

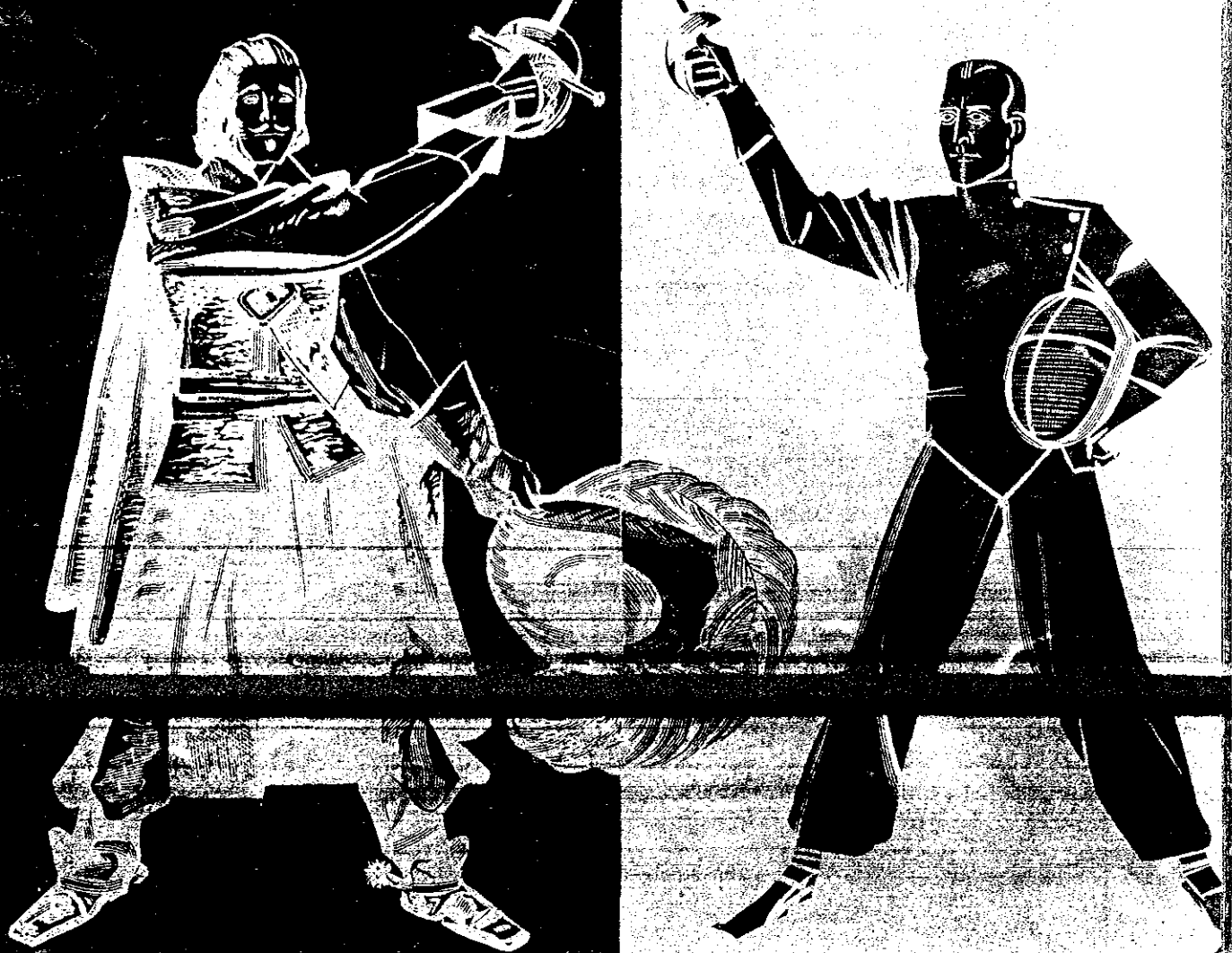
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Midwestern Championships On April 20

The Midwestern Fencing Championships will be held on Sunday, April 20, in the Crystal Ballroom of the Book Cadillac Hotel, Detroit, it has been announced by Rolf Theiss, secretary-treasurer of the host Michigan division of the A. F. L. A.

Defending champions in the competitions which will begin at 9 a. m. and continue throughout the day are Byron Krieger, Michigan division, in foil, Loyal Tingley, Illinois division, in epee, Lon Hocker, St. Louis division, in sabre, and Carol King, formerly of Chicago and now of St. Louis, in women's foil.

The night preceding the Midwestern Championships, the Michigan division will hold its annual championship, followed by a ball, also at the Book Cadillac.

Girls' Metropolitan Interscholastic Championship

Winning nine of ten bouts, Dorothy Hudson, of the Riverdale School, took the first place medal in the metropolitan interscholastic girls' invitation fencing tournament at the Salle Santelli, March 8. Second in the tournament last year, Miss Hudson bowed only to Josephine Rotunda, Barringer Evening High School, fifth place winner.

Second place went to Margaret Fitzgibbons, Lincoln High School, Jersey City, while Mary Raftopoulos, Barringer Evening, took third place on touches over Lila Goldman of Lincoln.

The above five, together with Alice Wilson of Lincoln, sixth place winner, qualified for the Eastern States girls' competition.

Harvard Wins Pentagonal Meet

Winning both the foil and sabre team titles, Harvard captured the Pentagonal Fencing Meet in competition with Army, Navy, Yale and Princeton on the latter's strips March 1.

Harvard took top honors with a total of 72½ points. Navy was second with 66, Army third with 53½, Princeton fourth with 40, and Yale last with 38. The lone title not swept by Harvard—epee—was won by Navy.

The final three-weapon and separate weapon standings were as follows:

Team	Foil	Sabre	Epee	Total
Harvard	26*	25*	21½	72½*
Navy	21	19	26*	66
Army	24	17	12½	53½
Princeton	10	16	14	40
Yale	9	13	16	38

*Team winners.

CORRECTION

On page 1 of our February issue, we erroneously listed Gerald Cetrulo as the winner of the N. Y. A. C. Annual Invitation Foil Contest on December 21st. The winner was his brother, Dean Cetrulo, of Seton Hall College.

Collegiate Championships On March 29

March 29 will be "intercollegiate day" for fencing, with the 48th annual Intercollegiate Fencing Association championship finals scheduled that day at Princeton University, and the first collegiate championships under the auspices of the National Collegiate Athletic Association at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

Eleven of the twelve member colleges of the I. C. F. A. will be represented at Princeton in the championships which will begin on Friday, March 28, and wind up on the evening of March 29. Those competing will be: Army, C. C. N. Y., Columbia, Cornell, Hamilton, Harvard, M. I. T., Navy, N. Y. U., Princeton and Pennsylvania. Yale has not entered the competition. Approximately 100 fencers will take part in the championships.

Only one of last year's three individual winners—Arthur Tauber, N. Y. U., epee titleholder—will defend his championship. Tauber, also third in the foil standing in 1940, is the only previous medal winner in any weapon who will take part.

New York University will defend its foil and three-weapon championship, Princeton its epee title and Army its sabre victory.

The National Collegiate championships, which will be held all day on Saturday, March 29, will have midwestern colleges and universities as the bulk of its entry list, with scattered teams from other parts of the country. Competition will be limited to individual championships in the three weapons, with two men entered from each college in each weapon. Sixteen colleges are expected to send representatives.

In charge of the National Collegiate Championships is Dr. John Huffman, chairman of the N. C. A. A. Fencing Rules Committee.

DIRECTORY OF AMERICAN FENCING PROFESSIONALS

We submit the following additional corrections to the list of fencing professionals originally published in our December issue. The list of deletions submitted at this time is made up entirely of men who devote considerable time to the teaching of fencing but who are in no sense of the word professionals. They teach for the love of the sport and the desire to interest others in fencing, often at considerable expense to themselves. They prefer to have their amateur standing recognized and we herewith publicly retract their professional listing.

To Be Deleted

R. Beck, Atlanta, Ga.
 Prof. A. O. Berger, Cleveland, Ohio.
 Louis Helfrich, Akron, Ohio.
 R. P. Jameson, Oberlin, Ohio.
 Prof. Richard T. Morenus, Atlanta, Ga.
 Lucien Morris, Cleveland, Ohio.
 Dr. J. H. Nichols, Oberlin, Ohio.
 Arnold L. L. Offenthal, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Dr. Herbert Sanborn, Nashville, Tenn.
 Major J. H. Stodter, Fort Riley, Kansas.

Changed Address

Charles R. Schmitter, East Lansing, Mich.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

6 Issues \$1.00
 12 Issues \$2.00

THIS IS ISSUE = 61

Mailed on or about April 2nd

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EDITORIAL

April 22, 1941 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Amateur Fencers League of America. This is a most important anniversary for American fencers, marking the completion of a half century of progress in the development of the sport.

