doing nicely. Al Strauss is claiming a foul on the grounds that he was outnumbered and attacked when he had his eyes shut.

Incidentally, when Breed is up and around again he will find that the A.F.L.A. has elected him its first Honorary Life Member in return for his many years of faithful service to the League in general and to the difficult task of Foreign Secretary in particular.

XX

The Selective Service Draft will undoubtedly have its effect upon the fencing situation in the current season. The A.F.L.A. has already recognized this problem by extending its memberships by one year without dues assessment, if called to service. The large bulk of active A.F.L.A. fencers come within the age limit. The Collegiate groups for the most part are under the lower age limit and not heavily affected but it is entirely possible that somewhere between one tenth and one quarter of the A.F.L.A. male membership may be called for Selective Service.

One of our National Champions, Fred Siebert, a Reserve Officer, has already left for Scott Field, Ill., but hopes to continue his fencing this season in St. Louis which is just across the Mississippi River. Jean Grombach and Winslow Cornett are reported as having returned to the Army as Captains. Of course, too, there are a great many A.F.L.A. members who have been Army or Navy officers right along. Some

of the well-known fencers in this group are Heiss, Sands, Weber, Doughty, Steere, Kunzig, Mayo, and Manzo.

This development need not be considered as all loss and no gain for the sport of fencing. There will be fencers going into camps throughout the country. There will be many long evenings to while away. It will not be long before fencers will make use of these evenings by fencing together or teaching others to fence. Marson, Lada-Mocarski and Donovan lost no time at Plattsburg this summer in introducing fencing to their friends in camp. Should the Army ever suddenly appreciate the benefits to eyes, wrists, body, wind and general well-being that fencing offers at little cost and without too great indoor space requirements, it might back a fencing program to interest its men during evenings in camp. There are possibilities here that would greatly offset the lull which threatens A.F.L.A. activity.

Professionals would be wise in watching for and endeavoring to promote any such development. Thousands of physically perfect young men may create a demand for fencing instructors that would dwarf any demand to date. The whole Army program is permeated with the idea of making Army life attractive to its new men. Sports activity is looked upon favorably. Fencing is ideal for the purpose and this opportunity to develop the sport further should not be overlooked.

XX

PHILADELPHIA

A dinner meeting at the Philadelphia Sword Club opened the fall season for the Philadelphia Division on September 23. Among the topics discussed at the meeting were plans and schedules for the 1940-41 year and the possibility of fostering classes to develop a larger group of officials for divisional competitions.

The problem of increasing the available number of officials was described at the meeting as a vital one for the sport, in view of the growing competitive schedule each year. It was suggested that the constantly increasing burden on the more experienced fencers might be relieved by further willingness on the part of younger men and women interested in fencing to aid in this important function.

A new chairman of the Philadelphia division bout committee has been appointed, Louis Sarvis, former Harvard fencer.

XX

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

A team of four women representing the San Francisco Fencers Club swept the 1940 Women's Foil Team Competition sponsored by the Northern California Division.

The group had a record of five wins and no losses in its matches with the Funke Fencing Academy First Team, the G G 5, the Funke Fencing Academy Seconds, the Funke Thirds, and Stanford University.

The winning group was composed of Roberta Fritz, Marcelle Woollen, Lura Morse, and Constance Dean. Betty Jane Nevis, Emilie Romaine and Helen Sander comprised the Funke Firsts, and the G G 5 was made up of Amelia Riedener, Lydia Riedener, Norma Perotti, and Annamaria Giannini. The meets were fenced on the Funke Fencing Academy, the G G 5 and the Stanford University strips, between October 4 and October 25.

Roberta Fritz of the winning San Francisco Fencers Club team compiled the best score of bouts won and lost with a record of twelve straight victories.

A. F. L. A. NEWSLETTER AND NATIONAL
SCHEDULE

Every November the Amateur Fencers League of America issues an annual Newsletter and a Schedule of National Fencing Events free of charge to all of its members. Other interested fencers may obtain free copies of these publications upon request to Dr. E. S. Acel, A. F. L. A. Secretary, 25 Beaver Street, New York City.

