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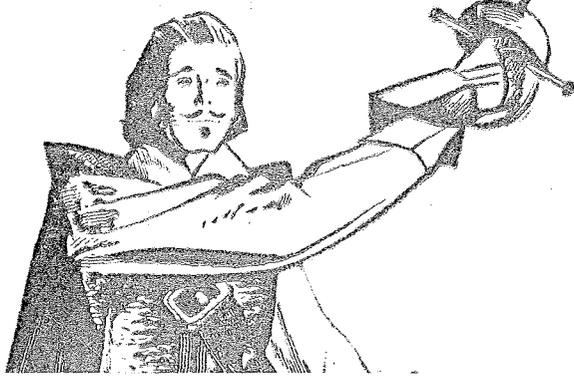


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*THE
RIPOSTE*



Two years ago a certain girl hardly knew the meaning of the word Fencing. In fact, she knew more about the plateaus of Tibet — where of course she had never been.

In spite of being in her late twenties (which is a grave handicap for starting any sport — and particularly Fencing, the most difficult of all) she was then put "en garde" by ALDO NADI. The girl had never before practised any sport, not even as a pastime.

This same young woman has just won — and brilliantly — the Prep and Novice Competitions; she is the only American woman fencer who can claim such a record in the first year of competitive activity, and this after LESS THAN TWO YEARS OF WORK.

In the Manrique Competition ALDO NADI is the only teacher whose two pupils reached the finals, these being his sole entries in the tournament.

If you want to learn the true foundation of swordsmanship, win your competitions, and become a champion, why don't you study with ALDO NADI? Wouldn't you like to try a lesson with him? He will welcome you. If the whole Fencing world recognizes his unquestionable supremacy as a fencer, he has proved, by the recent outstanding victories of one of his pupils, that he is an equally good teacher.

That is why, over a year ago, the best American fencer, as well as the best American woman fencer, both decided to perfect themselves under the guidance of ALDO NADI.

His Studio is at the SAVOY-PLAZA HOTEL, Fifth Avenue, NEW YORK CITY.

The Riposte

Vol. III

DECEMBER, 1938

No. 9

THE INTERCOLLEGIATE FENCING ASSOCIATION

The Annual Meeting of the I. C. F. A., an Association of 12 Eastern Colleges which conducts a complete fencing championship for teams and individuals in all three weapons each year, was held at the Fencers Club, New York City, on October 9th. Representatives of Army, C. C. N. Y., Columbia, Cornell, Hamilton, Harvard, M. I. T., Navy, N. Y. U., Pennsylvania, Princeton, and Yale attended the meeting. Graduate Secretary, Hugh V. Alessandroni, Columbia alumnus, was Chairman of the meeting.

Three new rules of importance were adopted. A warning will henceforth be given for the fleche in foil whether or not the fleche results in a corps-a-corps. A duplication of the offense within the same bout will be penalized by awarding a touch against the offender for each subsequent offense. There has been a warning in effect relative to closing in to avoid a riposte. These warnings will now be counted together so that one warning for a corps-a-corps and one for a fleche will penalize the offender one touch. Secondly, a warning will be given against any fencer who in attacking, either by fleche or balestre, goes off the side of the strip. Such warning also adds to the above stipulated warning offenses. Thirdly, the fleche in epee shall receive a warning the same as in foil. Although it is our understanding that a valid or invalid touch would obviate a warning in all cases we must await the wording of the I. C. F. A. Rules Committee for a clarification of this point.

Mr. Malcolm Farmer, Director of Athletics of Yale University, was elected President of the Association. Mr. Asa Bushnell, Secretary of the Eastern Intercollegiate Association was elected Secretary-Treasurer. These new positions replacing the former Graduate Secretary and Graduate Treasurer resulted from a majority vote of the Council for a change in organizational set-up. These changes in official capacity were necessitated by the increasing work required annually of the I. C. F. A. officers, clearly indicated by the refusal of renomination by the popular Alessandroni.

The election of Mr. Farmer and Mr. Bushnell marks the first time in I. C. F. A. history that its officials have not been chosen from among the fencing alumni of the Member Colleges. These men give all their time to athletic affairs and it is hoped that their executive abilities and interest in sport in general will more than offset their admitted lack of actual fencing experience. Mr. Farmer in his acceptance of nomination stressed his dependence upon the continued cooperation of the fencing alumni for the usual success of the "Intercollegiates". He stated that he and Mr. Bushnell would willingly do the 'leg-work' for the Association but they would still need the help of the alumni for the actual handling of the fencing.

LOST

Mr. John R. Huffman, Secretary of the A. F. L. A., 522 West 152nd St., New York City, has requested the assistance of this magazine in locating the following fencers whose mail has been returned to him. Any assistance you can offer Mr. Huffman will be appreciated: Adolph Graetz, Alice Stoll, Warren Huguélet, Reginald Farrar, Roger Wells, Erick Schuckert, Eddison Tatham, Paul Beegle and Robert Owings.

He also wishes to announce a correction of the address of the Saltus Fencing Club as published in the 1938-1939 A. F. L. A. Schedule of Events. The correct address is 215 West 23rd Street, New York City..

UNITED STATES FENCING TEAM TO MEET CUBANS

As a result of an invitation by the Cuban Fencing League to the A. F. L. A. for a Fencing Team to participate in a Cuban-United States fencing match during the December Cuban Sports Festival, the A. F. L. A. has appointed a team of Jose de Capriles, Miguel A. de Capriles, Warren Dow and John R. Huffman to represent this country.

The members of this four-man team were appointed because of their versatility in all weapons and their ability to leave their businesses for the period from December 21st through Jan. 3rd. They are to be guests of the Cuban Committee and will compete with the Cuban team in a three day series of competitions scheduled for December 26th, 28th and 30th.

The fencing plans are not yet complete. Originally, the request stressed epee as the weapon of competition, but the United States Team was planned around a three-weapon excellence and it is hoped that the Cubans will enter teams in the other weapons. Inasmuch as the Cuban fencers specialize in epee, they may prefer to limit the contest to that weapon. As host nation, the final decision is in their hands, but it is hoped that they may favorably consider the A. F. L. A. proposal for an all-around competition.

Returns have not yet been received in regard to the results of the Cuba-Mexico match for the Russell International Trophy. Should Cuba have been the winner, the A. F. L. A. has authorized John R. Huffman and Miguel A. de Capriles, the United States Team which so ably contested the first Trophy round for this country, to hold, if possible, the Cuba-United States round of this International Competition during their visit to Cuba.

This marks the first time that an officially appointed team from the United States has visited any Pan-American country for competition. We hope that it may prove the start of a series of such competitions with Cuba and the other countries in Central and South America.

ANTHONY SCAFATI AWARDED A CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

The Board of Governors of the A. F. L. A. at a Special Meeting on November 22nd awarded its Certificate of Merit to Mr. Anthony Scafati of Elizabeth, N. J.

Mr. Scafati was an amateur in the New Jersey Division several years ago. Attending College in the South, he became interested in the professional side of fencing after assisting his College in the development of a fencing team. He returned to Elizabeth, N. J. to establish the Salle Scafati where in a few years his pupils began to gain prominence through local and National fencing success. He was brought to the attention of the Board of Governors a year ago and the work of his pupils during the remainder of the season was watched and approved by the Committee on Awards.

