BILLIARDS.

DECLINE OF BILLIARDS IN NEW YORK.

Parsimonious Room-keepers—What Manufacturers Have Done for the Game There.

Twenty years ago there was but one billiard centre or city in this country, according to the strict acceptation of that term, and that centre or city was New York, just as it was ten or fifteen years anterior to 1865. From 1855 to 1875, or 1877, it one wanted to know what was going on in the world of billiards it was either necessary to visit New York or be a close student of the sporting press. It is true that during the halcyon days of billiards in New York, say from 1855 to 1875, almost every great city in this country boasted also, or to a certain extent, of professional billiard prosperity. Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore, Chicago, Washington, Cincinnati and St. Louis were but little behind their great sister city in this line, yet New York was the great billiard centre where the focus of the billiard world was pointed to.

Since 1876, however, down to the present day professional billiards in New York have been steadily on the decline and growing from bad to worse, and during the past five years there has been so little billiard excitement in the great metropolis of our country that New York City might as well have been blotted from the history of the game for all the good that has been rendered to billiards by her professionals.

Glance at the paucity of professional experts in that city to-day compared with that of fifteen years ago. Then there were such experts as Daly, the two Dions, Rudolphe, Ubassy, Vignaux, Garnier, Slosson, Sexton, Schaefer, Daniels and a host of lesser lights who entertained the hope of making their metropolitan debut at an early date, or, in other words, of appearing in New York as tournament or match players. Slosson, Sexton and Schaefer were then but budding before the public as young masters of the game. Of the eleven players named three are dead—Cyrille Dion, Edward Daniels and Francois Ubassy. Joseph Dion is in an insane asylum, while but two of the others—Sexton and Daly—are in business in New York. The only players, in fact, which New York can boost of to-day are Sexton, Daly and Heiser, the latter being in business in Brooklyn.

What mysterious movement of an all-wise Providence could work so great a revolution in the history of New York billiards in so brief a period as ten or fifteen years? Where are the Phelans, the Collenders, the O'Connors, the Garnos, the Delaneys, the Kavanaghs, the Deckers, the Griffiths, the Brunswick & Balkes and the Frank Queens, who were formerly so jealous of the reputation of the interest of the game in that city? Or is it the fault of New York, and not of the professionals there? Is not, however, that city greater to-day in everything that is calculated to make the great metropolis of the Western world greater than at any period in her history?

Glance at the number of new theatres which have sprung up in that city during the past fifteen years, and glance on the other hand at the number of great billiard rooms that were great then, but which cannot be found now, and it will be seen at a glance that it is not owing to any lack of patronage on the part of the public to support places of amusement. There is but a step between the theatre and the billiard room, the only difference being that the expenses of the former are probably a hundred fold greater than that of the latter. It is true that the sources of revenue are probably at the same ratio. Yet it is almost safe to say that during the past fifteen years fifteen new theatres have sprung up in that city, while probably double that number of once great billiard rooms there, or billiard rooms that were great fifteen years ago, have ceased to exist.

From the earliest period in billiard history, first-class rooms in New York have been among the best paying investment in the world of legitimate amusement in that city. If room-keepers there do not die opulent or retire so from business, it is as a rule their own fault, for with the exception of Chris O'Connor and Cyrille Dion, who died before they were even in the prime of life, they not only are favored with business, but longevity, inasmuch as that it is almost as difficult to kill off the average room-keeper as the proverbial cat with nine lives.

John F. Gleason, who died a year ago, left a fortune variously estimated at from $60,000 to $100,000. Cyrille Dion, probably left nothing, which was his own fault. That he made more than a fortune during his professional career no one conversant with billiard history will question. Chris O'Connor, who should have left $100,000 at least after him, died about $20,000 in debt. Chris O'Connor, however, was the only room-keeper in New York that we have ever heard of or known who spent his money freely in the interest of the business. Not only was he prodigal in the diffusion of his money as room-keeper, but he probably spent more according to his income than most of the manufacturers, or at least any one firm of that city, which is saying much, for were it not for the manufacturers of New York and their liberality during the past quarter of a century, billiards in this country would either be where the game was—in the slums—when Phelan and Collender first took hold of it, or some other part of the country would long since have been the headquarters of the game instead of New York, which was made its headquarters through the ability and liberality of such men as Phelan and Collender, Chris O'Connor, Benjamin F. Garno and Frank Queen.

