SPORTS

The "Lobster."

His drive it was a marvel, and I'm sure the gutty flew
At least a score of inches, and some say 'twas twenty-two.
His second stroke was 'most as good, it missed the gutty clean
But hoisted up six pounds of sod from off the sunny green.

And then he took his jigger up, and with it he did loft
A half a ton of pebbles and some mud both rich and soft.
The pebbles struck his caddie, poor old chappie, in the eye;
The mud fell on some ladies who were haply passing by.

In thirty more he reached the green; in seven neared the cup;
In getting in he used ten putts incontinently up,
And when he footed up his score—near sixty for the hole,
He cried, "I am improving; yes, I am, upon my soul."

Whereat the Green Committee cried, "No need to play again.
You've won the prize on that one hole, most wonderful of men.
No other golfer bad and bold in all our golfing crew
Is in it for a minute, not a minute, sir, with you."

And later on the prize was sent—a mighty pretty prize,
Upon which all his rivals looked with green and envious eyes.
It was a dazzling chafing dish, fit for a regnant King,
Because they thought for Lobsters it was quite the proper thing.

Moral.

The Wocwoo is a lovely bird, and so's the Dodo, too;
The Jabberwock's a ripper, eighteen-karat, through and through;
But when it comes to Duffers, there is not a man who thinks
Who doesn't know the Lobster is the biggest on the Links.

—John Kendrick Bangs in Golf.

PREPARING FOR REGATTA

Rowing Club Working Hard to Make a Success of Event—Baseball and Other Matters.

The past week has been a very busy one with the directors and officers of the Portland Rowing Club, and, as a result, everything is in readiness for the annual regatta of the N. P. A. A. O., which is causing a stir in aquatic circles, and bids fair to prove the most interesting and exciting event in connection with the local Fourth of July celebration.

Both Victoria and Vancouver are showing unmistakable interest and will send a good lot of oarsmen to battle for honors against the well-selected and trained crews of the home club. The competing crews of the Portland Rowing Club have all been carefully selected and entered for the contest, and, judging from the enthusiasm, speed and endurance shown by them at daily practice, they will give a good account of themselves on regatta day.

The senior crew, whose race will be a principal feature of the occasion, is in the pink of condition. The past week's work has been devoted to developing a fast, snappy catch and finish, by having the men pull in short, half-mile stretches, with a hard and fast stroke. This and careful handling by Billy McLeod are accomplishing the finishing touches. As the two Northern clubs will enter young and undefeated crews, there should be a good race among the seniors.

The local club has entered two junior crews which are pulling well together and showing much improvement since going into their paper shells. The keenness with which they fight for first place in their practice "try-outs" is developing their speed and staying qualities in a noteworthy manner.

The local club entries in the double and single sculls are doing as well as can be expected, and the fact that the club is making two entries in each of these events tends to show increased popularity in this class of contests, which have been lightly patronized heretofore.

The Entries.

The entries of the Portland Rowing Club for the regatta of July 3 and 4 closed last week, as follows:

Senior four—L. Stiles, stroke; A. M. Scott (captain), No. 3; J. Rintoul, No. 2; R. D. Ball, bow.

Junior four, No. 1—H. Bennett, stroke; R. G. Durham, No. 2; H. W. Ormandy, No. 2; P. W. Knight, bow.

Junior four, No. 2—L. Newman, stroke; W. Morton, No. 2; J. Munro, No. 2; A. Haradon, bow.

Senior double scull—A. M. Scott, stroke; R. C. Hart, bow.

Junior double sculls, No. 1—L. Stiles, stroke; R. D. Ball, bow.

Junior double sculls, No. 2—F. Peterson, stroke; E. McClabe, bow.

Senior single sculls—W. J. Patton and A. M. Scott.

Junior single sculls—R. D. Ball and E. Gloss.

Baseball.

Interest in baseball among the Multnomah players is not diminishing, even although the memories of recent defeats by the Californians still remain. The experiences have had a salutary effect, and as the Stanford aggregation expects to stop over here on its return from Spokane and the Puget Sound cities about July 7, the Multnomah nine will have a chance to cross bats with their victorious antagonists again. Hints are thrown out of possible changes in the make-up of the Multnomah team. It has good timber that should, if properly placed, make a first-class nine, and a step like that suggested might prove advisable.

