

HOPPE TO PLAY IN RED CROSS BENEFIT

Billiard Champion and Other Stars Will Appear at Elks' House on Saturday.

The billiard exhibition by William F. Hoppe, H. A. Wright, Jacob Schaefer, and Charles Peterson at Elks' Lodge 1 next Saturday afternoon and evening, for the benefit of the Red Cross, promises to attract large gatherings and realize a large fund, as interest in the event is being manifested by devotees of the game. The affair will be under the management of the Billiard Committee of Lodge 1, of which Howard French is Chairman. There will be absolutely no expense, as the players will perform without compensation, the Brunswick-Balke-Collender Company will furnish a table and provide seating arrangements, and there will be no free list. Every Elk even who attends will buy a ticket, and on the afternoon and evening when the playing is to take place the clubhouse will be open to the public.

Each exhibition will begin with a lecture by H. A. Wright of San Francisco upon "How to Play Billiards," accompanied by demonstrations by William F. Hoppe, champion of the world at balkline billiards. In the afternoon Hoppe and young Jacob Schaefer of Chicago will engage in a game of 250 points, 18-2 balkline. This will be followed by 20 points at three-cushion between Hoppe and Wright. At night the balkline game will be between Hoppe and Wright, and in the three-cushion contest Hoppe and Schaefer will figure. Both entertainments will conclude with a spectacular display of fancy shots by Charles Peterson of St. Louis, said to have no rival in his specialty.

Tickets will be on sale at the Elks' Club, the Brunswick-Balke-Collender Company's office, and leading billiard rooms. Boxes seating six persons will cost \$9, and the price of seats will range from \$2 downward to 50 cents

Persons who attended the evening games between Welker Cochran and Albert G. Cutler at Maurice Daly's Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday witnessed brilliant performances at 18-2 balkline billiards. Monday night Cutler won by 300 to 295, and averaged 37½, while Cochran averaged 36%. On his second inning Cochran ran 105. Cutler followed with 177, and stopped because the referee, it is said, did not see a light carrom which affected a count on the 178th stroke.

Tuesday night the difference was 7 points, in favor of Cochran, who had one more inning than his opponent, and averaged 33 1-3. Cutler averaged 36%. As on the previous night two high runs were made in succession. Cochran scored 148 and Cutler replied with 125.

The final night Cutler averaged 29, and was beaten 300 to 116. Cochran made only 27 points in his first four innings. His fifth visit to the table resulted in an unfinished run of 273, obtained by beautiful execution and approved balkline method. With few exceptions the points were gathered at the head section of the table. After having obtained control of the spheres he made 77 carroms before he made a long drive. His work at Daly's was nothing short of phenomenal. During nine days he made four averages of 60 and one of 100 in 300-point games, and ran 229, 273, and 301. Cutler also showed rare if not championship skill. His massé work was particularly excellent.

Robert Mortier, the French artist and amateur billiard expert, who is rapidly acquiring the use of the English language, pronounced the playing of Cochran and Cutler "Fine, very fine," and added, "Cochran very close to Hoppe. In one year even with him. He reminds me Cassagnol; gives the cue ball stroke and rotation like Cassagnol. Is wonderful boy." Mortier does not use the terms English and twist, in vogue among American devotees of billiards. When referring to the spin imparted to a cue ball he adheres strictly to the scientific and literal term—rotation.

Frank Taborski of Schenectady, holder of the continuous pocket billiard championship, will defend his title against Lawrence Stoutenburgh of Buffalo during the week beginning May 21. Youngstown, Ohio, has made a liberal offer for the match. Buffalo is also trying to induce Taborski to play there. Without the consent of the challenger the champion cannot play in any other than his home city. Heretofore, matches for the title now held by Taborski have been played in blocks of 150 points, with a break each night, and not as a continuous game of 450 points, played in three sessions.

Stoutenburgh wishes to play a continuous game, and has written to the Brunswick-Balke-Collender Company, asking for a ruling on the subject. Charles P. Miller, Vice President of the company, replied that Stoutenburgh had a perfect right to insist upon playing a continuous game, in which fourteen balls would be pocketed in the final frames on the first and second nights and the positions of the fifteenth object ball and the cue ball should be marked so that they could be replaced for the resumption of play on the second and third nights. To this definition of the continuous game he added that if the principals to a championship match would agree to compete at blocks of 150 no objection would be pressed.