

# PLAYGROUND GYMNASTICS

## City's Provisions for Athletic Development of School Children.

### MONEY SPENT ON THE PROJECT

Nearly \$22,000 Was Expended During July and August for Instruction in the Various Departments.

The annual gymnastic tournament of the public playgrounds attached to the city schools, which was concluded last week at the Crotona Park open-air gymnasium, served to call attention to an important but little-known feature of the city's educational system. There are twenty-nine of these playgrounds, in addition to three open-air gymnasia, seven evening play centres, six recreation piers, and eleven swimming baths, at all of which instruction in gymnastics, games, or swimming is given. The services of over three hundred teachers are employed, and the number of pupils is over five thousand. The cost to the city for the two months the playgrounds are open is over \$20,000.

The playgrounds are opened in July, soon after the closing of the regular school work, and are kept open until September. They are located as follows:

Public School No. 1, Henry and Oliver Streets; No. 2, Henry Street; No. 16, West Thirtieth Street; No. 20, Rivington Street; No. 30, East Eighty-eighth Street; No. 32, West Thirty-fifth Street; No. 33, West Twenty-eighth Street; No. 42, Hester Street; No. 49, East Thirty-seventh Street; No. 51, West Forty-fourth Street; No. 80, West Forty-first Street; No. 82, East Seventieth Street; No. 88, East Ninety-sixth Street; No. 92, Broome and Ridge Streets; No. 96, East Eighty-first Street; 105, East Fourth Street; No. 107, West Tenth Street; No. 113, Downing Street; No. 120, Broome Street; No. 121, East One Hundred and Second Street; No. 131, East Second Street; No. 135, East Fifty-first Street; No. 137, Grand and Essex Streets; No. 141, West Fifty-eighth Street; No. 147, Henry and Scammel Streets; No. 151, East Ninety-first Street; No. 158, East Seventy-seventh Street; No. 159, East One Hundred and Nineteenth Street; No. 160, Rivington and Suffolk Streets.

The open-air gymnasia are situated in Clinton and Claremont Parks, and on a plot of land at One Hundred and Second Street and Madison Avenue, the use of which is given by Jacob Ruppert.

The playrooms are large and on the first floor of the school buildings. The apparatus consists of parallel bars, horizontal bars, ladders, vaulting bars, and a buck, a sort of vaulting horse. The outdoor gymnasia also has flying rings, traveling rings, and rope ladders in addition.

In order to systematize the work classes of ten are formed, each in charge of a leader. The leaders are generally pupils who have had one or more years' experience and are chosen on account of their executive ability, as well as athletic proficiency. They are carefully instructed by the director, and conduct the classes under his supervision.

The exercises of the day begin with the leaders' hour, from 9 to 10 o'clock in the morning. During this hour the leaders are instructed as a class by the director in the exercises which they are to teach in their respective classes.

HOW CLASSES ARE TAUGHT.

At 10 o'clock the gates are opened, and as the boys or girls file in, the leaders take squads of five to ten each and line them up in front of the apparatus. The director now blows a whistle or strikes a gong, and all the leaders begin work at once, one class on the buck, another on the horse, others on vaulting bar, spring board, horizontal ladders, and some in space marked out for jumping, &c. Between 50 and 200 boys are now exercising at the same time on different pieces of apparatus and in different places without interfering in the least with each other. Some sections get through the exercises given quicker than others, but the leader keeps them moving by blowing the whistle or letting the leaders continue the run into the street.

In the afternoon general exercise is allowed from 1:30 to 3 o'clock, and the class work is given from 3 to 5 o'clock. On Thursdays, at 10 A. M. and 8 P. M., the Directors and their assistants attend classes where the exercises for the coming week are exhibited and taught to them. The comprehensive and thorough nature of the instruction given is shown by a list of the various movements on certain kinds of apparatus, which shows, if thoroughly comprehended, what the young gymnast will have accomplished in that branch of athletics.

For the purpose of the recent competition the twenty-nine playgrounds and three open-air gymnasia were divided into four sections. The first or west side division included the following west side schools: No. 16, West Thirtieth Street; 32, West Thirty-fifth Street; 33, West Twenty-eighth Street; 51, West Forty-fourth Street; 80, West Forty-first Street; 107, West Tenth Street; 113, Downing Street; 141, West Fifty-eighth Street. The second or upper east side division included Schools 30, East Eighty-eighth Street; 49, East Thirty-seventh Street; 82, East Seventieth Street; 86, East Ninety-sixth Street; 96, East Eighty-first Street; 121, East One Hundred and Second Street; 135, East Fifty-first Street; 151, East Ninety-first Street; 158, East Seventy-seventh Street and Avenue A, and 159, East One Hundred and Nineteenth Street. The lower east side section included Schools 1, Henry and Oliver Streets; 2, Henry Street; 20, Rivington Street; 42, Hester Street; 92, Broome and Ridge Streets; 105, East Fourth Street; 120, Broome Street; 131, East Second Street; 137, Grand and Essex Streets; 147, Henry and Scammel Streets, and 160, Rivington and Suffolk Streets. The fourth division comprised the three open-air playgrounds—Crotona Park, Claremont Park, and Ruppert Park, at One Hundred and Second Street and Madison Avenue.