The A. F. L. A. was founded by a group of fencers anxious to take the sport outside the jurisdiction and confining influence of the A. A. U. which at that time conducted all fencing competitions under its auspices. Fencers have always been individualists and it was probably inevitable that the day would arrive when fencers would no longer feel comfortable or satisfied as one group among many under a large, diversified national organization. The amazing thing about the A. F. L. A.'s formation is not the fact so much as the early period in which it occurred.

The actual schism with the A. A. U. lasted only one year. Cordial relations between the two organizations have been maintained ever since, but the A. F. L. A. has retained its identity and activities as the governing body of American fencing. During its fifty years, the League has expanded and prospered. It has gained the respect of all other sports organizations in this country. What is equally important it has made American fencing recognized throughout the world.

X X

Of the ten men who originally gathered on April 22, 1891 to found the A. F. L. A., Dr. Graeme M. Hammond, its first President, remains the sole survivor. As first President, he served from 1891 to 1925, a period of 34 years. He is its Honorary President at the present time and retains an active interest in its activities and championships. As President Emeritus of the American Olympic Committee, his position in the hearts of all American athletes and sportsmen is well indicated. In deserving a position of such honor as a man, Dr. Hammond has done fencing one more service. He has made it obvious to non-fencers that fencing is a sport of character.

How to Promote the New Fencing Club

By W. G. BOHL

The status of fencing in the sport world today is a strange one indeed. Here is a sport that has the makings of a "gate" attraction, yet it has no national ranking in the public eye. What fencing needs is an equivalent of baseball's sandlot, and a good group of enthusiastic followers: fans.

The small club as a means to popularize fencing can help to establish this "fandom" that is so necessary.

In the community, the small club is the place where those who wish to can fence to their heart's content, without too much expense or the inconvenience of having to travel an awkward distance to a larger salle. Those who have taken part in the sport before know what it holds for them. Newcomers soon find out, and surprisingly few drop out because of a dislike for the sport.

Many people of all ages would find something really to enjoy if they banded together and took up the sport. The younger group usually has its eye on later competition. Those a little older find it "just what the doctor ordered." The organization of a local outfit to fill such a need is a bit slow at first, but with the proper push, it gathers momentum and grows. Such a club can be made to rise above the average level, and really make a name for itself.

About four years ago, a high school in the metropolitan area of New York City decided to do away with its fencing team. The group of fencers remaining decided it would be missing too much if it gave up its sport. Equipment was scarce, but interest ran high. These fencers banded together and for about three months practiced in a room in the cellar of an apartment house. While in this embryonic stage, they were joined by several more, originally brought down by their own curiosity, who enrolled because of the interest which grew out of it. This larger number of members had more connections, and soon, through the father of one of their number, the club arranged to hold its meetings in the gymnasium of a local school. Shortly after, having grown more in number, they broke up into teams and formed a league. Four original teams took part.

League standings at first were recorded by individual records for the sake of the local papers. Bouts won and lost added up to a much more impressive total than matches won and lost would have. After all, it was something new, and with the people beginning to sit up and take notice, there was a necessity for a little food for their thought.

The second season saw the entrance of two new teams into the league, comprised almost entirely of ex-college fencers. The following year, in January, the league undertook its first "large scale" venture. The nature of this event was a foils tournament, open to anyone in high school, prep, or college ranks, to say nothing of any free-lancers who might have been attracted. It was a complete success.

One thing was learned from the competition met by the local fencers, and that was that an organized group with adequate coaching was the best combination. One week later, they combined into one large club, contacted a coach, and stepped up to full speed ahead.

The following season a new coach was taken on and three-weapon competition was begun. Previously, foils were in use alone. That year they really went to town, and in twelve matches against colleges and clubs in the metropolitan area the club brought home the bacon ten times.

This season, the fourth, finds the same coach, who is very popular with the members, priming his students even more. Women's fencing is in its second season, and the local high school is indebted to the club for the members of its team. At the present, the club is undertaking the coaching of youngsters, either freshmen in high school, or not quite out of elementary school. When this crop comes into its own in a couple of years, their school team will probably be unbeatable. The club has two three-weapon teams, comprised for the greater part of fencers it has taught itself. The material acquired in earlier days is now beginning to take shape.

The teams have a good following from the ranks of the members who do not yet represent the club in competition. From the original cellar of an apartment house, they have graduated to the Parish Hall of a nearby church, which has generously made its facilities available to the club without any obligation at all.

As for that club that **you** can organize, as in the case of any successful organization, there must be a nucleus of active members, a group whose interests blend with their abilities and produce a highly cooperative spirit.

These having been accounted for, several meetings are in order for the sole purpose of gathering ideas, planning policies and laying the ground-work for the building which is to follow. For gathering interest on the part of the public, word-of-mouth propaganda is usually best at this stage, as it is more reliable. If there is a church, or some civic club in your vicinity, it should be willing to lend a helping hand. If its members do not wish to play host to a group foreign to their own, perhaps you can get together and work out a plan whereby, in exchange for using their name and colors, they allow you to use their floor. Having settled the question of a place to meet, the next move is to assemble all possible members there, and have a formal meeting, with a talk on the fundamentals of fencing by a capable authority. This talk can go a long way toward building up the spirit of your group.

As for fencing itself, if the group wishes to get anything out of the sport, the best thing to do is to get a coach as soon as possible. Improper coaching leaves a mark on a fencer which is usually very difficult to erase. Bad habits are blood brothers of poor coaching. If you are in doubt about a coach, or are having any trouble in contacting one, one of the larger salles in your district should be able to give you all the help you need.

In order to further outside interest in the sport, it is quite important that your group find its way into the local papers, and the thing the public likes most is that which smacks of competition and hot rivalry. The period your club spends in learning the whys and wherefores should also be spent in planning for the

(Continued on page 12)

The Professional Problem

PART TWO

Another fault we find with many professionals is that they teach static, immobile and, therefore, useless fencing. After all, fencing is a touch-making sport, presumably taught to make it possible for you to touch an alert, moving, uncharitable opponent without being touched yourself. What do you see at some Salles? Let us look in at some Salles and watch the professional give a lesson to a pupil. Why must this lesson all take place within a ten foot length of strip? Doesn't this professional know that fencing calls for mobility, that legwork is as important as handwork. Perhaps he does, but he also knows that short lunges are easier on the pupil (and himself). A bad case of coddling.

There used to be a fencing club in this city where all fencing lessons were given in a very short alcove. If the professional backed up five feet he would fall out of a window. If the pupil retreated by the same distance he fell down stairs. The club had plenty of room but this professional loved his little alcove. This was many years ago and this club's teams were very successful in competition. This was back in the days when fencers stood like marble statues in nice engagement and raced blades around one another until one chest or another got in the way. Those days are gone. Today's fencer must learn to stretch, hit from distance and beat a quick retreat after failing in an attack. Marble statues have been relegated to the museum. You must give your fencing lessons on a full length 40' strip and use all of it.

Many professionals reading these comments may agree with the professional who once told me to mind my own business. He argued that I would consider it some nerve on his part for him to tell me how to run my business (which happens to be a type of engineering). This would be a perfectly logical argument except for the fact that he knows nothing about engineering whereas I do know something about fencing. The active competitive fencer sees as much if not more fencing in a season than the average professional. This professional will never accept the fact that fencing is developed by the amateur. The amateur develops the sport, the professional analyses and applies these developments. It is the man in the trenches who teaches the teacher in the war college how to teach the man in the trenches.

Another point of value to professionals is that the average American, though instinctively shiftless, enjoys a hard workout. You can take an American boy and drill him until his tongue hangs out and he will be around early the next day for another gruelling lesson. The minute you let him off easily he suspects you of short-changing him. Never hesitate to stretch an American out to the full. Work him to exhaustion and he will come back for more. Coddle him and he loses interest in what he is doing and respect for your ability to make him do it.

America is now very much on its own in regard to professional fencers. Europe as a source of supply is more or less shut off to us. This is perhaps to our own good for where the European professional may have excelled in skill he did fall short in carry-through. He generally arrived with distorted ideas of profit at little expenditure of energy. He often came

to these shores believing that \$5,000 a year fencing contracts could be picked from trees and that all he had to do was to open a salle d'armes and a bank account simultaneously and that his mere presence in the one would automatically fill the other. Nothing was further from the truth. To make a living as a fencing master in the United States is no easy assignment. Americans are no easier to squeeze money from piece-meal than any other nationality. European fame has little but transitory effect upon our impressionable minds, whereas money must produce results before we will part with much of it. Therefore, we saw many importations come and return by later boat, embittered by the fact that financial plums did not fall into their laps as the mere result of showing their fencing diplomas. Others stuck it out and we value many of these among our foremost, hard-working, successful masters.

