

BILLIARD SEASON RICH IN PROMISE

Noted Amateurs and Professionals Planning for Big Matches.

FOSS WILL PLAY IN FRANCE

French Amateur Champion Will Probably Be Seen in This City Before the Season Closes.

An enthusiasm built upon the outlook for a remarkable season of match and tournament play has caused billiard players to make their plans earlier than in former years. Among the leading amateurs Wilson P. Foss, the undefeated American champion, is busy preparing for his most ambitious effort. Foss will enter the international amateur championship tournament, to be held in Paris, France, during February, when he hopes to meet Rerolle, the French amateur champion. The return match which Rerolle promised Foss last season seems likely to be held in this city before the season closes. Foss also will try for the American title, which he defaulted last season, and may possibly play in one of the big handicap tournaments that are being arranged.

Although his retirement was announced some weeks ago, J. Ferdinand Poggenburg, the present holder of the Gold Cup, emblematic of the American amateur championship, has engaged in some match play, and it is believed by his admirers that he will not only defend his cup, but will be a competitor in many of the tournaments. Poggenburg's best average this season was made in match play at the Broadway Academy, when he scored a fraction above 15 and counted a run of three figures at 14-inch balk line, with two counts in balk.

Maurice Vignaux, the great Frenchman, is still able to hold his various championship titles against the assaults of the professionals. Vignaux holds the championship at eighteen-inch balk line for one and two counts in balk. The former he won from George Sutton, who had acquired it on the default of Schaefer, and the latter he won on the grand average system after the tournament in Paris. Slosson has arranged to challenge Vignaux for both titles, and will leave for France about the first of January. The return of Jacob Schaefer to this country seems to be a certainty. With Schaefer here, it will be an impossibility to keep the two old rivals, Schaefer and Slosson, from a match. They represent the highest development of the American billiard professional, and are practically on even terms as to victories over each other.

FRENCH BILLIARDS IN COURT.

Academy Gambling in Paris to be Stopped—Americans May Return.

Recent advices from Paris, the Mecca of all billiard lovers, both professional and amateur, indicate that play in the academies of that city is about at an end. The matter is now in the highest court of France, and a decision is likely to be handed down at any time. For two years there has been much agitation against the gambling games of the billiard academies, and the matter was once before taken into court, but as the games at that time were confined to billiards and the claim made that billiards was a game of skill and not chance, the academies were allowed to continue. Recently, however, other games alleged to be distinctly gambling games have crept into the academies, and the evidence seems to be such that the play and betting in such places will be stopped.

In Paris the billiard academies are run much after the pattern of the race tracks in this country. There is a card of approximately six short matches, and the spectators bet on the winners, the house taking a small percentage of the bets which the players receive. Jacob Schaefer, Ora Morningstar, George Sutton, and Leonard Howison form the American contingent now in Paris. Schaefer and Howison are disengaged, while Morningstar is at the Olympia Academie, and Sutton at the Grand Café. William Catton, another American, has recently returned to this country because of the prospect of the academies closing. In the event of the probable adverse decision, all of the Americans will return home. Billiard lovers in this city hail this prospect with delight, as it will bring about a number of high-class matches and contribute to a brilliant season for the sport.

"SUGAR" WAS CINDERS.

Grocery Man Paid \$10 for Barrel—Found Mistake Too Late.

Two men drove up to the grocery store of Max Lipschitz, at 46 Broome Street last night, and asked the proprietor if he wanted to buy a barrel of sugar, displaying at the time a sugar barrel in the wagon. The men told the grocery man that they would sell the sugar for \$10, and he told them to put it in the store. This they did.

Lipschitz paid them the money, and as they started to drive away, he discovered that the barrel contained cinders. He yelled after them at the top of his voice and started in pursuit. Several policemen joined him, but the men jumped from their wagon and escaped in the Bowery.

The wagon was marked "Schultz, No. 320 Grand Street, Brooklyn." The police learned that there was a grocery at that number in Grand Street, but they were unable to learn how the men secured the team.