

A STIR IN BILLIARDS.

The wires between here and Chicago were busy yesterday negotiating with Jacob Schaefer with the laudable view of making arrangements for the twin tournaments heretofore spoken of in *THE TIMES*, one for this city and the other for Chicago, and at dates yet to be selected. It goes almost without saying that Maurice Daly and William Sexton will play nothing but cushion carroms, that Eugene Carter would like to have a chance to play that game, and that George F. Slosson is in favor of almost any style of carroming that will once more bring the leading but inharmonious experts before the public, cue in hand and blood in eye. At the time the wires ceased to vibrate for the day nothing definite had been accomplished. Schaefer's attitude is neither of acquiescence nor of passivity. He telegraphed that he would not play in a cushion-carrom tournament, but that he would play a match at that game or at 14-inch balk-line with anybody atop of the earth, or would enter a balk-line tournament. This declaration need not be regarded as conclusive. Schaefer made it six years ago, and two cushion-carrom tournaments, one in this city and the other in Chicago, have since been inspired by his potent cue. Just now he is in the position occupied every now and then by all the other chief experts. They are readiest to do anything that no other of their class is anxious to do. The tournaments will probably be held.

The Columbian Room is silent. Its new proprietor, George F. Slosson, closed it yesterday preparatory to refitting. To-day the tables will be taken out by the Brunswick, Balke & Collender Company and made virtually new. The gas fixtures are to be superseded by more modern ones and the floor, heretofore of oiled wood, is to be carpeted in velvet. Frescoers will begin work on the ceiling to-morrow. There is to be an entirely new bar of white ash, with trimmings to match. Its place will be no longer in the main hall, but in the committee room, the wall of which is to be alcoved for the purpose, as it was when P. D. Kilduff opened the place 23 years ago next December. The entrance from Broadway is also to be improved. It is Slosson's desire to transform what was built expressly for a billiard room into "the finest in the land." The alterations will cost \$7,500, it is figured. The various contracts call for their completion on Oct. 4. The room will probably be opened at the close of that week. Leslie Slosson will co-operate with his brother in conducting the establishment.

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