The next game of the Multnomahs will be played with the Chemawa Indians, July 4. A cup will be awarded the winner of the contest by those having charge of the Independence Day celebration, and the boys are practicing daily in the hope that it may come their way. The Multnomah baseball nine will also participate in the scheduled athletic events at Gladstone Park. The Chemawas will compete, and nines from Oregon City and Washington are also expected to take a hand in the fun.

Seattle Games and Tennis.

The Multnomahs will send a strong team to Seattle to take part in the P. N. A. games, on July 3. Among others who will attend are Kerrigan, Trenkman, Blumenthal, Heater, Kerron, Gammie, Rasch, Hansen, Murphy, Wood, Dammasch, Anderson, Zan and McMillan. Trainer Jack King will accompany them. With such an aggregation of talent, Portland should get some of the honors. It is the intention to keep this same team in practice for the Chautauqua contests.

The Multnomah round-robin tennis tournament will be completed by July 1. Following that, beginning July 18, the principal event in the tennis year will be the championship tournament. It will continue for three or four days, and already much interest is being manifested therein. Entries are expected from the Y. M. C. A., the Waverly Golf Club, the clubs on Puget Sound and also from Spokane and Victoria. Inducements have been offered the Hardy brothers, the single and double champions of California, to participate. The principal trophy for competition at the tournament is the Fiske cup, won last year by Lieutenant Bethel, who is now in Alaska.

Following the Multnomah contests will be others, to be held at Tacoma and Seattle. These are also championship affairs.

Y. M. C. A.

The members of the Y. M. C. A. Athletic Club are putting in their spare moments training for the annual Chautauqua meet, at Gladstone Park, July 4. Wilcox is preparing for the hurdles, but he is undetermined as yet whether to attempt the pole-vault, although the chances are that he will not. Minot and Scott will compete in the 220 and the 440-yard dashes, and Emil Parker will enter for the 100-yard sprint. For the shot-put, Victor Paquet is practicing daily, while Bacchus will have a try for the high jump.

The Association will continue its tennis tournaments all through the Summer, there being much interest shown in them, while, as to baseball, it will not put a team in the field this season. This is reported to be largely due to the absence of Physical Director Ringler in the East, whence he will return about July 1.

Yachting and Cycling.

Owing to the inclemency of the weather, the cruise of the Oregon Yacht Club that was to have taken place Saturday a week, failed to materialize. It will be held at some future date. The club is preparing for the Fourth of July regatta, and it is likely that the celebration committee will award at least $100 in prizes, to be divided among the several classes of yachts. The rain has prevented the members of the club from indulging as much as they would like in their favorite recreation of late.

Some time ago a meeting was held at the City Hall of leading local wheelmen, at which J. G. Mack, County Commissioner, presided. Its object was to organize all the dux-paying cyclists of the city in one body. The committee appointed to draft a constitution has since reported, and County Commissioner Mack has called a meeting for tomorrow evening to act thereon. T. Brooke White, who is one of the oldest and most enthusiastic wheelmen of Portland, is the promoter of the present movement.

Notes.

The new handball court of the Multnomah Athletic Club is rapidly being gotten into shape for playing purposes.

The annual "low jinks" of the Multnomahs will occur today at Riverside, near the White House. It is expected that about 300 will attend.

AMONG ENGLISH OARSMEN.

Thames for the Championship—Crew May Come to America.

The latest foreign mail, says the New York Sun, brings particulars of a decision by the trustees of the Sportsman challenge cup, which carries with it the sculling championship of England, that is of interest to scullers all over the world, and will probably result in a match for the possession of the historic trophy. Some time ago James Wray, of Australia, challenged George Towne, also of Australia, to row for the cup, but stipulated that the race take place on the Tyne. Under the conditions then existing, this was not unreasonable, as Towne won the championship on the Thames, and there was a rule stating that the cup should be rowed for alternately on the Thames and Tyne. The rule has not been strictly adhered to. The trustees have frequently changed the venue at the request of competitors, and the last five races for the championship have been rowed on the Thames.

Towne objected to row on the Tyne, and appealed to the trustees to order the race to take place in the South, pointing out that Wray was not a Tynesider, and urging that as the Thames Conservatory had no power to regulate the traffic during the progress of a race, that river did not afford a course suitable for the decision of such an important event.

Thames Course Favored.

