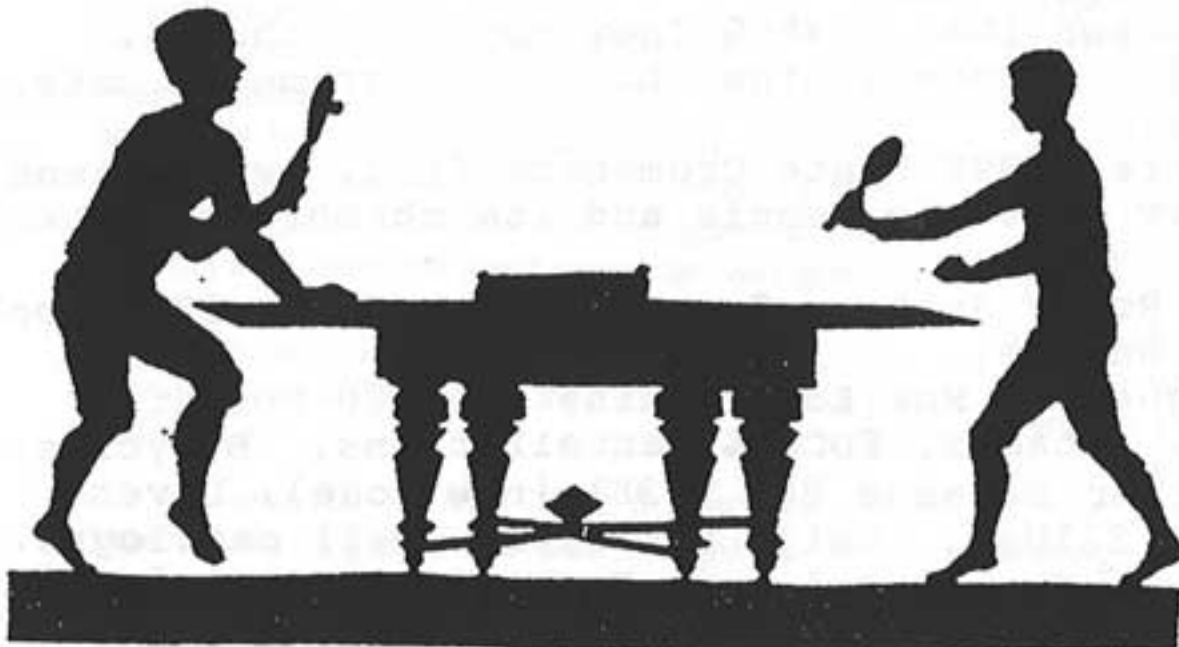


The Table Tennis Collector

7



FEBRUARY 1995

+ My sincere apologies for the late arrival of this issue; I have recently had two exhibitions of my tennis collection - one at the Milan Open and one in Southampton. It takes three days to prepare for an exhibition and one day to tidy up afterwards.

+ Many thanks to D.C. Thompson & Co., Ltd. for permission to publish Dennis the Menace from the Beano.

+ Readers may not know that Ron Crayden has prepared a history of table tennis from the 1920s up to recent times. This is due to be published shortly and will, of course, be reviewed in the Table Tennis Collector.

+ Please note that all telephone numbers in the United Kingdom will change on 16 April. At the moment, all numbers start with 0, but a 1 must be added after the 0, so that, for example, my present number 0206 230330 will become 01206 230330.

+ Grateful thanks - in order of appearance - to Bob Everitt (for the "header" on the top of this page), the ITTF, Günther Angenendt, Farkas Paneth, Everard Longland, Rex Haggett and Romualdas Franckaitis.

Gerald

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MEMBERS AS AT 1 JANUARY 1995

- Spiro Abourjaily**, Lebanese Table Tennis Association, PO Box 166146, Beirut, Lebanon (Tel. 201510). New.
- + **Günther Angenendt**, Langacker 10a,, 44869 (new code), Bochum 6, Germany (Tel. 02327 77117). Badges, pins, books, programmes, bats, rackets, records of events.
- + **Fabio Colombo**, Ferma Posta, 6996 Ponte Cremenaga (TI). Switzerland (Tel. 0332 532046). History of table tennis and its champions; books and statistics.
- ✠ **Roñ Erayden**, 7 Grennell Road, Sutton, Surrey, England SM1 3DW. Books. Also photography and the theatre.
- + **Jean Devys**, La Petit Vigne, 20 Rue Edgar Quinet, 59100 Roubaix, France (Tel. 33 20828444). Stamps, FDCs & cancellations. Bicycles.
- + **Axel Dickhaus**, Atzlenbacher Strasse 88, 51381 (new code), Leverkusen, Germany (Tel. 02171 32108). Balls & stamps. Ball catalogue.
- Alan Duke**, 2 Shapwick Close, Nythe, Swindon, England SN3 3 RQ (Tel. 0793 531234). Early printed items. Photographs of equipment.
- Sergio Durazzano**, Via Girardini no. 8, 33100 Udine, Italy. New.
- + **Romualdas Franckaitis**, Partizany 36-24, 3042 Kaunas, Lietuvas, Respublika, Lithuania. Balls, pins and programmes.
- + **David George**, 186 Downham Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, England BB2 6NS (Tel. 0254 674865). Table tennis and football badges. Items on W.C. Fields, Marx Brothers, poultry, goats and Blackburn Rovers.
- + **Gerald Gurney**, Guildhall, Great Bromley, Colchester, Essex, England CO7 7TU (Tel. 0206 230330). All racket games, especially table tennis, tennis and badminton; all equipment, ephemera etc. Historian & author. Worldwide exhibitions. Also all swimming items.
- + **Anselm Gurney**, c/o Guildhall, Great Bromley, Colchester, Essex, England CO7 7TU. All racket sport items. Early & unusual marbles.
- + **Barry Hayward**, 19 Little Hardwick Road, Streetly, Aldridge, West Midlands, England WS9 OSD. Books and stamps.
- + **Chuck Hoey**, Box 3128, McLean VA, 22103 USA (Tel. and Fax. 703 698 8679). Rackets Sports Heritage Museum - table tennis, tennis, battle-dore & shuttlecock and fine early rackets. Chess and cobalt blue glass.
- + **Martin Holland**, 44 Victoria Road, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, England LA14 5JU (Tel. 0229 837374). Books, postcards, cigarette/trade cards, badges, stamps, FDCs, prints. Also Slovakia history & literature. Manchester United Football Club.
- + **Hans Kreischer**, Nieuwe Buurt 23, 3111 KJ Schiedam, Holland (Tel. 10th 4736544). Pins, balls and all other memorabilia with the aim to establish a table tennis museum as part of the Dutch Sport Museum.
- Dieter Lippelt**, Stettiner Weg 2, 49124 (new code) Georgsmarienhütte, Germany (Tel. 05401 40145). Balls.
- + **Arne Lundin**, Skytteskogsgatan 40, 414 76 Göthenburg, Sweden (Tel. 031 24 73 47). Cards from European (1990) & World Championships (1993).
- + **Jonathan Proffitt**, 23 Hayward Road, London, England N20 OHA (Tel. 081 445 2055). Old equipment and books. Also pinball/slot machines.
- Derek Tyler**, Rue de la Gare 16, 1040 Brussels, Belgium (Tel 02 7333993).
- Terry Vance**, 14 Hill Crescent, Surbiton, Surrey, England KT5 8DP (Tel. 081 390 4068). All table tennis items.
- + **Margaret Walden**, 60 Holly Street, Apt. 708, Toronto, Canada M4S 2G7 (Tel. 1 416 4860552). Historical data.
- Peter Walters**, 8 Shakespeare House, Fairfax Road, West Heath, Birmingham, England B31 3SD (Tel. 021 608 0560). All Tibhar/Tjbor items. Also Snoopy items relating to table tennis.
- Ken Wilkinson**, 59 Garden Road, Avalon, Lower Hutt, New Zealand (Tel. 64 4 567 0762).
- Anton Zwiebel**, De Sint Pieter 64, 1509 ZL, Zaandam, Holland. Stamps and cancellations.

Note: + indicates Founder Member
Area telephone codes should be checked

Fred Perry 1909-1995

Fred Perry, then the oldest living world table tennis champion, died on 2nd February 1995 at the age of 85. He was a guest at the recent Australian tennis championships in Melbourne, where he was accompanied by his life-long companion, his wife Bobby. On the fatal day he went for a walk, suffered dizziness and had a fall and, in spite of urgent medical treatment, the great sportsman was gone for ever. It is often overlooked that he was world champion in two different sports - tennis and table tennis - the only person to have achieved this distinction.