Unfortunately for billiards, not only in New York, but everywhere, Phelan died fifteen or twenty years before his time. Collender made a noble struggle to maintain the illustrious reputation of his house; but New York room-keepers, who were educated in the belief that manufacturers were made expressly to be financially plucked, are still of the same opinion. This is what billiards are suffering from at the present day in New York. Who can blame Collender, who has always been a practical business man, and who spent vastly more than his share in his day, if he should in time grow weary of doing so much for those who did so little for themselves or for the interest of their calling? The house of Griffith & Co. was but little less generous than that of Phelan & Collender in creating tournaments, while the Brunswick & Balke Co., who but recently became prominently identified with Eastern billiards, spent more than its share of money in New York tournaments and match games, to say nothing of the fact that western billiards were largely indebted to the generosity of this firm.

We are dealing with New York billiards, however in this article, and not the West. The time had now arrived in which it became necessary for manufacturers of New York to realize the fact that self-preservation was the first law of nature. Manufacturers on all sides, whether in the East or the West, were literally hunted down financially so to speak. It was necessary to stare facts in the face, and to make a long story short without wishing to give details to the public which details should be kept from the public for the public good, manufacturers decided to be more just to themselves in the future than their history proves them to have been in the past. This article might easily be extended to such an extent as to fill up every column of this paper, which would only show in the end that while there is no city in this country whose room-keepers can afford to spend so much money in the interest of the calling as New York, there is probably no city where the room-keepers have spent so little in the interest of billiards. That the time has arrived for manufacturers to spend less and room-keepers in New York more is patent to all but the New York room-keepers. Indeed, independently situated as the New York manufacturers have been for the past five or eight years, they contributed more than their share of money towards tournaments in this country.

That tournaments have recently been held in Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis and Hartford, Conn., was owing entirely to the liberality of both manufacturers and room-keepers. New York alone is the only single city where it seems impossible to hold such a tournament, not that room-keepers are poor there or the manufacturers unwilling to assist the room-keepers in creating such a tournament, but owing to the fact that heretofore the manufacturers have had to stand all of the expenses while the room-keepers reaped most of the benefit, for while manufacturers were, no doubt, paid for the excitement which their money created, room-keepers were doubly paid for the same excitement or boom created in their business without paying a dollar for the liberality and generosity of manufacturers.

SIMON WASP.

Do Away With It.

The dark red billiard ball at the present day is like five wheels to a wagon. The four-ball game is played so rarely that there is but little or no demand for the dark red ball. All the same, the dark red ball accompanies every set of billiard balls sold to-day as faithfully as it did a quarter of a century ago. In the three-ball game players will not use the dark red ball, their preference being at all times for the light red. The result is that in rooms with ten or fifteen tables, where there are probably twenty-five sets of billiard balls, one-fourth of the balls, that is, the dark red balls, are really dead stock, and when the white balls and light red balls are worn out there is a stock of dark red balls on hand of but little or no value. It is true that dark red balls can be worked in by experienced room-keepers, but even experienced room-keepers find this a nuisance. To obviate this nuisance, and utilize the red balls both should be made light red. When the four-ball game is played two light red balls can be used quite as well as a light and dark red. This is a hint which manufacturers will see at a glance, while room-keepers already see it. It will be no waste of ivory and will give much more satisfaction to room-keepers and players. Three of the leading rooms in this city have abolished dark red balls.

Caroms.

Thomas R. Bullock expects to have his new book out in two weeks.

"The Model Billiard Hall" is what Foley calls his new room in Chicago.

P. J. Ruddon, manager of Metz & Benton's room, New York, spent most of last week in this city, being one of the snow bound victims who came on here for a lark and got it.

John Fair, who was stricken with paralysis two weeks ago, is reported by one of the Jefferson Hospital physicians to be doing as well as could be expected under the circumstances. The probabilities are that Mr. Fair will be able to get around again in a few weeks time. Mr. Fair is not only a member of the National Billiard Association, but he is high up in the order of Elks.

W. M. Dodd's new room in the Albemarle Hotel, Pittsburg, is said to be one of the finest rooms in the country. Billiards in Pittsburg, however, are reported to be wofully dull, while that city was, a few years ago, one of the best in the country for the game beautiful.

ALTOONA, PA., NOTES.—In a pool tournament which began here at Tracy's room Feb. 14, Heimstead leads, followed closely by Meindle, Lampe and McGough; 510 games have been played and the interest continues to increase as the end approaches. There are 15 entries and 915 games will be played.