After consideration the trustees, W. M. Chinnery and W. H. Grenfell, decided to alter the rules to make the Thames championship course the sole course on which matches for the professional sculling championship of England shall be rowed in future. The late Earl of Londesborough, who was the third trustee, wrote a letter a day or two prior to his death, last April, approving the exclusive use of the Thames. The North Country oarsmen were surprised and upset at the condemnation of the Tyne, and quoted the opinion of Ned Hanlon that the course on that river was the best over which he had ever sculled. Wray, however, accepted the edict philosophically and immediately issued a challenge to scull Towne for the cup in eight or ten weeks from signing articles.

A great array of amateur scullers are practising on the Thames for Henley and the Metropolitan regattas. Fox, of Pembroke College, who is considered a coming man, has decided not to row at Henley, but will take part in several local events. B. H. Howell, Thames R. C., the American who holds the diamond sculls, is out every night at Putney with his mentor, W. G. East, and is doing good work. His most formidable opponent, H. J. Blackstaffe, of the Vesta R. C., is also out nightly, but practises alone.

The chances of England sending over a representative crew to compete against American oarsmen was the subject of lengthy comments by "Old Blue," a regular correspondent of the Sporting Life, on May 22. The comments are made in response to a query from a supporter of rowing in this country, and that the project may be carried out is evident from the following extracts:

Owes It to America.

"There is no doubt that England owes it to America to send over such a crew. It is now more than 30 years, I believe, since we did so, and during the interim the Yankees have visited our shores very many times. It appears that, despite the recent visit of Mr. Lehmann and the incisive advice he gave to the Harvard men, American oarsmen generally still believe in the efficacy of their own particular stroke, as against that advocated by the famous old Cantab.

"My friend says that Mr. Lehmann favors the idea of such an international race in the near future, which, if so, is half the battle. The honorable secretary of the A. R. A. is the very man to engineer and render comparatively easy such a competition. He himself will pick an English eight which would be sure to do the Old Country justice; but will he? Every detail seems to have been considered. As Mr. Lehmann is of the opinion that only a nontidal stream gives a true test of oarsmanship, the Yankees are willing to row on Saratoga Lake, which comes under that category. For my part, I see no earthly reason why an English representative crew should not go over in 1901.

GAVE HIM RIGHT TIP.

Was Unintentional and Caused Unexpected Results.

"Back in the early '90s," remarked an old-time racegoer the other day to a writer for the New York Sun, "I had the queerest experience in the many years that I have followed the horses. Among my friends in those prosperous days was a young chap whom I only knew by the name of Frank, and how I really got acquainted with him I can't recall. He used to bob up at the track every day and his first question usually was: 'Any thing good today?' Of course I used to give the kid, as I called him, a tip now and then to get rid of him, but he finally became such a nuisance that I made up my mind one day to give him a dead one the very next time he came to me. I missed him for a day or two, and was beginning to think that probably he had quit the tracks for good when one day at Morris Park he turned up as large as life with the usual 'Anything good?' Now is my chance, I thought, to get rid of him for once and all.

"It was the day of the Metropolitan handicap, and about all I could beg and borrow I had put on the favorite, the famous old Tenny. Among the other horses in the race, if I remember right, were Clarendon, Riley, Senorita, Ambulance, Tournament and Tristan. The latter was an outsider in the betting, and it almost went begging at 20 to 1. This was my opportunity, I thought, and I told my friend that Tristan was a sure winner; in fact, I added that it was almost like stealing money to bet on him, and then I watched him run into the betting ring, and, while I thought it was too bad to have to resort to such measures, I felt sure that he would never come to me again for a good thing. Well, the race was started, and about every horse in it appeared to have a chance but Tristan, and I could not help but smile as I thought of my young friend who had only made matters worse for myself and lost a lot of money in the bargain.

"After cashing in, my young friend, wild-eyed and happy, sought me out in the crowd and showered such congratulations on me that I was almost tempted to tell him the truth. He stuck to me closer than ever after that, and it was a couple of years afterward that he finally quit the horses and I lost all track of him. There was only one consolation in that race for me, and that was the fact that Tristan had to establish a new record to beat my horse Tenny, and the record of 1:51¼ for a mile and an eighth I guess stands today."

BITS OF SPORT.

Echoes From Baseball, Boating, Golf and Croquet Circles.

With the two days' meet of the Northwest Tournament Association, which opened at Victoria, B. C., Thursday, and the Land and Water Carnival, to be held at Nelson, B. C., July 2 and 3, the people over the line are not, as are seemingly those of Portland, losing their interest in sports.

