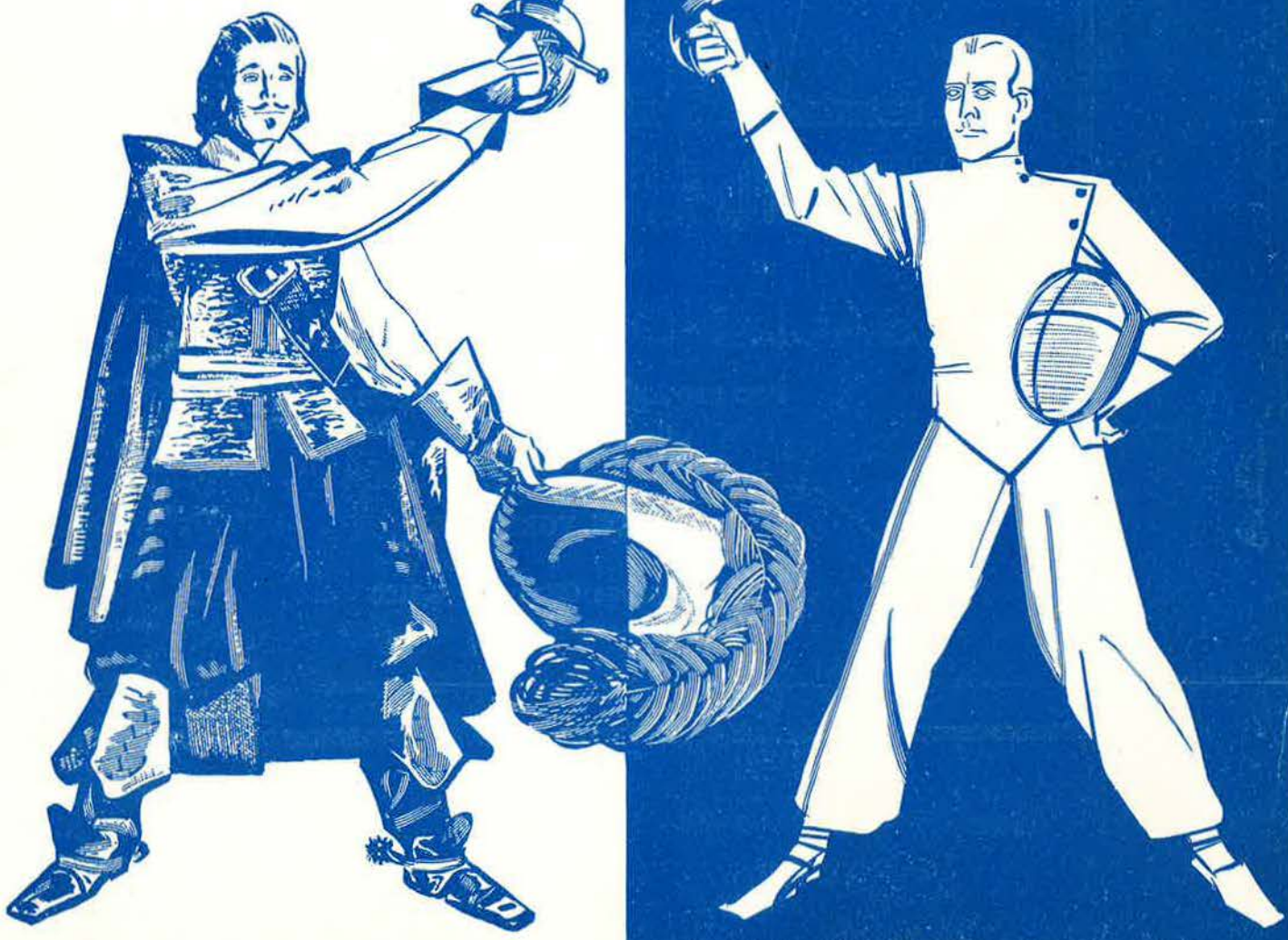


*The*  
**RIPOSTE**

MAY  
VOL. 5  
NO. 3





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# THE RIPOSTE

VOL. V

MAY, 1940

NO. 3

## PACIFIC COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 1940 Pacific Coast Championships were held at the Los Angeles Athletic Club from Friday through Sunday, April 12th-14th. The Championships were given good publicity and enjoyed record attendance but because of an unseasonal heat wave in Los Angeles perhaps suffered from what had originally been estimated as even better attendance. The fencers' only comment about the heat was that it "served to loosen up the muscles and make for better fencing."

The Southern Division was the final victor in point scores with eight first places, seven seconds, nine thirds and five team events. The Northern Division captured four firsts, three seconds, three thirds and two team events. One second place went to both the Utah Division and the Navy at large.

The non-entrance of Miss Helena Mayer, defending Pacific Coast Women's Foil Champion since 1935, was a disappointment but tended to spur on the other contestants to greater effort to capture the Championship which she thereby defaulted.

Individual trophies about eight inches in height of a musketeer about to draw his sword were awarded to this year's winners. These attractive awards in gold, silver and bronze, designed by Ned Davenport, proved a welcome change from the medals of past seasons.

Repeated failure of the electrical epee machine and individual epees caused a disappointing series of delays in that weapon. Frequent rests were called to permit repairs to the equipment and it was noted that too many double touches were registered by the machine itself despite the fact that it was timed to the old 1/50th second interval.

We list the Open Championships in greater detail than the Intermediate or Junior Championships. We also list the results by weapons rather than in the chronological order of their occurrence. Ties were decided under the Olympic Scoring method and in such cases are indicated by the initials, (O.S.).

### MEN'S FOIL

#### Individual Open Championship

1. Alfred R. Snyder, Olympic Club, won 7, lost 0.
2. Edward Carfagno, L. A. A. C., won 6, lost 1.
3. Oliver G. Bowen, Faulkner School of Fencing, won 4, lost 3 (O.S. 541).
4. Leonard Bellman, Faulkner School of Fencing, won 4, lost 3 (O.S. 509).
5. Harry Mortimer, Olympic Club, won 4, lost 3 (O.S. 472).

Other contestants were Salvatore Giambra, Young Italian Club; Arthur Kaye, Faulkner School of Fencing, and Ted Westlake, Utah Division.

#### Open Team Championship

Olympic Club, San Francisco, 5; Faulkner School of Fencing, Hollywood, 1.

Alfred R. Snyder, O.C., defeated Sidney Getzovitz 5-2 and Leonard Bellman 5-0.

Ferard Leicester, O.C., defeated Leonard Bellman 5-3 and Oliver G. Bowen 5-2.

Harry Mortimer, O.C., defeated Getzovitz 5-0.

Oliver G. Bowen, F.S.F., defeated Mortimer 5-1.

#### Individual Intermediate Championship

1. Leonard Bellman, Faulkner School of Fencing.
2. Harry Mortimer, Olympic Club.
3. Salvatore Giambra, Young Italian Club.

(Continued on page 6.)

## MID-WESTERN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Mid-Western Championships were held in the Club Caprice at the Coronado Hotel in St. Louis on April 14th. Fencers from six Divisions of the A.F. L. A. participated: St. Louis, Illinois, Michigan, Columbus, Central Illinois and Northern Ohio. There were 18 men entered in Foil, 15 in Sabre, 21 in Epee and 18 girls in Women's Foil. There were 8 semi-finalists in Foil, Epee and Women's Foil and 9 in Sabre. There were four Finalists in each weapon.

At the end of the day's fencing Byron Krieger of the Michigan Division was crowned new Midwest Foil Champion after a close 5-4 fence-off with William Hammond, also of the Michigan Division. Frank S. Righimer, Jr., 1939 Champion, did not enter the competition to defend his title.

Loyal Tingley, 1939 Midwest Epee Champion and present National Titleholder, defended his title impressively by going through the Championship undefeated.

Lon Hocker of St. Louis, Midwest Sabre Champion in 1934, 1935 and 1936, staged a successful comeback and added 1940 to his string by a clean sweep of the Finals. William Osis of Michigan, defending Champion, dropped to 4th place.

Miss Carol King of the Illinois Division successfully defended her 1939 Title by winning all of her bouts throughout the Championship.

On a scoring basis in which each bout won by the two top fencers from each Division in each weapon counted one point, the Michigan Division won the team Trophy with 50 points while Illinois, last year's winner, was a close second with 48 points. St. Louis was third with 37 points.

Because of the small Final strips we are able to present the Final results in detail.

### Foil Finals

1. Byron Krieger (Michigan) defeated Mau 5-4 and Hammond 5-4.
2. William Hammond (Michigan) defeated Strauss 5-3 and Mau 5-4.
3. Jerry Mau (Illinois) defeated Strauss 5-2.
4. Herbert Strauss (Illinois) defeated Krieger 5-3. Krieger defeated Hammond 5-4 in fence-off.

### Epee Finals

1. Loyal Tingley (Illinois) defeated Corbett 3-1, Reamer 3-1 and Karch 3-1.
2. Saul Karch (Michigan) defeated Reamer 3-1.
3. Owen Reamer (Central Ill.) defeated Corbett 3-1.
4. Charles Corbett (Illinois) defeated Karch 3-2.

### Sabre Finals

1. Lon Hocker (St. Louis) defeated Solomon 5-3, Krieger 5-2 and Osis 5-3.
2. Alex Solomon (St. Louis) defeated Krieger 5-4 and Osis 5-2.
3. Byron Krieger (Michigan) defeated Osis 5-3.
4. William Osis (Michigan) lost all bouts.

### Women's Foil Finals

1. Carol King defeated Witte 4-0, Brady 4-3 and Sweeney 4-3.
2. Paula Sweeney (Michigan) defeated Witte 4-2 and Brady 4-3.
3. Muriel Witte (St. Louis) defeated Brady 4-2.
4. Mae Brady (St. Louis) lost all bouts.