Although an annual Newsletter must of necessity repeat much of the news and facts already published in The Riposte during the season, it will be found of considerable interest and value for concise permanent record. The 1940 edition is now available and contains the following items:

Results of the National Championships.
Results of the Intersectional Championships.
New Trophies added during 1940.
Results of the Cuba-United States Matches.
1940 Certificates of Merit Awarded.
1939-1940 National Rankings.
1940 Olympic Team Selections.
One Touch Epee Trial.
New A. F. L. A. Divisions.
A. F. L. A. Treasurer's Report.
Constitutional Amendments.
News from the Divisions.
Purchase Recommendations for the new Arm Emblem, new Rulesbook and Olympic Fencing Seals.
Directory of Salle d'Armes extending non-resident privileges to A. F. L. A. members.
Directory of all A. F. L. A. National and Divisional Officers.

X X

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

A printed report on the activities of the Western Massachusetts Fencing Clubs, with headquarters at the West Springfield Y. M. C. A., won eighth place among entries from 1,200 Y. M. C. A.'s throughout the United States in a contest at the World's Fair last summer. The report, in the form of a 16-page booklet depicting a resume of the organization's work since it was formed early in 1939, was a part of the National Youth Project program, and received three prizes from the Fair as well.

The report was characterized as follows by Robert Littell, editor of *Readers Digest* and one of the judges:

"In contrast to the other selections, this report is in the field of sports; but it seems to be so well organized and to be giving so much valuable and healthful exercise to the participants and entertainment to its many audiences that I think it should be ranked ahead of other projects which have a more serious aim."

The Western Massachusetts Division is planning an active 1940-41 season. Lucille Poppe is president of the division, Grace Sullivan secretary and Helen Kobera treasurer. Douglas P. Boyea, fencing coach at Springfield College, also acts as coach of the Western Massachusetts Club.

Mr. J. P. O'Donnell, coach at the Springfield Y. M. C. A., brought about 20 of his boys and girls to New York City late in November to visit one of the larger Salle d'Armes. As word of the invasion spread, New York fencers automatically assembled to practice and fence with the visitors.

APPROVED 1940-1941 LIST OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Governors of the A. F. L. A. has approved the following list of Directors in each weapon for the use of Bout Committees in the preferred selection of their Juries.

FOIL

Carlos Anselmi	Douglas Gerard
Norman Armitage	John R. Huffman
Edward Carfagno	Helene Mayer*
Barbara Cochrane*	Leo G. Nunes
Jose R. de Capriles	Dr. Tibor Nyilas
Miguel A. de Capriles	Harold R. Van Buskirk
Warren Dow	George Worth
Dernell Every	

*Approved for women's competitions.

EPEE

Carlos Anselmi	Pieter Mijer
Norman C. Armitage	Leo G. Nunes
Jose R. de Capriles	Curtis E. Rice
Miguel A. de Capriles	Alfred Skrobisch
Warren Dow	Harold Van Buskirk
Robert Driscoll	

SABRE

Norman C. Armitage	Leo G. Nunes
Jose R. de Capriles	Dr. Tibor Nyilas
Miguel A. de Capriles	Harold Van Buskirk
Warren Dow	George Worth
John R. Huffman	

It has also appointed a special committee made up of Harold Van Buskirk, Chairman; Norman C. Armitage, Miguel A. de Capriles, Warren A. Dow and Leo G. Nunes whose duty it will be to watch Directors during the season and present recommendations for the approved list to be published next year.

X X

IOWA

The Sioux City Amateur Fencers League was formed in Sioux City on November 6th. Mr. R. H. Huber of that city, in seeking one other fencer with whom to enjoy practice, located several and interested a good number of would-be fencers in the sport. As a result, a group of twenty enthusiastic amateurs have combined themselves into a League to learn to fence foil. They have obtained the services of a fencing teacher, have elected Mr. Huber as President of the League and through frequent gatherings hope to develop fencing to an important sport in their city.