Local sportsmen are looking eagerly forward to the annual championship field and track games of the Pacific Northwest Association, July 3, at Seattle.

Yachtsmen may be interested in a new attachment for sailboats which allows the mast to be moved to either side of the boat, as the wind shifts, a horizontal arm being pivoted at the forward end of the hull, in the outer end of which the mast is set, with a lever which allows the bar to be shifted to adjust the mast.

The police of Spokane have organized a baseball nine and have challenged the newspaper men to cross bats with them on the diamond. No date has been set. In their challenge, the cops say: "The only provision we make is that the newspaper men do not practice for the game."

Instead of playing three games at Spokane, as originally scheduled, the probabilities are that the Stanford baseball team will play five games. Satisfactory arrangements could not be made with two towns on their list, and they may give Spokane two extra games.

A week ago Saturday the competition in the finals for the T. B. Wilcox cup were played at the Waverly Golf Links, in which Captain Langfitt and A. L. Mills made the highest net score. The finals for the Koehler cup were played last Friday. These events close the active golf season at the Waverly Links.

The croquet ground of the Waverly Golf Club is 90x45 feet in area. New style square wickets have been added, which, to many players, are an improvement over the old-style arch.

SHARP TRICKS OF CADDIES.

Undeserved Defeat Sometimes Comes to Unsuspecting Golfer.

In regard to the sharp practices that are sometimes resorted to in golf, this story, from an exchange, is of interest. It is told by a reliable golfer, as a fact and illustrates the keen interest in the success of his employer, which many a caddie evinces, often at the cost of his employer's reputation, and always at the cost of his own place if he is discovered.

On this occasion the player's ball was found lying behind a big stone in a bunker. The crafty caddie gave the big stone a kick, accompanying the act with the remark, "D'ye think that's wood?" The act resulted in the stone being moved sufficiently to permit the golfer to find his ball in a playable position.

Horace Hutchinson is authority for a story of even deeper craft on the part of a caddy. This one, Hutchinson says, carried with him a supply of green-painted wooden pins. With these he generally waited until the light began to get a little uncertain, and then, when chance afforded him an opportunity, he inserted the pins, heads up, in the green in the line of his opponent's put. As might be expected, this often caused the gutty to take a bad turn, thereby missing the hole. While the exasperated player would be swearing at the wiriness of the grass, at a favorable moment the caddy would put his foot on the pins and drive them into the sod, thus destroying all evidence of his guilt. A certain Scottish player is said to have trained his collie to push his opponent's ball into the burn with his nose.

SHORTENING PITCHING DISTANCE.

President Hart Opposes It, but Favors Amendments on Fouling.

As to the shortening of the distance between the home plate and the pitcher's slab, proposed in Boston, James A. Hart, of the National Baseball League's committee on rules, is not in favor of the idea.

NEEDS A FIRM HAND.

"You remind me of a page in a new book."
"Because I'm clever?"
"No; I have to turn you down so often to keep you in your place."

DISCOVERED THE "CURVE"

MANN, OF PRINCETON, FIRST TOSSED A TWISTING BALL.

Substantiates His Claim to Having Revolutionized Pitching of National Game.

The question as to who invented the curve in baseball, and whether the credit is due to Avery, the old-time pitcher of Yale, or to Joseph McElroy Mann, of Princeton, is affording the theme for an interesting discussion in the New York Times. A correspondent, who signs himself "Yale," hints that it is possible that Cummings, of Harvard, taught both Avery and Mann the curve. He says that Avery used the curve in 1874, and believes that he preceded Mann in its use. A letter from Mr. Mann himself, however, seems to give that gentleman the undeniable right to the credit of having discovered the curve. In his communication he says:

"I was naturally very much interested in your review of Anson's book on baseball. I was especially gratified to see that Mr. Anson, who has been identified with baseball for fully 20 years, and who knows it from A to Z, should give me credit for practically introducing curve pitching, which revolutionized baseball and which made the battery more important than ever, and caused change after change in the pitching rules. Mr. Anson did not get my name right, but the reviewer of the book evidently was an old ball tosser, from the manner in which he brought out the introduction of curve pitching, and he narrated the facts far clearer than I have seen them brought out in many a day. It is now nearly 26 years since I accidentally learned how to curve a ball, and in all that time I have never written a line to establish my claim to the honor of its introduction, although I have been sorely tempted to do so by many of the ridiculous statements I have seen in the papers from time to time.