**THE RIPOSTE***America's Oldest Fencing Magazine*

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**EDITORIAL**

The Riposte has no schedule of publishing dates. As an unsalaried enterprise its staff of amateur fencers endeavors to publish a magazine devoted exclusively to the sport at as frequent intervals as possible. Result—a new Riposte every six weeks in season and every two months out of season. In fairness to our subscribers, subscriptions are not offered on a calendar basis but rather on a basis of number of issues due.

The present issue is being sent you within five weeks of our April issue. This is unusual and has been caused by the need to “clear the decks” for the National Championship Issue to follow. April in itself is a busy fencing month and we have reported on more championships than you can shake a foil at. If the present issue proves to be more statistical than instructive please place the blame on the calendar.

Our staff and contributors are all active fencing competitors. The National Championships are here. We must close our typewriters, grab our weapon bags and be off.

X X

**NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS****MAY 3rd - MAY 10th**

**Women's Foil—Team:** Friday, May 3rd, 7:30 P. M., Fencers Club.

**Men's Foil—Individual:** Saturday, May 4th, Fencers Club; Semi-Finals, 2:00 P. M.; Finals, 8:30 P. M.

**Men's Epee—Individual:** Sunday, May 5th, Salle Santelli; Semi-Finals, 2:00 P. M.; Finals, 8:30 P. M.

**Men's Sabre—Individuals:** Monday, May 6th, 8:30 P. M., New York Athletic Club.

**Women's Foil—Individual:** Tuesday, May 7th, 7:30 P. M., Fencers Club.

**Men's Foil—Team:** Wednesday, May 8th, 7:30 P. M., Fencers Club.

**Men's Epee—Team:** Thursday, May 9th, 7:30 P. M., Fencers Club.

**Men's Sabre—Team:** Friday, May 10th, 8:30 P. M., New York Athletic Club.

**Gala Night—Presentation of Awards:** Friday, May 10th, 10:30 P. M., New York Athletic Club.

## INTERCOLLEGIATE FENCING ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

Even the most optimistic followers of the New York University fencing team would not have forecast as favorable an outcome for their team's prowess as actually occurred in the 47th annual championship of the Intercollegiate Fencing Association on March 29th and 30th on the fencing strips at N. Y. U.'s School of Education. Trailing Navy's highly rated team as the last fencing session was entered, the New York University fencers went into a spirited fighting finish that saw their College come off with the three Individual crowns, the Foil Team title and the Three Weapon crown.

Silvio Giolito, N. Y. U.'s Senior captain came through with 18 straight victories in two days to win the Individual Foil Championship. His victory had been correctly forecast by the experts in advance for this fast left-hander's prowess with the foil had won him respect throughout the season in Intercollegiate competition.

Daniel Appleton of Navy, the only foilsman given a chance to upset Giolito, won second place with 6 wins, 2 losses and 23 touches against him in the nine-man Finals, while Arthur Tauber, Sophomore left-hander from N. Y. U., surprised many by breaking into the medalist class and taking third place in this his first year of varsity competition. Tauber tied with Appleton in bouts won and lost, but had 29 touches against him at the end of the Finals.

With Giolito and Tauber piling up an impressive string of 14 foil victories in the Final round alone, N. Y. U. had no difficulty in capturing the Foil Team Championship with a 10-bout lead over Navy, its nearest rival.

Frank Scharfstein of N. Y. U., fencing his first all-varsity year, slashed through a strong nine-man sabre Finals undefeated to produce the greatest upset of the Championship. The sabre field was one of the strongest in years, including Abraham Campo, defending Champion from Navy, a strong and complete trio of Alan Strock, Alan Rorick and Davison Dalziel of Army, and James Welles, Jr., of Columbia. Alan Strock of Army took second place with 6 wins and 2 losses in the Finals, while Abraham Campo took third on touches over Alan Rorick of Army with 5 wins and 3 losses apiece.

With complete representation in the Finals, the Army sabre team piled up an impressive lead for undisputed first place in that weapon. Its victory was obtained with a total of 32 sabre bouts won against 23 victories for the Navy, the second place winner. Columbia University was a close third with 22 victories.

We witnessed another upset in the Individual Epee Championship when Arthur Tauber of New York University, already mentioned for his third place in Foil, led a strong nine-man Finals which included Mindy Slikas, also of N. Y. U., Philip Glennon and James McPherson of Navy and Jack Zaugg of Princeton, to win the gold medal with 6½ wins and 1½ losses. Slikas was a close second with 6 wins, 2 losses with 11 touches against, while McPherson took third with 6 wins and 2 losses and 12 touches against.

The Princeton University Epee team piled up too large a string of victories in the earlier rounds to be upset by N. Y. U.'s strong bid for the team title in the Finals. Princeton was first with 29½ victories, while N. Y. U. was second with 28½ wins and Navy was

third with 26½ bouts won. The team results in epee were the closest of the tournament.

As previously mentioned, the Three Weapon Team title was decided by the strong offensive put on by the individual representatives of N. Y. U. in the Final rounds. N. Y. U. was first with an accumulation of 83½ victories in all weapons, while Navy's well balanced team which took two seconds and one third team place was second with 73½ points. Columbia retained its third place position from last year with 48 points, an unusual drop behind the second team score.

A comparison with last year's results shows N. Y. U., Navy and Army as reshuffling their 1st, 2nd and 4th positions of 1939, while Columbia and C. C. N. Y. maintained their 3rd and 5th 1939 positions respectively. Cornell maintained its 8th position, while M. I. T. jumped from 9th to 6th and Princeton jumped from 10th to 7th to push Harvard and Yale down into the lower positions.

### FINAL THREE WEAPON AND SEPARATE WEAPON STANDINGS

	Epee	Foil	Sabre	Total
N. Y. U.	28½	34*	21	83½
Navy	26½	24	23	73½
Columbia	7	19	22	48
Army	4	11	32*	47
City College	17½	13	12	42½
M. I. T.	15½	14	12	41½
Princeton	29½*	5	5	39½
Cornell	11½	14	8	33½
Harvard	9	15	7	31
Yale	4	7	16	27
Pennsylvania	7	7	11	25
Hamilton	11	8	3	22

\*Team Champions.

### FINAL FOIL ROUND—FIRST FOUR PLACES

1. Silvio Giolito, N. Y. U., won 8, lost 0.
2. Daniel Appleton, Navy, won 6, lost 2, touched 23 times.
3. Arthur Tauber, N. Y. U., won 6, lost 2, touched 29 times.
4. Herbert Spiselman, Columbia, won 5, lost 3.

### FINAL SABRE ROUND—FIRST FOUR PLACES

1. Frank Scharfstein, N. Y. U., won 8, lost 0.
2. Alan Strock, Army, won 6, lost 2.
3. Abraham Campo, Navy, won 5, lost 3, touched 28 times.
4. Alan Rorick, Army, won 5, lost 3, touched 30 times.

### FINAL EPEE ROUND—FIRST FOUR PLACES

1. Arthur Tauber, N. Y. U., won 6½, lost 1½.
2. Mindy Slikas, N. Y. U., won 6, lost 2, touched 11 times.
3. James McPherson, Navy, won 6, lost 2, touched 12 times.
4. Philip Glennon, Navy, won 4, lost 4.

## WOMEN'S INTERCOLLEGIATE FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS

A determined Hunter College team, captained by Miss Eileen Meyer and depending highly upon its undefeated star, Miss Maria Cerra, won the 12th annual Women's Fencing Association championship with a clean sweep of its seven matches at Calkins Gymnasium of Hofstra College on April 20th. After a full day of fencing among the eight colleges of the Association, the Hunter College team met the strong and favored defending championship team from Hofstra College in the last match of the championship. Both teams had a clean record of six matches won. The Hunter College team used the Misses Maria Cerra, Edith Zinn, Ethel Fried and Capt. Meyer to outfight and outsmart the defending champions, the Misses Helena Mroczkowska, Dorothy Wahl and Ruth Maxwell in an upset victory 5-4 to win the Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish Trophy.

Miss Maria Cerra of Hunter College regained her individual title of two years ago in impressive style by defeating the defending champion, Miss Helena Mroczkowska, 4-2 in the last match during which she completed an unbroken string of 23 victories for the

day. Miss Mroczkowska took second place with 21 victories and Miss Josephine Mancinelli of New York University was third with 19 victories.

## FINAL TEAM STANDINGS

	Won	Lost	Bouts Won
Hunter College .....	7	0	42
Hofstra .....	6	1	46
New York University .....	4	3	33
Brooklyn College .....	4	3	33
Cornell University .....	3	4	26
N. J. State Teachers College .....	3	4	26
College of William & Mary .....	1	6	24
Wagner College .....	0	7	16

## INDIVIDUAL STANDING (First Twelve)

	Won	Lost
Miss Maria Cerra (Hunter College) .....	23	0
Miss Helena Mroczkowska (Hofstra College) .....	21	2
Miss Josephine Mancinelli (N. Y. U.) .....	19	4
Miss Dorothy Wahl (Hofstra College) .....	16	7
Miss Kathleen Cerra (Brooklyn College) .....	15	8
Miss Doris Locke (William & Mary) .....	13	10
Miss Ruth Maxwell (Hofstra College) .....	12	11
Miss Charlotte Anker (Brooklyn College) .....	12	11
Miss Ruth Howell (Cornell University) .....	11	12
Miss Florence Mode (William & Mary) .....	11	12
Miss Ethel Iskowitz (N. Y. U.) .....	11	12
Miss Ethel Fried (Hunter College) .....	11	12

## METROPOLITAN A. F. L. A. INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION

After more than 8 hours of fencing among 37 competitors representing 20 schools in and near the Metropolitan area, Stanley Gold of New Utrecht High School was awarded the A. F. L. A. gold medal for this competition at the Washington Irving High School on March 30th. Tied with Arthur Chernin of Newark Central High School and Alphonse Sully of Seton Hall Prep for first place, decisions were given on the basis of touches because of the fatigued condition of all of the Finalists. On a similar basis, Chernin was awarded the silver medal and Sully, New Jersey State Interscholastic Titleholder and original competition favorite, was awarded the bronze medal.