The native professional should come to the task with no distorted view of the job and its returns. He should know that with hard work he can make a living. He should have no preconceived ideas of getting rich. However, if he loves fencing, likes to work with young people, has patience and is willing to work like a horse he should be able to anticipate some success as a professional. He needs not be a champion fencer himself, although competitive experience is an asset in that a former competitor better appreciates the ambitions, qualms and problems of those of his pupils who seek competitive outlet. He must know the fundamentals and be able to teach them correctly. He must understand these fundamentals and be able to answer the ever-present "Why?" of learning pupils. He must never be careless with his instructions but be satisfied only with correct actions from his pupils.

He must love the sport as the amateur loves it and never be satisfied with any erroneous ideas that there is nothing more for him to learn and that his future is secure with mere repetition of what he already knows. He must view each of his pupils individually and strive to pattern each along the lines of that individual's aptitudes. He must dare to teach his pupils more and more even though he knows that the more they learn the better able they will be to judge his abilities. He must realize that the establishment of a salle d'armes is the beginning and not the end of his objectives.

When a competitive amateur enters the professional ranks his competitive days are not ended. In fact, they are beginning. He is in a highly competitive profession. Few professionals realize that they are being discussed and compared constantly by the amateurs themselves. Those professionals that do not happen to get themselves discussed are those that the amateurs have already put upon the shelf as self-satisfied teachers willing to carry on year after year without further progress. The good professional is the one who is discussed the most, the constant source of controversy. Therefore, the professional must strive to stay off the shelf. He must remain competitive in the eyes of the other professionals, in the hearts of his own amateurs and in the respect and appreciation of the amateurs of the other professionals.

—D. E.

A Professional on Professionals

By ALDO NADI

Recent articles in *The Riposte* on "America's Fencing Potentialities" and "The Professional Problem" certainly call for comment, if not reply, on the part of America's professionals. The articles were of particular interest to me because the subject of the country's potentialities and its relationship to coaching has always been a pet of mine.

I was very happy to learn what I did not know: that there are about 125,000 fencers in this country (or should we say people who practice fencing?). Also that the number of professionals is about 280.

When you state that the number of fencers isn't greater because of a dearth of teachers, I agree completely. I have said more than once that that was the reason why fencing, in this country, was no more than a "poor relation" to the other more popular sports.

You state that these 280 professionals claim to be in a position to teach fencing. You imply, I take it, that not all of these 280 men and women are equipped to teach one of the most difficult of arts. And here too I believe you are absolutely right.

Over five years ago, when I first arrived in America, I was told something I shall never forget. I was told that there were people in the United States who having read a treatise on fencing, believed themselves adequately equipped to teach the sport. At that time I thought it only a jest, and a bad one at that. Now, I begin to wonder.

I do not wish to minimize, in any way, anyone's ability. Yet, I can't help wondering how many of these 280 professionals, who claim to be able to teach fencing, are actually qualified to practice the profession.

No doubt our profession is a very difficult one. Perhaps that is because the sport we teach is as much an art as it is physical exercise; because it imparts so many qualities—moral qualities—besides feline agility and steel blade control. If our sport were merely an exercise designed to keep waistlines trim and develop physically, then its teaching would be far simpler than it is.

We who teach and practice the sport know that fencing teaches courtesy, chivalry, discipline, and courage. All this besides the mere physical exercise, and the tremendously difficult and intricate technicalities which are not a bit easy to learn, understand or execute, and which are even more difficult to teach. We also know that for these very reasons fencing is as good a mental as a physical gymnastic.

There is a well founded principle in education that to teach something the teacher must know it far better than his pupils. In the same light, the better the teacher the better his product.

I think we all agree that to teach fencing properly the professional must himself have studied for many years under a good master. That he must have endured a long period of training, and that he must have engaged in competitions (this is essential, as far as I am concerned). Why? Because the teacher must be able to execute what he expects from his pupils. He must be able to impress on them that he has had to work very hard in order to acquire his ability. If he can't do this, then he loses their respect. With respect goes discipline.

Still, here in our country, anyone who wishes to, can give himself the title of fencing master. I think that is a bit thick.

In my opinion, the fault lies principally with those fencing masters who, like myself, have some sort of document to prove their qualification to practice the profession. These fencing masters have done nothing to kill the above-mentioned abuse which, in the end, can only prove a detriment to American fencing.

And yet the answer is quite simple. We, the American fencing masters, should organize ourselves into some sort of an association. This alone would protect us from these intruders, who can do no other than destroy in the bud American fencing potentialities. The first step to this putative organization should be to draw up a resolution to the effect that no amateur should be allowed to become a qualified professional unless he is passed by a board of, say five qualified members of the organization. This rule would put the teaching of fencing in the position it deserves. It would protect us, the fencing masters, and it would be highly beneficial to the sport and its future.

I am entirely in agreement with the idea that more professionals should be created. Chances are that we shall not be able to import any from Europe for some time to come. But there isn't any earthly reason why we shouldn't be able to create them ourselves, and in a better way than it has been done so far. By doing that we would be doing ourselves a favor—and helping the cause of national defense.

Perhaps the simplest solution lies in the creation of an Academy for Professional Fencers, or whatever you want to call it. This academy should be attached to a university. It would be the responsibility of this university to see that such an institution is to be directed by someone qualified to accept this tremendous responsibility towards American fencing.

This idea has already been expressed by two of the most distinguished fencers in this country, who are in the position to achieve this goal better than anyone else, being faculty members as well as top-ranking fencers. The idea may hold the future of American fencing, and, what is more important, one of the best methods of preparation of American youth for the day (let us hope it never comes) when they might be called upon to show what is discipline, alertness of body and mind, and American courage.

For fencing is more than a sport of thrust and parry. Whether anyone thinks about it or not, fencing is an excellent preparation for war. And not the war of knights in armor, but the war of tanks, long range guns, and dive bombers.

There is a legend that soldiers are born, not made. It is only a legend. Soldiers can be made. The trouble is that it takes so long to train a good soldier. Any dummy in uniform is legitimate cannon fodder. But that's all he is. And cannon fodder isn't what wins wars.

Napoleon said: "The whole art of war consists in a well thought out defensive, together with a swift and bold offensive. . . . One must lead his opponent to give battle under the most unfavorable conditions, then, when his last reserves are engaged, destroy him by a decisive attack. . . . The dominating features

(Continued on page 11)

The New Rules Book - Sidelights and Comments

III. MORE ABOUT CLASSIFICATIONS

By MIGUEL A. DE CAPRILES

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

One of our more thoughtful New York fencers, who has only recently begun to take a competitive interest in our sport, and who joined the A.F.L.A. last fall, was a contestant in the first "prep" event of the season. He was surprised to find that most of the fencers, far from being—like himself—new to competition, were in reality veterans of college and high school fencing. He checked up on our rules of classification, and found that under these rules such fencers were legitimately "preps," since they were competing in their first A.F.L.A. event, did not specifically come within the definition of "novice," and had not reached "junior" ranking since they had not won medals in a recognized intercollegiate championship.

My conversation with this fencer convinced me that it would be well in this article to examine the relation between the A.F.L.A. and other organizations (official or unofficial) which sponsor fencing competition, and to look over our rules of classification in the light of such a relation. It may be that there are serious shortcomings that should be remedied.

Let us re-read Introductory Chapter "A" of the New Rules Book. We find that the A.F.L.A. is affiliated with the Amateur Athletic Union, and that the A.F.L.A. performs, for fencing, a number of functions which the A.A.U. performs for other amateur sports. The A.F.L.A. is also the only organization which may certify the entries of American amateur fencers in international events. It would be a simple step, then, to come to the conclusion that the A.F.L.A. is the sole official controlling body for amateur fencing—that all other fencing organizations could have no standing in their own right, but only to the extent that their activities were authorized by the controlling body—and that unauthorized competition in events outside the A.F.L.A. would subject a fencer (whether or not he is a member) to disciplinary penalties and loss of amateur standing. Such might be the theory of a truly national fencing league, and it might be the ideal toward which we should strive. But the actual practice is far from clear, not only in fencing but in other amateur sports.

For example, even in A.A.U. sports, the jurisdiction of various intercollegiate organizations is recognized, explicitly or impliedly, by the A.A.U. It is not necessary for college athletes generally to join the A.A.U. in order to maintain their amateur status, and the official championships of certain associations need not be specifically sanctioned by the A.A.U. The situation is crystal-clear when we analyze the situation which has existed in the past in the American Olympic Association, and which now exists in its successor, the United States Amateur Sports Federation: for the purpose of official International Games, the National Collegiate Athletic Association stands on a par with the A.A.U. in those sports in which these two organizations are jointly interested.

A college athlete, therefore, may confine himself to official intercollegiate competition, and the A.A.U. keeps hands off. However, if he chooses to compete

in A.A.U. events, he must get his A.A.U. card, and he is then subject to a dual jurisdiction. When he graduates, of course, the jurisdiction of the A.A.U. is exclusive. In fact, in common parlance, the terms "college athlete" and "amateur" mean different things, even when no aspersions are intended to be cast on the amateur character of college athletics. When you speak of an "amateur" athlete, you usually mean one who is subject exclusively to the jurisdiction of the A.A.U., not to a man who is attending college.