The teams from these schools consisted of ten boys each, their ages ranging from ten to fourteen years. Each boy had five movements on each of the four pieces of apparatus, three class moves, and two individual moves.

The preliminary contests were held at School No. 151, East Ninety-first Street, and resulted in the selection of the teams of Schools Nos. 147, (Henry and Scammel Streets,) 82, (East Seventieth Street,) and 51, (West Forty-fourth Street,) and of the Crotona Open Air Gymnasium, to represent their respective divisions in the final contest. This was held at the Crotona Park Gymnasium, and resulted in a victory for the team from School No. 147, with the following score: Buck, 46; parallel bar, 30; vaulting bar, 9½; horizontal bar, 100¼; individual work, 133 5-6; total, 319 5-6. The Crotona Park team was second, its score being: Buck, 36; parallel bars, 28; vaulting bar, 7¾; horizontal bar, 86¼; individual work, 103¾; total, 262.

School No. 82 was third with the following score: Buck, 32; parallel bars, 31; vaulting bar, 8¾; horizontal bar, 84¾; individual work, 101 11-12; total, 258 5-12. The team of School No. 151 did not compete in the finals, though it had qualified.

INSTRUCTORS' COMPETITION.

Following the pupils' tournament came one for the instructors. Preliminary contests were held for both day and evening directors, followed by a final competition. In this Morris Marous, assistant director at School No. 20, East Eighty-eighth Street, obtained first rank with a mark of 117 1-3, in a maximum of 140. Arthur Fairlavet, director at School No. 82, East Seventieth Street, was second with 113 2-3, and A. Frank Chamberlain, director at School No. 160, Rivington and Suffolk Streets, was third.

An interesting feature of the tournament was the exhibition of girls' gymnastics and games, given in the gymnasium of School No. 151, East Ninety-first Street. The exercises, which were performed by classes of ten to twenty girls from eight to fourteen years of age, included marching drill, dumbbell drill, fan drill, flag drill, parallel and horizontal bar work, and special apparatus work. A scarf dance by a class of little Italian girls from School No. 121, East One Hundred and Second Street, was particularly interesting.

In addition to the gymnasium instruction

and practice given at the playgrounds, instruction in swimming is given at the eleven public baths, which are located as follows: Battery, Corlears Street and East River, East Twenty-fourth Street, East Fifty-first Street, East One Hundred and Twelfth Street, East One Hundred and Thirty-sixth Street, West One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Street, West Eighty-third Street, West Fifty-first Street, West Twentieth Street, Duane Street and North River. Instruction is given from 9 to 12 A. M. to girls on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and to boys on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

Kindergarten games are played from 10 A. M. to 5 P. M. at the six recreation piers: Christopher Street, North River; Fiftieth Street, North River; One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Street, Hudson River; Third Street and East River, Twenty-fourth Street and East River, One Hundred and Twelfth Street and East River, and at three places in Central Park as well, East Eighty-fifth Street, West Eighty-third Street, and One Hundred and Tenth Street, between Fifth and Lenox Avenues.

The seven evening play centres are located as follows: For boys, at Schools No. 1, (Henry and Oliver Streets,) 20, (Rivington Street,) 147, (Henry and Scammel Streets,) and 160, (Rivington and Suffolk Streets.) The girls' play centres are at Schools No. 2, (Henry Street,) 42, (Hester Street,) and 92, (Broome and Ridge Streets.) These are open every evening but Sunday all the year around.

The present season is the third for the playgrounds, and the second for the open-air gymnasia, while the evening play centres date only from the 1st of August of last year. They are under the direction of Dr. James T. Gwathmey and Miss Mae Halsted Beattys, and, as already stated, there are over 300 instructors. The general directors receive \$5 a day, and \$3.50 for a half day; the directors \$3 a day and \$2 a half day; the assistant directors are paid \$1.25 for morning work and \$1.50 for afternoon or evening classes, and the swimming instructors, who are on duty but three days in the week, receive \$2 for each day.

The total expense for July was \$9,966, which was apportioned as follows: General directors, \$773.50; directors, \$2,335; assistant directors, \$6,155.50; swimming instructors, \$702; total, \$9,966. For August the expenses amounted to \$11,711.25, divided as follows: General directors, \$903.50; directors, \$2,695; assistant directors, \$7,546.75; swimming instructors, \$566; total, \$11,711.25. The total expense for the two months amounted to \$21,677.25, a considerable sum to expend in two months for athletic and swimming instruction.

### DIFFICULT BILLIARD PLAYING.

Professionals Declare Against the Eighteen-Inch Balk Line Game, "No Shot In."

According to some professional billiardists, the most recent game adopted for tournament play by the top-notchers—the eighteen-inch balk line game, "no shot in," is not a success. Some of the professionals argue that this style of game is too difficult, even for the masters, while others object to it for other reasons, and a sort of a crusade has been begun against the game in Chicago. This crusade, so to speak, has not yet reached New York, but out in Chicago Schaefer, Catton, Sutton, and Carter have found fault with the game.