## EASTERN INTERCOLLEGIATE FENCING CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Seton Hall College Fencing Team won the Eastern Intercollegiate Fencing Conference Championship at Lafayette College, Easton, Pa., on March 22nd, for the third successive year.

Diaz Cetrulo, Captain of Seton Hall College Team, was the individual star of the competition, winning all of his bouts in both foil and sabre. Other perfect scorers were Paul Riccardi of Seton Hall in Class B Foil, Pat Marzulli of Seton Hall in Class B Sabre, and Ralph Liederman of Long Island University in Class B Epee.

The Individual winners of the different weapon classes were: Foil (A) Diaz Cetrulo, (B) Paul Riccardi and (C) Peter Milone; Sabre (A) Diaz Cetrulo, (B) Pat Marzulli and (C) George Boutsikaris; Epee (A) Robert Girardot, (B) Ralph Liederman and (C) Larry Hedges. All of these winners were from Seton Hall College except Ralph Liederman of Long Island University, who won the Class B Epee.

As a result of this large aggregation of competition winners, the Seton Hall team romped off with the team championship with a total of 73½ points, more than 24 points (or bouts won) ahead of the second place team. We submit the final point scores by weapons and teams.

	F	S	E	T
Seton Hall .....	26	26	21½	73½
William & Mary .....	22	12	15	49
North Carolina .....	15	13	19	47
Long Island .....	17	10	17	44
Lehigh .....	10	19	11	40
Lafayette .....	9	15	13	37
Temple .....	12	12	7	31
Panzer .....	11	10	9½	30½
Fordham .....	9	9	12	30
Middlebury .....	4	9	10	23

## Amateur Fencers League of America

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - MAY 3 - MAY 10

See Schedule of Events, Time and Place on Page 2

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## GALA NIGHT

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## National Fencing Championships - Announcement

The 1940 National Championships will already be in progress when this issue reaches you. We have endeavored to assemble as much preliminary information as possible but find that the Bout Committee is in a quandary as to the complete list of entries. Many fencers unfortunately neglect to submit personal entries, even so much as a postcard to the National organization, and then arrive at the competition with full equipment in the belief that through some mind-reading act their names have been properly entered. The National Bout Committee could, under the rules, debar all such individuals from competition but does not feel that such a cold-blooded attitude would solve the problem satisfactorily. It throws up its hands in despair and does the best it can apologizing in advance for incomplete listing in preliminary programs.

We have been honored from time to time by the entry of foreign participants in our Championships. Representatives of Great Britain, France, Canada and Italy have participated in the past. We are particularly pleased to announce the entry of several individuals and an epee team from Cuba into this year's Championships.

The 1940 National Championships will get underway on May 3rd with the Women's Foil Team Championship. This will be held at the Fencers Club at 7:30 P. M. The Salle d'Armes Vince, defending Champions, will be represented by Mrs. Marion Lloyd Vince, Miss Madeline Dalton and the Misses Maria and Kathleen Cerra. The other teams are: The Salle Santelli, 1940 Metropolitan Champions, with Miss Barbara Cochrane, Miss Dorothy Grimmelmann, Miss Mildred Stewart and Mrs. Dorothy de Capriles; and Hofstra College with Miss Helena Mroczkowska, Miss Dorothy Wahl, Miss Ruth Maxwell and Miss Lela Joggi.

The Men's Championships will open at 2:00 P. M. on May 4th at the Fencers Club with the Individual Foil Championship. Norman Lewis, the defending Champion, and Jose R. de Capriles, both of the Salle Santelli, Hugh V. Alessandrini of the Fencers Club, Maxwell Garret and Nathaniel Lubell of the Salle d'Armes Vince and four N. Y. A. C. foilsmen, Warren Dow, Dernel Every, Silvio Giolito and Dr. John R. Huffman will compete from New York City. New Jersey will be represented by Diaz Cetrulo, Bernard Allen, Peter Milone and Edward Lansing. Connecticut will be represented by Alfred Owre, Washington D. C. by Lt. Richard Steere, U. S. N., the Northern California Division by Alfred R. Snyder, Pacific Coast Foil Champion, and Philadelphia by Edward Mateosian, Philadelphia Foil Champion. Luis Barrenas of Cuba will be foreign guest in the Championship.

On May 5th at the Salle Santelli the Individual Epee Championship will be fought, according to original plans, with the electrical epee. Loyal Tingley of Illinois, defending Champion and winner of the recent Midwest Championship, will defend his National title. Three leading Cuban epeeists have submitted their entries; Eugenio Sardinias, Carlos Lamar Schweyer and Eugenio Garate. From New York there

will be Jose and Miguel de Capriles of the Salle Santelli, Leo G. Nunes and Ralph E. Marson of the N. Y. A. C., and Alfred Skrobisch, Robert Driscoll, Winslow Cornett and Norman C. Armitage of the Fencers Club. Philadelphia will be represented by Robert Agnew, New Jersey by Rudolph Ozol, Northern California by Alfred R. Snyder and Illinois by Fred Seibert, James Corbett and Charles Corbett. Lieut. Commander Leonard Doughty plans to fly from the Pacific Coast to represent the Navy at Large. These matches will start at 2:00 P. M. and will be resumed after dinner at 8:30 P. M.

On May 6th the Individual Sabre Championship will be held at the New York Athletic Club. Norman Armitage, National Sabre Champion, will defend his title. Eugenio Garate and George Worth are entered from Cuba. Dr. John Huffman, Dr. Ervin Acel and Ralph Marson of the N. Y. A. C., Miguel and Jose de Capriles and Philip Lubart of the Salle Santelli, Irving Cantor of the Fencers Club and Peter Bruder of the Salle d'Armes Vince will represent New York City. New Jersey will be represented by Diaz Cetrulo, Dr. James Flynn, Rudolph Ozol and Charles Willows. The entries from the Pacific Coast and the Mid-West are not known at this writing. The matches will start at 7:30 P. M.

The Women's Foil Championship at the Fencers Club will be the only match in which the defending champion will not participate. Miss Helena Mayer, present titleholder, is still suffering from a leg injury which has kept her out of competition this year. This will leave the women with no outstanding favorite for the title, and should cause keen competition among the women for the honor. New York will have Miss Barbara Cochrane and Miss Dorothy Grimmelmann from the Salle Santelli, Mrs. Marion Lloyd Vince and Miss Madeline Dalton from the Salle d'Armes Vince, Mrs. Dolly Funke from the Greco Fencing Academy and Miss Dorothy Kerfoot of the Foils Club. From Long Island there will be Miss Mildred Stewart, Metropolitan Champion, Miss Helena Mroczkowska, Miss Dorothy Wahl and Miss Ruth Maxwell. Mrs. Jermila Vokral has entered from Philadelphia, Miss Nellie Gordon from New England, Miss Claire McRoberts, Miss Josephine Mancinelli and Miss Margaret Rosebault from New Jersey, Miss Carol King from Illinois and Miss Maureene Fitz from Los Angeles.

The Foil Team Championship to be held at the Fencers Club on May 8th, will find the Salle Santelli with Jose de Capriles, Norman Lewis, Diaz Cetrulo and Albert Axelrod defending its title against its perennial opponents, the New York Athletic Club, with Warren Dow, Dernel Every, Silvio Giolito and Dr. John Huffman endeavoring to repeat their victory of the Metropolitan Championships. A third team from the Illinois Division has been entered but the members of the team have not yet been announced.

The Epee Team Championship at the Salle Santelli on May 9th will find the favored team coming from Cuba; Eugenio Sardinias, Carlos Lamar Schweyer and Eugenio Garate. The defending champions, the Fencers Club, will have Tracy Jaekel, Lt. Gustave

M. Heiss, Alfred Skrobisch and Robert Driscoll. The Salle Santelli will have Miguel and Jose de Capriles, Norman Lewis and Kevis Kapner. The fourth team will be last year's runner-up, the Illinois Division, with Loyal Tingley, Fred Seibert and Charles and James Corbett. The matches will start at 7:30 P. M.

The Sabre Team Championship will be held at the New York Athletic Club on May 10th. The defending champions, the N. Y. A. C., will have Dr. John R. Huffman, Ralph E. Marson, Nickolas Muray and Dr. Ervin Acel. The Salle Santelli will be represented by Miguel and Jose de Capriles, Diaz Cetrulo and Philip Lubart. Cuba has entered George Worth, Eugenio Garate and Ricardo Hernandez. Illinois has not yet announced the lineup for its team. These matches will start at 7:00 P. M. in order not to delay the starting of the Gala Party and Dance immediately following.

Upon completion of the Sabre Team Championships, the fencers and guests will retire to the Main Dining Room of the New York Athletic Club, for the annual Gala Night and A. F. L. A. Ball. Fencing entertainment will be provided with a few special exhibitions in which it is hoped that our Cuban guests may participate. It is also hoped that the new electrical foils as invented and developed by Bela and Joanna de Tuscan of Detroit may be exhibited. The complete program has not been announced as to amateur and professional participants.

A presentation of Trophies and National Championship medals by the A. F. L. A. President, Harold Van Buskirk, will follow the exhibitions and the evening will be completed with the formal supper dance which annually marks the end of the official fencing season.

## PACIFIC COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Continued from page 1.)

### Individual Junior Championship

1. Thomas Tarbet, Los Angeles Athletic Club.
2. Wilbur Coggins, The Cavaliers.
3. Robert Irwin, Faulkner School of Fencing.

### Junior Team Championship

Faulkner School of Fencing, Hollywood, 5; University of California, Berkeley, 2.

The F. S. F. team consisted of Leonard Bellman, Robert Irwin and Herbert Sauke.