Unanimously approved by the Executive Committee of the New Jersey Division, Mr. Scafati was again urged upon the Board of Governors at the opening of the present season. The victory of his pupils in all four of the Prep fencing competitions opening the New Jersey Schedule decided the Board in his favor. His marks the first award of this nature this season.

Mr. Scafati confines most of his activities to his own Salle d'Armes and The Pingry School, a private boys' school in Elizabeth.

WE OPEN THIS, OUR DECEMBER ISSUE, WITH VERY BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR SUBSCRIBERS, ADVERTISERS AND OTHER FRIENDS OF FENCING FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A NEW YEAR REplete WITH HAPPINESS, HEALTH, SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY.

THE RIPOSTE

America's Oldest Fencing Magazine

114 Washington Place, N. Y. City

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EDITORIALLY SPEAKING

Just as you dig the coal from your Christmas stocking and face the long cold winter, we announce a new Editor. The Law has taken our former Editor Jose de Capriles away from us. We don't know how long his term will be, but whenever he is released again we hope to be fired and returned to the quiet life of a penniless gentleman.

The new Editor has always held too many opinions about things that did not concern him. His opinions about The Riposte were offered at regular intervals and once too often. When Mr. de Capriles found that his studies at Law School and his position as Magazine Editor no longer mixed, that he was confusing prime parries with torts and contracts, he wrapped his magazine in a fencing bag and left it on its present doorstep. If that is our future lawyer's idea of Justice, I'll avoid his counsel like mad.

* * *

Seriously though, you have a new Editor. He is faced with the problem of taking a Magazine that has survived three winters, that has grown from a little fortnightly mimeographed newsette to a monthly printed publication of some importance throughout the American fencing world. It has proved to be one successful trial out of many that have fallen by the wayside. This was accomplished only through the courage, patience and persistence of its founder, Jose de Capriles. We hope that we may hold the gains he made and that we may hold the friends he acquired for the Riposte. We bring many friends too to the Riposte, countable on either hand, but unfortunately they are mostly relatives and not interested in any sport that can't be caught on a hook.

* * *

Your present Editor realizes a serious problem. He believes that this magazine has served and has the means of serving a valuable duty to fencers throughout the United States. He knows that fencers are loyal to their sport. He knows that once the fencing bug has bitten you, you remain bitten throughout your lifetime. What he cannot understand is that out of a nation containing perhaps five to ten thousand devotees, a specialized sports magazine of this kind should continue to have no more than 300 individual supporters.

We are barely breaking even. If you want this magazine to backtrack to a mimeographed issue, count us out. We want a bigger magazine with more coverage, with pictures in every issue, with a small surplus to cover emergencies. We have about 300 subscribers. We need another 300 subscribers and badly. This can be accomplished if everyone who reads our publication were willing to subscribe. We appeal to those of you who, read this and have not subscribed to dig down and give the magazine just that much additional support.

THE EDITOR.

THE REMISE

A new fencing season has opened and we are witnessing an outpouring of the largest field of young fencers the A. F. L. A. has ever seen. New record numbers of entrants have been established in all competitions to date, despite the fact that the A. F. L. A., under its present set-up, has made membership for its younger New York fencers as unattractive as possible.

I have a great deal of respect for the A. F. L. A. I believe that without the A. F. L. A. fencing in the United States would be many years behind its present position. I believe that its objective of bringing fencing into being wherever possible in the United States, the establishment of standard rules, the development of Olympic Fencing Teams, the supplying of opportunities for foreign and domestic fencing masters throughout the country has been a colossal task well handled and constantly pursued. I have great admiration for the scores of amateurs who have given voluntarily of their time and efforts for years that the sport might develop and prosper. Anyone differing with these opinions should take himself aside for an earnest bit of self-analysis. He is either a sour amateur or a disgruntled professional with some petty grudge of long-standing that has stained his entire viewpoint. His quarrel is probably not with the A. F. L. A. but with some officer, member or group within the A. F. L. A. that has at some time or other, purposely or otherwise, stepped upon his delicate toes.

I have the same feeling of respect for the Inter-collegiate Fencing Association, the Public School Athletic League, the Recreational Fencing League, the Inter-settlement Fencing League, the Illinois Fencing League and many others. They each have a province unto themselves and each is doing a service for the sport in developing its own specialized group. The A. F. L. A. has undertaken a much bigger task and the fact that it has handled that task so well over more than 40 years certainly deserves the respect of fencers and sportsmen everywhere.

I have expressed my opinion first about the A. F. L. A. because I have a quarrel with them at the present time. I don't wish this quarrel to be misunderstood.

Take a look at the long Schedule of Events issued by the Board of Governors to cover the New York City competitions and the National Schedule of Championships. It is a most extensive job, employing every available date for a competition somewhere. It is an intensive job likewise insofar as the Women's foil and the higher men's classifications go. The Preps and Novices are badly skimped. This is understandable when you realize that there are only so many days to go around and the Board of Governors has the most important duty of developing an Olympic Fencing Team and annually deciding the American Championships. My quarrel is that the Board of Governors is fulfilling its obligations as a National Organization and is neglecting its almost as important responsibility to New York City.

The A. F. L. A. was set up to afford competition to active fencers anywhere in the United States where there are enough fencers to form an A. F. L. A. unit. These units or Divisions are scattered throughout the fencing centers. The New York City group is not recognized as a separate unit but is carried as a loosely organized group that includes every A. F. L. A. member that is not registered elsewhere. The result has been, as evidenced by the Secretary's News Letter itself, a mere 5% growth in membership in the New York City group during 1938, as compared with at least a 116% growth in all six leading Divisions. During the same season, there was a greater than 5% in-

(Continued on page 8)

ANOTHER HORNETS' NEST

The editors of any magazine or newspaper often find themselves in a hornets' nest as the result of some article or letter published in their pages. Let us say they inadvertently publish a letter by Mrs. Amy Zilch complaining about a neighbor who raises and races pigeons and how cruel it all is. Immediately some 6,000 pigeon racers write in to give the editors and Mrs. Zilch a piece of their minds. Subscriptions cease by the hundreds and everyone hears about it but the pigeons. A few issues later some 112,000 stamp collectors jump upon the editors for a disparaging remark published against philatelists. And so it goes. The wise editor avoids being drawn into such controversies and gets out of it all by apologizing as gracefully as possible at the earliest convenient moment.

Not so with the Bulletin Index, a magazine similar to Time published in Pittsburgh. In May, 1938, it published an article on fencing in its Sport Section. No duels have yet been fought over the article. The A. F. L. A., the A. A. U., and the American Olympic Committee have all thus far retained their calms. Nevertheless the usual succession of letters has resulted and the Bulletin Index, instead of wisely withdrawing from the controversy, has foolishly defended its misinformed Sports Editor and added coals of fire by damning with faint praise. We reprint the sequence of exchanges. It may cause a slight tightening of the skin along the back of the neck. You may feel the blood rise as you reach for your Atlas to tear Pittsburgh from its pages. To arouse you, however, was not the purpose of this reprint. We submit it rather to show how far off even a Sports Editor of a reputable News Magazine can go in any article pertaining to a sport as old and international as fencing. Last but not least we print Mr. Santelli's letter to show what he, a naturalized American, has come to feel about American fencers. Any fencer in this country may well be proud of the accomplishments of the American fencers he names and praises.