The situation is similar in fencing. Our Rules Book explicitly recognizes the jurisdiction of the Intercollegiate Fencing Association (founded in 1894) and of the N.C.A.A. over fencers who are students in their respective member colleges. For many years, the I.C.F.A. was the **only** association of colleges which conducted a recognized intercollegiate fencing championships, and its operation through undergraduates and alumni was closely related to the A.F.L.A., not only because of common interest in the sport, but also because college fencing was taken into account in the A.F.L.A. rules of classification.

Today, the college fencing situation is very complex. The I.C.F.A., though the oldest, is only one of a number of well-established, reputable organizations conducting intercollegiate fencing events. In the original I.C.F.A. territory, the Northeastern part of the United States, there is a strong Eastern Intercollegiate Conference, organized about four years ago. The Pacific Coast has long conducted successful championships in its section. The Southern Conference, after some years of intermittent activity, has scheduled a promising fencing championship at William and Mary this year. The Mid-West, in addition to the well-established Big Ten meet, will also have this year the N.C.A.A. individual championships at Ohio State University. There are probably more instances. But the net fact is that, though the A.F.L.A. does not explicitly recognize the jurisdiction of the more recent college fencing leagues, nevertheless, such recognition is implied in recent amendments to the rules of classification. Thus Rule 9 (c), at pages 28 and 29, classifies as a "junior" anyone who has won "any team or individual medal at a recognized intercollegiate championship." This would apply, of course, to official events sponsored by the organizations mentioned above.

Practically speaking, there is a strong point in favor of control of college athletics by college authorities, since most colleges maintain that intercollegiate athletics are part of the educational program and must be primarily governed by educational considerations rather than by the rules of an outside amateur body. This generally works out satisfactorily from the point of view of the A.F.L.A. and the A.A.U. because the college associations generally maintain excellent standards of amateurism.

A similar situation, not as yet recognized in fencing, exists in connection with the high schools. For exam-

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ple, in New York City, the Public Schools Athletic League and the Association of Private Schools both sponsor fencing championships for school boys. That there are possibilities of conflict is indicated by the stand taken by school authorities in New York against the participation of high school track athletes in such events as the Penn Relays, and their insistence that the P.S.A.L. fencing rules be observed in the Biddle Trophy Competition at New York University if any P.S.A.L. member schools were to be permitted to compete. This position is exactly in accord with the theory behind control of college athletes by their college authorities. That the question has not been squarely considered in the A.F.L.A. rules of classification is an oversight due probably to the fact that only recently have high school fencers joined the A.F.L.A. in substantial numbers.

There is another important point. Last year, one of the largest groups of fencers not affiliated with the A.F.L.A., the Southwestern Fencing League, became the flourishing Texas Division of the A.F.L.A. Their status is now clear. But we have not specifically provided for transferring the results of their previous competitions for the purposes of our Rules of Classification. The same problem may arise, and I hope it will, whenever other outside bodies, such as the Minnesota League of Fencing Clubs, are ready to join the A.F.L.A.

Now, then, we are ready to raise a number of questions which affect our Rules of Classification:

(1) Should we specifically recognize as "novices" rather than "preps" all college fencers who have participated in official intercollegiate fencing championships as members of a varsity team?

(2) Should we recognize the medalists in intercollegiate freshman competitions as "novices," or should we rank the gold medalist as a "junior"?

(3) Should we recognize all medalists in official high school championships as "novices," instead of classifying them as "preps" simply because they have not joined the A.F.L.A.?

(4) Should we recognize the competitions of unaffiliated organizations for the purpose of classifying their fencers when, individually or as a body, they become A.F.L.A. members?

I am personally inclined to answer the first query in the affirmative. The second question, as far as it applies to the Clemens Medal Competition of the I.C.F.A., should be answered in light of the fact that in its early history, the Clemens Medal rated as an official novice event. The third question seems logically to follow the answer of the first two.

The fourth question is a tough one. If we restrict recognition of unaffiliated competitions to those sponsored by reputable and permanent organizations who observe high standards of amateurism, an affirmative answer might be indicated. However, what standards should be set? Would it be better not to recognize even the most reputable unaffiliated bodies, so as to encourage them to join the A.F.L.A.? Should we classify all "amateur" events not specifically authorized by the A.F.L.A. as invitation events which have no effect on a fencer's classification? Should the penalties (including possible loss of amateur standing) be applied against competitors in unauthorized events, even though participation therein precedes the fencer's membership in the A.F.L.A.?

The problem is a difficult one, not only in practice, but also in theory. I have indicated an opinion on some of these questions, but offer no solution for the last. The A.F.L.A. is still in its growing stages, and the solution should have a definite goal in mind. Whether you are a member of the A.F.L.A. or not, I would welcome your opinion on these questions.

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THE BOUT COMMITTEE—KEEPING RECORDS

By RICHARD F. WARREN

A major problem of the officers of young or inexperienced divisions is that of getting the routine duties of the bout committee working smoothly. Tasks such as keeping records of divisional members, classifications and competitions are not particularly pleasant but are vitally necessary to the smooth functioning of the division. Reducing these duties to a few fundamentals should help to simplify them. Here are some suggestions for bout committees, gleaned for many years experience, that should prove helpful:

First. Start a competitors' file. List every active contestant by name, club membership, and home and office (or college) address. Then classify him (or her) by his standing in each weapon, e.g.:

Parker, J. Brooks—Sword Club
Home—Strafford, Pa.
Office—1616 Walnut St., Philadelphia

Foil—Senior
Epee—Intermediate
Sabre—Novice

This will enable the bout committee to decide immediately any question of a fencer's eligibility to take part in any given meet. Frequently among the younger fencers there is a lack of understanding of these classifications, despite the full description in the rules, and barring a contestant from a meet for which he is ineligible saves the heartbreak of later disqualifications and return of a medal he may have won.

After every meet check the contestants again and alter the rankings of those who have won a higher classification. List prep and novice in pencil.

Second. Start a meet file. List every meet and below the title of it each year record the winners of first, second and third places, e.g.:

Novice Foil
1940—Henry Jones, Rapier Club, first; John Smith, Fencers Club, second; James Wright, unattached, third.

Third. Provide an overflow file for those who are inactive.

The writer used a small wooden desk file about 6" x 4" x 4" for the active file, indexed by letters for individual fencers with a card for each. Back of that section was the meet file containing place winners of past years in all meets. This was easily portable and was taken to all prep and novice competitions where eligibility was particularly important. It was felt that by the time a fencer became a junior he should be responsible for entering only meets for which he was eligible and that the burden should be placed on him and not on the bout committee. But the final decision and disqualification, if necessary, was in their hands, and so was the record.

A larger metal file to hold the same size cards as the wooden model provides safe storage for records of fencers who have ceased competition, either temporarily or permanently, or have moved out of the vicinity.

Recently I started to write a short history of the Philadelphia division that included a tabulation of junior, intermediate and divisional champions. The data had to be assembled from many sources for the earlier years, but for the last five it came from the bout committee files, which contained the place winners in prep and novice competitions as well.

Fencing history in any division is made each year, and if a careful, intelligent record is compiled annually, it becomes more valuable as time goes on.

SHAKESPEARE AND DUELING

"Dueling Scenes and Terms in Shakespeare's Plays" is the title of a monograph by Horace S. Craig, well-known Pacific Coast fencer and faculty member at the University of California, published recently by the University of California Press.

Fencing enthusiasts who have been annoyedly aware of stilted and extremely unathletic dueling scenes in *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *Henry IV* and half a dozen other Shakespearian plays will be extremely surprised at the knowledge of fencing which Mr. Craig shows the Bard to have had. The actors themselves seem to have been the ones responsible for the ineptitude.

In tracing Shakespeare's knowledge of the duel, Mr. Craig discusses early concepts of swordplay and shows how the rapier and the foil replaced the heavier sword and buckler after the sixteenth century Italians "rediscovered the use of the point." Shakespeare, he shows by frequent reference to the plays, was more than casually familiar with both types of combat.

As a sidelight on Aldo Nadi's article in this issue, it should be noted that Mr. Craig refers to guilds of fencing masters being common as early as the sixteenth century, two of the largest being Henry VIII's English Corporation of Defense Masters and the German Buergerschaft von St. Marcus von Loewenberg.

"German fencing died out," says Mr. Craig, "because masters never learned to use their heads; also, they tried to keep the art 'mysterious' and 'magical.'" Not too far a cry from some of the poseurs of the 1940's.

Of particular interest are Mr. Craig's deductions in the *Hamlet* duel scene, when the contestants somehow contrive to exchange rapiers, the first time we know of when the perplexing situation has been attacked by someone with a competent working knowledge of fencing. His ideas should be of enduring interest to later scholars.