Should the buildings in the immediate vicinity of the new City Hall, this city, be purchased, with the view of beautifying the City Hall grounds, three billiard rooms at present located there will become a thing of the past. The rooms referred to are McLaughlin's, Stock & Levy's and Bullock's.

There was considerable anxiety in local billiard circles on Wednesday morning last in consequence of a telegram from Albany, N. Y., that a large fire was raging at Stamford, Conn. John O'Connor, who lives there, has much property in that city, while Callender's factory there is probably the finest building in Stamford.

A St. Louis special says:—"Jake Schaefer, the billiardist, is going to leave St. Louis, his billiard hall having proved a financial failure. The billiard business is overdone here, four large halls having been opened in two years and the price reduced through competition to 20 cents per hour. Jake is making arrangements to locate in Chicago."

AQUATIC.

THE AMATEUR QUESTION AGAIN.

Why the West End Club, of Buffalo, was Admitted to the N. A. A. O.

The following explanation of the action of the National Association of Amateur Oarsmen in admitting to membership the West End Rowing Club, of Buffalo, charged with containing professionals, has been received from Mr. H. W. Garfield, president of the Association:

ALBANY, N. Y., March 13.—At the last meeting of the executive committee of the Association two representatives of the West End Club appeared before us. They stated that the club was anxious to become an amateur organization by purging itself of professional members, and asking clemency for those whose offences had been of a trivial nature. A committee was named by us to investigate the status of each individual applicant, and no action can be taken until this committee has completed its investigation and submitted its report.

It is true that the West End Club has become a member of the National Association. Any duly organized club which adopts our definition of an amateur, subscribes to our constitution, formally agrees to be subject to our rules and regulations and pays one year's dues, is made thereby a member of the Association. We, however, refuse to receive entries at our regatta from any club which has in its membership a professional oarsman or athlete. So that a club containing professionals can be a member of the Association in good standing and yet unable to compete in national races. Until we accept as qualified amateurs the professional members of the West End Club, I cannot see that we are open to adverse criticism.

Very respectfully yours,
HENRY WHITING GARFIELD,
President N. A. A. O.

Ripples.

There will be no varsity boat race between Columbia and Harvard this year.

John Teemer has accepted Gaudaur's challenge to a three-mile single scull race Decoration Day.

The following fixtures have been decided on by the Chelsea (Mass.) Yacht Club:—June 17th, July 14th and September 18th. The races will take place over the Dorchester Bay Course.

The mysterious Mr. Martin not having called for the £50 deposited to match Wallace Ross against George Bubear, the London *Sportsman* paid the money over to Ross before he left England.

The Harlem and Passaic rowing associations have both selected May 30, Decoration Day, as that for their annual spring regatta. This has produced a clash between the two neighboring associations.

The Dorchester (Mass.) Yacht Club has made the following racing fixtures for 1888:—June 18, grand open race; June 30 club race; July 31, club race; August 28, club race; September 15, club race.

The fixtures for the Bay View Yacht Club for the coming season are as follows:—June 18, July 28 and August 29; moonlight sails, June 22, July 20 and August 17; ladies' day, July 18; annual cruise, August 18.

The Bayside Rowing Club, of Toronto, has elected the following new officers:—T. Fitzhenry, president; William Fitzgerald vice president; L. Sievert, treasurer; James Roach, secretary, and Harry Smith, steward.

The Cynthia Club, of Philadelphia, has elected the following officers for the ensuing year:—President, Harry Johnstone; vice president, George W. Connelly; secretary, Jacob Beerwald; treasurer, Robert G. Hollingsworth; captain, William Chambers.

Oarsman Wallace Ross arrived in New York from England, on the 13th. He is in good condition and says that if he can find a backer he will go back to England in the spring and row Charles Carr, who has challenged him to a race for the cup.

Jim Ten Eyck, the oarsman, who is in San Francisco, training O'Connor for the latter's coming race with Peterson, has offered to give any local oarsman of his weight a start of 20 seconds in a three mile race. The offer has not been accepted.

The Essex Yacht Club, of Newark, N. J., has elected the following officers:—H. W. Jourdan, commodore; J. Sannenberg, vice commodore; H. Ramberger, recording secretary; Laureat H. Crane, financial secretary; William Wichelhaus, treasurer; trustees, William Holzhauer, Jr., H. Hennenger and William King.