Quoting from the Bulletin Index we reprint approximately two-thirds of the article which stirred the hornets' nest.

"Fencing: Pittsburgh's Swordsmen Emerge From Longtime Obfuscation With A Tournament and Exhibition."

"Unlike New York, Boston, Detroit, Chicago, Washington and Dallas, Pittsburgh is still an outpost in fencing's backwoods. Disjointed, spasmodic, boasting no officers, no clubhouse, collecting no dues, the Pittsburgh Fencers Club nevertheless bears the lone semblance to a backbone behind Pittsburgh sword addicts. Started up a decade ago by five rabid local fencers (Capt. Shoemaker, Engineer Walter Beyer, Teacher Konvolinka, Dr. Hance, Custodian Montgomery) P. F. C. one night last week saw a glimmer of hope for the future of fencing in Pittsburgh when 40 collegians and secondary schoolers signed up, competed at Mt. Lebanon High School in the 2nd Annual Tournament under P. F. C. auspices, a gain of 26 over last year's entry list.

U. S. fencers are notoriously the world's worst. Pittsburghers are perhaps the worst in the U. S. Because the quality of P. F. C. Tourney competition was in solid keeping with U. S. tradition, older P. F. C. members afterwards treated spectators to an exhibition of Pittsburgh's best foil and sabre work."

In the next issue of the Bulletin Index there appeared a letter which indicated very clearly that the hornets' nest had been disturbed by the article. We quote the letter in full.

(Continued on page 6)

A NEW SERIES OF FENCING ARTICLES

Since the articles on Judging were printed in The Riposte two years ago, there has not been any sustained series of articles issued in this magazine. We now propose to supply a series of special articles on the three weapons.

We open the series this issue with a general article on foil. It will be followed in the next two issues with more specific articles on the same weapon. The second article will be entitled "How to Train for a Foil Competition" and the third article will be "How to Compete in a Foil Competition." It is hoped that sabremen and epeeists will accept assignments on their weapons for later articles.

There is a distinct purpose in the preparation of these articles. They are intended to be of assistance and instruction to the younger fencers, particularly in those parts of the country where professionals are not available. Fencing is a unique sport in that the professional is an ever-important part of the sport. He not only teaches the correct movements but also guides the training of fencers throughout their com-

petitive careers. Skill rapidly declines without assistance. Nevertheless, there are hundreds, perhaps thousands of fencers in this country who lack the good services of a professional. Their cause is not hopeless. They may learn to fence with other amateurs and have excellent fun and show good progress by training together. These articles are written primarily for them in a language that we believe is not too technical for their instruction. We hope, also, that the more advanced fencers may find a suggestion or tip here and there that may prove of value.

In an effort to make a presentation of facts as the writer sees them, many things have hereinafter been said which will not ring the bell with some of our readers. Fencing, after all, is partly scientific, partly theoretical and partly empirical. We anticipate considerable controversy in cases where the personal opinion of the writer differs with that of the reader. We welcome expression of these opinions and with permission will print any arguments of general interest that may be submitted.

A WINNING ARGUMENT FROM THE LOSING SIDE

There was a time and not so long ago when an American could limit himself to the French School of Foil Fencing in any discussion of this sport. This is no longer true. Today one does not enter far upon any discussion of foil without meeting the necessity of explaining that there are two basic Schools of Foil, the French and the Italian. All active fencers know, at least vaguely, the major differences in these Schools. It is now becoming more and more essential that we analyse these differences closely.

This necessity is due to the gradual realization that the French School of Foil is no longer supreme, that the trend throughout the world is toward the Italian School and results are proving the wisdom of that change. There must certainly be some clearly defined reason for this, some basic causes which can explain an upheaval of this proportion.

The Two Schools and Their Weapons

Now let us analyse broadly the major differences between the Schools. Each is based upon a distinct and opposite principle of attack. The French School endeavors to attack in such a way that the defender's blade never achieves contact with the attacking foil until after the touch has arrived. To make a one-two attack against a simple sixte-quarte parry or a disengage and deceive against a counter of quarte would comply with the objective of the French School.

The Italian School attacks with greater caution, endeavoring always to contact and hold the opponent's blade during an attack. An attack with pressure and a disengage is a simple type of Italian attack. Neither School uses its own principle exclusively, but borrows frequently from the other School. My point is only that the preponderance of attacks is deceptive in the French School and forceful in the Italian School.

Just as the teeth of carnivorous and herbivorous animals are different for their different purposes, so are the foils in the French and Italian Schools different for the two basic styles. The Italian foil is usually of maximum length and sets deeper into the mounting. The blade tapers more rapidly from the pommel and is slenderer and thinner in cross section. It is softer, having a less stiff tempering than the French Foil. The French blade tends to be a centimeter or two shorter than maximum allowable length. The major difference, however, is in the handle. The Italian foil handle has a crossbar, is straight or neutral and is intended to be strapped or bound firmly to the hand and wrist. The French handle is often

shorter and plain but bent slightly to shape to the hand. It is intended for use without a strap. These differences comply with the requirements of their respective Schools, the French foil being a light, deceptive weapon, the Italian foil affording a strong grip for the beats and pressures required of it.

There are advantages and disadvantages to both types of foil handle. The French foil must at all times be gripped by the fingers, the handle being pinched very tightly between the thumb and first finger. Most of the foil movements must be made by those same fingers. This is not only difficult but is also very tiring. However, it allows full play to all wrist motions and permits every movement known to fencing. The sudden contraction of the back fingers creates a snap or whip-beat that cannot be duplicated with the Italian foil. It is a fast defensive weapon, even though light, for fortunately parries in foil need only be heard to be recognized.

It has its drawbacks. It is an exacting weapon that requires constant practice and in general it stands up under rough opposition only in the most capable hands. There is always the danger of disarmament. Full disarmament does no harm for a bout stops with its occurrence, but many times an opposing beat or pressure or even a sudden, fast parry on one's own account throws the French foil out of control and leaves one momentarily helpless.

Now let us pay obeisance to the Italian foil. What a feeling of satisfaction and security it gives to strap on one of these foils and cease all worries about the mere holding of the French foil. This weapon lends itself naturally to a game of beats and pressures, it is capable of forcing itself through any inaccurate parries, it is always under control during defensive stress and is the valued 'friend in need' to its many devoted followers.

It has limitations to make up for its advantages. It permits of no wrist rotation, all movements being dependent on the fingers, the elbow and the shoulder. For all except the most expert, its movements are wider than those possible with the French foil. Its use tends to lessen the sensitivity of the hand. It has no effectiveness at close quarters. Whereas it is relatively easy to shift from the French foil to the Italian foil, it is almost impossible to reverse the process. Once adopted the Italian foil becomes a crutch that can not easily be discarded.

The Modern Italian School

The present Italian School is the modern School of Foil. It has taken the best principles of the French School, adapted them to the Italian weapon and contributed several new features that are distinct additions to the sport. Many years ago it adopted the French bent-elbow "on guard" position which is now recognized everywhere as the standard position. It simplified the sport by practically limiting a 'phrase' to the attack, riposte, counter-riposte and remise. It increased the tempo of Directing by limiting the requirements of the Director to observing those few movements and stopping the bout immediately upon any hesitation in the 'phrase'. Foil is today a fast, hard, competitive sport fought in many short bursts of blazing speed. Attacks are made on an all-or-nothing basis, scores move rapidly, speed and distance have assumed the importance of technique and the dominant technique is Italian.