Copies of Mr. Craig's fine monograph may be ordered from the University of California Press, Berkeley. The price is twenty-five cents.

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OREGON

The first competition of the Portland division of the A.F.L.A. was held on January 31. It was a Prep foil competition won by Charles Manlove of Reed College. A triple tie for second was decided by a count of touches: Kenji Okamoto of the Benson High School Cavaliers received second prize and his clubmate, William Wellman, placed third, while Hugo Lundborg of the Multnomah Athletic Club placed fourth.

A women's Prep foil competition was held on February 7. Two fence-offs of a triple tie for first place failed to break the deadlock and the competition was recessed until February 10. Final winners were Alta Mae Coffin, Y.M.C.A., first; Hortense Gusick, Fencers Club, second, and Sadie Miller, Multnomah Athletic Club, third.

The fencers of Portland report very good cooperation from the city's two leading newspapers who have thus far printed full descriptions of all matches in their sport pages.

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SOUTH AMERICAN NEWS

The Riposte has received the January number of *El Esgrimista* (The Fencer), a monthly fencing review published in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Interesting news articles and commentaries compose the greater part of this 8-page, double-column, printed magazine, which is now finishing its second year of existence. The January number (No. 20) is of special interest to us because it quotes a message of good will from our President, Dr. John R. Huffman, to Mr. Luis Herrera V., President of the Chilean Fencing Federation, and because it gives us a detailed account, not only of the Argentine's national championships, but also of the Chilean events and of a series of international matches between Brazil and Uruguay. Since the Pan-American Olympic games are scheduled for Buenos Aires in 1942, we believe that readers of *The Riposte* will enjoy becoming acquainted with the names of the leading fencers of the Southern Hemisphere. Here, then, in brief is the story of the 1940 Championships held last December (it is summer in December down there, you know).

Argentina

Women's Foil: Miss Josefina Braga was undefeated in six bouts, winning over the 1939 champion, Miss Elsa Irigoyen, 4-3 in the final and deciding encounter. Miss Julia Bonafina was third.

Men's Foil: Raul Saucedo (well-known to American fencers as a member of the 1932 and 1936 Argentine Olympic Team) defeated Ricardo Mallou, 5-2, in a fence-off after each had finished with 8 victories in the round-robin of 10. Felix Galimi was third.

Sabre: A three-way tie for first place was settled by a fence-off, with Albino Aguera placing first, Huer-go second, and Gutierrez Morel third. Each had won 5 bouts in the 8-man final.

Epee: Young Felix Galimi, with 9 victories, nosed out Raul Saucedo to win first place. Although beaten 3-0 by Saucedo, Galimi was touched only 6 times in 10 bouts. Diaz Arnesto was third. The competition was fenced with electrical weapons.

The following were the results of the Chilean championships:

Foil		Epee	
1. Mario Moletto		1. Hector Moreno	
2. Erto Pantoja		2. Erto Pantoja	
3. Renato Simonetti		3. Renato Simonetti	
Sabre			
1. Lt. Leopoldo Silva Cubillos			
2. Hector Gacitua			
3. Enrique Accorsi			

The international tournament (Baron de Rio Branco trophies) between Brazil and Uruguay resulted in brilliant victories for the Uruguay fencers, as follows:

Team Events:

Foil—Uruguay 9, Brazil 7.

Epee—Uruguay 10, Brazil 4 (two bouts tied).

Sabre—Uruguay 8, Brazil 8 (Uruguay winning on touches, 67-57).

Individual Events:

Foil—Won by Sergio Jesi (U.), undefeated in 9 bouts.

Epee—Won by Juan Otegui (U.), 5 victories in final.

Sabre—Won by Hildemaro Lista (U.), 8 victories, 1 defeat.

The commentaries about competitive fencing in Argentina sound a familiar note: One writer com-

plains about long competitions which last until two or three o'clock in the morning (with consequent domestic difficulties), and suggests the adoption of Sunday tournaments. Another speaks of the inadequacy of the judging, especially from old-timers who seldom appear at competitions and expect to officiate at the championship events. The electrical epee machine is said to work satisfactorily, but the weapons seem to break down as much as ours here in the United States. The ladies appear in all sorts of costumes, in utter disregard of the rules. Difficulties with the rules of classification of fencers (the national championships are limited to First Class or Senior fencers and a suggestion for a "first ten" list similar to that of our Ranking Fencers). Problems of scheduling events (it is suggested that, instead of concentrating the championships in one week, they be held over a period of four months, one event a month). Problems of interpretation of the Rules, and a long explanation of the "benefit of the doubt."

Special troubles in Argentina: Absence of the President from the championships. Complaint about disregard of the rule which prohibits competitors from serving as members of the Bout Committee or as officials. Lateness in awarding prizes (the 1939 winners received their medals at the 1940 championships).

It seems to us that fencing is much the same everywhere, and that our common problems, and our similar difficulties in meeting them, will do as much as anything else to give fencers in the United States a feeling of close kinship with fencers of our sister republics in the Americas.

—M. A. de Capriles.

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KANSAS

The Officers Club of the Fort Riley Army Post has voted to accept fencing as a club activity, and has already engaged in its first competition, a dual meet with the University of Kansas on March 9. The University squad won the foil competition, 7-2, but the Army men retaliated with a 7-2 win in epee. The University women's team defeated the women's combination from Fort Riley, 7-2.

Fencing at Fort Riley is under the direction of Col. Cairns, former member of West Point and New York Fencers Club teams.

In its first varsity match since the introduction of the sport there, the University of Oklahoma was defeated by St. John's Military School of Salina, Kansas, 9-7.

A series of classes and a group for competition has been formed at the Kansas City Athletic Club under the direction of James H. Raport, coach at the University of Kansas. Other groups sponsoring fencing teams in the vicinity are: Friend's University of Wichita, Lightning Foils of Wichita, the Wichita Y.M.C.A., Kansas City University, and Iowa State College of Ames.

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NEW ENGLAND

The New England Division of the A.F.L.A. held a Fencers Ball in the Georgian Room of the Hotel Statler in Boston on February 14th as a benefit for the Lincoln House.

ALL EASTERN CHAMPIONSHIPS

After advancing to the final round only on a count of touches, the Salle Santelli team of Grace Acel, Mary Ann Harris and Grace Uhthoff captured the women's all-eastern intermediate team foil championship at the Fencers Club on January 31. In the deciding pool they swept their matches with the Foils Club, Hofstra College and Salle d'Armes Vince, who finished in that order.

Eliminated in the preliminary rounds were the New York University team and a composite trio.

For the second successive year, the final pool of the men's all-eastern intermediate foil team competition, held at the Salle Santelli on February 2, ended in a three-way tie. This year the deadlocked contestants were the Santelli team of Dean Cetrulo, Albert Axelrod and Austin Prokop, the New York A. C. combination of Wallace Goldsmith, Silvio Giolito and Rudolph Ozol, and the Saltus Club trio of Theodore Green, Nino Maniaci and Walter White. All three teams were successful in defeating New York University, the fourth finalist, but the Santelli combination lost to Saltus, Saltus bowed to the N. Y. A. C., and the A. C. trio fell before Santelli.

Seven teams originally entered the championships, the Philadelphia Fencers Club, the N. Y. U. "B" squad and Columbia University bowing out in the preliminaries.

Going through the four-team final pool without defeat, the New York Athletic Club team of Wallace H. Goldsmith, Rudolph Ozol and Dr. James Flynn took the all-eastern intermediate epee team title on February 9 at the Salle Santelli. Finishing behind the winners were the New York University team of Kane, Gross and Tauber, which bowed only to the winners. The Saltus Club trio and the Salle Santelli team completed the final pool. Eliminated on preliminary strips were Columbia, the Fencers Club, and N. Y. U. "B".

Dorothy Lancaster of the Fencers Club was the winner in the women's all-eastern intermediate individual foils, taking the gold medal in a fence-off with Aida Prencipe of the Salle Messineo, Washington, in the finals held at the Fencers Club on February 14. Third place went to Elizabeth Bruskin, unattached, over Mary Ann Harris, Salle Santelli, Dorothy Wahl of the Fencers Club and Dorothy Kerfoot of the Foils Club, who finished in that order in the final pool.

The Salle Santelli combination of Jack Gorlin, Norman Lewis, Douglas Gerard and Paul Kirschner swept through the five-team finals of the all-eastern intermediate sabre championship on February 16 at the Fencers Club with the loss of only seven bouts to take the title.

City College of New York, with Neil Lazar, Herbert Spector and Martin Mendelson, and New York University, with Peter Tishman, Sol Gorlin and Anthony Lombardo, were tied for second in the unfinished finals with one loss apiece. Columbia University and the Saltus Club were the other entrants.