He was born on 18 May 1909 in Stockport, near Manchester, England, but was brought up in the London suburb of Ealing. As a boy he was mad about all sports, including cricket, soccer and golf but especially table tennis. He hated homework and to the horror of my parents used to spend hours practising on his own by placing a table against the kitchen wall and hitting the ball against it. In this way he got a feel for the rhythm of the game which was, he believed, very important in my development. He started to play seriously in the "Garden Suburb" club and later in the "Herga" club and, although he was self-taught, he was quite successful. From the start he used the classic "shake-hands" grip, not the Asian penholder style.

Fred was ambitious and, like many people with exceptional talent, he made rapid progress. At the age of 19 he was selected to represent England in a 4-nation tournament - England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales - where his team-mates were Adrian Haydon and Charlie Bull. His first competition abroad was the 1928 World Championships in Stockholm, where in the Swaythling Cup England unexpectedly beat the champions, Hungary, with Fred defeating 2 world-class players, Jacobi and Mechlovits. After beating also Czechoslovakia and Germany the English team had a chance to win the Cup, but they lost 4-5 to Austria after leading by 4-2. The tragedy was even greater for Fred Perry who, although the most successful English player, lost the deciding match against Thum. However, in the men's singles he reversed this defeat by 3-0 to reach the quarter-finals and he was a runner-up in the men's doubles.

He continued to progress but did not win any open tournaments during 1929, losing to Bull in the Czechoslovakian Open and to Malecek in the English Open. However, in the World Championships held in Budapest he played brilliantly, beating Szegedy, Liebster and Haydon to reach the finals, where he defeated the local star, Miklosz Szabados, 14-21, 21-12, 23-21, 21-19 to become the 1929 world champion.

Fred Perry exploited all his athletic and physical abilities; he moved quickly, his defence sound, his placing of the ball was excellent and he could hit hard drives when necessary. He was a cunning fighter and could control his nerves, saying "It isn't enough to have good strokes, you must use your brain as well". He did not defend his title in Berlin because his mother died a few days before the tournament, and his last table tennis competition was in 1932.

Next to the table tennis hall where Fred played there was a tennis club and he began to visit it more and more frequently; with his physical power, fast reflexes and "eye" for the ball inherited from table tennis, he soon became the a champion also in tennis. In the summer of 1929 he was among young English tennis hopes being trained by the famous tennis coaching Karel Kozeluh. The self-confident world champion boasted that at table tennis he could beat his tennis coach 21-0 and, when the challenge was accepted, he did so. In reply, Kozeluh invited Fred to play tennis against him and proceeded to beat him by 21 games to 0. It is ironic that, within 5 years, Fred was the world's best tennis player.

In the mid-30s he was the world's undisputed No 1, winning Wimbledon three times in succession, as well as the US Open in Forest Hills, the French Open in Paris and the Australian Open in Kooyong. He was the first player to win four Grand Slam titles, although not in the same year, and he was a member of the English team which won the Davis Cup four times; in the Davis Cup competition he won 45 of his 52 matches. He became an English sporting hero, just as Stanley Matthews and Roger Bannister were in later years. The trophies he won were valued at a total of £200,000, which was a lot of money in the 1930s. He gave all of them to the Wimbledon museum, together with the racket with which he won the Budapest World Table Tennis Championships. Fred Perry was a sportsman who brought honour and glory to two sports, tennis and table tennis, and he will be greatly mourned.

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from the ITTF Digest No 20

Members - continued

Robert Op de Beeck, J. Fr. Willemsstraat 66, B-2530 Boechout, Belgium, (tel. 03 455 41 59). All table tennis items.
Hiroaki Sakakibara, 2014 Hoshina, Yachiyo-shi, Chiba - pref, 276, Japan. Sports historian, Seiroku University. Special interest in early days of table tennis in Japan.
Tonino Solazzi, Corso Grosseto, 221, 10148 Torino, Italy, (tel. 011 2296125). Metal badges and postcards.
Graham Trimming, 17 Gwendale, Pinkneys Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire, England SL6 6SH (tel. 0628 36978). All table tennis items.

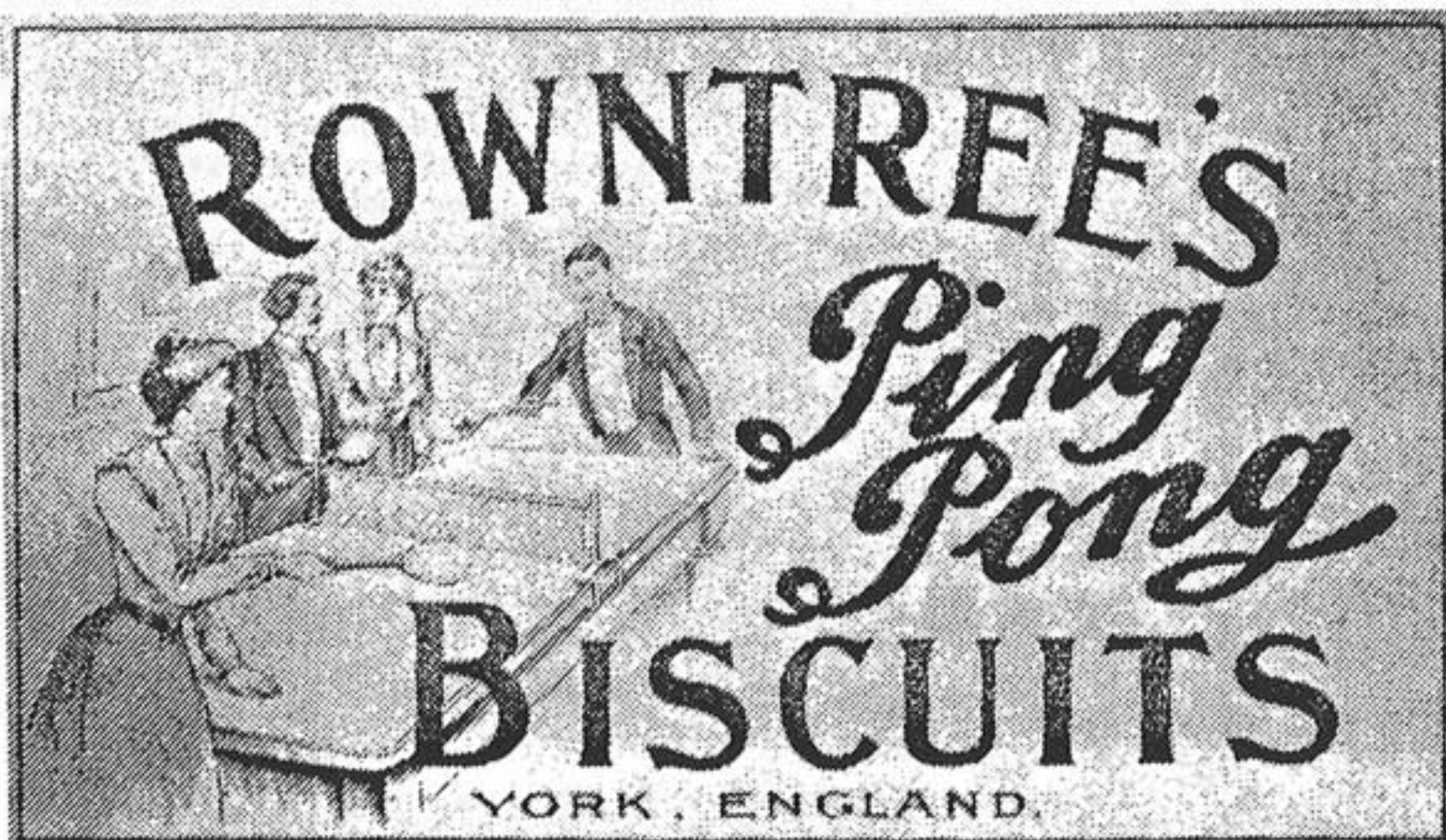
Ron Crayden has a number of books and programmes for sale, and would like to hear from anyone in the Far East who knows how table tennis first reached their countries.

David George can offer commemoratives and badges (all subjects), and wants videos of Barna, Leach, Ogimura, Sido.

Jonathan Proffitt suggests a listing of all the early manufacturers of table tennis items.

Derek Tyler would like to hear about the experiences of umpires in the early days.

Terry Vance offers many examples of ephemera for exchange (preferred) or sale - books, programmes, magazines, postcards, stickers, medals, greeting cards, stamps etc. Send for his list.