X X

OREGON

Two competitions for junior fencers wound up the recent summer outdoor season in Portland, Oregon.

In the boys' division first place was taken by Frank Haffenden, while Robert Bennett and Frederick Smith finished in second and third places.

The girls' competition was divided into two sections, Joan Freed sweeping all her bouts in the first division, followed by Betty Bauman and Marjorie Cowlin. Phyllis Cantrell won in the second group, with Barbara Earl second and Barbara Bauman third.

The competitions were under the direction of Jon Gusick, fencing instructor at the Multnomah Athletic Club.

ILLINOIS

Participation of a large group of Chicago fencers in the Sports Show staged at the Chicago Arena on September 21-29 was one of the major features of the fall season for the Illinois division.

Included among the troupe that participated in 13 performances during the Show were Eugene C. Williams, former midwest saber champion; Arthur Todd, ex-state saber champion; Jerry Mau, present state foil champion; and Norma MacIntosh, all of the Edgewater Fencing Club; Sylvia Mikkelsen, Dick Poddlesack and Ed Trier of the Northwest Fencing Club; A. R. Mulligan and Shirley Haffercamp of North Park College, and a group of several junior fencers.

Spotted number five in the Sports Show program, the group made an instantaneous hit with the spectators. After a series of short saber bouts and foil demonstrations, Eugene Williams and Jerry Mau showed their saber skill with a dramatic, maskless duel that climaxed the presentation.

The University of Illinois, which last spring had planned to drop fencing, reinstated the sport at the beginning of the fall semester. The University's coach will be Maxwell Garrett, recent amateur, who placed ninth in the last National Foils Championship.

A new organization—the Evanston Fencing Club—will become active in Evanston this season under the guidance of Dr. Henry Zettleman, coach at Northwestern University.

Fencing his way through the final pool without defeat, Oscar Barab of the Hermanson Fencing School retained his open foil championship in the Illinois division's opening meet at the Lake Shore Club in Chicago, October 27.

Second place went to Tully Friedman of Northwestern University, who lost only to Barab, and third to Charles Corbett, of the Hermanson School, who was defeated only by the two other medalists.

Maryalice von Wesche, of the Hermanson School, won the undefended title in the open women's foil meet run coincidentally with the men's foil, sweeping all her five bouts. Miss Dorothy Ingram took second place with a record of four wins and one loss, and Miss Jane Wilson was third with a 3-2 score. All the six entries in the competition represented the Hermanson Fencing School.

Loyal Tingley, the country's third ranking epee fencer, defeated Fred Siebert, the national champion, 3-2, to win the Illinois division open epee title at the Lake Shore Club on November 3. Tingley, representing the Hermanson Fencing School, went through the six-man round robin without defeat, while Siebert, after losing his crucial bout to Tingley, dropped a second decision to his Lake Shore Club teammate, Warren Huguelet, who took third place.

Strict enforcement of the rule that contestants must be on time for a competition limited the field in the Illinois division's open sabre meet the same day to four. Joseph Molkup, University of Chicago, took the gold medal ahead of Zidak, of the Hermanson School, Walter Eisen and William Sheets, who finished in that order.

Ten fencers entered the prep foil competition sponsored by the Illinois division at the Bartlett Gymnasium, Chicago, on November 10. Gordon Groh, representing New Trier High School, won first place with

a record of four wins and one loss, with Wiley and Herter, representing the Senn High School Fencing Club, taking second and third prizes, respectively.