A triple fence-off that threatened to set an all-time record for deadlocks featured the final round of the men's all-eastern individual intermediate foil championship at the Greco Fencing Academy on February 23. Dean Cetrulo and Albert Axelrod, both of the Salle Santelli, and Nathaniel Lubell of Vince finished the regular competition with eight wins and two losses apiece, but it took three additional fence-

offs and another hour of competition to decide the winner. Cetrulo finally defeated both adversaries to win the gold medal, with Axelrod second and Lubell third.

Arthur Tauber of New York University, who outpointed all three of the medalists but dropped three other bouts, finished fourth in the field of eleven, with Ralph Leiderman and Joseph Rabb, both of Greco fifth and sixth.

Dropping only two bouts in a field of nine, Arthur Tauber of N. Y. U. entered the senior epee ranks by winning the all-eastern intermediate epee title at the Salle d'Armes Vince on March 2. John Bech, unattached, Henrique Santos of the New York Athletic Club and Wallace Goldsmith, N. Y. A. C., were deadlocked for second place with five wins apiece, but finished in that order on a count of touches.

The final all-eastern championship to be contested was the individual sabre, held at the Fencers Club on March 9. Douglas Gerard of the Salle Santelli swept all his bouts in the six-man field to win the title, with Jack Gorlin, also of Santelli, in the runner-up position and Herbert Spector of C. C. N. Y. third. Rudolph Ozol of the N. Y. A. C., Anthony Lombardo of N. Y. U., and Paul Kirschner of the Salle Santelli finished in that order behind the medal winners.

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A PROFESSIONAL ON PROFESSIONALS

(Continued from page 5)

of any successful campaign are energy and rapidity. . . .

Energy, speed in analysis, decision and execution of a plan, boldness, these are the qualities of a good soldier. Aren't they the master qualities of the fencer?

Fencing is war. A courteous war between two individuals. Furthermore, it is the only sport that requires the concentration of a chess game, the lightning mind of a mathematical wizard, with a speed no sprinter ever had. It is the only sport that is an art, and at the same time a science, requiring mathematical precision in its practice.

We know that fencing gives its adepts and enthusiasts a fighting spirit, a cool head in combat, speed in analysis of attack and defense, and the energy to carry them out with tremendous determination. What more do we want in any soldier?

From many quarters appeals have been made for more widespread athletic programs to aid national defense. Programs that would include in college athletics every student, and not restrict them to a sporting aristocracy. These appeals should be answered by widening the scope of athletic instruction in all schools; by teaching and coaxing sports, not merely coaching them.

Some universities and a few schools have fencing teams; and of all the athletes the fencers are the ones who have the highest scholastic ratings. But these fencing teams are only the nucleus around which we must build. One coach cannot teach five hundred or five thousand students. More teachers must be hired, and, since they cannot be found in the United States, they must be made. I have discussed how and where they can be produced. Then, let every high school in the land have a fencing master; a real fencing master, and not someone who, in spite of his good will, is not qualified to the profession.

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

The first men's senior event of the season, the Greco foil, was won by Nickolas Muray of the New York Athletic Club on January 12 at the Greco Fencing Academy. Wallace Goldsmith of the same club and Jose de Capriles of the Salle Santelli tied for second but finished in that order on a count of touches. There were 14 entries.

With Jose de Capriles fencing foil, Dr. Tibor Nyilas sabre and Norman Lewis epee, the Salle Santelli dethroned the Fencers Club as holders of the Allaire Cup in three-weapon team competition at the New York A. C. on January 19. Figured solely on a basis of touches against, the competition was won by the Santelli team with a low total of 52. The defending champions, with Hugh V. Alessandrini fencing foil, Norman Armitage sabre and Tracy Jaekel and Robert Driscoll alternating at epee, took second with 56 touches against. The New York A. C.—Dr. John A. Huffman, foil; Ralph Marson, sabre; and Leo Nunes, epee—was third with 57. Seven teams competed.

Twenty contestants entered the Greco Women's Open Foil competition, held at the Greco Fencing Academy on January 26. Mrs. Dolly Funke of the home club, sweeping eleven of her twelve bouts in the preliminaries and final, won the Greco Trophy. Mrs. Jarmila Vokral of the Salle Herrmann, Philadelphia, finished second with a 4-1 record behind Mrs. Funke's undefeated parade on the final strip, while Mrs. Marion L. Vince of the Salle d'Armes Vince was third.

Robert Driscoll of the Fencers Club went through his bouts without defeat to win the senior individual epee on February 6 at the Saltus Club. Ralph Marson, New York A. C., took second over Pieter Mijer of the Salle Santelli in the field of five contestants.

Helena Mroczkowska of the Fencers Club, the national champion, won the Fish senior individual foil competition on February 19 at the Fencers Club. Madeline Dalton, Salle d'Armes Vince, finished second, with Maria Cerra of Vince third.

Sweeping its second straight team competition, the Salle Santelli "A" team took the Washington Square epee trophy at the N. Y. A. C. on February 22. With Jose de Capriles, Pieter Mijer and Miguel de Capriles fencing Nos. 1, 2, and 3 respectively, the winners scored eighteen victories, leading each strip with six. The New York A. C.'s "A" squad of Henrique Santos, Ralph Marson and Leo Nunes finished in a tie with the Fencers Club's trio of Tracy Jaekel, Alfred Skrobisch and Robert Driscoll with 15 points apiece. Santelli "B" was fourth with 14 and N. Y. A. C. "B" fifth with 13 in the field of nine teams.

Six of the country's ranking sabre men and two internationalists were in the field of ten that entered the senior individual sabre competition at the Salle d'Armes Vince on February 25. Nickolas Muray of the N. Y. A. C., won the gold medal with a record of seven wins and two losses. Dr. Tibor Nyilas of the Salle Santelli, Dr. Norman Armitage of the Fencers Club, George Worth and Dean Cetrulo, both of the Salle Santelli, were tied for second with six wins apiece, but finished in that order on a count of touches.

Louis Mouquin of the Salle Santelli swept all of his matches against his three clubmates—Pieter Mijer, Frank Goodfellow and Enrique Berumen—and Dr.

James Hamlin of the Saltus Club to win the veterans' individual three-weapon competition at the Greco Fencing Academy on March 11. The other competitors finished in the above mentioned order.

In a fence-off with Helena Mroczkowska, Fencers Club, after they had been deadlocked at the end of the regular competition with ten wins and one loss apiece, Mrs. Marion Vince of the Salle d'Armes Vince won the women's open metropolitan individual foil championship at the Salle Santelli on March 15. Mrs. Vince triumphed 4-2 in the fence-off. Mrs. Jarmila Vokral of the Salle Herrmann, Philadelphia, was third, and Barbara Cochrane, Salle Santelli, fourth. There were eleven contestants in the championship.

The New York Athletic Club trio of Warren A. Dow, Dornell Every, and Silvio Giolito successfully defended its metropolitan open team foils championship on the Salle Santelli strips March 16. The winners lost only two bouts throughout the eight-team competition. The Salle Santelli "A" squad of Albert Axelrod, Dean Cetrulo, Jose de Capriles and Norman Lewis finished second and, with the winners, thereby qualified for the national championship. The New York A. C. and Santelli "B" teams were the other two trios to reach the final pool.

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HOW TO PROMOTE THE NEW FENCING CLUB

(Continued from page 3)

time when the way is open to meet other clubs or schools in matches. Line up beforehand all the suitable opponents. Then, when the time comes, appraise your team frankly. Have no delusions of grandeur, lest it spell defeat in the meeting of vastly superior teams. Schedule teams which for the greater part are in your own class. Stepping above your brackets a few times won't harm, as in competition against better opposition, every defeat is another lesson learned; every victory is a big feather in your cap. In planning your season, be sure to look up local colleges and universities, and other schools. If you can't fence in the same class as their varsity squads, always remember that quite a few also have junior varsity aggregations, or even freshman teams.

Make it a point to attend as many competitions as possible. They are full of chances to see and learn. All the leading schools of higher learning have fencing teams, and the admission to their matches is usually free. Then, too, the Amateur Fencers League of America is continually sponsoring tournaments of all kinds. Besides the competitive angle, it is possible to go deeper into the sport in a passive fashion. Libraries in the larger cities all have a good stock of books on fencing. These three sources form a triumvirate of learning which the member of the smaller club can't afford to miss.

To return to the club itself, remember that in order to keep it rolling, and to boost the sport, put it in the public eye, and keep it there! Cover your meetings and matches with articles in the papers. Then, having covered the impersonal angle, bring your sport to the people in person. Offer your services to churches and civic organizations for fencing exhibitions. Present this free of any charge to them, and watch them come on the double to accept your proposition. All the officers whose heads are bursting in the attempt to plan programs will welcome you with open arms. For the present, your strong point is that fencing is essentially something new and different.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The novice epee competition on January 3 at the Faulkner School was won by Fred Kaiser of the Cavaliers. Clair Stille of the same team was second and Charles Manders of the Hollywood A. C., third. The bouts were fenced for one touch and fence-offs were necessary to decide the second and third prize winners.