The U. of C. team consisted of Robert Stone, Jack Hovick and Norman Hodson.

## WOMEN'S FOIL

### Individual Open Championship

1. Maxine MacMasters, The Cavaliers, won 5, lost 1.
2. Roberta Fritz, San Francisco, unattached, won 4, lost 2 (O.S. 645).
3. Cornelia Sanger, L. A. A. C., won 4, lost 2 (O.S. 580).
4. Louise Reordan, L. A. A. C., won 4, lost 2 (O.S. 571).

Other contestants were Amelia Riedener, Young Italian Club, Betty Jane Nevis, Funke Fencing Academy and Virginia Westlake, Utah Division.

### Open Team Championship

Los Angeles Athletic Club, 5; Unattached San Francisco Team, 2.

Muriel Calkins, L. A. A. C., defeated Roberta Fritz 4-2 and Lura Morse 4-0.

Cornelia Sanger, L. A. A. C., defeated Roberta Fritz 4-2, Constance Dean 4-2 and Lura Morse 4-1.

Roberta Fritz, unattached, defeated Virginia Nelson 4-1.

Constance Dean, unattached, defeated Virginia Nelson 4-3.

### Individual Intermediate Championship

1. Roberta Fritz, unattached, San Francisco.
2. Muriel Calkins, Los Angeles Athletic Club.
3. Moreene Fitz, The Cavaliers, Los Angeles.

### Individual Junior Championship

1. Janice Lee York, Faulkner School of Fencing, Hollywood.
2. Virginia Westlake, Utah Division, Salt Lake City.
3. Mary Jean Clark, Faulkner School of Fencing, Hollywood.

## SABRE

### Individual Open Championship

1. Edward Carfagno, L. A. A. C., won 6, lost 1.
2. Leonard Bellman, Faulkner School of Fencing, won 5, lost 2.
3. Howard Davis, L. A. A. C., won 4, lost 2.

Carfagno and Bellman were tied with 5 wins and 1 loss at the end of the round. Carfagno won the fence-off by a score of 5-1, after having lost to Bellman by the same score in the original round. The fence-off result has been included in the above summary. Other contestants were Hans Halberstadt, Funke Fencing Academy; Harry Mortimer, Olympic Club; Herman Hersum, L. A. A. C., and Ferard Leicester, Olympic Club.

### Open Team Championship

Los Angeles Athletic Club, 5; Funke Fencing Academy, 1.

Edward Carfagno, L. A. A. C., defeated Major S. R. Irwin 5-4 and Hans Halberstadt 5-4.

Herman Hersum, L. A. A. C., defeated Major S. R. Irwin 5-2 and William G. F. O'Brien 5-4.

Howard Davis, L. A. A. C., defeated William G. F. O'Brien 5-3.

Hans Halberstadt, Funke Fencing Academy, defeated Howard Davis 5-4.

### Individual Intermediate Championship

1. Herman Hersum, Los Angeles Athletic Club.
2. Howard Davis, Los Angeles Athletic Club.
3. Harry Mortimer, Olympic Club, San Francisco.

### Individual Junior Championship

1. Fred Linkmeyer, Los Angeles Athletic Club.
2. Josefi Lampl, Los Angeles Athletic Club.
3. Robert Irwin, Faulkner School of Fencing, Hollywood.

### Junior Team Championship

Los Angeles Athletic Club, 5; University of California, Berkeley, 0.

The L. A. A. C. team consisted of Fred Linkmeyer, Albert Carfagno and Josefi Lampl.

The U. of C. team consisted of Robert Stone, Jack Hovick and William Hohenthal.



## EPEE

### Individual Open Championship

1. John L. Thompson, Olympic Club, won 6, lost 1.
  2. Lt. Comdr. Leonard Doughty, Navy at Large, won 5, lost 2 (O. S. 643).
  3. Thomas Tarbet, L. A. A. C., won 5, lost 2 (O. S. 633).
- Other contestants were Edward Carfagno, L. A. A. C.; Walter Westman, Olympic Club; Victor Arnautoff, Olympic Club; Horace Craig, Hollywood A. C. and Harry Mortimer, Olympic Club.

### Open Team Championship

- Los Angeles Athletic Club, 5; Olympic Club, 2.
- Fred Linkmeyer, L. A. A. C., defeated John L. Thompson 3-0, Louis Lataillade 3-1 and Walter Westman 3-0.
- Edward Carfagno, L. A. A. C., defeated Walter Westman 3-0.
- Andrew Boyd, L. A. A. C., defeated John L. Thompson 3-1.
- Louis Lataillade, O. C., defeated Edward Carfagno 3-0.
- Walter Westman, O. C., defeated Andrew Boyd 3-0.

### Individual Intermediate Championship

1. Harry Mortimer, Olympic Club.
2. Salvatore Giambra, Young Italian Club.
3. Walter Westman, Olympic Club.

### Individual Junior Championship

1. Weston Irwin, Hollywood Athletic Club.
2. Sidney Getzovitz, Faulkner School of Fencing.
3. Simon Carfagno, Los Angeles Athletic Club.

### Junior Team Championship

- Olympic Club, 5; Los Angeles Athletic Club, 2.
- The Olympic Club team consisted of Merton Davies, Louis Lataillade and Alfred R. Snyder. The Los Angeles Athletic Club team consisted of Simon Carfagno, Stanley Vallet and Hale Hendlin.

## MICHIGAN

The Michigan State Open Championships were held at the Book Cadillac Hotel on March 30th.

The Men's Open Foil was won by Harold Mottershaw of the Salle de Tuscan. Byron Krieger of Wayne University, William Osis of the Grosse Pointe Sword Club and William Hammond of Michigan State College were tied for second but finished in the given order on the basis of touches.

The Women's Open Foil was won by Miss Paula Sweeney of the Salle de Tuscan with her clubmate, Miss Charlotte Finch, taking second, Miss Ruth Theiss of the Grosse Pointe Sword Club, third, and Miss Norma Yynick of Wayne University, fourth.

Saul Karsch of the Grosse Pointe Sword Club won the Open Epee. William Osis, also of the Grosse Pointe Sword Club, was second, Roland Rogers of Lawrence Institute of Technology was third and Byron Krieger of Wayne University was fourth.

The Men's Open Sabre was won by William Osis with Saul Karsch, second, Byron Krieger, third, and Harold Mottershaw, fourth.

Mr. and Mrs. Bela de Tuscan, who donated four gold rapiers as first prizes for the Championships, gave an interesting sabre exhibition after the Finals.

The Osis Cup, Michigan's Intercollegiate Championship Cup, was won this year by Michigan State College, after fencing off a tie with Lawrence Institute of Technology.

## Gossip and More

After qualifying for the National Foil Championships, Hugh V. Alessandrini, former National Titleholder, was subpoenaed as a Grand Jurist. He has been locked up with the Grand Jury now for nearly a month without opportunity for fencing practice during this important period. His fellow foilsman sympathize with Hugh's predicament and, if he is not released before the Championship, would not blame him in the least for sending somebody to jail.

× ×

We have announced the inauguration of Fencing Club Bulletins or newspapers from time to time in the past. The Fencers Club has now issued a small Vol. I, Number 1, issue of its club's paper, dated March 1st.

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We have been surprised to notice that in various parts of the country it has been necessary for Bout Committees to give specific notice that fencers wearing shorts would not be permitted to compete. Fencers are far from prudish but this is one sport which cannot afford to indulge in any bodily exposure whatsoever.

It is probably only natural in this day and age when more and more athletes are wearing less and less that our more daring members would experiment in reducing our present all-inclusive equipment. Nothing is more dangerous or foolhardy. To be "on guard" in shorts exposes the tightened thigh muscles of the right leg. A hit from a poorly taped foil point on the upper leg would slit the thigh open as neatly as opening an envelope with a letter-knife. Not a nice wound to contemplate.

The freedom of body movement in any physical exercise is a highly desirable objective. The Riposte would recommend one-piece bathing suits if that were possible. However, fencers are dealing with stiff, thrusting weapons that will bruise, scratch or

× ×

## NEW ENGLAND

The first Boston Open Outdoor Fencing Tournament will be held on Boston Common Saturday, May 11th, starting at 9 A. M. The Tournament will be conducted under the auspices of the New England Division of the A. F. L. A. and with the collaboration of the Boston Sword Club under the high patronages of His Excellency Leverett Saltonstall, Governor of Massachusetts, Hon. Maurice Tobin, Mayor of the City of Boston and Hon. William P. Long, Park Commissioner of the City of Boston.

The contests are to be open to any amateur fencer, A. F. L. A. membership not required. Competitions will be conducted in Foil, Epee, Sabre and Women's Foil. Silver cups will be awarded to first place winners in each weapon; silver medals for second places and bronze medals for third and fourth places. Entry fees are to be \$1.00 per weapon. Further information may be obtained from Walter P. Hertz, Chairman, New England Division, 1795 Beacon Street, Brookline, Mass.

*Speed in Foil*

To the average layman, fencing is almost synonymous with speed. He looks upon the sport as one of the fastest and probably believes that the faster you fence the more successful you will be. Fortunately for the sport itself he is partially incorrect in his assumption. Were speed the prime requisite of fencing, the most successful fencers would be those under 27 years of age, which is the age at which physical speed begins to decline. However, fencers go on for many more years. The very fact that the best fencers seldom reach their peaks until they have passed 30 and may remain very good for another 20 years would seem to prove that speed is not the primary requirement of the good swordsman.

We have no intention of disparaging the value of speed. It is a most valuable asset. It has brought success to many fencers who otherwise would have been duds. It is certainly something which has turned many a bout into victory for the fencer with its extra spark. It is so important that a good fencer will at first size up his opponent's tempo in order to know immediately whether he is dealing with a fast or slow opponent. After that, he will deal with him accordingly, but the important thing is that speed is one of the first and most important factors to analyze in any opponent.