The game is sometimes referred to as "no shot in," although, strictly speaking, it would seem that there is no such game as no shot in balk. What is meant is that a count can be made with the balls in balk, but that one or both of the object balls must be driven out of balk on the first shot whenever in.

An up-town roomkeeper remarked pertinently that the eighteen-inch balk line game, one shot in, was not too hard when Ives was alive. Professionals are, of course, more qualified to speak of the merits or demerits of the game than others, but it did not occur to laymen that the game was too hard when played here in a match between Schaefer and Slosson. The play was speedy enough. Ever since the anchor nurse was abolished Schaefer has been somewhat disgruntled, although his play without it has been fast enough for anybody.

Schaefer beat Catton in a 1,000-point 18-inch match the other day, with an average of 14 and a high run of 56. There is nothing particularly slow about that. The old established game of cushion carroms does not show any faster counting, and is a style that has been more or less in vogue for a good many years. Maurice Daly, Carter, Slosson, Sexton, Ives, and Schaefer have played it well enough for tournament purposes, and it is doubtful if the play in cushion carroms is as fast as in 18-inch balk line. Certainly it does not afford opportunity for ball-to-ball billiards like the other.

Some of those opposed to 18-inch, "no shot in," want to go back to 14-inch. That might be all right for shortstops and amateurs, but would seem to be a retrogression for the masters. A better compromise is that suggested by Sutton, that the balls be driven out of balk on the second shot—one shot in, Sutton calls it; two shots in, some might call it.

The opinions of the experts gathered in Chicago which follow are interesting, and, of course, worthy of consideration.

Schaefer—I have given the 18-inch balk line a fair test both in private and public, without the privilege of one shot in. I consider the game a complete failure. It is contrary to all natural ideas of billiards, and, consequently, the most beautiful parts of the game are destroyed, and the player is forced to perform inconsistently.

Catton—The eighteen-inch balkline, no shot in, could never be a success. It is too difficult for even such great masters as Vignaux and Schaefer, and entirely too deep for the majority of the players to understand.

Sutton—I would like to see the game changed, allowing the player one shot in. The game as played is too severe on a delicate stroke.

Carter—Any old game suits me, and I can beat anybody at any game, but eighteen-inch balkline as played is too high for even as great an artist as I am.

Joe—Capron—I have never indorsed the eighteen-inch balkline when played allowing no shot. It impedes the progress of a player.

Clarence Green—From the first tournament of eighteen-inch balkline, no shot in, in which the three great masters competed, I figured it a failure then as I do now. It took away those beauties of the game that the public so much admired, such as position and the massé. I feel that better billiards would be played and the public the better satisfied if played on the same basis as fourteen-inch, allowing one shot in. It would surely help the amateurs.

George Slosson's views on the subject differ from the foregoing. "It is a pretty game," says the "Student," "and for one thing, does not contain so much nursing as to become monotonous. I haven't found it too hard, although personally I prefer to play cushion carroms in tournaments. The professionals haven't played the 18-inch game, one shot in, or no shot in—just as you figure it out—enough to develop it. Its possibilities are extensive. It could be developed so that runs of 150 and averages of 25 could be made. As for it destroying many of the beauties of billiards, how about the three-cushion game that they have been playing so much in Chicago? There's no chance for massé shots in that game, and the massé is one of the prettiest shots in billiards."

Raceabouts to Have Tournament.

The Seawanhaka-Corinthian Yacht Club has arranged a series of open races for raceabouts on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday for the special trophy offered by J. Rogers Maxwell. The races will be conducted in tournament form, the contestants being paired each day and the pairs started at five-minute intervals. As the number of probable contestants is as yet unknown, the details of the tournament have not been completed, but the pairing of the yachts will be posted at least an hour before the start of the race on each day.

The races will be held on Long Island Sound off Oyster Bay over a six-and-three-quarter-mile triangular course, which will be covered twice. The probable starting times are as follows: Thursday at 2 P. M., Friday at 10 A. M. and 2 P. M., and Saturday at 1:30 P. M. All entries must be filed with Johnston De Forest, Secretary of the Regatta Committee, at 30 Broadway Street, before Tuesday noon.

Yawl Wonder Sold to F. M. Freeman.

F. M. Freeman, Captain of the Fairfield County Golf Club, has purchased from J. M. Hartshorne of the New York Yacht Club the thirty-six-foot yawl Wonder, which was built by Webber at New Rochelle last year. Mr. Freeman was formerly owner of the racing sloop Dragoon, which Julian Schley of Savannah, Ga., bought early last season as a challenger for the Inter-State Challenge Cup, the most famous yachting trophy in Southern waters. In memory of his old boat Mr. Freeman has decided to rechristen his yawl Dragoon. He has planned a long cruise in Southern waters this Fall, leaving Greenwich, Conn., on Oct. 15.