The Toronto Rowing Club has elected the following new officers:—Hon. president, A. R. Boswell; president, B. W. Gouinlock; first vice president, D. Roberts; second vice, C. A. B. Brown; third vice, J. E. Knox; captain, E. A. Thomson; recording secretary, Geo. Gouinlock; financial secretary, F. H. Thompson; treasurer, H. C. Fortier.

What Hanlan has to endure in Australia may be imagined from the fact that Jan. 19 was the hottest day at Melbourne experienced in twenty years, the temperature being 106 in the shade and 160 in the sun, accompanied by a gale of hot wind. Sparrows died from suffocation in hundreds, and flowers dried up and withered.

The North End Rowing Club, of St. Louis, has these new officers:—Louis S. Kolbeiger, president; James Maccallum, vice president; A. K. Reller, recording secretary; Frank V. Smith, financial secretary; Edward Gundlach, treasurer; George Eckermann, captain; Louis Herbster, lieutenant; William Goessling, Louis Zinser and John H. Gundlach, directors.

The candidates for the Pennsylvania crew are still training assiduously. The men are rowing a slow stroke, pulling about thirty to the minute. This style is better adapted to long races than the quick recovery. The college crew will probably be picked from the following men:—Diggles, Sypher, Audenreid, Church, Wright, Hill, Leaning, Harris, Ross, Savage, Gray, Wilt and Spaeth.

The English yachts Atlantic and Bridesmaid have been matched to sail from England to Madeira for a heavy stake. The start will take place from Southampton water at as early a date as possible, under Royal Thames Yacht Club rules, Jubilee race conditions, and the first of the two yachts which lets go her anchor to the southeast of the Loo Rock Fort, Funchal Bay, will be declared the winner.

A race over the Tyne championship course on Feb. 27, between George Norvell, of Swalwell, and Wm. Pearce, of Hammersmith, for £50 a side, resulted in favor of the latter by ten lengths in 24 minutes. At the end of the first mile Norvell had a lead of three lengths and 20 to 1 was offered against Pearce without finding takers, but the Thames man after that pulled himself together and the Tynesider went to pieces.

The Scotch yacht clubs of the Clyde have agreed to permit the use of centreboards in small-yachts built for racing purposes, and it is said that the Royal Clyde Yacht Club meditates throwing open its summer races to boats of all nations, whether centreboard or keel. If this proves true, it is to be hoped one of our crack big single stickers will cross the Atlantic and give the canny Scotch a chance to see in their own waters how fast a real racer can be driven by sails.

Oars are gradually coming into use in which the blade is made from the best sheet steel, highly tempered, and are alleged to be much stronger than the ordinary wooden ones, and cannot be broken without undue violence; the handle fits into a socket running nearly the whole length of the blade, and forming a backbone of great strength, and the oar, being much thinner in the blade than the wooden one, enters and leaves the water cleaner. The handles are made separately, of spruce or ash.

George Hosmer has not lost any of his popularity by his engagement with the "Dark Secret" Company. He has received pressing solicitations to train the Minneapolis, Baltimore and Pittsburg boat clubs, but has declined contracting with any of the parties until the close of his present engagement in Boston in April. Jefferson and Taylor could not have selected a better man for their regatta scene than Hosmer, and it will be George's fault if he does not remain with their company for several seasons.

The Passaic Rowing Association has decided to drop out the pair-oared shell race, four-oared barge race and the junior double-scull race in the regatta of May 30. The prizes will be:—For single sculls, four-oared gigs, four-oared shells, junior and six-oared gigs, a medal to each individual in the winning crew and a handsome silk banner to the club they represent. For four-oared shells, senior and junior single scull, also eight-oared shells, the challenge cups and plate of the association and individual prizes. Entries close May 29.

A regular meeting of the College Boat Club of the University of Pennsylvania was held at the Colonnade Hotel, March 13 and these officers were elected:—President, David L. Milne; first vice president, A. Gray; second vice president, G. Brooks; secretary, J. Head; treasurer, A. McGeorge; captain, J. D. Spaeth; first lieutenant, A. B. Galloway; second lieutenant, C. B. Zeilin; electing committee, C. B. Zeilin, A. B. Galloway, R. Wilson; S. Leonard, E. Brooke, F. Baker and D. Pepper; delegates to the naval board of the Schuylkill Navy, T. G. Hunter and F. F. Hallowell.

Princeton College, in mass meeting March 7, elected J. R. Barr, '89, president, and I. J. Charlton, '90, treasurer of the Foot Ball Association.

A. G. SPALDING & BROS.

A TALK WITH CATCHERS.