Before we get very far into this essay, let us first determine what we mean by speed and of what fencing speed consists. Actually, speed in any physical movement implies perfect coordination, the synchronization of all the muscles and bones that are to be used in the action. Coordination of movement is, in the simplest of terms, merely the smoothness of movement. Coordinated movement executed in the minimum of time give us perfect speed. This contrasts with fast uncoordinated movement which consumes as much if not more energy but results in jerky action without directed speed.

As we practice any movement over and over our muscles learn the requirements of the action or succession of actions. Repeated practice results through muscle-learning in eventual coordination. That is why we practice simple fencing actions over and over again, to acquire or maintain coordination and its resulting speed.

Fencing is not continuous movement. It is not comparable to running or to figure skating. It consists of many stops and starts. For that reason we must add another element to our definition of speed as it applies specifically to fencing. We must add nerve speed or nervous explosiveness. We must be able to be absolutely stationary one moment and in full action the next. Upon the fractional time element required to jump into action depends much of the fencer's "speed". This is a speed that comes naturally to youth. Yet here again the older fencer holds his own through experience, for the "when" in fencing is most important.

Perhaps everything we have said thus far is too elementary for our readers. However, we feel that this review is important for a mutual understanding of such a common term as "speed". Once more; speed is the ability to start instantaneously and to execute any subsequent complex movements smoothly within a minimum time period.

We have two important foil schools; the French and the Italian. Although always interesting subjects for discussion in themselves, we have neither the time nor place for such here. We must assume that our readers are sufficiently familiar with both schools to follow our application of speed to each school respectively. We recognize that both schools use deception and pressures, and that the exponents of each school borrow liberally from the principles of the other. For our purpose, however, we refer primarily to deception when we allude to the French school and to pressures and beats when we allude to the Italian school.

For a pure French fencer to have "speed" and for a pure Italian fencer to have "speed" does not imply the same thing. The French fencer's speed must be in gear with his opponent. His major intent is to draw the parry of his opponent in order through deception to create an opening for his point. Let us say, for example, that he desires to feint or disengage to draw a simple parry and, being successful, disengages and lunges. That is nothing more than a one-two attack. What about the speed? It certainly must have been geared to that of the opponent's reaction or the entire attack would have been futile. If the one-two is made too fast, the opponent will not have reacted with the parry and the attack will have landed back into the unopened line. If the one-two is made too slowly the opponent's simple parry will have caught the blade and put an end to the attack. A similar explanation can be made of any deception attack and why it will fail if made more slowly or more rapidly than the opponent's reaction time. It is this problem of judging individual reaction speeds that makes deceptive fencing a difficult art.

Now let us take the other type of compound attack, the pressure attack, which we broadly allude to as an Italian attack. In this attack, through pressure or beats or both, you force the opponent into a desired action, reaction or even a state of rigidity and inaction. Let us take for example the coulee-disengage or pressure-disengage. This particular type of pressure is done by extending your foil in the closed line of your opponent. His blade is pressed and held as you extend. Your point threatens the opponent's target. If he opens his line he is hit directly, if he doesn't open his line you disengage with the lunge and make a touch. His natural reaction is to resist to prevent a direct hit and that resistance, when you finally disengage, throws him more widely open than before. Now what about speed in this case? Since you have control of his blade throughout the action you certainly need not gear your speed to his. It is "all out;" the faster the better.

To summarize: In deceptive fencing, perfect offensive speed is equal and only equal to the defensive speed of the opponent. In pressure fencing, the perfect speed is top speed.

Both schools employ simple direct attacks or what was described as straight lunges in our December article. Any straight lunge must be executed at top speed. Here you neither want nor should wait for any reaction from your opponent. You jump straight upon your opponent with all the speed at your com-

mand and only hope that it gets you there before he can parry you. This is true of any direct action, whether it be in the attack or follow the defense. Any direct riposte or riposte with disengage must be made at top speed.

Now that we have dealt with geared speed and top speed at least sufficiently to make a distinction in their meanings we shall leave that problem for your own experimentation. Please do not think, however, that it is a small problem. It is not until you become fully conscious of these differentiations and learn to use them automatically as the occasion demands that you will become anything but a hit-or-miss fencer. Any fencer, who loses to a naturally slower opponent or defeats a naturally faster opponent without stopping to analyze why, will become a purely automatic fencer, an automaton who gains no value from experience.

Once you have acquired the ability to evaluate speed you should experiment with its variations. To make every attack at the same speed may work against you. It enables the opponent to plan his parries perfectly and time them to the finish of your attack. Of course, if you are a whirlwind and can attack always with such blinding speed that no parry can catch up with your point, you would be foolish to change your tempo. Such fencers, however, are more the products of authors' imaginations than flesh-and-blood representatives of any existing fencing schools. Let any fencer sizzle in with a few fast attacks against an experienced fencer and he generally finds that the repetition of those attacks is somehow warded off. For that reason, speed must be a variable thing. An innocent-looking drifting attack which follows a few fast all-out attacks will have more chance of landing than another fast attack. Your opponent has learned to expect speed from you and is set to start parrying at your first fast movement. Instead you drift out with a slow harmless-looking feint and continue drifting right in to the target without surprising him into any parry whatsoever. The same variation should be practiced with feints. A first feint may be made fast and smooth to surprise an opponent, fast and with snap to startle an opponent or slowly and with innocence to lull an opponent into a false state of security. All of these variations go into making what is called "change of pace" and when properly coordinated leave an opponent in a dither of confusion.

Once more let us stress the importance of speed in a riposte. Never permit a riposte to drift. It must be shot home with all the speed in your arm and heart. It can be the fastest action in foil fencing when properly executed. Here again we must modify or rather clarify our statement. The *tac-au-tac* or *hit-and-go* parry-riposte must fly out with all the speed you have. Essentially, there are three types of parries. There is the pressure, or push parry; there is the parry in opposition; there is the beat parry, either simple or circular. The last parry, since it has beaten or snapped the opposing foil out of line calls for immediate action in the return movement, an all-out riposte. The first two parries mentioned, the push parry and the parry in opposition, leave the foils in engagement. To release, opens one to a remise. A riposte direct or with a disengage is called for, and once started must go like lightning. The only difference is that the push parry may be delayed in starting. These explanations all apply

to direct or simple disengage ripostes. Again we must consider the necessity for geared-speed if any compound riposte is undertaken. A riposte with a one-two or with a double must draw the opponent's parry the same as a deceptive attack and must be no slower or faster than the parrying speed of the opponent.

We mentioned earlier that the more experienced fencer matched the superior speed of his younger opponent with a better knowledge of "when". This is in essence "timing" or more aptly, "choice of time". This is not the place to enter into the ramifications of "choice of time". However, in any discussion of speed it is important to point out that poorly timed speed can be a waste of effort and similarly that well time speed is almost irresistible.

Thus far, actually, we have pointed out little more than the fact that speed has not always a oneness, that gear shifting is more desirable than a constant driving in high. We wish now to lead up to a discussion of individual speed, your own speed and how inefficient you usually are in its use. First of all, your own speed is an individual characteristic. Some fencers have more of it than others. Secondly, speed is a class characteristic, a thing of environment. Take any class of a dozen fencers and leave them isolated among themselves and their speeds will all become identical somewhere between the top and bottom natural speeds of the group. The group is usually entirely oblivious of this phenomenon. Now let some faster fencer visit this group and within a few sessions you will see its speed increase, a reclamation of forgotten and unused sparkle.

No fencer uses his best natural speed all of the time. Few fencers use their best natural speed most of the time. Some fencers never use their best natural speed at all. In fact, the lazy animal that is man, stands badly revealed when fencing. When called upon to make his fastest action he tries invariably to get away with an action that is just fast enough, if luck is with him. Test this for yourself. Take any fencer for a practice session. Arrange to make him stand on guard in *sixte* and upon your disengage and lunge have him parry *quarte* and riposte direct. This is one of fencing's simplest defensive replies. After his riposte, remark that it was terribly slow, even though it might not have been. Repeat the action and that riposte will come at you faster than before. "That is better but is still too slow." Zingo, now you know that you are being hit with something. And yet your opponent thought his first riposte was fast. You can do this with almost every action in his repertoire by the mere use of disparaging comment. You can do the same with yourself by self-criticism. Why in heaven's name have you not done so? There is nothing phoney in the statement that the hand is quicker than the eye. Perhaps it is just vanity that makes fencers hold their hands down to eye speed so they may watch themselves in motion.

These differences in speed I have just stressed are readily discernible although actually not great in themselves. You should not be able to increase your speed 100% by such exercises. Can you realize, however, what a great difference in results you will obtain in your fencing if you only release 10% more speed from that locked-in reservoir of yours. Even a 5% increase in speed might double your effectiveness. You have had a key to many of your own failures within you and never taken the trouble to use it. Release



your natural speed. Cease going around admitting that so-and-so is faster than you are. Like as not the only difference is that he is using a greater percentage of his natural speed than you are.

This point can not be overstressed. Every individual and group should experiment with it. Any professional will readily admit, although he may increase the speed of a slow group, the slow group will likewise slow him down. That is why conscientious professionals feel it necessary to take a lesson themselves from some other professional from time to time. They describe it as going stale and needing refreshing. Actually, the constant work with new fencers tends to slow them down. They sense the slowing down and feel the need of a work-out themselves that will call back their best speeds. They have the cure within themselves at any time by releasing their mental grip upon their natural speeds, but seek a cure by working out with another man whose own speed demands their matching it.

There are no great secrets in our sport. We all of us know most of the practical movements. There is little that we can give you in these essays that will open up new doors to super-swordsmanship. We all of us have these things within us already. It is our own laziness, inefficiency, ignoring of practice and training and non-use of the simpler effective direct actions that hold us back. Uncork yourselves. Use the speed that you possess and that you have ignored thus far. You will be a more dangerous fencer in amazingly short order and surprise yourself as well as your opponent with the result.