The Facts.

"Some of these accounts have stated that certain well-known pitchers invented the curve ball in 1872 or 1873—and one account made it 1869—while the pitchers named were not pitching as early as the years mentioned. The facts of the matter are these, and I do not believe any one can successfully refute them: As long as baseball has been played and baseballs have had seams with which to catch the air curve balls have been thrown, and the curve was especially noticeable in the case of a left-handed thrower, whose curve was in the opposite direction from that of a right-handed thrower.

"Now I say that curve balls have always been thrown, but no one thought of using them in the pitching department till 1874. In that year Cummings came to Princeton, and before the game and between innings he would stand on the home plate and pitch (he did not throw underhand) the ball down to second base, starting it at an angle of about 45 degrees. I was greatly interested, and wondered how he got the ball to curve as it did. It was said by his catcher that sometimes he pitched a ball that curved, but I failed to notice any curve that day, for out of five times at the bat I got two base hits and three singles, much to Mr. Cummings' disgust, who said he would fix 'that red-headed pitcher' the next time he came to the bat.

"About this time the Philadelphians came to Princeton, and their left fielder during their practicing would throw the ball with force sufficient to carry it all the way to right field, but after going part of the way the ball would suddenly shoot down and fall far short of right field. These two curious freaks set me thinking, and I wondered and wondered how it was done.

"Toward the close of the season, as the excitement of election increased, each year the college divided into two political parties, and a grand game of baseball (and also of football) was played between Republicans and Democrats. As I had been pitching more than usual just previous to this game, and had a very sore second finger from the effects of pitching, I played third base till the game was well advanced, when our opponents, sizing up our pitcher, were batting him all over the field. I was urged to go into the box and see if we could save the day.

"Got the Curve."

"In order to save my sore finger, I let the ball go out of my hand differently from my usual manner. The first striker up missed the first ball. The second ball was of the same sort as the first, and was also missed, and so was the third. The second ball I noticed looked peculiar, but I could not say just in what respect, but I turned to our shortstop and said, 'Here goes for the e strikes.' Then, after the third strike, I said to him: 'Those balls curved. I've got the curve.'

"I pitched the game out in the same manner, and by watching the ball I saw just what was happening, and afterward reasoned it out as follow:

"B is the ball going toward home plate at the rate of 50 feet per second; at the same time revolving on its axis at the rate of 50 feet per second. Hence the portion of the ball at A as far as the atmosphere is concerned will be going 100 feet per second. The portion of the ball at C will be going toward H, but as it is also revolving in the opposite direction at the same rate, as far as the atmosphere is concerned, there is no advance. Hence we have an atmospheric pressure on one side of 100 and 0 on the other. Therefore, the ball will be forced out of its course toward E. In order to get the opposite curve the ball must be twisted so as to revolve in the opposite direction.

"All this I worked out and practiced in the gymnasium during the Winter, and in the Spring I had the pleasure of seeing many surprised batters, who did not seem to be able to comprehend the situation. Unfortunately I was quite young at the time and did not know how to conceal the manner in which I produced the curve, and it was only a short time before it spread all over the country, which accounts for the confusion as to who introduced it.

"I was on the Princeton nine in 1873, 1874, 1875 and 1876, and batted against all the then famous pitchers, and I do not recall a single one who could curve a ball prior to 1874, when I, as I said above, accidentally stumbled upon it, and then worked it out. Mr. Tyng, the famous Harvard ball player and now the famous golfer, in an article written by him a few years ago and published in Harper's Weekly, said:

Authoritative Statement.

"'It has been said that Cummings, of the old Mutuals, was in the habit of curving the ball long before the adoption of underhand throwing, but I never saw any effective use made of the curve till 1875, when Mann, the Princeton College pitcher, made a great stir in the baseball world by his wide and effective curve. I was a member of the Harvard nine at that time, and when we played our first game that year at Princeton we were treated to an exhibition of the effectiveness of this new style of pitching. The first man to the bat on our side promptly struck out, the second followed suit, and the third did the same. Out of the first nine men at the bat, eight, I think, were unable to hit the ball. We had no idea what was the trouble, except that the bat and ball seemed to have a repulsion for each other, which we could not overcome.