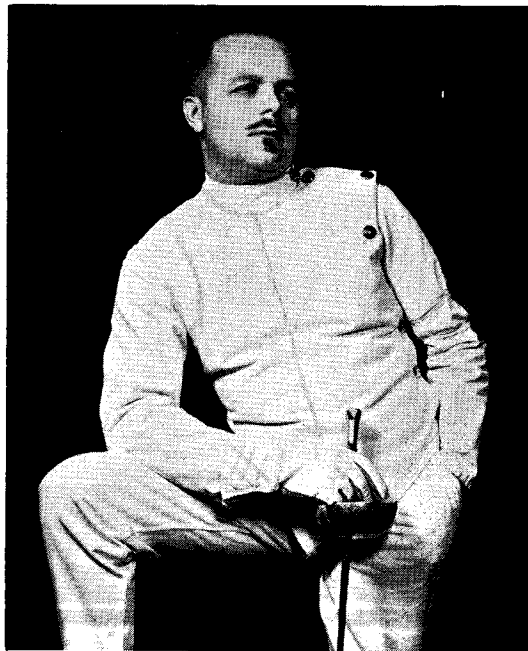
Arthur Cohn of Hyde Park High School defeated Floyd Traynham, Jr., of the Hermanson Fencing School 5-4 in a fence-off for the Illinois Junior Foil Championship after each had tied with 3 victories and 1 loss apiece in the five-man Finals. There were 23 entries in the competition which took place on November 17th at Chicago University's Bartlett Gymnasium. Leon Strauss of Hyde Park High School was third.

The Lake Shore Athletic Club team of Frank Righer, Jr., Campbell Wilson and Armand Stella won the Walcott Cup in senior men's foil over a field of nine teams at the Lake Shore Club in Chicago on November 24.

The high point of the meet was the final round match between the Lake Shore trio and the Hermanson Fencing School team composed of Loyal Tingley, Oscar Barab, and Tully Friedman. After a series of spectacular and bitterly contested bouts, the Hermanson team was finally defeated, 5-3.

A St. Louis team, composed of the Misses Carol King, Ervilla Droll and Lucille Haenni, won the Illinois division's women's senior foil team meet at the Lake Shore Club on November 24. They defeated two teams from the University of Chicago and a team representing the Lake Shore Club to come through the round robin undefeated.

The University of Chicago "A" team, composed of the Misses Dorothy Ingram, Maryalice von Wesche and Mary Elizabeth Grenander was second, losing only to the St. Louis group.



Capt. Hanns Fischer of the North Shore Fencing Academy in Chicago, Illinois.—Adv.

A. F. L. A. COMPETITIONS IN N. Y. C.

The Hammond Prep Foil Competition was won by Stephen F. Salat of St. John's University on October 15th at the N.Y.A.C. There were twelve contestants. Elliot F. Slone of the Foils Club was second and Ernest J. Haberle of the Fencers Club was third.

The Van Buskirk Women's Prep Foil Competition was held at the Fencers Club on October 18th. Seventeen girls competed for the three special medals presented annually by Mrs. Harold Van Buskirk. Grace Unthoff of the Salle Santelli won the competition with Virginia Murck of N.Y.U. second and Katherine McKenzie of the Foils Club, third.

The Hammond Novice Foil Competition was conducted at the N.Y.A.C. on October 22nd and 24th. Forty-four contestants competed for the single prize offered in this competition, which prize was won by Nino Maniaci of the Saltus Fencing Club.

Twelve girls competed for the three Manrique Medals awarded by the A.F.L.A. in the Manrique Women's Novice Foil Competition on October 27th at the Salle Santelli. Grace Unthoff of the Salle Santelli was first, Bessie Aboulafia of the Foils Club was second and Margaret Mackey of the Salle Cherny was third.

There were nineteen contestants in the Hammond Novice Sabre Competition at the N.Y.A.C. on October 29th. The single prize was won by Peter Tishman of N.Y.U. in a 5-4 fence-off with Arthur D. Tauber of N.Y.U. after each had won 4 bouts and lost 1 in the six-man finals.

A new competition, the Col. George V. Cherny Novice Epee Competition, attracted 31 competitors to the Salle Cherny on November 3rd. Because of the large entry, bouts were fought for two touches and the competition fenced on the repechage system—pairing by lot—fencers with three losses being eliminated. The three Col. Cherny medals were won by Stanley Klein of N.Y.U., Louis Turner of Columbia University and Murray Kornfeld of St. John's University.

The Hammond Junior Foil Competition, limited to Juniors, attracted 15 contestants to the N.Y.A.C. on November 5th. The Hammond Prize was won by Arthur D. Tauber of N.Y.U.