D. E.



#### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Southern California Junior Sabre title was won by Robert Irwin of the Faulkner School of Fencing on his home strips on March 8th. Josef Lampl of the Los Angeles Athletic Club took second place while Fred Linkmeyer, also of the L. A. A. C., was third.

The Southern California Open Sabre title competition was held at the Los Angeles Athletic Club on March 27th and marked the end of the Southern California Spring fencing season. The title went to Edward Carfagno of the L. A. A. C. with his club-mate, Howard Davis, taking second and Leonard Bellman of the Faulkner School of Fencing coming third. In addition to the official medals, Mr. Harry Davenport of Hollywood offered an attractive thirty-inch trophy to the winner, the trophy to become the permanent possession of any three-time winner. Mr. Carfagno received an individual replica of the Trophy for permanent prize.

Miss Moreene Fitz of The Cavaliers won the Grace L. Kendal trophy, described in our April issue, by defeating Miss Maxine McMasters, also of the Cavaliers, in a fence-off for first place. Miss Louise Reordan of the L. A. A. C. was third.

The annual meeting of the Southern California Division was held at the Hollywood Athletic Club on April 22nd at which time Edward Carfagno was unanimously elected 1940-1941 Chairman and Andrew Boyd was unanimously re-elected as A. F. L. A. Governor. The new members of the Southern California Executive Committee will be Fred Linkmeyer, Miss Moreene Fitz and Tom Tarbet. Herbert Sauke was re-elected Divisional Secretary.

#### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Women's Open Foil Championship of this Division was held at the Hotel Claremont in Berkeley on March 15th. Fourteen girls entered the championships. Miss Roberta Fritz, unattached, topped the seven girls Finals with 6 wins and no losses. Miss Betty Jane Nevis, Funke Fencing Academy, and Miss Amelia Riedener, Young Italian Club, were tied for second with 4 wins and 2 losses apiece. Miss Nevis won second on the basis of touches. Other finalists were Miss Gertrude Metter, Miss Emilie Romaine and Miss Lynette Goldstone, all of the Funke Fencing Academy, and Miss Constance Dean, unattached.

The Divisional Junior Sabre Team Championship was held at the Hotel Claremont on March 15th. Three teams were entered. The Olympic Club team of Walter Westman, John Lincoln Raymond and Alfred R. Snyder defeated the University of California team of Jack Hovick, William Hohenthal and Robert Stone 7-2 and the Funke Fencing Academy team of Arthur Lane, Robert Shrader and Truman W. Clark 6-0. The University of California defeated the Funke Fencing Academy 6-3. As a consequence of this competition the Olympic Club team won the right to represent San Francisco in the Pacific Coast Junior Sabre Team Championship. However, all members of this team were unable to go to Los Angeles and defaulted their right in favor of the University of California team.

The Open Sabre Championship of Northern California was held at the Olympic Club on March 23rd and attracted 16 entries. Hans Halberstadt, Funke Fencing Academy, won this championship with 4 wins and 1 loss in the six-man finals. Harry Mortimer and Ferard Leicester, both of the Olympic Club, were tied with 3 wins and 2 losses apiece and in touches for and against. This necessitated a fence-off which Mortimer won 5-1. The other finalists were Salvatore Giambra and Lawrence Bocci of the Young Italian Club and Bryan H. Smith, Olympic Club.

Three Novice Foil teams competed for the Pisani Trophy at the Young Italian Club on April 19th. This competition inaugurated last year was won for the second time by the Young Italian Club. The Trophy is to become the property of the club whose team wins three times. The winning team consisting of Frank Giambra, John Cinelli and Victor Vari defeated the University of California team of Noel Spiess, Norman Hodson and Norman Firestone by a score of 5-4. A third team which lacked a third member defaulted after its first four bouts.

There were 8 competitors in the Novice Epee Competition held at the Funke Fencing Academy on March 29th. Joel Lee Brenner of the University of California and Robert Shrader of the Funke Fencing Academy were tied at the end of the round robin with 5 wins and 2 losses apiece. Brenner won the fence-off 3-1. Noel Spiess and Rene Sommer of the University of California were third and fourth with 4 wins and 3 losses and 3 wins and 4 losses respectively.

A San Francisco Three Weapon Championship and a Women's Open Foil event are being scheduled for August 22nd at Treasure Island, San Francisco International Exposition.

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## Three Touch vs. One Touch Epee

In our last issue we presented an article entitled, "One Touch Epee", giving arguments in favor of reducing epee bouts to their former one-touch limit. In further comment, we stated that we had contacted at least a dozen of the leading epeeists and were surprised to find all but one vehemently in favor of our suggestion. This month other prominent epeeists have come forward and opposed our views. We believe it only fair to admit that what looked like a one-sided argument is now meeting opposition.

We now find that every fencing club in New York City has at least some epeeists who still favor the present three-touch system and are opposed to any change. The preponderance of epeemen at the Fencers Club, a club especially famous for the achievements of its epeeists over half a century, is in favor of continuing the three-touch epee. In epee discussions, its opinions demand respect. We, on the other hand, have without solicitation received several letters praising the contentions of our article. We reprint one of the more unusual of these.

Dear Editor:

I was very much interested in the one-touch epee article in the last Riposte and heartily agree with the author in all the points advanced in favor of the single touch.

My chief contention is that if the purpose of duelling sword is to perpetuate the technique of the old duel, let it be 100 per cent faithful. True, the best man would not always win first place in a competition, but that is in keeping with the variable feature of the duel. If the purpose of epee is not as stated above, what excuse have we for it—why fence it at all if we cannot accurately duplicate the duel in all but the unpleasant final result?

I won our Divisional championship in this weapon this year, but I would gladly see the touches reduced to one. This would not be in my favor in future competitions, but it seems to me that when winning becomes the chief interest of a fencer, he finds that the sport is losing a great deal of its pleasure for him. Even with one touch, the good epee man has a distinct advantage over the average fencer.

Yours very truly,

No adverse criticism was received until, under the date of April 24th, we received a copy of the following:

### MEMORANDUM TO:

The Board of Governors of the Amateur Fencers League of America.

The members of the Amateur Fencers League of America listed below wish to advise the Board of Governors that they prefer the present method of scoring epee bouts (best three out of five touches) to one touch epee. While we do not object to experimenting with one touch epee in one or two competitions during the year, we are against any further extension of the one touch epee system.

The F.I.E., under whose rules all international competitions are conducted, requires that an epee bout be for three out of five touches. One touch

epee is an entirely different game which neither requires the same tactics nor the same stamina and endurance of the fencer as a bout for three out of five touches. We, therefore, feel that the United States will make a better showing in future Olympics and other international matches, if we retain the present method of scoring.

Secondly, a great number of epee fencers do not favor a change to one touch epee. They have four good reasons for their attitude:

1. One touch epee emphasizes the element of luck.
2. It does not develop the technical skill of the fencers.
3. It is very dull and uninteresting to spectators.
4. When one touch epee was tried in former years, there were many more complaints and much more dissatisfaction than with the present system.

We therefore urge you to vote against the proposal now before the Board of Governors to change to one touch epee. You can do so by signing the enclosed card, addressed to the Secretary of the League. If you have already cast an affirmative vote we are advised that you can reconsider up to May 1, 1940.

Please act immediately.

Robert S. Driscoll  
Norman C. Armitage  
Winslow Cornett  
Philip Wiedel

Tracy Jaeckel  
Alfred Skrobisch  
Ralph Marson  
Jose R. de Capriles

We respect the opinions of these men. They are constantly active in epee competition and naturally are fully entitled to careful hearing in respect to any proposed changes in their own sport. However, they have not as yet sold us with their arguments.

Their argument about the F.I.E. and future Olympic competition certainly does not hold at the present time. The F.I.E. has temporarily closed up shop with the request that its Affiliations in countries not at war carry the torch for fencing until international competitions can be resumed. The Olympics have been postponed for at least four years. There was never a better opportunity for American fencers to experiment. We are free now from any apprehension of going contrary to international procedure lest we lose when called upon to participate internationally again. Should we experiment now; would we not be in a paramount position to propose any changes for international acceptance when the F.I.E. reopens its offices again?

We disagree with all but the first of the four listed arguments of the Memorandum. Point 2 is decidedly faulty. A one-touch epee bout demands the highest epee skill of its exponents, a greater concentration of real epee than will ever be found in the longer bout. Point 3 is subject to challenge. If one touch epee is very dull and uninteresting to the spectators we can only suggest that three touch epee is probably three times duller. To us, epee will never become a top sport in spectator interest. Our suggestion was to make the sport more exciting and interesting to the competitors themselves. However, if epeeists have suddenly become spectator-conscious we believe



that they are on the wrong track in favoring the multi-touch bout for the spectators' pleasure.

Point 4 is a statement of fact. It is true of the period to which it referred. We specifically pointed out that we would not want to return to the one touch epee with anything except the electrical epee.

It is the introduction of that unique weapon that makes any consideration of the return of the one touch epee attractive. Therefore, to refer to conditions of the past when those conditions have, we believe, been changed is not good argument.

Now back to Point 1 which we consider a justifiable argument. "One touch epee emphasizes the element of luck." This is true and yet we wonder if luck is not being given too much credit for past victories. Let us take a 10-year period back in the one touch epee days and list the American Champions.

1916—William H. Russell  
 1917—Leo G. Nunes  
 1918—No Championship  
 1919—William H. Russell  
 1920—Ray W. Dutcher  
 1921—C. R. McPherson  
 1922—Leo G. Nunes  
 1923—George C. Calnan  
 1924—Leo G. Nunes  
 1925—William H. Russell  
 1926—Leo G. Nunes

Russell won 3 times, Nunes won 4 times, while Dutcher, McPherson and Calnan each won once. The frequency of Nunes' and Russell's winnings would seem to prove that luck tended to average out in a competition and that skill was rewarded with victory. Furthermore, if you knew Dutcher, McPherson and Calnan in those days you would not even consider thinking their victories exceptional and due to luck.