THAT IN(FAMOUS) RALLY

"I can scarcely remember a time in the history (almost 70 years) of table tennis that was so negative as the last four years of the thirties". Hans Gärtner writes in his History of TT: "In the thirties, TT almost came to a close and even a retrogression. The so-called "spoon-game" became more popular than the game of attack. An example of this negative development was at the World Championships in 1936, in Prague, when the Pole Alex Ehrlich and the Rumanian Paneth fought for the first ball in the first set for 2 hours and ten minutes!" Istvan Kelen, the great Hungarian, writes in his book Success at Table Tennis: "I come to Prague with mixed feelings because of the unprecedented amount of stonewalling that was in evidence One incident has to be remembered - the first ball between Ehrlich of Poland and Paneth of Rumania lasted from 2.22 p.m. until 4.20 p.m."

Dr Hans Eckert in his book The World of the White Balls also mentions this record exchange. He writes: "Those people from Prague are always talking about the Ehrlich/Paneth game where the one ball went backwards and forwards over the net for two hours and twelve minutes It all started off quietly, the fans were amused, they smiled, began to shuffle their feet, and finally the last fans left whistling and howling, when, after 132 minutes, Ehrlich's ball went into the net. He was leading 1-0 in the first set. But Paneth did not have the nerves and lost 0-3 within twenty minutes." Ossi Brucker in his book Table Tennis writes of an exchange of ball of 2 hours 12 minutes which ended in the net. Philip Reid writes in his book Victor Barna: "Rumania's all-stonewaller Paneth was first to the table where Ehrlich was already waiting. After a few preliminary practice shots, both players declared themselves ready and battle commenced. Neither player had the slightest intention of attacking. Whether Paneth could have attacked is doubtful. That Ehrlich had no intention of hitting he quickly made clear. Ehrlich had said before the set started that he would let his hand drop off before he made an attacking stroke! As the rally continued the ball was lofted higher and higher, both players attempting to entice the other to hit, but it was stalemate. Ehrlich had decided that he would beat Paneth at his own game. Paneth had decided he could stick it out as long as Ehrlich. An hour elapsed, with the ball still going backwards and everyone now was wondering when it was going to end. A record hour had passed before, after two hours and five minutes, Ehrlich hit the ball lower than usual. It hit the net and slowly trickled over. The rest of the game provided an anti-climax. Ehrlich won that game in forty minutes and Paneth, thoroughly demoralised, lost the second in five minutes." Roy Evans, when remembering that game, said: "Ehrlich just stood there lifting the ball up - it was a complete farce."

Table tennis as farce: the Frenchman Haguenuer and Goldberger the Rumanian played for 7½ hours in Prague till they decided to have it out. Goldberger was the luckier. The final team match between Austria and Rumania lasted eleven hours, the Austrians winning 5-4.

To finally end this farce, time rules (strengthened several times) were introduced, and the net lowered from 17.00 cm. to the present 15.25 cm. But back to the longest exchange. In almost all publications about it, the Pole Ehrlich always seems to come off best. They always speak of "demoralisation" and "devaluation" though Ehrlich seems to have had fun with the spectators. He is even supposed to have played chess according to an article in the 1993 Swaythling Club International. But what does he himself say about this exchange of balls, the one who played the game, the one who can tell the truth - Farkas Paneth whom they called Willi. In July last year I had the pleasure of being his guest in Rumania. Here I met a bright seventy-seven year old, who had spent his whole life for table tennis, first as a player then as a trainer, until he retired in 1986. It would be too much, however, to speak here of his achievements. I shall simply mention that he received the Award of Merit in 1993.

Let us see what this world record holder has to say himself: "We arrived in Prague on Wednesday 11 March, 1936, five young players of whom I was the youngest. Vladone, Goldberger, Diamantsten and Pop were my team-mates of whom the first two and I were entered for the team competition. But before it came to that there were many obstacles to overcome, for I. Montagu, the President of the ITTF, recommended at the Council meeting that the Rumanians should not play as they had not paid their ITTF contributions for five years. Both Marcell Corbillon (for Paris 1934) and the Englishman Pope (London 1935) backed our exclusion since we were to have played both championships but did not turn up. They demanded compensation. As for us, however, Heydusek from Czechoslovakia and Wilczek from Hungary were on our side. They expressed their point of view in the following way: if the Rumanians did not play, then the participating teams (13 in all) would, according to the rules, have to play straight off, one against another. Moreover, they did not view the young Rumanians as serious competitors for a top placing. And when Albin Morani, our leading delegate, offered to pay Rumania's debts in two instalments, our acceptance was assured.

On 12 March we beat Lithuania 5-2 and Holland 5-0. Then 13 March, a Friday, became an unlucky Friday thirteenth for Hungary. Without Barna, who was being saved for harder tasks in the future, we beat Hungary with Bellak, Hazi and Szabados 5-0 - quite a sensation France was beaten 5-1 in the afternoon.

Then followed the historic game against Poland. France and Hungary offered the Poles prizes if they beat us. The first game brought the great master Ehrlich (number 2 in the world) as my opponent. He took bets on his victory and said: 'I will surely win, I will destroy Paneth. He will fall before me on his knees.' At the warm up I let a few balls drop - to give him the impression I could not return his balls. But I was used to marathon games - 3 hours against Haguenuer the Frenchman, and 3½ against Giurgiulauskas the Lithuanian, without an error. Ehrlich talked during the whole game, saying silly things to make me lose my concentration. But I played like a robot, without in the least being influenced by his chatter. After 90 minutes he was in a position to use his backhand, but he could not attack. The umpire tired and had to be changed. The Austrians, interested in the result of our game, returned to the hall after watching a film, and thought the scoreboard was defective since it still showed the score 0-0.

From somewhere, a banana skin hit the net, but it did not put us off. A new umpire appeared after 120 minutes, and when the clock showed 135 minutes of play Ehrlich hit the ball with the edge of his bat (not a net ball) and it threw me. I missed the ball. 1-0 for Ehrlich. The Polish players as well as our team captain, were, of course, following the games of our groups. Ehrlich and I just carried on playing ping-pong. The competition committee started to panic and asked whether we were prepared to play just 5 more minutes. We both refused. Meanwhile, we had played for 3 hours. My team leader, who now had the results of the other games, signalled to me that I could lose with good face since our team had already qualified for the finals. So I lost quickly, which caused Ehrlich to say, 'I've done it, I've destroyed Paneth's nerves.'

We lost the final, against Austria, by 4-5. It was tragic that at 4-4 I could not sustain a lead of 15 points to 7 against Liebster in the third set. Ehrlich, who spoke German well, ran to the Austrians and shouted, 'You only won because of me. Paneth capitulated at the end.'

Nevertheless, the World Championships were a great success for us. Our team came second, winner of the Consolation Cup, which all the eliminated players took part in."

Furthor



Paneth and Ehrlich, Prague 1936



A. EHRLICH (Poland)

Ehrlich in action, but in another rally!

Compiled by Gunther Angenendt with the considerable assistance of Farkas Paneth. Translated from German by Everard Longland. Photograph of Ehrlich sent by Ron Crayden.

PING PONG No. 1.



SUCH A NICE QUIET GAME!