The classic French School is a thing of the past. It will remain so as long as 'phrases' are not permitted to continue, as they used to be, until one fencer or the other received a touch somewhere on his body. Many great French stylists had been capable of starting a false attack, taking up the play as they met it and working through their opponents' defenses to the ultimate touch. These great French champions have died or retired. Today's champions are Italians in great numbers with modern technique and even rules in their favor. They will undoubtedly dominate foil for many years, just as the French did before them, until some new School is developed that can match their efficiency.

There are various reasons why the Italian School is dominant in foil competition today. Most of these reasons are actually based upon efficiency in some way or other. In analysis, therefore, we have seen efficiency defeat artistry. We shall try to explain the various factors in this composite picture of efficiency.

In the first place, a fencer of championship calibre can be developed in as few as five years in the Italian School. In the French School, five years would ordinarily only be preliminary to the necessary training. Broadly speaking, the Italians excel in their 20s and the French in their 30s. That is efficiency.

The Italian School is ideal for competition. It is based upon the making of touches as quickly, as effectively and as strongly as possible. It is the hand of steel without the velvet glove. It is a serious style, allowing for no play and no quarter. Not as enjoyable a style for friendly exercise in the *salle d'armes*, it is nevertheless the more efficient style for competition where the primary objective is the making of touches.

The Italian fencers have developed certain recognizable improvements in basic fencing. Their *quarte* position with blade parallel to the *sixte* position is definitely safer than the French *quarte* position where the point is directed toward the center forehead of the opponent. Once the Italian has parried in *quarte* the parry is permanent until the opponent introduces a further movement. There is no possibility of forcing through or remising as there is against the French *quarte*. Because of the safety of both his *quarte* and *sixte* positions, the Italian may hold his parries momentarily the better to direct his ripostes. Both the French *quarte* and *sixte* parries are less tenable and necessitate *tac au tac* ripostes, sometimes inadvisably. Certainly there is greater defensive and offensive efficiency in the Italian *quarte* and *sixte* positions that afford permanent coverage and the choice of delayed or immediate ripostes.

The Italian School has introduced greater mobility and better legwork into the sport. Today we see foils-

men shifting back and forth, breaking or gaining distance to their own advantage or their opponent's disadvantage. Fencers everywhere are adopting this principle. An American championship of even ten years ago would appear as poses in statuary compared with those same championships today.

The Italian School has improved the lunge itself. The forward foot previously was advanced by raising the foot vertically an inch or two from the floor with the sole of the shoe kept parallel to the floor throughout the lunge. The new lunge stipulates that the front foot be kicked forward by first straightening the leg from the knee. The upper part of the front leg need never be raised from the crouch or "on guard" position. The action of the back leg is the same in either lunge but the Italian fencer lands on his forward heel whereas the French fencer lands with the front foot flat on the floor. The Italian lunge has the following advantages: (1) it does not require the upward lift in starting but is more like an exaggerated step forward and (2) the landing on the heel breaks the forward momentum so that upon the completion of the lunge the fencer is in perfect balance.

The Italian School appeals to youth. The French foil is a heavy undertaking for the small hand of a young boy or girl. The Italian School is basically simpler because it makes possible many routine attacks that force the play. These appeal to a youngster too inexperienced and enthusiastic to stop to think out the proper deception for the moment. He will practice by the hour on a series of routine attacks that he sees make touches. He has not yet developed the ability to concentrate upon and out-think his opponent but he does know the meaning of 'fight' and can be taught to fight with an Italian foil. The Italian School can and does start its fencers young. Aldo and Nedo Nadi, Nunes, Marzi and Gaudini all started fencing at ten years of age or thereabouts. As they entered manhood they had years of fencing training behind them. Their muscles were developed, their bodies coordinated, their technique letter-perfect. They were the efficient products of an efficient School.

Conclusion

The writer has fenced with a French foil for more than fourteen years. He has never owned an Italian foil. He has tried modifications of the French foil all the way from berets and pistol grips to the use of straps and tapes. He has always returned to the plain French foil as the finest foil weapon ever developed. Nevertheless, he is forced by facts to admit that the French School is today in dark eclipse. He believes that he has presented a fair and winning argument for the Italian School from the losing French School viewpoint. However, his faith in the French School is still strong. He agrees with Mr. Orest Meykar of New Orleans who has recently written, "Which school is the better, is the question that has no answer. The proof of the pudding is in eating it. — the superiority of one or the other school lies in the skill of its adherents. It is the fencer who wins the bout; the school only teaches him broad tactical and technical principles; he supplies the strategy, the *apropos*, the judgement of situation, which govern all other considerations. What good is it to be well grounded in all parries and attacks, to be able to do them well, but in a bout to do them at the wrong time? Practice, plus experience, plus the inherent intelligence, plus some good luck, wins the bouts."

It is a good thing for fencing that the French School is no longer supreme. Just as two evenly matched fencing clubs in a city are good for fencing in that city and a two-party system is good for Government so are two Schools of Foil good for foil fencing. The French must study the Italian School.

(Continued on page 8)

ANOTHER HORNETS' NEST

(Continued)

To the Editors:

In the years that I have read the Bulletin Index I have found very little to criticize. I wish, however, to take exception to your description of the fencing tournament sponsored by the Pittsburgh Fencing Club last week in Mt. Lebanon High School. Your report of this event seemed to stunt rather than to stimulate interest in a sport that is everywhere in the world justly popular. I regret that you chose to use this event as a peg on which to hang an indictment of United States fencing as a whole rather than as an opportunity to trace the good work that has been done by the Pittsburgh Fencing Club in persisting in the face of difficulties and succeeding in increasing interest in this sport.

It is significant that in this tournament was a gain of twenty-six entries over the previous year.

I am certain that any tournament in which Capt. Shoemaker and Messrs. Montgomery, Konvolinka, Hance and Neely took part would prove that Pittsburghers rate a far higher appraisal than you give them as "the worst in the United States." Farmers Bank Bldg. Justin D. Lees
Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Bulletin Index comment on this letter was as follows:

"Intending no slur, and pleased by the efforts of the Pittsburgh Fencing Club and its members to boom a worthy sport, the Bulletin Index must continue to believe Pittsburgh fencing, like that of most U. S. cities outside Manhattan, is less than good, points to the fact that no local fencer is rated more than a novice by the august American Fencers League. No U. S. fencer was expert enough to win his way past the Olympic semi-finals in 1936. Said famed European Champion Aldo Nadi, who a year ago met and defeated all the top U. S. fencers hands down: "There is little wrong with American fencing other than downright incompetence." — The Editors."

The next chapter in the sequence was a letter from Capt. Shoemaker to Mr. George Santelli, American Olympic Sabre Coach in 1928, 1932 and 1936. Capt. Shoemaker had been a member of the Fencers Club in New York several years ago and had participated in a fencing exhibition with Santelli at the St. George Hotel at that time.