The three touch epee began in 1932. Let us list the champions under this system.

1932—Leo G. Nunes  
 1933—Gustave M. Heiss  
 1934—Gustave M. Heiss  
 1935—Thomas J. Sands  
 1936—Gustave M. Heiss  
 1937—Thomas J. Sands  
 1938—Jose R. de Capriles  
 1939—Loyal Tingley

Here again you have 5 different champions in only 8 years. Heiss won 3 times and Sands won twice. The other three won once apiece. In other words, we have had as many different champions in our 8 years under the three touch system as we had back in the terribly lucky one touch era. Leo G. Nunes was our first three touch epee champion. If our opponents dare to contend that he was lucky under the old system then we must make the silly rebuttal that he was three times luckier in 1932. This, however, is only nonsensical, argument ad extremum.

What is meant by luck in epee? If you mean that bouts are lost through the failure of a judge to find a good touch you have made or the tendency of some Director to give you no credit for a slight advantage in time, then we say that the electrical epee machine is your answer. If you mean that the superior epeeist might miss his point once and lose a bout then we raise an eyebrow and say that that is not so much tough luck as it is failure in skill and should prove costly.

In view of the favorable comments received thus far from epeeists all over the country and the failure of those opposed to present any overwhelming arguments against an experiment of this kind, we hope that the Board of Governors will vote favorably upon the resolution that, "All A.F.L.A. competitions in epee for the season 1940-41 shall be for one touch with a five minute time limit." W. D.



## NATIONAL THREE WEAPON TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Six teams entered the National Three Weapon Team Championship at the Fencers Club on April 7th. The New York Athletic Club "A" team with Warren Dow fencing foil, Leo G. Nunes fencing epee and Dr. John R. Huffman, sabre, completed their five matches without defeat to win the Calnan Memorial Trophy for this Championship. All teams did not complete their matches and so further places in the tournament are not exactly determinable. The Fencers Club won 3 matches and lost 1 with 1 match unfenced. The Salle Santelli "A" team, the defending champions, won 3 and lost 2 with a completed schedule. Dow and Huffman of the winning team were undefeated in their respective weapons.

In the following summary the fencers of each team are listed in the order of the weapon they fenced; viz. Foil, Epee and Sabre.

### Summary

N.Y.A.C. "A"—Warren Dow, Leo G. Nunes and Dr. John R. Huffman won 5, lost 0.

Fencers Club—Hugh V. Alessandrini, Tracy Jaekel and Norman C. Armitage won 3, lost 1.

Salle Santelli "A"—Jose de Capriles, Norman Lewis and Miguel A. de Capriles won 3, lost 2.

N.Y.A.C. "B"—Dernell Every, Jean V. Grombach and Ralph E. Marson won 2, lost 2.

New York University—Arthur Tauber, Mindy Slikas and Frank Sharfstein won 0, lost 4.

Salle Santelli "B"—Albert Axelrod, Kevis Kapner and Diaz Cetrulo won 0, lost 4.



## P. S. A. L. FENCING TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

The foil team from the New Utrecht High School won the Public School Athletic League fencing team championship for the second straight year on April 20th by defeating the Stuyvesant High School team 8-4 on the Washington Irving High School strips. These two teams had each won the championship of their respective Divisions the week previously. New Utrecht's victory over Stuyvesant was its seventeenth in a string extending over a period of two seasons. James Madison High School took third place in the league race with a 7-5 victory over Abraham Lincoln High School.

In addition to the competitive results the P. S. A. L. also makes an annual award to the team showing the best form throughout the tournament. Morris High School won the form award with an average of 6.93 with Bayside High School a close second with 6.88 and New Utrecht third with 6.81.

**A. F. L. A. COMPETITIONS HELD IN NEW YORK CITY****National Qualifying Round Sabre Individual  
21 Entries—March 26, 1940**

Dr. John R. Huffman and Ralph E. Marson of the N. Y. A. C. and Jose and Miguel de Capriles of the Salle Santelli led the eight qualifiers from New York City in the national qualifying round held at the Salle Santelli. Each of the above four men suffered but one defeat in the second round. The remaining four qualifiers were Philip Lubart of the Salle Santelli, Peter Bruder of the Salle D'Armes Vince, Irving Cantor of the Fencers Club and Dr. Ervin Acel of the N. Y. A. C.

**National Qualifying Round Foil Individual  
21 Entries—March 31, 1940**

Silvio Giolito and Warren Dow of the N. Y. A. C. came through undefeated in their respective final pools to lead the eight qualifiers from New York City for the National Championships. The six remaining fencers to qualify were Dernel Every and Dr. John Huffman of the N. Y. A. C., Nathaniel Lubell and Maxwell Garrett of the Salle D'Armes Vince, Hugh Alessandroni of the Fencers Club and Jose de Capriles of the Salle Santelli. The competition was held at the Salle Santelli.

**National Qualifying Round Epee Individual  
21 Entries—April 14, 1940**

Despite many breakdowns in the electrical equipment, the Fencers Club qualified four of its epeeists for the National Championships on the strips of the Salle Santelli. They were Robert Driscoll, Winslow Cornett, Alfred Skrobisch and Norman C. Armitage. Jose and Miguel de Capriles of the Salle Santelli and Leon G. Nunes and Ralph E. Marson of the N. Y. A. C. were the remaining four qualifiers.

**PHILADELPHIA**

Eight contestants entered the Intermediate Epee competition at the University of Pennsylvania on March 13th. Edward Mateosian of the Sword Club won the contest with 5 victories and 2 losses in the round robin. Robert H. Agnew and Richard F. Warren of the Sword Club and Harry Firman of the Triangle Sword Club were tied for second with 4 wins and 3 losses apiece. Agnew took 2nd on the basis of touches received, while Firman took 3rd on the basis of touches for and against.

The Intermediate Sabre competition attracted 9 contestants to the University of Pennsylvania on March 20th. Edward Mateosian of the Sword Club went through the round robin undefeated to take first place, winning six of his bouts 5-1. Philip C. Shakespeare, Jr. of the Sword Club was second with 6 wins and 2 losses, while his clubmate, Richard F. Warren was 3rd with 5 wins and 3 losses.

The Women's Junior Foil competition was held at Bryn Mawr College on March 18th. There were 7 entries. Miss Dorothy Kerfoot of the New York Foils Club won first place with 5 victories and 1 loss. Miss Jane V. Harper of Bryn Mawr College was tied in bouts for second place with Miss Arlene Vanderhoef of the Sword Club and Miss Ellen Gibb of the Philadelphia Fencers Club but took second on the basis of touches. Miss Vanderhoef and Miss Gibb

**All Eastern Championships Intermediate Foil Team  
3 Team Fence-Off—April 28th**

The Salle D'Armes Vince retained the New York University Trophy for the All Eastern Intermediate Foil Team Championship in a fence-off on the strips of the Fencers Club. The match held originally in January ended in a three way tie for first among the Salle D'Armes Vince, the Salle Santelli and the Saltus Fencing Club. In the fence-off the Salle D'Armes Vince won with a well balanced team consisting of Nathaniel Lubell, Maxwell Garret and Sidney Kaplan. They defeated the Salle Santelli 5-4 and the Saltus Club 5-3. Diaz Cetrulo of the Salle Santelli and Theodore Green of the Saltus Club each won three bouts apiece against the Salle d'Armes Vince but their victories were not sufficient to upset the defending Champions.

**National Qualifying Round Women's Individual Foil  
15 Entries—March 31, 1940**

Mrs. Marion Lloyd Vince of the Salle D'Armes Vince, competing for the first time this season, led the six qualifiers from New York City for the National Championships. Mrs. Vince suffered but one defeat in the match, losing to Mrs. Dolly Funke, of the Greco Fencing Academy. Miss Maria Cerra, 9th in the National Ranking, was eliminated on touches after tying with Miss Dorothy Kerfoot of the Foils Club. Miss Kerfoot was making her first appearance in National Championships. The competition was held at the Fencers Club. The six qualifiers were Mrs. Marion Lloyd Vince and Miss Madeline Dalton of the Salle D'Armes Vince, Miss Barbara Cochrane and Miss Dorothy Grimmelmann of the Salle Santelli, Mrs. Dolly Funke of the Greco Fencing Academy and Miss Dorothy Kerfoot of the Foils Club.

were completely tied and had to fence off with Miss Vanderhoef winning 4-3 for 3rd place.

Leonard Fries of the Philadelphia Fencers Club took first place among the 6 contestants in the Prep Foil competition at the Sword Club on March 27th. His score was 4 wins and 1 loss. With 3 wins and 2 losses apiece, John Kelly of the Sword Club won second place on touches over Michael Holiny of the Triangle Sword Club.

Seven contestants entered the Philadelphia Foil Championship on April 3rd at Haverford College. Edward Mateosian and Philip C. Shakespeare, Jr., both of the Sword Club were tied for first place with 5 wins and 1 loss apiece. Mateosian won the fence-off 5-4. Dana Allen of the Sword Club was third with 4 wins and 2 losses.

Four teams, the Wilmington Y.M.C.A. (Vapaa, Owings and Ciancaglino), the Triangle Sword Club (Firman, Govette and Burrell), a Composite team (Von Fust of Haverford College and Zimmerman and MacNeal of Penn Charter School) and a two-man team from the Sword Club (Warren and Pugh) entered the Sabre Team competition at the Salle Herrmann on April 7th. Before the meet, it was agreed to fence matches on 2 strips, the winners to meet for first place and the losers of the first two matches to fence off with the Final round losers for 2nd and 3rd places. The Wilmington Y.M.C.A. defeated the

Sword Club 5-3 and the Triangle Sword Club defeated the Composite team 5-2. The Wilmington Y. M. C. A. defeated the Triangle Sword Club 5-4 to take first place. The Sword Club defeated the Composite team 5-1 and then defeated the Triangle Sword Club 5-4 to take second place.