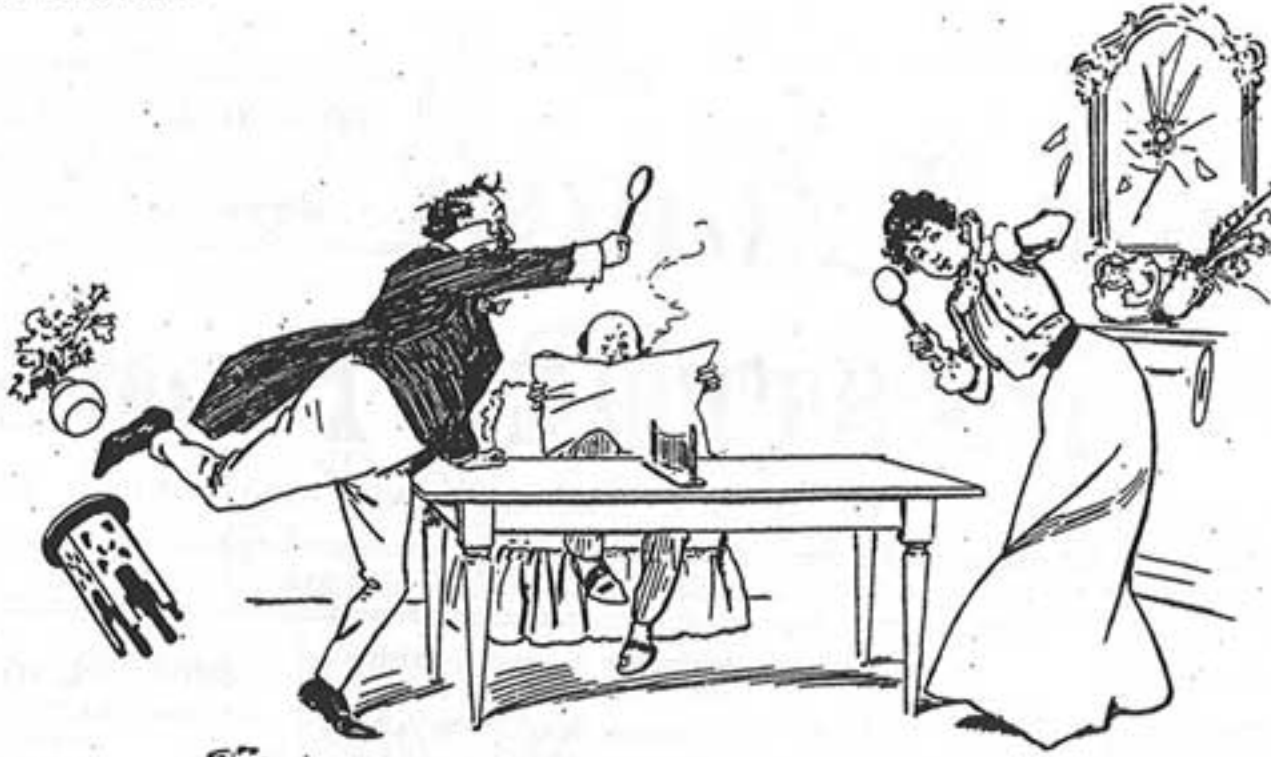
PING PONG No. 3.



NOTHING LIKE ENTHUSIASM!

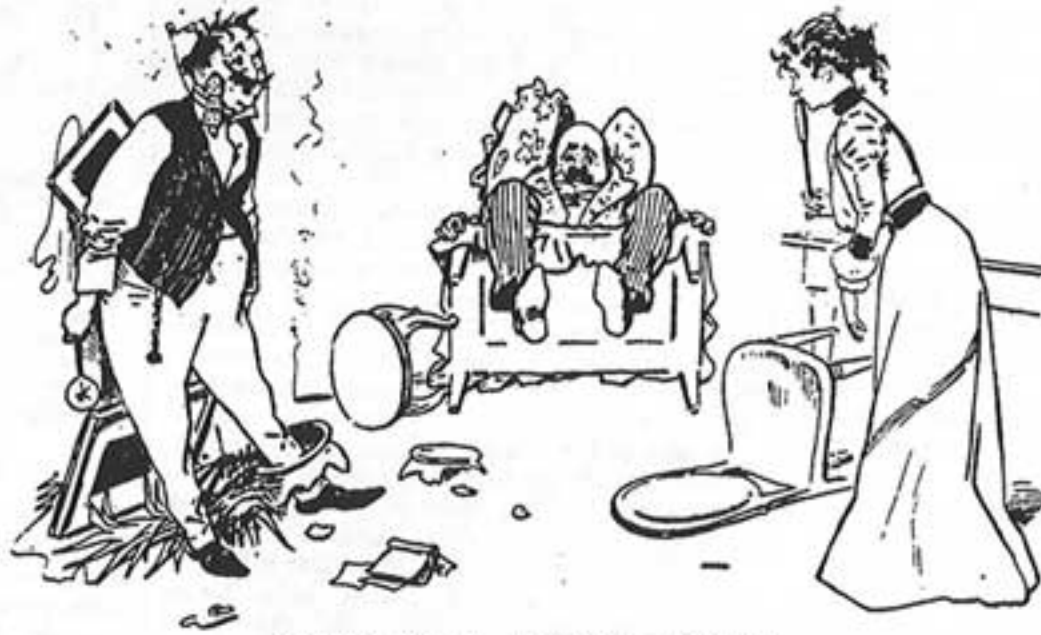
This is a complete set
John Walker, with art
about 1902. These ar
ings with no colour,
the Thackeray or Shak
to Rex Haggett fo th

PING PONG No. 2.



A "CRACK" SHOT.

PING PONG No. 4.



THANKS FOR A PLEASANT EVENING.

of cards published by
ork by Gordon Browne,
black and white draw-
nd are much rarer than
ppare cards. Thanks
ies.

THE TABLE TENNIS

AND PASTIMES PIONEER.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL FOR TABLE TENNIS AND PING PONG PLAYERS.

No. 4. Vol. I.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1902.

ONE PENNY.

VOX POPULI.

At the outset of our career we stated—and we trust we may be pardoned for repeating—that our one aim is to advance the best interests of the game which is finding such universal acceptance; and as we believe that no more effective means of deciding the numerous and important matters affecting the game could be devised than a direct appeal to our thousands of readers, we propose, from time to time in our columns, to ask the latter for a general expression of opinion, from which we shall be enabled to form a correct estimate of the subject under consideration.

The burning question of the day is:—

**IS VOLLEYING
DESIRABLE?**

Replies to the above should be as brief as possible, must be written on one side of the paper only, and should bear a *nom de plume*—as well as the name and address of the writer.

Last day for receiving replies intended for our next issue will be 13th inst.

The Table Tennis and Pastimes Pioneer is published every Saturday at 28, Martin's Lane, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Prepaid terms of subscription (post free):—One year, 6s. 6d.; six months, 3s. 3d.; three months, 1s. 8d.

Notice to Contributors.

THE Editor will gladly consider contributions, photographs, and sketches for publication, which, if to be returned, must be accompanied by stamps. In no case, however, can responsibility for return be accepted. Books sent in for review will receive attention. Open letters "to the Editor" must be authenticated with the name and address of the writer (not necessarily for publication).

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The Westminster Championships and Handicap.

The Royal Aquarium is again the rallying ground (in more senses than one) of many of the best known exponents of table tennis—not to mention lawn tennis, billiards, badminton, and all the other pastimes which are so dear to the heart of the Englishman and Englishwoman. Monday saw the commencement of a varied and interesting programme, in which the four-handed game of table tennis makes, probably, its first public appearance. The attendance on the first two days was, owing probably to counter attractions, rather thinner than the importance of the events justified, but by Wednesday the interest of the public seemed to have been thoroughly aroused, and the finals and semi-finals—of which we hope to give a full report in our next—will doubtless be concluded on Saturday with due enthusiasm.

On the list of competitors, of whom there are between one and two hundred, we note several ladies and gentlemen who have on previous occasions shown excellent form, among these being Mrs. Alfred, Mrs. Yates Bainbrigge, Miss Bantock, Miss Good, and Messrs. A. Parker, J. L. Figgis, M. Said, H. Portlock, H. H. Minton, &c., &c.

In the gentlemen's singles, the following were the winners of sections:—Section I., Mr. L. Hamer; Section II., Mr. E. S. Franklin; Section III., Mr. G. E. Mortlock; Section IV., Mr. B. Gore Reynolds; Section V., Mr. A. Fleming; Section VI., Mr. Forrester Clayton.

In the ladies' singles, Section A, Miss C. Bantock won her ten games, Miss D. Rathgeb being second, Miss R. Rathgeb third, and Mrs. Gore Reynolds fourth.

In the mixed doubles, Miss Bantock and Mr. Williams beat Mr. and Mrs. Yates Bainbrigge (6-2, 6-0). In the four-handed game the scoring is as in lawn tennis—serving is into the court diagonally opposite, and the sever changes places with his or her partner—as in the parent game.

In the first round of the gentlemen's handicap S. Simond (5-6) beat F. Desmond (15.2) (2-6, 6-4, 6-4), and S. M. Sherriff (15.2) beat H. H. Minton (4-6) (6-2, 6-0). In the second round H. Potter (15) beat W. H. Candler (15.1) (6-0, 6-1), and Simond beat Sherriff (7-5, 6-3).

There is on record a well-authenticated instance of the sound of a hard-fought game passing through five houses in a terrace and keeping a seven-months old baby awake for hours, six doors off. This is probably very near a record.

20,000 READERS!

Queen's Hall Tournament,
Royal Aquarium Tournament

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TODAY.—ROYAL AQUARIUM.— THE WESTMINSTER TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS TOURNAMENT.