Dear Prof. Santelli:

I am enclosing clippings from a local magazine on fencing. As you will see, they are decidedly sarcastic over the type of American fencing, quoting Aldo Nadi to the effect that it is downright incompetent.

I would greatly appreciate a letter from you, which I will have printed in this magazine, on the subject. We have a substantial group of young fencers in the high schools and colleges who would be interested in your opinions on fencing.

As to the ranking of Pittsburgh fencers, the article carries a misstatement. Both Dr. Hance and myself were runners-up in the sabre intercollegiate fencing meets during 1921-22. Furthermore, several of our members of the Pittsburgh Athletic Association placed in the A. F. L. A. tourney held here in 1931 in foil junior and senior ranks.

I won the senior foil; John H. Neely won the junior and Walter O. Beyer won the novice foil. In the later tri-state meet I won the senior sabre and John H. Neely won the junior sabre titles.

Trusting you are enjoying good health and that your school is thriving, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

Philip S. Shoemaker

We now print Santelli's final letter which itemizes the achievements of American fencers most clearly and is a record of which all our fencers may be justly proud. It puts the glib and uninformed writer of the article and comments in the Bulletin Index to the proof of showing a source for any of his broad, incorrect statements. It does not claim that American fencers are the best in the world and they are not, but they have come far in a sport which is not an American sport basically such as baseball, basketball and lacrosse. It claims a respect for the achievement of Americans in a sport which was founded in Europe and has there today only a lessening claim of decided superiority. We quote in full.

Dear Mr. Shoemaker:

I have read the clippings you sent me from The Bulletin Index with great interest and no less amusement. The person who wrote the article evidently had no sense of proportion. He evidenced a very common complex which is typically American, that anything in this country has to be either the greatest, the best, the most stupendous in the world or else it is the worst. Because the American fencers have not as yet won any World or Olympic

(Continued on page 7)

Salle d'Armes Santelli

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Would you enjoy a round of golf with Bobby Jones?

Enjoy the same thrill in fencing. Come
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NEW YORK CITY

ANOTHER HORNETS' NEST

(Continued)

Championship, the writer nominated the Americans as the world's worst, and further nominated the fencers of Pittsburgh as the worst in America. This would naturally leave the Pittsburghers as less than nothing. I don't blame you for feeling very indignant about it. I would be too if the person who wrote this amusing little masterpiece were an expert or at least a well-informed person. I assure you, however, that he knows less about American fencing than he thinks the Americans know about fencing. This again is less than nothing.

To prove this I am going to bring up a few facts which are established upon the Olympic records. In 1920, the American Foil Team took third place in the Olympics at Antwerp. This was a remarkable achievement because in those days American fencing was still in its infancy. In 1928, Lt. George Cannan of the U. S. Navy (therefore not a Manhattan fencer) tied for second place and came off third in the epee at the Amsterdam Olympics. In those same Olympics, the American Sabre Team placed fourth. In the intervening eight years, the Americans had shown enormous improvement. In the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles, Joseph Levis of Boston (again not a Manhattan fencer) took second place in the Foil Individual Championship. Incidentally, this achievement bettered Aldo Nadi's best Olympic Foil showing. Again in 1932, the American Foil Team and Epee Team each placed third and our Sabre Team took fourth, losing third place on touches. In Berlin, in 1936, the American Team had no individual honors but took 5th position out of twenty three nations, ahead of many of the leading European fencing countries. Lt. Fritz Weber in those same Olympics took first place out of 42 contestants in the fencing event of the Modern Pentathlon.

The best recognition of American fencing by the fencing world is that our teams, regardless of weapon, were and are going to be seeded as head of a round robin pool or group along with Italy, France, Belgium and Germany.

These are facts about American fencing in the Olympic Games. Our fencers have obtained excellent results as well in International, World and Foreign Championships. Dr. John R. Huffman held the Danish foil and sabre championships against fencers like the world famous Osier. Professor Miguel A. deCapriles won the Hungarian Outdoor Sabre Championship in 1936 and was acknowledged in the Hungarian papers as the first foreigner in history to win a Hungarian sabre championship, a feat that was not equaled even by the great Nedo Nadi who before the war took part in many sabre competitions in Hungary when he was an amateur. Lt. Thomas Sands took fifth place in epee in the 1937 World Championship held in Paris.

As for the article's quotation of Aldo Nadi's criticism of American fencing, it is probably a misrepresentation. This is a safe assumption for the other references to Nadi are incorrect. Nadi never met nor defeated any of the top U. S. fencers. I am not saying that he couldn't, but the fact remains that, except for

his own pupils, he has not crossed blades with any of the American amateurs nor counted touches with any amateur in exhibition. Mr. Nadi is unquestionably a very strong competitive fencer. Unfortunately, he turned professional before winning either any Olympic or World Amateur Championship. His greatest claims for supremacy were all established as a professional which obviated the necessity of entering the long, gruelling tournaments that are the real test of a champion. In a single ten-touch challenge match he should prove supreme in foil and very high in either sabre or epee. However, such comparisons are unfair. One cannot say that France or England are the World's worst tennis players because the American Donald Budge could defeat them all hands down.

In closing, Mr. Shoemaker, I repeat that the Bulletin Index can easily be proved to have been incorrect in its statements about our sport. Our best fencers are very good and our worst fencers are very bad. Pittsburgh does not come into either category.

Yours very truly,

George Santelli

(Editors Note: The Bulletin Index made no mention of Mr. G. W. Postgate, now at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, who won the American Individual Sabre Championship in 1908.)

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A WINNING ARGUMENT

(Continued)

They must borrow good things from it just as the Italians borrowed from the French as they started to create the modern Italian School. The French must experiment with the Italian quarte position and adapt it or its equivalent to their School. They must emphasize legwork more than ever in the past. They must adopt the Italian lunge. They must develop a modernized French School and throw out every stodgy idea that has been disproved in modern practice. They must create. It may take years, it may take decades or generations, but fencing is timeless and those units mean nothing. Just as the Italians had the courage of their convictions and persisted with their faith in a weapon that appeared defeated, so must the French have faith in their basic principle and weapon and produce a new School that will add another interesting chapter to the oldest, the youngest and the most interesting sport in the world, known as fencing.

THE REMISE

(Continued)

crease in fencing clubs in New York City. We witnessed a large growth in the Recreational Fencing League and the P. S. A. L., both within the same territorial boundaries. Certainly there is some serious fault indicated by such a growth record, or lack of record, as the case may be.

This direct discouragement of our younger fencers has been noticed by some members of the A. F. L. A. A proposal has been made for a New York Division. The present Divisions have been brought into the discussion. A Majority and a Minority Report have been issued, for and against the formation of such a Division. Unfortunately, from reports, neither of these documents dealt directly with the problem. The one shouted for a Division stating that it would produce more members, perhaps three times as many in New York City alone, to bring as much money into the National Treasury as before. The other shouted that the A. F. L. A. would lose considerable income without the New York dues going directly to the National Treasury, the Metropolitan Group would not be interested in contributing to the expense of the Nationals and all sorts of calamitous things would happen to fencing. Both arguments were most pecuniary and ignored the plight of the younger fencers in New York City who can find little or no outlet for their fencing in A. F. L. A. competition and with what little they have costing them membership and entry fees.

