

A BIT OF BLUE CHALK.

It Stirs Up a Wordy War Between Cushion Carrom Billiard Players.

A little block of blue chalk used by billiard players abroad, and by those in this country when they can get it, caused a lively display of temper at Maurice Daly's billiard room last evening.

It was the fourth night of the cushion-carrom billiard match between Edward Fournie of Paris and Thomas J. Gallagher of Chicago. At the end of Wednesday night's play Gallagher had scored 500 points and Fournie 451, leaving the American 49 points in the lead. Up to the end of the play on that evening both men had used the bit of blue cue chalk in the most amicable fashion. It is supposed to be the only piece of chalk of the kind east of Chicago, where both Ives and Schaefer are using it in their match. It is of Italian make, and is said to be a surer preventive of mis-cues than any other kind manufactured. At least all the professionals claim this to be the case.

Fournie was much cut up by the lead that Gallagher had gained on him. He also learned that Gallagher had lost the bit of the prized chalk that he possessed. So Fournie announced that hereafter he would use his own chalk, and let Gallagher use the common white sort that is furnished in all billiard rooms. So the play began with Gallagher handicapped by the color of his chalk.

Gallagher opened the evening's play with a run of 8, and ended it with a miscue. The Frenchman made 3 and shoved his prized blue chalk into his trousers pocket. Gallagher piled up 8 more carroms with a white-chalked tip, and then missed, and Fournil put 4 to the credit of the blue chalk.

Still using his modicum of white chalk, Gallagher pulled 12 billiards together in the third inning by open table play. Then, after Fournil and Gallagher had both missed, the Frenchman worked the blue-chalked cue for 18 billiards, all made in the lower left-hand corner by extremely clever rail play.

From that on the game went very tamely up to the sixteenth inning, when Gallagher ran 11, following with two runs of 5 each in the next two innings, the score then being Gallagher 76 and Fournil 39. The latter then did some of the cleverest playing in the game. Beginning with a long draw, he got the balls together in the lower left-hand corner. There he toyed with them, coaxed them, made massé shots and bank shots, all in the corner, until he had scored 31. Then the balls broke, and a long shot around the table was necessary to bring them together. The blue chalk came into play, and after a liberal application, the shot was made and welcomed with a round of applause.

There was more applause when the thirty-eighth shot was made, and the best man of the match scored. Fournil kept up the blue chalk play until he had put 43 shots to his credit, and made the largest run of the match. He missed on a hard cross-table shot.

Gallagher's luck of Wednesday night had deserted him, the balls rolling badly, and kisses and miscues interfering with his attempts to score. The white chalk was, of course, to blame.

In the thirtieth inning Fournil left his precious bit of chalk on the rail on the side of the table opposite him, and, just when Gallagher was going to play, Fournil reached across with his cue, tipped the chalk across the table, captured, and pocketed it. Gallagher protested in Chicagoese, and said it was not the proper thing to do, as it "rattled" him, and to this incident he laid the blame for scoring but one point.

Fournil was plainly angry, and did not hesitate to show it, though he could not quite understand what Gallagher said, and inquired of his Franco-American friends. He was "out for blood" in the inning, and scored 12 before he stopped playing.

Again in the thirty-fifth inning Gallagher found the bone of contention—that blue chalk lying on the rail, and in his way. He threw it to the floor and said to the marker: "Tell him to keep that confounded thing off the table and out of my way."

Then there was an explosion. In vigorous Parisian Fournil denounced the act as ungentlemanly, uncalled for, and such an act as would never be tolerated in France.

Gallagher responded vigorously, and the two protested in chorus to the spectators, the Frenchmen trying to conciliate Fournil, and the Americans to calm down Gallagher. One Frenchman in the crowd made himself Fournil's champion and protested against the "ungentlemanly treatment" of his fellow-countryman.

The players scowled at one another in French and American fashion alternately, and both were so badly "rattled" that neither played his game, Gallagher getting but one point in five innings. In the thirty-seventh inning they were tied, at a grand total of 614 each, but in the forty-first, both having calmed down, Gallagher got 7 white-chalk billiards together, Fournil following with 24 blue-chalk fellows, and missing another good run by slipping up on what looked an easy massé on the rail.

The play from that point on was tame, Gallagher alone making double figures in a run of 12 in the forty-fifth inning. Fournil made the three points necessary to reach 650 in the forty-seventh inning, and left the balls well for his play this evening.

The score by innings:

Fournil—3, 4, 0, 18, 0, 4, 2, 1, 2, 0, 0, 0, 1, 3, 0, 1, 0, 43, 8, 1, 6, 11, 2, 8, 1, 0, 5, 1, 5, 12, 0, 12, 0, 0, 1, 2, 6, 0, 2, 0, 24, 1, 1, 1, 3, 1, 3—199.
Grand total—650.
Average—4 11-47.

Highest Runs—43, 24, 18, 12, 12, 11.
Gallagher—8, 8, 12, 0, 3, 5, 3, 1, 3, 0, 8, 2, 0, 1, 1, 11, 5, 5, 0, 6, 0, 5, 5, 0, 1, 6, 1, 2, 1, 1, 1, 7, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 7, 1, 0, 2, 12, 6, 1—148.
Grand total—643.
Average—3 2-47.

Highest Runs—12, 12, 11.

Play on another string of 150, bringing the score up to 800, will begin at 9 o'clock to-night. Fournil will have the first shot.