"'About the fifth inning one of our men, who had been standing behind the catcher, came back with the announcement that the balls were curving away from the batsman. There was a general exodus on our part to the backstop to watch this unheard-of phenomenon. Sure enough, there were the balls coming in for the middle of the plate and curving off beyond the reach of the bat.'

Revelation to Tyng.

"Mr. Tyng at that time had batted against many of the then famous pitchers and it was a revelation to him. Some have said that Mr. Avery, of Yale, introduced it before I did, but I do not think Mr. Avery will say that he pitched a curve ball in 1874. At any rate, I have before me, as I write, a ball which I prize very highly, for it was used in a game in New Haven, Conn., May 29, 1875, between Yale and Princeton, in which Mr. Avery and I were the respective pitchers, and in which game Princeton made eight base hits, securing three runs, while Yale did not score a run or secure a single safe hit. Of course, that does not prove who introduced the curve, but I think I have said enough to establish the fact that I was the one who initiated the movement and revolutionized the pitching department of baseball."

The "old ball tosser," to whom Mr. Mann refers in his letter, is W. J. Henderson, of Princeton, of the class of 1878. He bears out Mann's claim to having invented the curve, and believes with him that Avery took it up after seeing Mann use it. He says "the matter was never questioned in 1875 and 1876, when Mann pitched for the Princeton University nine, as such professionals as Fulmer, Boyd, Barnie, Radcliffe and Ferguson would testify."

Acknowledges His Mistake.

"Now that we are out of it," said George Wagner, late owner of the Washington National League Club, recently, "I am free to admit that what the Washington people have generally condemned us for—the policy of selling players—was a mistake. We were forced to sell men early in our connection with the club to save ourselves from serious financial loss, and we had good business reasons in every case since then. These matters, however, never will be considered by any baseball enthusiast.

"Suffice it to say, we made a mistake. If, by some turn in affairs, we should reenter baseball, there will be a change. Should our good players become dissatisfied, as some of our Senators did, they will be traded to the best advantage. If this cannot be done, they will be released outright. We will never again be put on the defensive as the result of selling players."

"Cyclone" Hughes, of the Omahas.

A phenomenal pitcher has dawned on the baseball world, in the person of "Cyclone" Hughes, with the Omaha team. His work in the box is said to be truly wonderful. One authority says of him:

"No club has been able to get over six hits off him. Such old-timers as Buck Ebright, McKibben, Ira Davis and Billy Hulen say he is the best pitcher they ever saw, and they all say he is equal to his California namesake."

RUSIE, OF THE "GIANTS."

NEW YORK BASEBALL TEAM'S FAMOUS PITCHER.

This picture of Amos Rusie, the crack pitcher of the New York baseball nine, and the idol of the "fans" throughout the East, in the act of delivering a ball to the batter, is one of the most successful things of the kind yet done by H. Pruett Share, the New York newspaper artist who has been distinguishing himself of late in this class of work. It is full of life and spirit.

LANKY BOB'S HARD LUCK

FITZSIMMONS OUT A LOT BY COLLAPSE OF RUHLIN FIGHT.

His Wife Ill, Lion and Dog Dead, Peacock Dying, Pony Strayed, and He Was Doped.

Bob Fitzsimmons has been experiencing more than his share of ill fortune of late. There was genuine regret on all sides among sporting men when the arrangements for his fight with Gus Ruhlin fell through. This event, which was to have occurred June 15, would undoubtedly have been a good contest, and that fact that Ruhlin will meet Sharkey, in place of McCoy, does not serve to do away with the feeling of dissatisfaction. There is real sympathy extended to the big Australian. His training quarters, at Bergen Beach, N. J., were converted into a hospital and a morgue during the last week or two of his preparation for the Ruhlin fight. Fitz is overcome with morbid suspicions that some poisoner is at the bottom of all his troubles. In a recent itemized statement of his woes, he said:

"My pet dog, Chicago Phil, the murderer, is dead.

"My pet pony, Junior, has disappeared.

"My pet peacock is under the house dying.

"My pet lion, Nero II, has crawled under the house and is dying." Later a report was sent in that the lion had died.

"My injured left hand will keep me idle for at least two months, and that means my fight with Ruhlin is off, and a big loss, training expenses and the forfeit.

"Worst of all, my wife is sick, and I was 'doped' in my fight with Jeffries."

"Phil, the Murderer."