There are eight fencing clubs in New York City and a good six Colleges in and about the metropolis. The bumper crop of Preps and Novices this year is only the cream of this crop. The Salle Santelli, the largest fencing club in New York City with at least 20 Novice foils men, entered 5 men in the Novice Foil. Similar almost-decimation of ranks occurred at the Saltus Fencing Club, Vince's, Columbia University, C. C. N. Y., Salle Cherny and the Fencers Club. Why? Because these boys cannot see any sense in paying A. F. L. A. dues, initiation fee and entry fee to enter one competition all season.

I do not care what organizational change the A. F. L. A. may have to make to develop this large group of young fencers. If a Metropolitan Division is necessary, then I am for it. If a Metropolitan Committee, authorized to operate under the Board of Governors, would provide one Prep competition in foil, a series of Novice competitions for individuals and teams in all three weapons, a series of inter-club competitions revolving around the city during the sea-

son for fencers in all weapons, then I am for that. These boys are full of pep and we are stupid if we don't let them use it in friendly competition at the lowest cost possible. This has nothing to do with the National problem. It is a purely local proposition that should be of interest to every Club, professional and young amateur in New York City. The Board of Governors should welcome this development. It relieves its National Schedule of every competition of classification lower than that of Junior. It might prove hard on newspaper reporters who might find it necessary to contact several places in the city on the same night to pick up the results of two and three competitions going on at the same time. It might be a hardship on a Metropolitan Committee, but where better could the Board of Governors find a trying ground for younger men to prove their executive ability.

I have a third alternative. Strip the National Schedule of all Prep, Novice and non-National Junior competitions. Have the Board of Governors set up a Junior Non-divisional Group (a subsidiary group to contain all Junior fencers. A Junior fencer in that case refers to those under 19 years of age,) with jurisdiction over all these competitions. Any fencer could enter this group's competitions so long as his classification permitted it. His dues, if a Junior, are to be kept in the Junior Group's Treasury. His dues, if an Active or Senior fencer, are to be kept until he should fence in any of the National competitions, at which time it shall revert to the National Treasury. At the end of each season, any amount in excess of \$100. should be turned over to the National Treasury. Such an arrangement would suffice to finance the necessary competitions, should quiet the fears surrounding an actual Metropolitan Division, would provide adequate competitive outlets for our younger fencers and most important of all would require no more than a Board of Governors ruling to be put into practice.

* * * * *

The fencing season opened most promisingly on November 1st with the Prep Foil. It was difficult to believe that none of these boys had fenced before in an A. F. L. A. competition. I have seen poorer Junior foil competitions in the past. I felt like a visitor in a strange land to see so many fencers I did not know, but there they were, the cream of the crop, as mentioned before, as promising a group of youngsters as I have ever seen; promising trouble to our present Juniors and Seniors in years to come, promising a good Olympic Team in 1944.

The fine accomplishment of the young winner of this competition can best be described by quoting the headlines in the New York Herald Tribune the following morning, "Prokop's 14-Bout Sweep Captures Prep Foils Title." Austin Prokop, a Santelli pupil, a tall, modest lad won 14 straight bouts in an exhibition of skill and stamina that was truly remarkable in a boy his age. Furthermore, the boy seemed to gain confidence and strength as the evening progressed and appeared ready for more as the evening closed. His style was well-rounded with forceful offense and fast, varied parries and strong ripostes. Aim high, Master Prokop, there is a swell group of Senior fencers who will proudly welcome you to their select ranks if your present promise bears fruit through a few more years of hard work and application.

Aibert Axelrod, also of Santelli's, gained a well-deserved second place in this competition. His bout with Prokop was the feature of the evening. These friends of long standing fought a beautiful bout with Axelrod gaining the first touch on as pretty a parry and riposte as has been seen thus far this year. There is not a great deal of difference between these boys,

(Continued on page 9)

THE REMISE

(Continued)

the slightest edge carrying a little bit of jinx seems just now to be in Prokop's favor.

Fashions seem to be set in these Prep competitions. Last year, fleches were in strong evidence and thru-out both the College and A. F. L. A. season the fleche was an over-used method of attack. In this year's Prep the stop-thrust was the feature. Both **Gerald Levin** of the Eastern District High School and **Emile Jabbour** of the Salle Cherny appeared to make most of their touches by this means. Its over-use possibly led to their eventual downfall. My only point is to watch out this year for an increased use of the stop-thrust in all College and A. F. L. A. competitions.

* * * * *

The Women's Foil Prep Competition attracted 20 entrants and a good crowd of spectators to open the season for the Women fencers on November 18th at the Fencers Club. As with the boys, the girls produced a bumper crop of young fencers superior to that of any former year. Mrs. **Aldo Nadi**, fencing a clean Italian style, as taught her by her famous fencing professional husband, was the popular favorite and winner of the competition after a final fence-off with Miss **Ruth Maxwell** of Hofstra College. Lacking the feminine touch, I should prefer to quote Miss **Janet Owen's** account of the bout in the New York Herald Tribune, "Mrs. Nadi, a slender, red-headed young woman with promising form in the art of foils play, never had fenced before she married Nadi two years ago. Under his tutelage in that brief time she has developed a technique which enabled her to win all but two of her approximate dozen bouts last evening, and to defeat her closest rival, Miss **Ruth Maxwell**, of Hofstra College, 4 - 2 in a fence-off."

Mrs. **Nadi** was decidedly nervous at the start of the evening. Any old-time fencer could smile to realize the horrible falling feeling she must have felt as she opposed styles of fencing she had never contacted in her husband's Salle. It is to her credit that she recovered confidence as the evening progressed and successfully overcame these various styles as she met them. With more competitive experience and greater developed stamina Mrs. **Nadi** should go on to more victories in the higher classifications.

Miss **Maxwell** deserves a great deal of credit. She fenced coolly and most sanely all evening, being defeated only in a fence-off with an opponent who has had had a unique opportunity to develop the finest technique available.

This competition introduced the new four touch bout in Women's foil. It proved highly satisfactory from all appearances and permitted an otherwise long competition to be finished within reasonable time limits.

* * * * *

With foil as the basic weapon in fencing, it is only natural to expect that foil fencing in the younger classifications should be superior to the sabre and epee fencing. With all due respect to the participants, this fact was evident at the Novice Sabre Competition held at the N. Y. A. C. on November 3rd. **Douglas Gerard** of the Salle Santelli won first place after a late-competition upset of **William Ritayik** of the Saltus Club. An interesting sidenote on this competition was the fact that **Gerard** only entered this competition as a preliminary warming up for a competition he wished to enter out of town. He was without hope of victory and retained a relaxed mental and physical attitude until his success showed promise of final victory. In the deciding bout with **Ritayik** the latter was the first to achieve four touches and still **Gerard** came through by letting his opponent

force the game and achieve self-defeat through over-eagerness.

I do not wish to detract from **Gerard's** victory or underestimate **Ritayik's** promise as a sabreman. However, I believe the facts behind this victory of **Gerard's** deserve to be stressed. **Ritayik** was definitely beaten by himself by forcing the fight against a more-relaxed opponent who only took advantage of the opportunities offered. **Gerard** is a hard, temperamental fencer with good promise. This evening his casualness offset his temperament and he won out against a cooler, headier fencer than himself.