Of all the positions that a Professional Ball Player is required to fill, that of Catcher is the most exacting. But the Catchers' wants are now carefully provided for, and though the pitching is much swifter the actual danger is not as great as it was ten years ago. The first invention that was made in the line of protection was when in 1876 A. G. Spalding & Bros. first brought out the OPEN BACK CATCHERS GLOVES. For several years Catchers had occasionally worn an ordinary glove, but the lack of ventilation made them unpleasant for the hand and it was not until the Spaldings brought out their now celebrated open back gloves that they came into general use. Since that time they have kept improving them until this year they offer their No. 4-0 full left hand glove as the acme of perfection; price $5.00 per pair. In addition they make a full line at from 25c. to $5.00 per pair. Following on shortly after this invention Frederick W. Thayer, a Harvard College man, invented the CATCHERS MASK. At first it was ridiculed and players using it were accused of being cowardly but this prejudice gradually wore away until now it is considered an absolute necessity. It is largely due to the improvements made by Spalding Bros. that the mask is now so popular. The masks made by this firm are universally conceded the best. This season brings a new improvement in the throat protection added to the best League Mask, which improvement makes as perfect a mask as at present it is possible to conceive. The price of this No. 3-0 Mask is $4.00 The ordinary mask sells at from $1.50 to $3.50 each, according to size of wire used.

It was four or five years after the mask was introduced before anything was thought of that was particularly designed for the protection of the Catcher. It was left for William Gray, of Hartford, to invent a protection for the Catcher's body. That he was successful is shown by the great number of GRAY'S Patent BODY PROTECTORS now in use. A. G. Spalding & Bros. seeing the value of this invention made a contract with Mr. Gray to make this Protector, paying therefor a large royalty, and finally they bought the Patent. They make this Protector in two qualities:—No. 0 League Protector at $10.00, designed for professional Catchers, and the No. 1 Amateur Protector, price $6.00 (this is new this season.)

No Catcher should play without these three necessary articles, for with them a man is as safe behind a bat as in any other position in the field.

Spalding's gooods are preferred above all others because they make only safe, reliable articles.

Do not make the mistake of buying cheap gloves, masks or protectors. The best are the cheapest in the end.

These goods can be obtained of any dealers in Base Ball Goods, or in case you cannot obtain what you want, addrss,

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The New Haven Lawn Tennis Club will hold a tournament for the New England championships, singles and doubles, on the 20 h of June. H. W. Slocum, Jr., will be called on to defend the challenge cup, which he will then have held one year.

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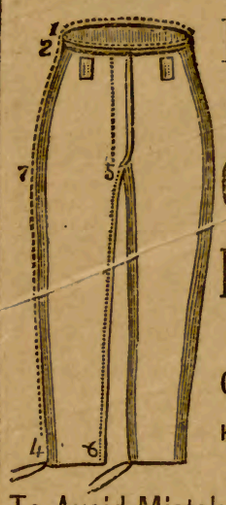

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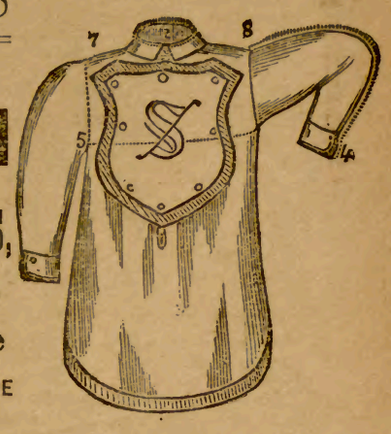

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To Avoid Mistakes and Delays, ☞READ THIS Circular Through Carefully Before Ordering.

GRADE No. 1. PRICE, $5.00.

Our No. 1 Uniform consists of SHIRT and KNEE PANTS made from Flannels No. 1 (white), No. 18 (grey), or No. 30 (navy blue).
Woolen Stockings,
Cotton Web Belts,
Flannel Cap,
Second Quality Canvas Shoes, with Plates.

GRADE No. 2. PRICE, $6.75.

No. 2 Uniform consists of SHIRT and KNEE PANTS made from Flannels No 2 (white), No. 3 (navy blue), No. 6 (grey).
Woolen Stockings,
Worsted Belt,
Cap, style 13 or 14, second quality.
First Quality Canvas Shoes, with Plates.

GRADE No. 3. PRICE, $7.50.