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EARLY VARIETIES, 10.30 a.m. The WORLD'S GREAT SHOW, 2.0 and 7.0. 200 artists. Every known form of Varieties. Herr Fritz, Ella Zulla, Orion Bros., Adler Gymnasts, Bortoloni Bros., Des Robertis, Almar's Performing Dogs and Cats, Paulo and Nellie, Carle and Carmanelli, The Comical Daniels, Nellie, Daisy Ballet, Senorita Velasco, Sisters De Vans, Comical Majiltons, Laura Leavitt, The Renowned Bioscope, Annie Luker, Koins, Wieland, Dudley, Sylvester, Lee, Duval, The Musical Bowns, Dollie St. Claire. All Free in the World's Great Show, 2.0 and 7.0. Early Varieties, 10.30 a.m. Through tickets by District Rail. See the Bull Fight and Swimming, &c.

Books and Novelties.

Almost every day sees some fresh development suggested by table tennis and ping pong, and on all sides we are beset by some such questions as: "Have you seen the new racquet, Messrs. So-and-so are making for me?" or "What do you think of this match ball?" "Could you recommend a portable table; something that will pack away anywhere, don't you know!" A useful little novelty which we have just come across in this way is "Robor," the new remover of stains, dirt, grease on clothes, or spots of of almost any kind. It is particularly recommended for cleaning celluloid balls, and its remarkable effectiveness and cheapness make it a very desirable adjunct to the club outfit. A very attractive and useful "ping pong novelty" too are the hand-painted Ping Pong Pictorial Post Cards, published and—we believe—designed throughout by "Galyons," of 61, Paternoster Row, whose invitation cards for Bridge parties had such a run a little while back.

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Biting Bull Dog Bat - - - 4/-	Shovel Wooden Bat - - - 2/6	Velvet Covered Wooden Bat - 2/6
Bull Dog Terrier Bat - - - 3/9	Corrugated Wooden Bat - - 2/-	Rubber Covered Wooden Bat - 3/-
Bull Dog Screwer - - - 3/-	Cork Covered Wooden Bat - 3/-	Polished Wooden Bat - - - 2/3
The Cup Wooden Bat - - - 2/-	Parchment Covered Wooden Bat 2/6	Parchment Drum Bat - - 1/- & 1/6
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All the above are of regulation size and shape, with short square handles.

MALLY'S P. PATENT—

Ball Bicker Up, 1/6.

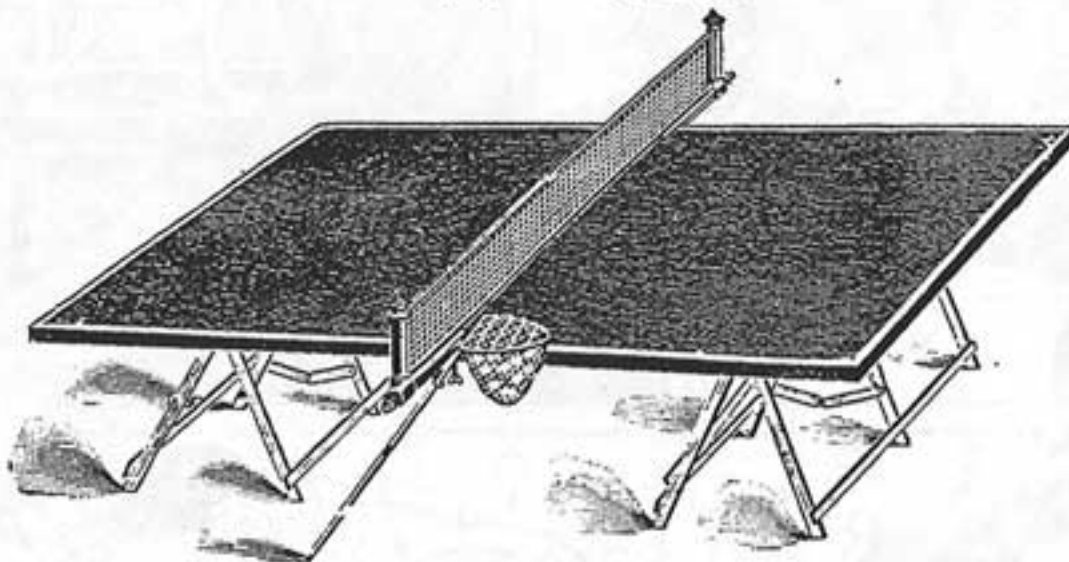
Registered Regulation Posts, 1/-, 2/-, 4/-, 6/- & 10/6 per pair.

New P. Patent Non-Sagging Square Mesh NETS, 2/6.