* * * * *

What a competition the Novice Foil proved to be. With 74 entrants it was necessary to hold this competition over a two day period. **Austin Prokop** of the Salle Santelli confirmed the promise shown by him in the Prep Foil by winning with only one loss in a total of 20 bouts. He suffered no loss in the Finals, however, to establish a most unusual record for his first two competitions.

Theodore Green of the Saltus Club won second place by losing only to **Prokop**. **Green** has remained just short of a Junior ranking the past few years. He has a fine hand technique but has yet to develop a mobility in leg work to match the higher ranking fencers. **Arthur Axelrod** took 3rd place. **Daniel Alagna**, who first appeared in A. F. L. A. competition in the **John Allaire Trophy** contest last year, is confirming the promise he gave at that time, by winning fourth place. **Alagna** impresses us as a young foilsman with a good future who will move from class to class in jumps with discouraging plateaus between. We hope that he will have the patience and persistence to carry on through these plateaus that discourage but nevertheless are sometimes necessary to gather the momentum for the next upward step.

* * * * *

An amusing remark was made by one of the boys following the Novice Sabre competition. "Can you imagine, I've had twelve lessons from **Santelli** and was put out in the first round."

* * * * *

The **Nadis** have cancelled all arrangements abroad for their fencing exhibitions in London. What is England's loss is America's gain and we are selfish enough to be pleased at these altered plans. **Nadi** maintains his private **Aldo Nadi Studio** at the Savoy-Plaza.

The **Vinces** are enroute to Los Angeles by automobile with planned stops between for fencing exhibitions. They plan to establish a Salle d'Armes in Los Angeles while maintaining their New York Salle d'Armes under an Assistant.

Santelli has accepted a contract as fencing master this season at Hofstra College. His Salle Santelli and the N. Y. A. C. complete his heavy schedule.

Cabijos handles the Saltus Club and Vassar. **Castello** and **Julia Jones** teach the boys and girls at N. Y. U. respectively. **Greco** specializes at his own Academy as does **Senac** at his private Salle. **Pinchart** is master at the Fencers Club. **Joseph Smith** is master at Hunter College and the Metropolitan Club. **Montague** is at C. C. N. Y. **Stevens** is at Pratt Institute. **Murray** is master at the N. Y. A. C. and Columbia University. **Argento** is at the Fencers Club and the Philadelphia Sword Club. **St. Leger** is at Henry IV. **Capt. Smith** and **Col. Cherny** maintain their own Salle d'Armes. **Pasche** is at St. Johns College.

* * * * *

About ten years ago the officials of the A. F. L. A. were compelled to speak to Mr. **Santelli** to restrain him from over-enthusiasm at contests in which his pupils participated. He is no longer an offender. I

(Continued on page 10)

THE REMISE

(Continued)

mention this bit of history to introduce a criticism today of Mr. Nadi. At the Women's Prep competition, he was naturally most keenly interested in Mrs. Nadi's success. He could not resist whispering words of encouragement and perhaps of instruction to her as she fenced. It is doubtful if such are of any value to a competitor during the concentration of a bout, but there are definite reports that Mrs. Nadi's opponents were upset by them. During the final fence-off he took a prominent position at center and, as it happened, directly opposite the Director. He just could not restrain himself. As it happened, the Jury was entirely cold-blooded and impervious to the excitement of the nearest spectator.

I have praised Mrs. Nadi's fine victory elsewhere in this column and gladly repeat this praise. She won cleanly, fairly and deservedly. On the other hand it is only fair to Miss Maxwell, a fine young girl, that she return to Hofstra College with no feeling that she was ganged up on by the A. F. L. A., the Judges, Mr. Nadi or any combination of these. Knowing the A. F. L. A., there will be a severe warning for this offense or at least any recurrence of it. Knowing myself, any recurrence will find me a furious Charlie McCarthy and I will proceed to "mow him down" either in this column or personally at the regrettable loss of a much-valued anonymity.

* * * * *

JUDGING SCHOOL

Over 30 men and women, representing most of the active clubs in the metropolitan area, enthusiastically participated in the first session of the A. F. L. A. Judging School, held at the Fencers Club on Sunday afternoon, November 13th.

The School is being developed under the direction of a committee including President Harold Van Buskirk, Secretary John R. Huffman, Bout Committee Chairman Warren A. Dow, and several other prominent fencers and officials. The purpose of the School is to improve and standardize the quality of judging and directing in A. F. L. A. competitions through informal discussions and practical illustration of typical situations which confront the fencing official.

In the first session, Miguel de Capriles was the discussion leader, with the cooperation of Warren Dow for demonstration. The opening talk described the relative functions of judge and director. Then followed a practical demonstration, with the assistance of several members of the audience, of the proper location of the officials on the floor, the proper methods of starting and stopping the bout, and the proper methods by which a judge should call the director's attention to a touch.

The rest of the session was devoted to specific problems of judging foil bouts. Practical illustrations were presented of various types of touches, some valid and some invalid; and of certain elementary situations involving decisions as to "right of way." Throughout the session, the audience participated in lively discussion of the rules and theory of judging and direction.

A good deal of the material was first presented to interested fencers in the series of articles written especially for *The Riposte* by Miguel de Capriles.

Several additional sessions are contemplated during the current season. The next one, to be devoted largely to sabre and epee, will be held at the Fencers Club on Sunday, December 11, at 3 p.m.

ST. LOUIS

The fencers in St. Louis have banded together and under the editorship of Alan Beck are now publishing a monthly fencing Newsette aptly named "The Blade". The first issue was published in November and consisted of three mimeograph pages of fencing news. The Riposte began similarly three years ago and our very best wishes are extended to the new venture. As with our beginning, The Blade is primarily interested in local fencing matters. We see mention of such St. Louis fencers as Tracy Barnes, Norman Rothenheber, George Beckman, Jr., Hardin Walsh, Alex Solomon, Lon Hocker and many new names that are coming to the fore. We wish the publication every success and frankly admit that with its starting circulation of 160 copies it is well ahead of our humble beginning.

The first issue featured an article, "Fencing in the United States," by Harold Van Buskirk, President of the A. F. L. A. The second issue promises an article, "How to Train for a Foil Competition" by Dernel Every, American Foil Champion. Rumor hath it that a later article dealing similarly with sabre has been written by John Huffman, American Sabre Champion.

As is customary in St. Louis the fencing season is opened annually with a Soiree de Gala. This evening of fencing offers an excellent opportunity for all groups to meet and enjoy themselves prior to the more serious competitions. City champions entertain with exhibitions in all weapons. The Soiree de Gala was held this year on November 19th at the South Side Y. M. C. A. Novices were particularly encouraged to bring their fencing equipment and match wits with their more experienced fellow-sportsmen.

NEW ORLEANS

We have just received word of the death of Prof. Otto B. Schoenfeld, senior fencing master of New Orleans on August 25, 1938, at 65 years of age. Born in Leipsig, Germany, he came to this country as a boy and developed into an all-around athlete, gymnast, swimmer and fencer. He was the first Orleanian to compete in the Olympic Games where in 1900 he fenced with great success. Later, an exponent of physical culture, he established several schools of physical training and became active in A. A. U. affairs particularly in connection with swimming, boxing and gymnastics. With his passing, New Orleans has lost a grand old swordsman and a great figure in that city's athletic circles.