The Fencers Club was host to the A.F.L.A. Women's Prep Foil Competition and its 20 contestants on November 8th. Mrs. Lucille Brandt of the Salle d'Armes Vince, Lorayne Shirley of Hofstra College, and Rosalind Blumberg of the Foils Club won the three medals offered.

The new M. de Capriles Junior Epee Competition was introduced on November 16th at the Salle Santelli. There were 30 contestants, arranged in 8-man pools, in this first one-touch individual epee competition held since 1931. Several fence-offs were required to decide the finalists and winners of the gold, silver and bronze miniature epees awarded in this competition. Andre Deladrier of St. John's University won first prize after a fence-off with Fred Haberle, also of St. John's University. Arthur D. Tauber of N.Y.U. won third prize after fencing off with Wallace H. Goldsmith of the N.Y.A.C.

Thirty-four girls competed for the three medals offered in the A.F.L.A. Women's Novice Foil Competition held at the Salle Santelli on November 17th. The medals were won by Emily Hoher of Salle Henri IV, Ethel Merklen of Salle Cherny and Margaret Mackey, also of the Salle Cherny.

The Salle Henry IV was host to the A.F.L.A. Novice Sabre Competition on November 20th. There were 31 contestants. Norman Lewis won the six-man finals with 4 wins and 1 loss, while Martin Mendelson of C.C.N.Y., Anthony Lombardo of N.Y.U., and Sol Gorlin of N.Y.U. were tied for second with 3 wins and 2 losses apiece. They finished in that order on the basis of touches.

There were 27 contestants in the Prep Foil Competition held at the Saltus Fencing Club on November 25th. Leonard Essman of the Foils Club headed the six-man finals to win the competition with Arthur Friedman of Brooklyn College taking second and Edward Stephens of the Saltus Fencing Club, third.

On November 30th, the new Nickolas Muray Junior Sabre Competition (see Remise column) was held at the Salle Santelli. There were 34 entries. Jack Gorlin of the Salle Santelli defeated his clubmate, Norman Lewis, in a 5-3 fence-off after their tie of 6 wins and 2 losses apiece in the nine-man finals. James Welles of the Rapier Club was third with 5 wins and 3 losses.

The Vince Women's Open Foil Competition was held at the Salle d'Armes Vince on December 1st with 52 starting competitors. Helena Mroczkowska of the Fencers Club headed the six-girl finals with 5 wins and no losses, while Mrs. Marion Vince of the Salle d'Armes Vince took second prize over her clubmate, Madeline Dalton, on a basis of touch score (11-15) after they had tied with 3 wins and 2 losses apiece. The finishing order of the remaining finalists was: Ruth Maxwell, Hofstra College; Dolly Funke, Greco Fencing Academy, and Elizabeth Brusk, unattached.

X X

ST. LOUIS

A Soiree de Gala on November 8 opened the new St. Louis fencing center sponsored by the fencers of St. Louis. The new hall accommodates four fencing strips and represents a long step forward in the local division's plan to popularize fencing in that area.

Tracy Barnes has been elected chairman of the center with Ervilla Droll as secretary and treasurer. The management committee consists of George Curtis, Miss Droll, Robert Witte, Charles Morgan, and Alan Beck. The decision to establish a center was made at a meeting of the board of governors of the St. Louis Division of the A.F.L.A.

One of the features of the Soiree de Gala was the first demonstration of the division's new electric epee machine.

Of course St. Louis is very proud of its girls' foil team which cleaned up in Chicago on November 24th. (Turn to the Illinois News and read all about it.)

X X

LONG ISLAND

Fencing is one of the subjects included in the State-subsidized Adult Educational Program being presented Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the Sevanaka High School in Floral Park. Twenty-seven beginners are already reported enrolled for the fencing which is being taught by Henry St. Leger. The program is offered by the State at the nominal charge of \$1.25 for a 20-week season to residents of the School District or \$5.25 to non-residents. This fee entitles you as well to choice of any of the many adult courses offered at the same time.