There were only 4 contestants in the Philadelphia Epee Championship at the Sword Club on April 10th. Robert H. Agnew won his 5th championship in this weapon with 3 victories and no defeats. Richard F. Warren of the Sword Club and Harry Firman of the Triangle Sword Club were completely tied with 2 wins and 2 losses apiece and the same number of touches made and received. Warren won the fence-off 3-2.

The Divisional Sabre Championship was held at the Sword Club on April 17th with 5 contestants. Edward Mateosian of the Sword Club won the Championship with no loss of bouts, while Charles E. Willous of the Salle Scafati (Newark, N. J.) was second and Myron D. Stepath of the Sword Club was third. Capt. T. F. Robertson of the Valley Forge Military Academy was Director of Bouts.

Seven teams entered the Three Weapon Team Competition at the Salle Herrmann on April 28th. The Sword Club "A" team took first with Dana Allen fencing foil, Robert Agnew, epee, and Myron D. Stepath, sabre. The Philadelphia Fencers Club team was second with Leonard Fries in foil, Frank Conrad in epee and Jay Stockhardt in sabre. Haverford College was third with William F. McDevit in foil, Eugene Botelho in epee and John Von Fust in sabre. This was the last indoor meet of the season.

The Divisional Outdoor Open Epee and Sabre Championships will be held on Sunday, May 12th, at the estate of Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Ristine in Stratford, Pa.

## × × ST. LOUIS

Three teams entered the St. Louis Women's Foil Team Championship held on February 18th at the Y. W. C. A. Both the Vical Blues and Vical Reds defeated the Imperial team to go into a Final deciding match against each other. The Vical Blues, composed of the Misses Ervilla Droll, Olivia Mewes and Lucille Haenni defeated the Vical Reds represented by the Misses Edna Gustavson, Mae Brady and Doris Agricola by a score of 5-4 for the title.

There were nine entries in the St. Louis Epee Championship at the Adult Study Center on February 24th. Alan Beck of La Septieme won the Championship with 3 victories and no defeats in the 4-man Finals. Alex Solomon of the Fencers Club was second with 2 wins and 1 defeat, while Tracy Barnes of La Septieme finished third with 1 win and 2 losses.

Miss Ervilla Droll of the Salle d'Armes Vical successfully defended her Divisional Women's Foil Championship at the Y. W. C. A. on March 3rd by winning all of her bouts in the 6-girl Finals. There were 14 girls in the competition. Second place went to Miss Muriel Witte of the Imperials with 4 wins and 1 loss, while Miss Mae Brady of the Salle d'Armes Vical won third with 3 wins and 2 losses.

Eight men entered the St. Louis Sabre Championship held at the South Side Y. M. C. A. on March 9th. Alex Solomon of the Fencers Club won first place in the round robin with 7 wins and no losses, while Robert Witte took second on the basis of

touches over Lon Hocker after they tied with 5 wins and 2 losses apiece.

Tracy Barnes and Miss Ervilla Droll have prepared blue-prints for an outdoor fencing strip in Forest Park and are seeking approval of the project by the city.

## NECROLOGIES

Death has taken two of America's most famous fencing masters within the past seven weeks.

Jean Louis Danguy died in Cambridge, Mass., on March 20th. He was 83 years old. Mr. Danguy came to the United States in 1907, after having received 22 fencing awards for his skill throughout Europe. He had spent 18 years as fencing master in London, where he numbered members of the Royal Family among his pupils. Upon arriving in the United States he became fencing master for 12 years at the New York Fencers Club. He was fencing master at Harvard University from 1919 until his retirement in 1929. He likewise taught fencing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and at the Boston Athletic Club. He continued to fence after his retirement and was reported as having fenced as recently as a week before his death.

Francois Darriault died at Dickerson, Maryland, April 24th, at 71 years of age. Mr. Darriault came to this country from France, a comparatively young man. His skill as a fencing master first came to National attention when, as Fencing Coach at the United States Naval Academy, he was appointed American Olympic Fencing Coach in 1920. He accompanied the American Olympic Fencing Team to Antwerp in 1920 and again coached our Olympic Team when it went to Paris in 1924. Following his return from Paris, he became Fencing Master at Cornell University, where he trained several Inter-collegiate Championship Teams up until his retirement in 1930. Since that time, he has lived quietly in Maryland, from which place recent word of his death came with considerable shock to his many fencing friends throughout the East.

Both Mr. Danguy and Mr. Darriault were among the first fencing masters in the United States to receive the A. F. L. A. Certificate of Merit.

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## ILLINOIS

The Illinois Division decided to conduct its Championships differently this year, qualifying two fencers from the semi-finals in each weapon into a 10-touch Final Bout for the Championship. The preliminaries and semi-finals were held over two week-ends followed by the Final Night on the third week-end. The plan proved so successful, interspersed with exhibition bouts and entertainment, that Illinois claims to have held its most interesting and colorful Championship with a record attendance of between 200 and 400. (We print both estimates, submitted separately.)

There were 25 entries in the first round of the Illinois Foil Championship held at the Lakeshore Athletic Club on March 24th. The following 6 men finished in the order named to qualify for the National Championships, the first two qualifying into the Illinois Championship Finals: Jerry Mau (Edgewater Fencers Club), Herbert Strauss, Jr. (Hermanson Fencing School), Tully Friedman and Clifford Groh (Northwestern University Fencers Club), Alex George (University of Chicago) and Campbell Wilson (Hermanson).

There were 18 girls entered in the first round of the Illinois Women's Foil Championship at the Lakeshore Athletic Club the same day. The six top semi-finalists and qualifiers into the National Championships finished in the following order: Miss Carol King (Hermanson Fencing School), Miss Betty Ann Richards (La Grange Fencing Club), Miss Maryalce von Wesche (University of Chicago), Miss Norma MacIntosh (Edgewater Fencers Club), Miss Dorothy Ingram and Miss Mary Elizabeth Grenander (University of Chicago).

On March 31st, 19 contestants entered the first round of the Illinois Epee Championship at the Lakeshore Athletic Club. The six winning semi-finalists and qualifiers into the National Championships were: Fred Seibert (Lakeshore Athletic Club), Loyal Tingley, James Corbett and Charles Corbett (all of the University of Chicago), Floyd Traynham, Jr. (Hermanson School of Fencing) and Arthur Todd (Edgewater Fencers Club).

There were 15 entries in the Illinois Sabre Championship which opened at the Edgewater Athletic Club on March 31st. The six leading semi-finalists were: Eugene Williams (Edgewater Fencers Club), Donald McDonald and Charles Corbett (both of the University of Chicago), Arthur Todd (Edgewater Fencers Club), Charles Glasser (University of Chicago) and Fred Seibert (Lakeshore Athletic Club).

An extensive and varied program accompanied the four Championship bouts at the Finals at the Lake Shore Athletic Club on April 6th. We itemize the program of the Finals:

1. Prof. R. V. Merrill of the University of Chicago gave a short talk on the history and romance of fencing.
2. Mr. Alvar Hermanson gave a sabre exhibition with one of his pupils.
3. Jerry Mau (Edgewater Fencers Club) won the Illinois Foil Championship by defeating Herbert Strauss, Jr. (Hermanson Fencing School) 12-10 in an over-period and excellently fought bout. Mau is a 19-year-old left-hander one of 4 or 5 excellent foils-

men who have come up through High School fencing in Chicago.

4. Armando Stella (5' 4") vs. Werner Warnholtz (6' 4") in a comic fencing exhibition. (It was funny, too.)
5. Miss Carol King (Hermanson Fencing School) won the Illinois Women's Foil Championship by defeating Miss Betty Ann Richards (La Grange Fencing Club) 8-5.
6. Six fencers in a balloon-busting free-for-all.
7. Fred Siebert (Lakeshore Athletic Club) won the Illinois Epee Championship by defeating Loyal Tingley (University of Chicago) 10-7 in a most exciting bout. This was the first time that the electrical epees had been used by the Illinois Division.
8. Eugene Williams (Edgewater Fencers Club) won the Illinois Sabre Championship by defeating Donald McDonald (University of Chicago) 10-4.
9. A satire grudge fight between Floyd Traynham, Jr. (Hermanson) and Alex George (University of Chicago) in which foils, daggers, boxing gloves and wrestling grips were employed.
10. Presentation of medals by Mr. Avery Brundage, President of the American Olympic Committee.

Special mention has been made of the excellent work of the officials which consisted of Frank S. Righheimer, Jr. as Director and William Corson, Walter Eisen, Camille Waldbott and Gus Rapp as Judges. The Public Address system was in the hands of Tully Friedman who gave an excellent and interesting 15 minute impromptu talk during a breakdown of the epee machine.

The Illinois Division's officers for next fencing season will be: President, Loyal Tingley; Secretary, Werner Warnholtz, and Treasurer, Frank S. Righheimer, Jr. The Board of Directors and Bout Committee will consist of William Corson, Oscar Barab, Miss Carol King, Charles Corbett, Richard Cameron, and Tully Friedman. Herbert Strauss, Jr., became President-Elect, a new office created to assure the incoming officers of having an experienced man to guide them.

X X

## INDIANA

The Indianapolis Fencing Corps, an organization of fencing enthusiasts in that city, conducted a state fencing tournament at the Naval Armory on April 21st. The tournament included competitions in men's and women's team foil and individual foil, sabre, epee and women's foil. An entry fee of \$1.50 per person covered the fencing and a banquet immediately following. All members of the first and second foil teams received gold and silver medals respectively. The third place men's foil team received bronze medals. Individual winners in each weapon received awards as did the individuals displaying the best form in each weapon.

The banquet was planned to discuss the organization of a permanent state fencing organization and probable affiliation with the A. F. L. A.

Full particulars will probably be available for our next issue.

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