The City of New Orleans and the City Park Commission have spent some \$10,000 on improvement of the area around and under the Duelling Oaks. Among other things it has built the first permanent outdoor fencing strip, elevated and suitably landscaped. The area was dedicated November 27th and set aside for American fencing.

As a direct result of the increase in popularity of fencing in New Orleans, a new fencing club, The New Orleans Fencing Club, was formed in September under the direction of Mr. Orest Meykar.

The Southern Fencers House, a fencing equipment concern operated by Mr. Orest Meykar, has issued a unique equipment catalog. It is unique in that it not only is a catalog covering its own offerings but is also a news magazine of fencing. It has published articles on the A. F. L. A., Judging and Directing, Modern Fencing and last but not least advertises *The Riposte* and its competitors, the other fencing equipment concerns in the United States.

The Mardi Gras International Fencing Tournament will be held on February 18th and 19th.

TWO DOUBLE WINNERS

Austin Prokop of the Salle Santelli and Mrs. Aldo Nadi of the Aldo Nadi Studio are both credited with double victories thus far this season. Mr. Prokop won the Individual Prep Foil Competition on November 1st and the Individual Novice Foil Competition on November 8th at the N. Y. A. C. Mrs. Nadi duplicated this record winning the Women's Individual Prep Foil Competition at the Fencers Club on November 18th and the Women's Individual Novice Foil Competition at the Salle Santelli on December 4th. All four competitions broke all previous records in regard to number of entries for any similar competitions held by the A. F. L. A.

* * *

Prep Foil — 29 Entries — 6 Man Finals — Hammond Prize.

Finals:

Austin Prokop, Salle Santelli (1st)—won 5, lost 0.
 Albert Axelrod, Salle Santelli (2nd)—won 2, lost 1.
 Robert Guillard, C.C.N.Y. (3rd) —won 2, lost 2.
 John Paliotta, C.C.N.Y. —won 1, lost 3.
 Irwin Heidenreich, N.Y.U. —won 1, lost 3.
 Gerald Levin, Eastern District High School—lost 3.

* * *

Novice Foil — 74 Entries — 6 Man Finals — Hammond Prize.

Finals:

Austin Prokop, Salle Santelli (1st)—won 5, lost 0.
 Theodore Green, Saltus Fencing Club
 (2nd)—won 3, lost 1.
 Daniel Alagna, St. John's Univ.
 (3rd)—won 2, lost 2 (t 13).
 Albert Axelrod, Salle Santelli
 —won 2, lost 2 (t 16).
 Murray Kornfeld, St. John's Univ.
 —won 0, lost 3.
 Matthew Gusick, Foils Club —won 0, lost 4.

* * *

Women's Prep Foil — 20 Entries — 8 Woman Finals — Mrs. Harold Van Buskirk Gold Medal.

Finals:

Mrs. Aldo Nadi, Aldo Nadi Studio
 (1st)—won 6, lost 1.
 Miss Ruth Maxwell, Hofstra College
 (2nd)—won 6, lost 1.
 Miss Grace Giratano, Foils Club
 (3rd)—won 5, lost 2.
 Miss Gloria Bou, Hunter College —won 3, lost 4.
 Miss Dorothy Kerfoot, Foils Club—won 2, lost 4.
 Miss Bessie Abilificia, Foils Club—won 2, lost 4.
 Miss Virginia Hoffman, unattached—won 2, lost 4.
 Miss Hope Beauchamp, Hunter College
 —won 0, lost 6.

Mrs. Nadi defeated Miss Maxwell 4-2 in the fence-off.

* * *

Women's Novice Foil — 37 Entries — 7 Woman Finals — Manrique Gold Medal.

Finals:

Mrs. Aldo Nadi, Aldo Nadi Studio
 (1st)—won 5, lost 1.
 Miss Jean Voorhees, Salle Scafati
 (2nd)—won 4, lost 2 (t 10)
 Miss Emile Hocher, Salle d'Armes
 Henry IV (3rd)—won 4, lost 2 (t 11)
 Miss Addie Bassi, Aldo Nadi Studio
 won 4, lost 2.
 Miss Grace Acel, North Tarrytown
 High School—won 3, lost 3.
 Mrs. Daphne Anderson, Saltus Fencing
 Club—won 0, lost 5.
 Miss Ruth Barcan, N.Y.U. —won 0, lost 5.

Douglas Gerard of the Salle Santelli won the Individual Novice Sabre competition at the N. Y. A. C. November 3rd. The awards were donated by Dr. Graeme Hammond, Honorary President of the A. F. L. A.

Finalists:

Douglas Gerard, Salle Santelli (1st)—won 4, lost 1.
 William Ritayik, Saltus Fencing Club
 (2nd)—won 3, lost 2 (t 18)
 Joseph Rabb, Greco Fencing Academy
 (3rd)—won 3, lost 2 (t 20)
 Robert Siffert, N.Y.U. —won 2, lost 2.
 Murray Davidoff, N.Y.U. —won 1, lost 3.
 Daniel Bukantz, unattached —won 1, lost 3.

* * *

SILVIO GIOLITO VICTOR IN LIMITED JUNIOR FOILS COMPETITION

Silvio Giolito of N. Y. U. won the A. F. L. A. competition limited to Juniors, held at the N. Y. A. C. on November 15, 1938. The awards were donated by Dr. Graeme Hammond, Honorary President of the A. F. L. A.

Finalists:

Silvio Giolito, N. Y. U. (1st) —won 5, lost 0.
 Nathaniel Lubell, Salle d'Armes Vince
 (2nd)—won 3, lost 1.
 Max Goldstein, C. C. N. Y. (3rd)—won 2, lost 2.
 Rudolph Ozol, Salle Santelli —won 1, lost 3.
 Milton Soroka, Salle Santelli —won 1, lost 2.
 Albert Di Giacinto, N. Y. A. C. —won 0, lost 3.

CONNECTICUT

Word has been received that Maurice Grasson, son of Robert Grasson, the Yale Fencing Master and last Olympic Foil Coach, has turned professional. He has been Intercollegiate Foil Champion in 1937, member of the 1937 National Junior Epee Team and Captain of the 1938 Yale Fencing Team. He is now teaching fencing to a group of schools, colleges and clubs in New London, Hartford and Middletown, Conn. Robert Grasson is now head of the largest professional fencing family in America, counting himself, his sons Albert and Maurice and son-in-law Gordon.

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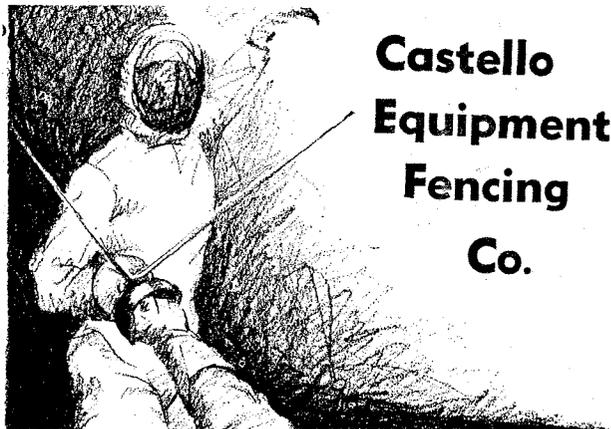
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