No 3 Uniform consists of SHIRT and KNEE PANTS made from Flannels No. 24 (white) No. 26 (grey), or No. 33 (navy blue).
Woolen Stockings, first quality.
Worsted Belt,
Flannel Cap, style 13 to 14.
First Quality Canvas Shoes, with Plates.

GRADE No. 4. PRICE, $9.00.

No. 4 Uniform consists of SHIRT and KNEE PANTS made from Flannels No. 7 (grey), No. 8 (navy blue), No. 9 (white).
Worsted Stockings,
Worsted Belt,
Cap, styles 8, 12, 13 or 14.
First Quality Canvas Shoes, with Plates.

GRADE No. 5. PRICE, $13.00.

No. 5 Uniform consists of SHIRT and KNEE PANTS made from Flannels No. 12 (navy blue), No. 15 (white), No. 16 (blue grey), No. 17 (Yale grey),
Best Worsted Stockings,
Best Worsted Belt,
Cap, styles 8, 12, 13 or 14.
Fine Calf-skin Shoes, with Corrugated Shoe Plates.

GRADE No. 6. PRICE, $17.50.

No. 6 Uniform consists of SHIRT and KNEE PANTS made from the best Worsted Jersey Cloth, very strong and elastic, 0 (white), 00 (grey), 000 (navy blue), or No. 12¾ (navy blue), 15½ (white), 16½ (blue grey), 17½ (Yale grey).
Best Worsted Stockings,
Best Worsted Cloth Belt,
Merino Cap, (any style).
Best Kangaroo-skin Shoes, very light and strong, Corrugated Shoe Plates riveted on.

Base Ball Shirts.

	Each.	Dozen.
No. 2.—Grade No. 1, made of 3d quality flannel, any style, white, grey or blue	$2 25	24 00
No. 2.—Grade No 2, made of good quality flannel, any style, white, blue or grey	3 00	33 00
No. 3.—Grade No. 3, made of good quality twilled flannel, any style, white, blue or grey	3 50	39 00
No. 4.—Grade No. 4, made of first quality twilled flannel, any style, white, blue or grey	4 00	42 00
No. 5.—Grade No. 5 made of extra heavy quality twilled flannel, any style, blue, white, blue grey, or Yale grey	4 50	48 00

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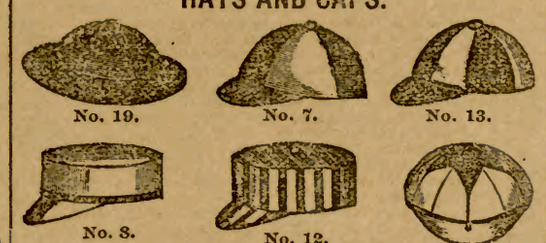

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No. 7 Base Ball Cap, any color, per dozen	$12 00	$10 00
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Any other style of Cap made to order at corresponding prices.

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	Each.	Dozen.
Grade No. 1.—Third quality flannel knee Pants, white, grey or blue	$2 25	24 00
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Grade No. 4.—First quality twilled flannel, white, blue or grey	4 00	42 00
Grade No. 5.—Extra heavy quality twilled flannel, blue, white or grey	4 50	48 00

When ordering Uniforms, always mention the grade, number of flannel, color of stockings, belt and cap; shirt and pants can be ordered of different color flannels without extra cost, providing they are taken from the same grade. Our regular colors in Stockings are White, Light Blue, Navy Blue, Maroon, Scarlet, Cardinal, Seal Brown, and Dark Green. Our colors in B. B. Belts are White, Red, Brown, Light Blue, Navy Blue, Maroon, Cardinal, Blue with White Stripes, and White with Blue Stripes, White with Red Stripes, Red with White Stripes. "Captains' Belts," White with Red Stripes, and White with Blue Stripes ONLY, with name color of Stripe.

We will send upon application a complete uniform to responsible parties C. O. D., with the privilege of returning (if kept clean) and money refunded.

Twenty-five per cent. of the amount must accompany each order for uniforms, balance C. O. D. Lettering on Shirt front, 25 cents per shirt extra.

I would call your special attention to our Jersey Uniforms, on account of their elasticity and service, it being something new to the profession. We manufacture all kinds of Gymnasts' Goods, such as Tights, Shirts, Sweaters, &c., Silk, Worsted and Cotton.

Before ordering elsewhere, send to us for samples and estimates, as we sell 10 per cent. lower than any one else.

I Keep on Hand All the Latest Improved Masks, Gloves and Bats. All Orders Sent by Express C. O. D.

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