Gail Potter has recently moved his Salle d'Armes Potter from Hawaii to California. From Honolulu to Hollywood is no small jump but evidence of the change is already apparent by the appearance of his pupils in Southern California competitions.

Nineteen entries competed in the men's junior epee contest held at the Hollywood Athletic Club on January 11. Charles Manders of the home club captured first place, while second went to Stanley Vallett and third to Dr. Henry Reitz, both of whom represented the Los Angeles Athletic Club.

The men's intermediate epee competition at the Los Angeles Athletic Club on January 17 resulted in a three-way tie. Simon Carfagno of the home club finished first in the fence-off; Leon Cepparo, University of Southern California, placed second; and Robert Irwin of the Faulkner School of Fencing was third. There were eighteen competitors.

Muriel Calkins, fencing for the Los Angeles Athletic Club, won the women's senior foil tournament at the Faulkner School of Fencing on January 24. Defeated in a fence-off by Miss Calkins, Cornelia Sanger also of the Los Angeles Athletic Club, took second place; and Moreene Fitz, Cavaliers, was third. Ten fencers competed.

Fencing on the home strips, the Faulkner School of Fencing's team of Polly Craus, Mavis Myre and Marion Washko captured the women's junior foil team title on January 24.

Edward Carfagno of the Los Angeles Athletic Club won the men's senior epee over a field of nine on January 31. Commander Leonard Doughty of the Navy and Fred Linkmeyer, L. A. A. C., finished second and third in the competition, which was held at the Los Angeles Athletic Club.

Four teams, representing the Los Angeles Athletic Club, the University of Southern California, the Faulkner School of Fencing and Cavaliers, entered the men's junior team epee meet held at the Los Angeles A. C. on January 31. The home team, composed of Simon Carfagno, Stanley Vallett and Dr. Henry Reitz, captured the title.

The Los Angeles Athletic Club first team of Fred Linkmeyer, Edward Carfagno and Andrew Boyd won the men's open epee team meet on February 14. Six trios competed on the Los Angeles A. C. strips, the home club being represented by three teams.

There were twelve contestants in the men's open epee competition at the Faulkner School of Fencing on February 22. Edward Carfagno of the L. A. A. C., took first; and the fence-off of a three-way tie gave second to Commander Leonard Doughty of the Navy, third to Andrew Boyd, L. A. A. C., and fourth to Harold Swisher, also of the L. A. A. C.

All-Ohio Collegiate Championships

Case School of Applied Science retained its team title for the third consecutive year at the All-Ohio Collegiate Invitational championships on March 1. Fencing on the winner's strips in Cleveland, eight colleges and universities took part in the competition. Oberlin and Ohio University were tied for second with 21½ points behind Case's winning 28, and Dennison, Akron, Kenyon, Fenn and Western Reserve were also entered.

Duncan of Oberlin took the foil title, ahead of Worden of Ohio University and Johns of Case. Worden of Oberlin won in epee, with Houser of Case second and Quigley of Case third. The sabre championship went to Aspmann of Case, with Nye of Ohio second and Groszman of Case third.

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MINNESOTA

Robert E. Withy, Jr., who is the fencing director at the St. Paul Y.M.C.A., was elected president of the Minnesota League of Fencing Clubs on February 10. Richard Ness, the Cyrano Fencing Club of Minneapolis, became vice-president of the league, and Helen Kimble of the St. Paul Turners was made secretary-treasurer. The league's fencing instructor is Maynard Bjorgo of the University of Minnesota.

The Northwestern Gymnastic Society held a fencing tournament at the University of Minnesota on March 1, and the League of Fencing Clubs was represented in that contest.

CONGRATULATIONS!

To the National Board of Governors
and to the entire membership of the

Amateur Fencers League of America

on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary
of the founding of this splendid organization on

April 22, 1891

CAPT. HANNS FISCHER
North Shore Fencing Academy
Chicago, Illinois

The Remise

Nothing pleases us more than to note the increase in publicity which fencers and fencing have been getting this year. It is a plain indication that the sport is annually attracting the interest of more Americans and that newspapers and magazines are beginning to appreciate the sport's reader appeal.

To name a few of the cases that have come to our attention since our last issue there was the article in Look Magazine for January 28th entitled "Perfectionist in Color." The article pertained to Nickolas Muray and dealt primarily with the color photography for which he is famous. Nevertheless, it also mentioned his fencing at frequent intervals. The author appreciated the fact that his subject's swordsmanship was good "copy".

Imagine our surprise to see James Murray's picture in a recent copy of the Herald Tribune. There was Jimmy, big as life, gesturing with a table knife at the Columbia Club for the benefit of Al Laney who gave Jimmy a most interesting write-up. We consider Murray the dean of American Fencing Professionals and the man with probably the most interesting fencing background of anyone in the United States. We salute Laney for his ability to draw out the reticent Jimmy into print and now look forward to a chance to write him up ourselves. We have tried and tried without success. The spell is now broken and The Riposte promises, if Murray will only "give", to present one of the most interesting biographical sketches of its career.

About mid-January a full page of fencing pictures of Helena Mroczkowska, Women's National Foil Champion, was released through a large newspaper syndicate. We thought the page well prepared and of definite publicity value to the sport. So far as we know, it is the first full page publicity that has ever been given to fencing in the newspapers and we have received word that it was reproduced in many of the newspapers throughout the United States.

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In a recent foil competition in Cleveland one of the contestants made a cut-over and fleched completely past his opponent. "Coupe attack—good," said the Judge. Phil Houser, Bout Committee Chairman and Director of that bout said, "It looked more like a truck to me. Nothing done!"

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We have mentioned "fencing bugs" from time to time and someone has written and asked what we really mean by the term. Well a fencing bug is a person who is so bitten by the sport that he either must be fencing or talking about it most of the time. There is no question but that all of your leading fencers have the bug. Why should they work so hard, season after season, going over the same actions, if they were not infected with some soul-consuming virus that drove them ever onward? Fencing becomes part of their blood and they can never happily lay aside their swords for the mere satisfaction of reminiscing. Nor is the bug confined to the leaders in the sport. Boys and girls throughout the country contract the disease, in many cases without any direct contact with other fencers. They are the real never-say-die followers of the sport for without any encouragement whatsoever they continue to strive to learn to fence regardless of their respective isolation.

I shall quote from a letter from one of these typical bugs. It presents them in a light which no amount of explanation could do. Their sure love for the sport, their refusal to be discouraged, their isolation from fencing centers always brings forth our sincerest sympathy. Nothing would do our heart more good than to provide such boys and girls throughout the United States with the instruction and fencing opportunities for which they have in some unexplainable way acquired such a distinct desire.

"Being tremendously interested in fencing both as a game and as a mental and physical exercise and being aware of the lessons of sportsmanship which it teaches, your correspondent decided to spread the Gospel of the King of Sports.

"He had learned to fence the 'hard' way with about every book he could lay his hands on, plus a full length mirror (with the family wondering about the postures). However, when he ripped a pillow he was forced to 'expand', that is, try outside somewhere else. The result of all this laboratory work was that this budding swordsman wanted to try his steel. One fine day when opportunity offered he visited New York City and walked into (one of New York's best Salles) with the "Who wants to fence?" idea. What a mistake! He found out right then and there that what he needed was a rebuilding. He watched as many fencing bouts as he could and returned home the wiser for the experience.

"A few years went by and then he obtained a better book on fencing than he had yet owned. He rounded up a few interested fellows in his Church and they went through the book lesson by lesson, never advancing to the next until they felt they had its predecessor by the ears. Twelve members belonged to the group at its peak, but they were of varying interest and the number gradually diminished until five steady members remained.

"We met every Tuesday night and Saturday afternoon and what fun we had. It was hard work too, especially at the beginning when the idea that it was a game and not a slaughter had to be impressed upon them.

"These happy times kept up for about two and a half years until the start of this season and I feel badly about it. This season we have met twice, each time there being only one man besides myself, and now for six sessions in a row I've been left alone, playing the piano and watching the clock at the church.

"I guess it isn't a total loss though. They may never be fencers, but they've learned something and they're swell fellows."

That letter amused and saddened me alternately. That boy glosses over at least three and a half years of constant discouragement with no trace of bitterness. He states that his pals were swell fellows even though they did not have his stick-to-it-iveness. He is still at it. He has now managed to get to New York more frequently. He has even joined a fencing club here. Can't you visualize him out on the fencing strip having the time of his life at the thing he likes to do more than anything else, whenever those rare opportunities are offered him.

That, my friends, is a true fencing bug. You will find them in all stations of life and of all ages. No sport can die which has such devoted disciples springing up spontaneously in every generation.