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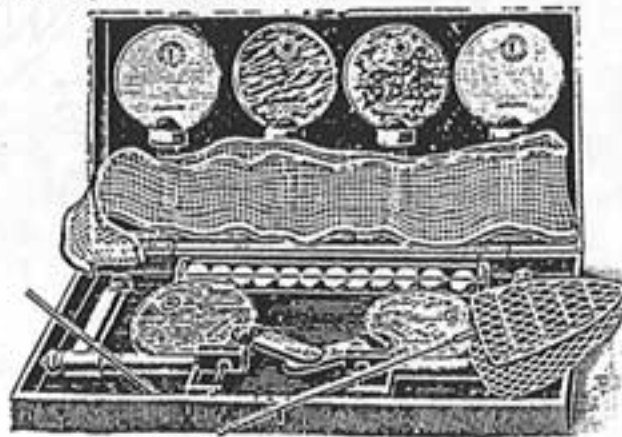
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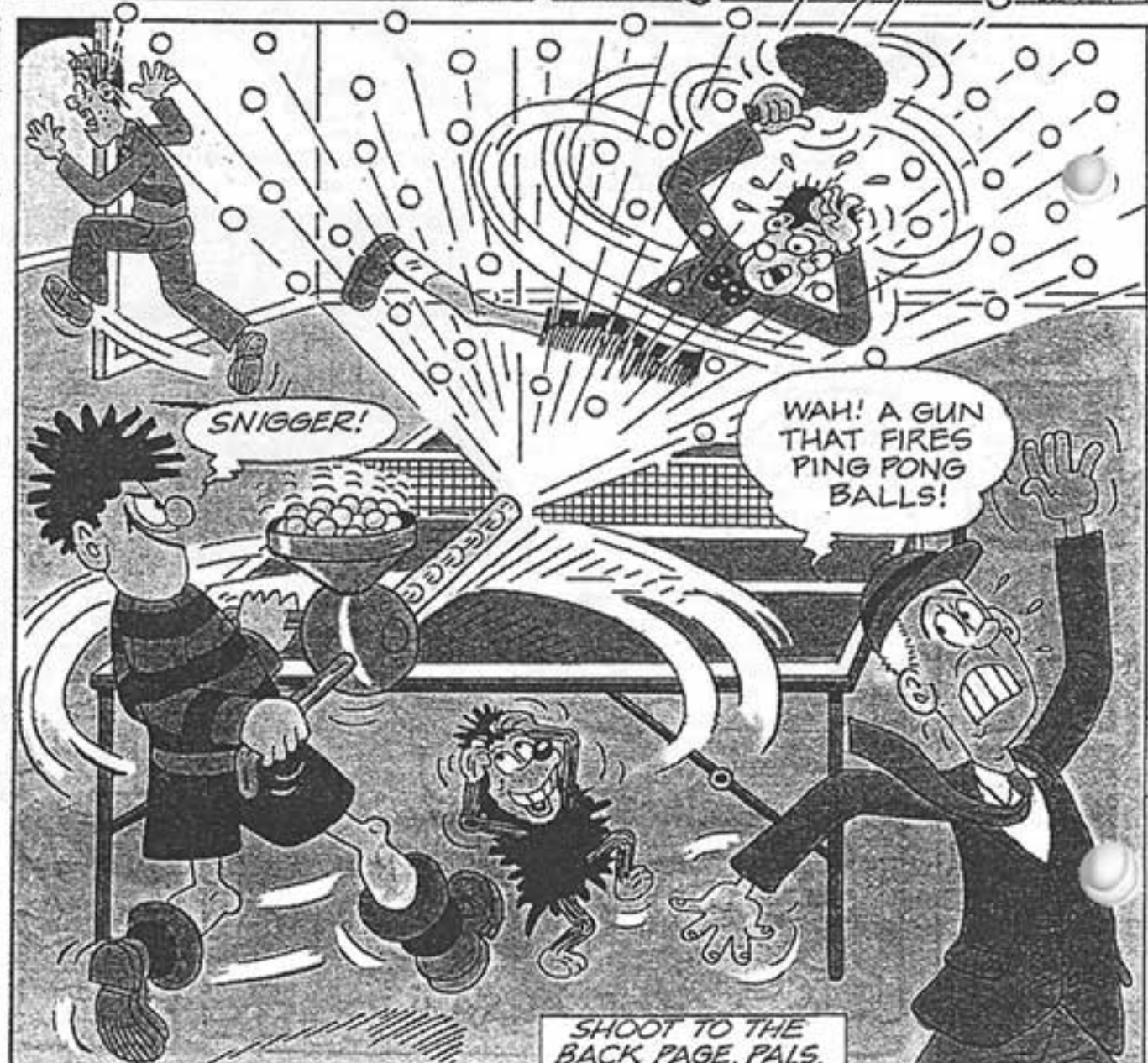
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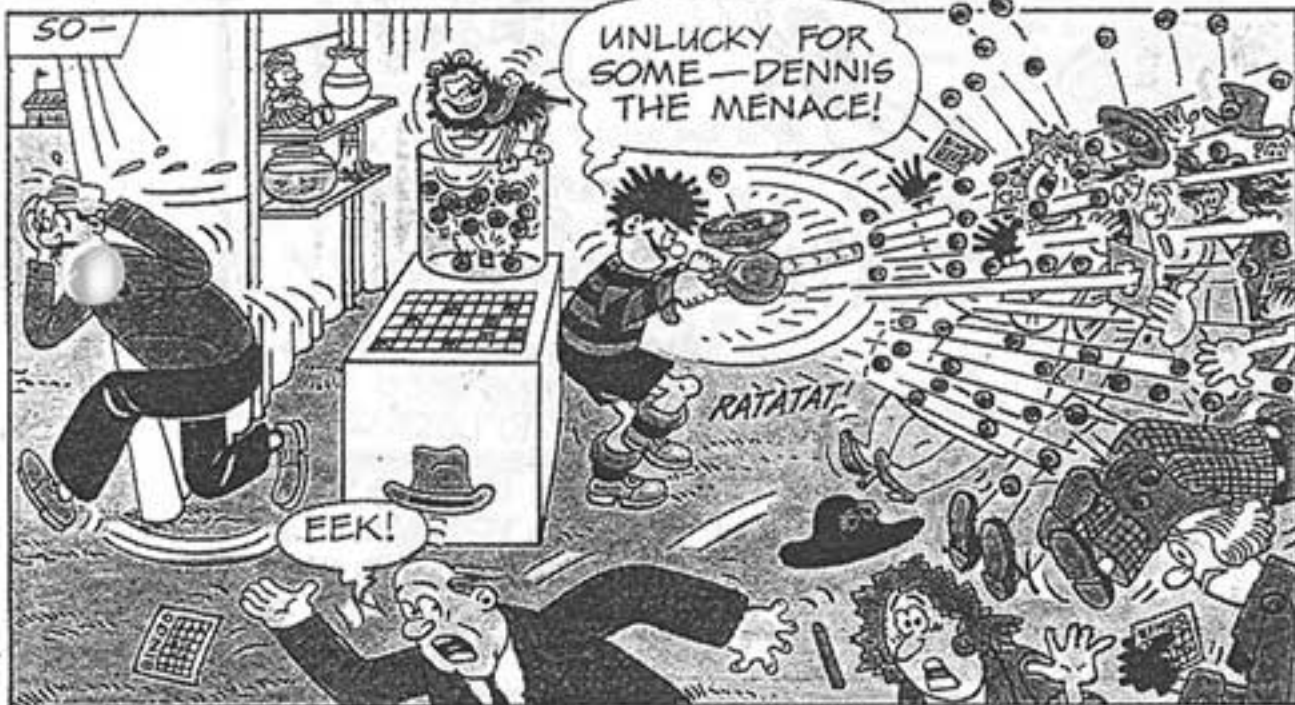
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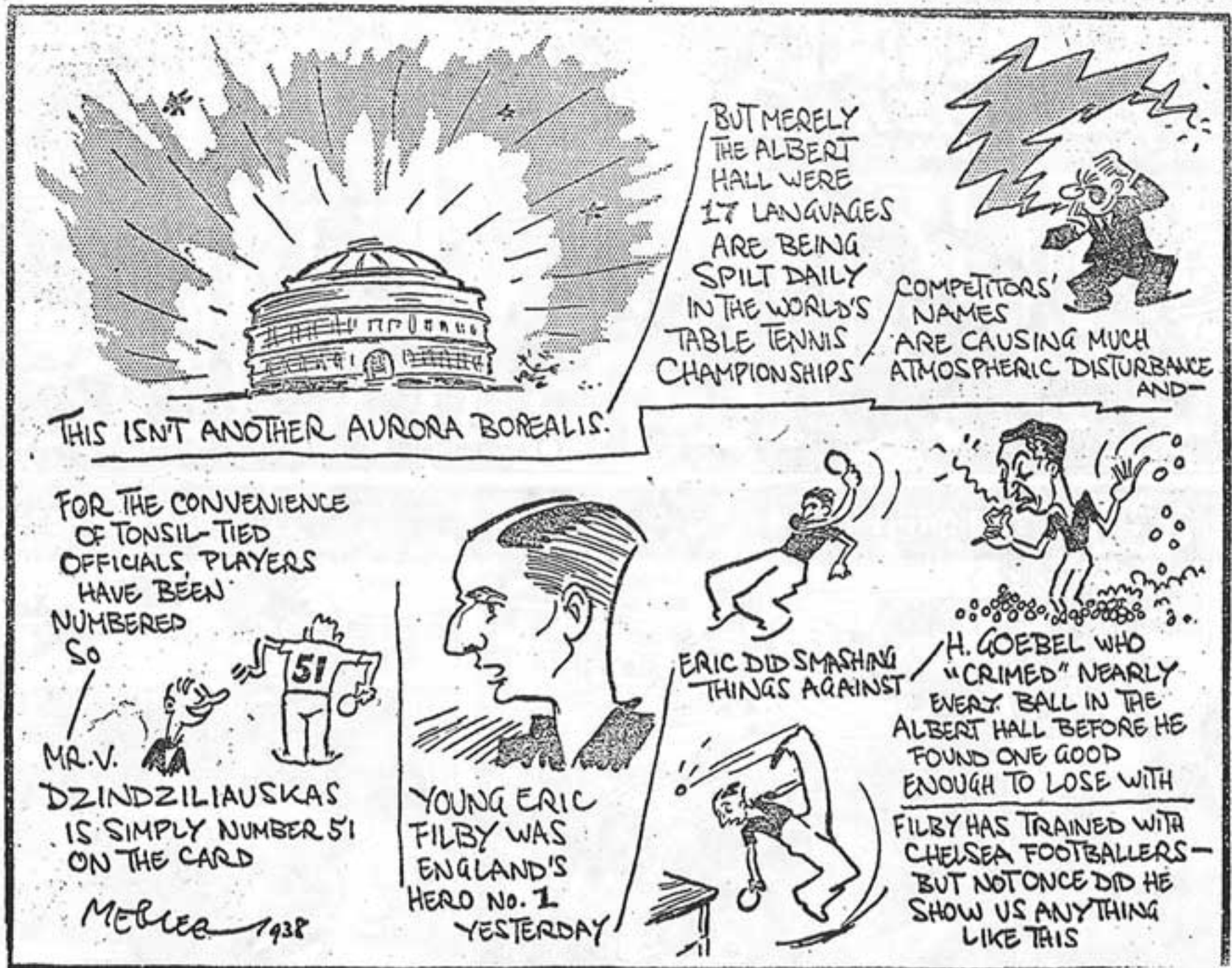
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The Boy's Own Paper.

HOW TO MAKE A REGULATION PING-PONG TABLE.

BY GEORGE P. MOON.

THE proper regulation ping-pong table measures 9 ft. in length and 5 ft. in breadth; and though even a small table is no hindrance to the playing of this excellent indoor pastime, one naturally prefers to conform, if possible, to all the conditions laid down by those responsible for the rules of the game, and use a table and net of the dimensions prescribed.

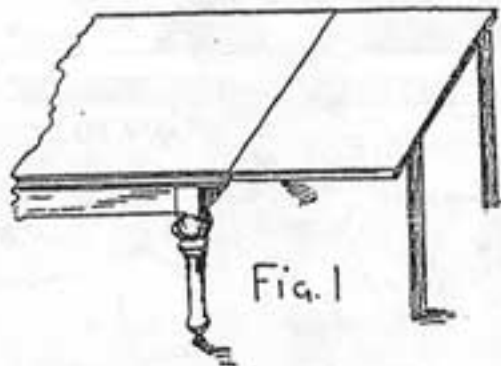


Fig. 1

If the dining-table is smaller than the size mentioned, it may be converted into a real tournament article without much trouble or expense. If it is too short, a piece of board can be added to the end; if too narrow, to the side, or to both if it be deficient in breadth as well as in length.