The dog Fitz mourns was a champion fighter himself. He never avoided a hot scrap, but belonged to the trouble-hunting bulldog family. His name shows what an imposing record he made in Chicago. It must have taken a good deal of poison to remove him.

The pet lion cost Fitzsimmons $2000. He bought the cub for a rough companion in training. The cub fulfilled the contract to the letter as to roughness. He wore no gloves on his paws, and kept his claws well sharpened.

According to one story, this young lion put Fitz's hand out. The first report was that the cub, during a romp, bit the prize-fighter's hand, and there is some mystery here. Soon after another report said that the hand was hurt while Fitzsimmons was hammering Dunkhorst in a fight. Then came another version—Fitz's pony had stepped on his hand in one of their frolicsome wrestling matches, and the hand swelled and Fitz had lanced it with a dinner knife.

The peacock under the house has a tail which, in moments of extreme ostentation, is seven feet high and 12 across. Recently the peacock, his tail closed like a fan in the Winter and dragging mournfully after him, crawled under the training quarters. There he remained, as Fitzsimmons believes, suffering from poison.

Besides being a source of delight to Fitzsimmons, Junior, the pony, was a regular member of the pugilist's training staff. Lanky Bob boxed and wrestled with the pony every day, and the latter would allow none but Fitzsimmons to approach him.

Pony's on a Vacation.

It is Fitzsimmons belief that his chief sparring partner has run away from home in a playful moment. Fitz recently gave the pony a heavy uppercut on the withers with his remaining good hand, and now fears that the proud quadruped took this so to heart that he decided to decamp for other pastures. A general alarm has been sent out, and Fitz is hoping against hope to hear of his latest playmate. The pony disappeared from the meadows adjoining the Fitzsimmons home 10 days or more ago.

Fitz's hand is giving him much pain, and this is naturally filling him with dark suspicion. His hand was operated on at Bellevue Hospital, and a large amount of pus was removed. Bob has the following to say on the outlook:

"I am very sorry about this mishap. I never felt better in my life, otherwise, than I do today. But the doctor was imperative in his order that I should not fight Ruhlin or any one else on June 15, and I reluctantly yield to his superior knowledge of how badly I am hurt. He told me that I must rest the hand for at least a month, and I suppose I shall have to do that, too."

An expert on pugilistic matters has estimated that Fitzsimmons' lame hand will prove a heavy item of expense. His estimate of Fitz's losses are as follows:

Training expenses	$ 500
Forfeit to Ruhlin	500
Forfeit to Westchester Club	500
Probable share of fight with Ruhlin	10,000
Betting, if he defeated Ruhlin	5,000
Estimated profits from moving pictures	15,000
Probable share of intended match with Sharkey	12,000
Income from exhibitions after fight	5,000
Total	$48,500

HINTS TO BALL-PLAYERS.

Earn Big Salaries and Should Try to Please the Public.

John B. Foster always says something worth listening to, when he speaks on baseball matters. Here is an excerpt from a recent article written by him to a sporting journal:

"Ball-players take their occupation too seriously. That might seem to be a harsh statement on its face, but it is not. It is the truth. There is no necessity for baseball in this country. Professional baseball is merely the toleration of the public. As a Nation we could get along without it just as well as we could get along without horseracing, and without sundry other amusements. We don't want to do so, for the very good reason that harmless amusement is a good safety-valve. But that the public can speedily become disgusted and disappointed with the game was exemplified when baseball was practically boycotted in 1890.

"What the players should do is to please the public in every little way that is possible. Instead of sending them away from the games disgusted at what they have seen, spectators should at least be sufficiently satisfied to want to come again. If anything happens on the field that savors of organization work, there is bound to come criticism, and plenty of it.

"The great trouble with the ball-player is that he will not perceive that he is well paid for the service that he renders. Men who are in the business for a long time and take good care of themselves draw many thousands of dollars. Their work is not half so hard as that of the blacksmith, the carpenter, the tinsmith, and the ironworker, any one of whom would be glad to get as much, and get it so easily. Very few young professional men get as much as the average ball-player. There is many a young lawyer and young doctor who struggles along for ten, or even more, years, after his graduation, glad to see $1000 coming in each year to keep the wolf away from the door. Some can't get that much. The average newspaper writer makes but little more, and sometimes much less, for a hard year's work than the ball-player gets for his six months' contract."