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What is this we hear from Salt Lake City? Bill Pecora made a special stop there on his way East from the Coast. Incidentally he made this stop as a result of the Editor's article concerning his visit to Salt Lake City and used the names mentioned in that article for his contacts. It worked. He was welcomed by the fencers of that city in the same manner as we had been. That was fine and Bill came on to New York the week-end before Christmas to run bang into the fencing activities of that season. We ought to know, for one of these parties in which he took no inconsiderable part broke up at our apartment at 5 A. M. But we have digressed. What Salt Lake City wants to know is when we are going to send it more visiting fencers like Bill Pecora. Armitage, Huffman and Every have all stopped off, but Bill Pecora kissed all of the girls good-bye before departing. Did I read an implication in that letter that Norman, Johnny and I were old sticks? Did our cold Eastern manners foil us or has Bill got something we haven't got anyhow? I fear me the latter is the case, but let us all mend our ways in the future. Traveling ambassadors of fencing must take a leaf from Doctor of Geology William T. Pecora's book and dig into things a bit more.

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We have generally shied clear of printing poetry. We learned early that the average fencer when approached for an article of some sort about the sport would almost invariably say, "I can't write, but I have a few poems you might be able to use." We have avoided printing poetry to prevent every fencer from bursting into rhyme to the utter submergence of our magazine.

Occasionally we receive poems which make us reconsider our policy. We are printing one this issue, one which got past us despite our fears of being swamped in the future with iambic pentameters.

Franz Ohlson of the Saltus Fencing Club submitted the following with the remark that it might be sung to the tune of "Rambling Wreck from Georgia Tech" or "It Ain't Gonna Rain No More". Rush out the harpsichord and zither and give it a try.

THE EPEEMAN

The Epeeman, the Epeeman, in frayed and tattered gear

Can lick his weight in wildcats and can drink his weight in beer

And for the foil and sabremen he hasn't any fear
For he's a late edition of a dashing musketeer.

His jacket's a wreck from many a peck of a sharpened pointe d'arret

His pants are torn, his nerves are worn and ears been ripped away

But should you care to question him, you'll surely hear him say:

"I'm an Epeeman and I guess by damn I'll always be that way."

He'll drop his elbow out a bit and wait for your attack

But then he'll swiftly parry and he'll nail you going back

But when he's got his point in line and thinks he's guarded well,

He never seems to see the touch that creeps around his bell.

At times he'll answer any feint, at other times he won't.

The time that he should answer is the one time that he don't.

He'll parry almost anything between his head and toes
But still a simple stop-thrust is the best defense he knows.

You'll always find an Epeeman where the lovely ladies are,

Boasting of the fights he's had and showing off his scar.

And see the lovely ladies as they hang on every word
For he can tell the tallest tales that you have ever heard.

Then woe befell the Epeeman, he met the March of Time.

They wired him to sound effect, to flashing light and chime,

For now it's just a batt'ry that determines right from wrong

And every touch is heralded by the chiming of the gong.

THE FOILSMAN

The foilsman likes to dance around on swiftly moving feet.

He spends long hours practicing to beat a quick retreat.

He lunges fifty times a day and sweats his youth away
Until at last he wises up and learns to fence Epee.

THE SABREMAN

The sabreman, the sabreman, is a thrilling sight to see.

He twirls his weapon 'round his head and hacks away with glee.

His savage heart is filled with joy to hear the steel at play,

But someday he'll be civilized and learn to fence Epee.

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HAWAII

Within the last year interest in fencing among the soldiers stationed in Honolulu has increased tremendously. Sergeant "Zip" Tracy, former student of New York University's Coach Castello, started work in foil with a group of six. Since then the club has grown to five times its original size, and the men have taken up sabre and epee. Having recently joined the Hawaiian Division of the A.F.L.A., the club is now planning to arrange a schedule of meets.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Georges Bourgoïn, well known in West Coast fencing ten years ago and since that time a resident of France, began his American comeback on February 7 by winning a Northern California novice sabre competition. Competing for the Oakland Fencing Club, he swept all five bouts on the final strip. Ed Houser of the Funke Fencing Academy was second, and Victor Vari of the G G 5 took third place over Noel Spiess, University of California, on a count of touches. There were 16 entries.

Jack Hovick, University of California, defeated his teammate, Noel Spiess, in a fence-off for first place to win the division's novice epee competition at the Olympic Club on February 10. Jack Boyd of Stanford was third in the field of 13 entries.

Winning by a clear margin over a field of 15, Lawrence Bocci of the G G 5 captured first place in the open individual epee on February 14 at the University of California. Georges Bourgoïn, Oakland Fencing Club, took second place from Victor Arnautoff, Olympic Club, on touches.

Going through the seven-team direct elimination competition with the loss of only one bout, the Olympic Club first team of Alfred R. Snyder, Harry Mortimer and Ferard Leicester won the Northern California Division's open foil team championship on their home strips, February 21. Stanford University's trio of Richard Meyerhoff, John Cooper and Robert Halliwell also reached the finals only to take a 5-0 beating. Other teams included the University of California, the G G 5, the Olympic Club second, and the Oakland Fencing Club's firsts and seconds.

Helen Sander of the Funke Fencing Academy won the division's women's junior foil championship at Stanford University on February 28, dropping only one of her five final-round matches. Her teammate, Emilie Romaine, won second place on a count of touches after tying with Lura Morse, San Francisco Fencing Club, at three wins and two losses. Twelve competitors took part.

The Northern California division's intermediate epee championship, held on a one-touch basis, went to Ferard Leicester, Olympic Club, who went through the ten-man round robin with a record of seven wins and two losses. Alfred R. Snyder of the Olympic Club, Robert Shrader of the Oakland Fencing Club and Louis Lataillade of the Olympic Club finished in that order in a fence-off after all three had been deadlocked for second place.

A record of 4-1 on the final strip won the women's intermediate foils competition on March 7 for Emilie Romaine of the Funke Fencing Academy. Helen Sander and Betty Jane Nevis, both of Funke, and Lydia Riedener of the G G 5, tied for second but finished in that order on touches. There were 14 contestants.

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ST. LOUIS

In an unusually successful men's prep foil competition Friskel and Fleming tied for first with six wins and two losses each. Fleming won the fence-off by a score of 5-2. With one exception, all the contestants were pupils of Lester Liebmann who is coaching at both St. Louis University and the Downtown Y. M. C. A.

The men's novice foil tournament resulted in a three-way tie between Ben Harris, Charles Morgan,

and Lester Liebmann. Harris took first place in the fence-off.

Fencing his way through the field without a defeat, Hardin Walsh won the novice sabre competition. Second place went to Roger Petersen, third to Charles Morgan.

For the fourth straight season the Fencers Club foils team, composed of Conway Briscoe, Lawrence Gregory and William Chiprin, captured the open team championship. LaSeptieme's team—Tracy Barnes, Ben Harris and Everett DuPen—was defeated 5-2 by the defending champions; and the Vicals trio of Miller, Hardin Walsh and Edward Maher, lost by a 5-4 score.

Fencing for the St. Louis Y. W. C. A., Misses Lucille Haenni, Dorothy Kickham and Gertrude Michaels won the women's novice foil team championship. A composite trio made up of Misses Dawson, Edna Gustavson and Schweig finished in second place, with Edna Gustavson winning all her bouts. Four other teams competed in the meet.

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PHILADELPHIA

There were 10 contestants in the Prep foil contest. Winner was Oscar Parsons of the Philadelphia Sword Club with William Harm of the Valley Forge Military Academy, second, and Harold Ervin of Haverford School, third.

James Gassaway of the Radnor Sword Club won the Prep epee contest which attracted only four competitors. James Hamill of Haverford placed second and William Campbell of V. F. M. A. was third.

John Clark of Haverford topped a field of seven to win the Prep sabre contest. Second place was won by Oscar Parsons of the Philadelphia Sword Club, while Arthur Landsman of Lehigh University was third.

There were 25 entries in the Novice foil competition which was won by Morris Rudolph of Rutgers University. Paul Makler, P. S. C., took second place and Harry League of Haverford School was third.

The Philadelphia Sword Club "A" team of Philip Shakespeare, Dana Allen and Oscar Parsons won the foil team competition over a field of seven teams. J. Stockhardt, J. Austin and P. Makler of the Philadelphia Fencers Club placed second. Third place went to the P. S. C. "B" team made up of H. League, E. der Mateosian and Knipe.

Paul Makler of the Philadelphia Sword Club placed first in the Novice epee competition. H. Woodlaw, V. F. M. A., won second place. William Bentz of the University of Pennsylvania was third. There were 13 contestants.

Paul Makler, P. F. C., won the divisional Junior foil championship over a field of twenty-one. His club-mate, Oscar Parsons, was second, while Morris Rudolph of Rutgers was third.

Arthur Landsman of Lehigh University, Richard Selvig of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Oscar Parsons, P. S. C., placed first, second and third in the Novice sabre competition. The starting list numbered sixteen.

There were three teams entered in the epee team contest, won by the Philadelphia Fencers Club team of Jay Stockhardt, Paul Makler and Waksman.