Fig. 1 gives an idea of one method of providing an additional length piece.

The piece should be of canary, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. thick, nicely planed, and have one edge so cut that it meets the table edge accurately and shows

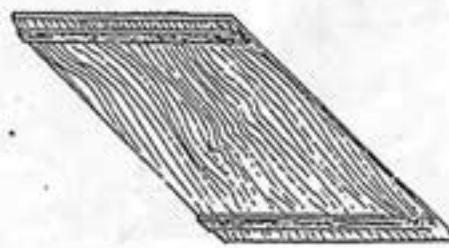


Fig. 2

no space between the two. Its length, of course, is equal to the width of the table.

A couple (three would be better) of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. thick rails, 2 in. wide and as long as the width

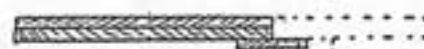


Fig. 3

of the addition, are secured across the piece of board, say 6 in. from each end (fig. 2).

Let us suppose that the thickness of the table edge is $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. In this case we procure

two pieces of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wood 2 in. wide, each 6 in. or 7 in. long, and screw them on to the end of the rails so that they project a couple of inches beyond the edge to be in contact with the table. Fig. 3 gives a side view of this arrangement. The dotted lines indicate the

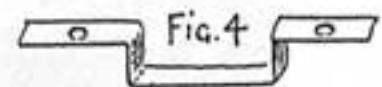


Fig. 4

table, the top of which is on a level with that of the board.

A couple of pieces of brass or other metal sheeting, about $\frac{1}{16}$ in. thick, 5 in. long, and 1 in. wide, are then bent into the form illustrated in fig. 4, and a screw-hole is bored at each extremity. These are of such a size that, when they are screwed to the underside of the table edge (fig. 5), the projecting

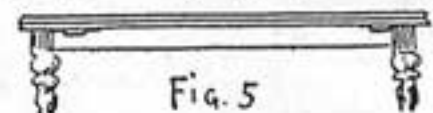


Fig. 5

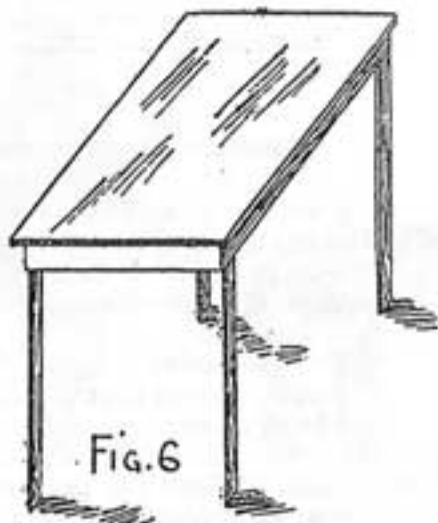
rails of the addition fit in them very firmly, and so hold that side of the board.

The other, or outer side, is supported, as you will have remarked in fig. 1, by a couple of legs, which are secured to the board by

strong hinges, and therefore fold up for convenience of storage when the arrangement is not in use.

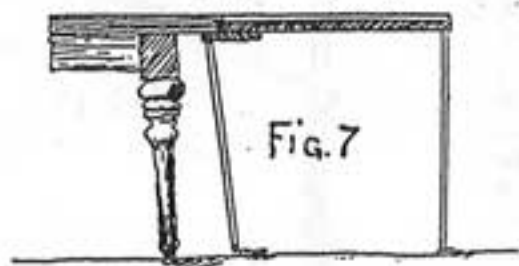
These legs are $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick, 3 in. wide, and sufficiently long to hold the board at the proper height.

But, you may say, supposing there is objection to driving screws into the table,



what then? How is the joining end to be supported?

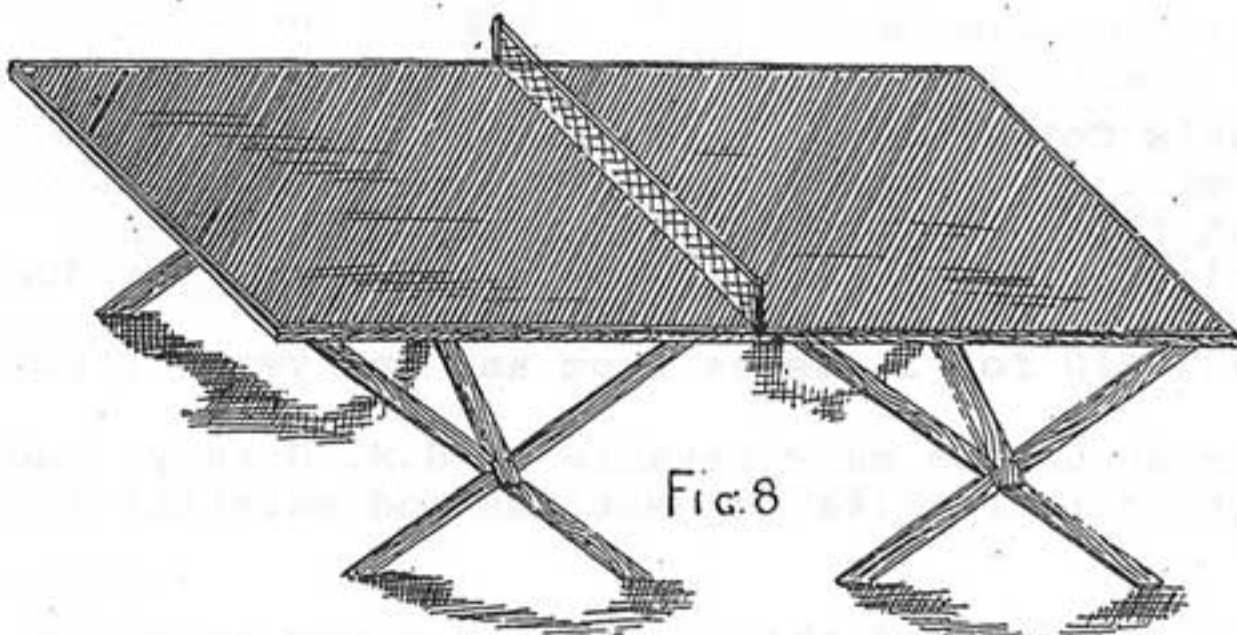
Well, in this case the only thing to do would be to add a couple more legs and convert the addition into a small table, nailing 5 in. wide strips of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wood from one to the other close up to the board (fig. 6); or, and this is a much more simple method of overcoming the difficulty, to hinge a leg to the inner end of each projecting rail, so that when



they rest upon the floor the rails are pressed into tight contact with the edge of the table (fig. 7).

Should the corners of the table be cut off, as they often are, the deficiency must be made good by the addition of pieces of proper size to the added board.

In this manner a table can be widened as well as lengthened. But, naturally, in this case, it will require more than a couple of



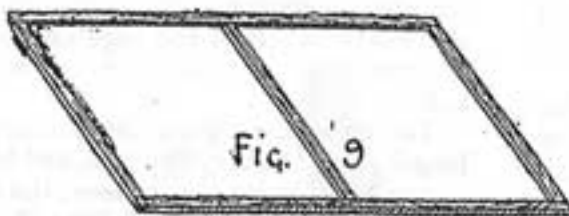
projecting rails and metal sockets to support it—one every 18 in. would not be too many.

I need scarcely add that the wood should be stained to resemble the table to which it is going to be attached.

To make a proper ping-pong table is no difficult task, nor will it cost very much either.

Fig. 8 illustrates such a table, complete,

with legs which fold up. It is formed in two sections, which may be either hinged together or kept distinct. If merely the top is required to rest upon a dining table, or a couple of small tables, the legs are, of course, omitted.

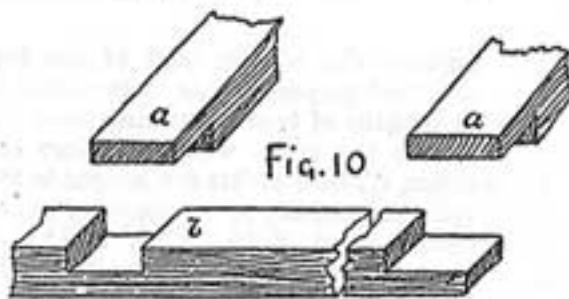


The top sections are constructed of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. material, secured to a framework of $\frac{3}{4}$ in. wood.

For this last we shall need lengths of wood—yellow pine will suit well—measuring 3 in. wide and, as before stated, $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick. Five will be required for each section (fig. 9); two are 5 ft. long and three $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft.

They may be united by the halved joint or the dove-tailed joint. The first, illustrated in fig. 10, is naturally much more simple than the second; that is to say, is easier for the amateur joiner to construct, and probably is quite as strong.

Let the position of the saw-cuts be accurately pencilled and adhered to, so that



the frame may lie in a flat condition when it is complete.

To make the halved joints, take one of the rails, say one of the three shorter, and with the square draw a line across one face, 3 in. from an end. Carry this line across each side, and connect the middle of these side lines by another line running over the edge of the rail. Two saw-cuts, employing the tenon-saw, following the lines will reduce the wood one-half in thickness, and leave the tongue shown in a, fig. 10.

The other extremity of the rail is similarly treated, as are those of the remaining rails.

The middle halving in each long length

reached; and remove the wood between by means of a sharp chisel, so that a, fig. 10 results.

I need scarcely lay stress upon the necessity for having a good fit between these various parts, for you will recognise the importance of such at once. Screws, $\frac{7}{8}$ in. in length, should be employed to secure the joints, together with glue.

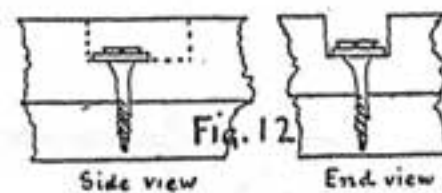
As each section is $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide, more than one board must be used. Three, 18 in. wide, will be most satisfactory, for the fewer the



Fig. 11

joints in the top the better will be the playing surface.

Now, unless the boards of which the table-top is going to be constructed are stored in a room with a fire in it for a considerable time, they are sure to shrink a little; so, if we nail such unshrunk boards to the framework, an



Side view

End view

opening between each is sure to appear after a month or two.

To obviate this defect the boards should be secured by screws passing through slots in the frame so that shrinkage may be allowed for. For, when this takes place, the screws merely require loosening, and the boards can then be pushed closer together.

Figs. 11 and 12 give different views of the method of attachment—an underneath view, a side view, and an end view.

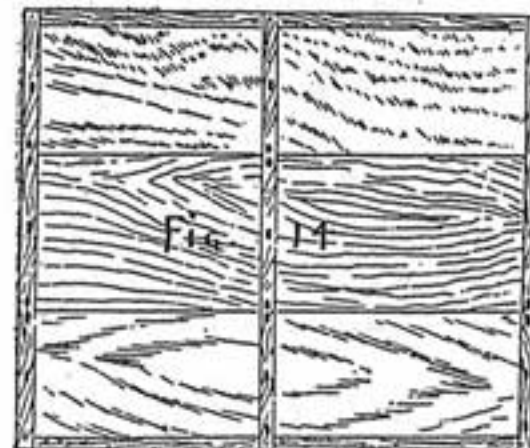


Fig. 13

Each board should have nine screws—three at each end and three in the middle—to secure them to the three rails.

The board at the hinged or net side of the frame needs six slots only, for the net margin is screwed firmly to the frame, so that it cannot have any movement, and should the board shrink, the other edge is bound to approach it, not it the other.

Fig. 14 will show you the relative positions of the slots. Four of them on each rail are a couple of inches apart only; the others are 8 in. apart.



To make the slots, pierce the rail with a gimlet $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter, and repeat at a little distance, to provide an opening for the entrance of a keyhole-saw, which will complete the business. The slot should be $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in length, and wide enough to take the shank of a screw 1 in. long.

The slot made, take a chisel, 1 in. wide, and cut a recess over the slot, $\frac{1}{4}$ in. deep and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. longer than the latter, as figs. 11 and 12 depict. The object of this is to provide room for an ordinary $\frac{1}{2}$ in. washer, or disc of hard wood or metal, through which the screw passes, and which prevents the screw-head descending into the slot, as fig. 12 illustrates clearly.

The top boards measure 5 ft. long, 18 in. wide, and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick, and are of canary or American white-wood. The cost is about 3d. per square foot. Each board must be well planed on both sides and all edges; and they must meet each other as exactly as possible, for inequalities on the playing surface should be conspicuous by their absence.

To prevent one edge rising above another the boards should be dowelled together—that

is to say, one of the edges of each should contain wooden pins which fit into holes in that of the adjoining board. Four will be ample—two between the middle rail and the outer, 8 in. apart.

A brace and $\frac{1}{4}$ in. bit will be necessary for this operation; the holes must occupy the exact middle of the edge and correspond in position. A depth of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. will be sufficient.

The dowels, or pins, are a short inch in length; one-half is cylindrical, and fits the hole in one board and is glued there; the other half is slightly cone-shaped. Fig. 13, giving a side view of a couple of boards, should make this item clear.

In this manner is the top completed, so far as concerns the structural part. It should be stained dark green and a border in white, $\frac{3}{4}$ in. wide, put on with paint, to make the edge of the playing surface clearly distinguishable.

With regard to the folding legs, four are required for each section. As fig. 8 shows, they are divided into couples crossed, which are hinged to the side rails, and fold flat

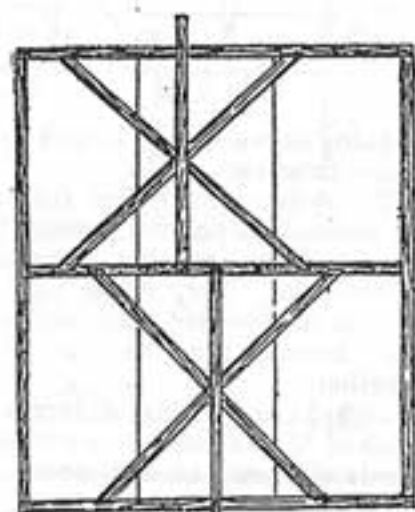


Fig. 15

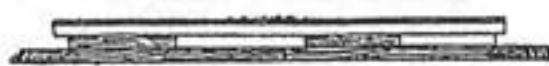


Fig. 15a

against the bottom part of the top. They are held perpendicular to the table by struts, or lengths of board, running from the middle rail to the point where the legs cross each other. These struts are hinged to the middle rail, or, rather, to a piece of wood a few inches long, 3 in. wide, and $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick, because, if it were not for this addition to the rail, the struts could not lie parallel with the legs when folded. Fig. 15 illustrates the section in a folded condition, and fig. 15a gives a side view of the same, by which you will learn how the different parts are arranged.

Fig. 16 gives a side and top view of a strut.

The nicks in one extremity are designed to fit the inner edges of the cross legs immediately above the crossing point. Thus the legs are held immovably in one position, perpendicular to the top.

Each leg measures 3 ft. 8 in. long, 3 in. wide, and $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick. They are united by

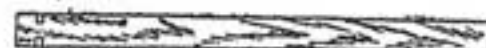


Fig. 16



the halved joint already referred to. The distance between their extremities at top and bottom is 30 in. I needn't tell you that the ends must be bevelled to make them fit the floor and rail.

You will notice in fig. 15 that each couple of legs occupies a slightly different position—one being nearer one side of the section than the other. This is to allow the feet to escape each other when the parts are folded. The struts, in consequence of this difference of situation, are similarly modified. They are

2 ft. 10 in. long and similar to the legs as regards other measurements.

The nicks are made about 1 in. from the end and are $\frac{3}{4}$ in. deep and the same in width. Fig. 17 illustrates a side view of a

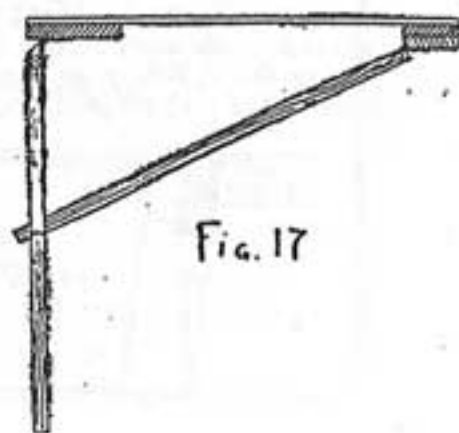


Fig. 17

leg with strut attached. Notice that the tops of the coupled legs are bevelled to allow a little outward swing necessary when fixed on the strut, for it of course must be brought from a position underneath the crossing point of the legs to one above it.

Please let us know how you get on with this!
Editor

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