

THE GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS OF THE MONTH.

JULY.



SPRING, Summer, Autumn, Winter—every season in its turn brings with it its appropriate games and amusements, its indoor pastimes or its outdoor sports and exercises. To mention them all, even by name only, would be no light undertaking, while to explain them all in the pages of a

Magazine is quite impossible. Neither, indeed, is it at all necessary to do so, for with most of the games of the month all little folk are fairly well acquainted, and if they are ever in doubt as to the rules and regulations of any one of them, they can always turn to such an undoubted authority as "The Book of Sports and Pastimes." But there are many useful hints and suggestions in connection with most games and exercises which are gained by individual practice alone, and which are not to be found in any book. These it is proposed to gather together each month for the benefit of all who may read LITTLE FOLKS Magazine. From time to time, too, new sports and amusements are introduced into our country, and whenever such is the case, a full description will be given, and all the most important rules will be printed. But beyond this, it is hoped that very many new Summer and Winter games, and new varieties of old games, may be invented and explained for the first time in these pages, so that "The Games and Amusements of the Month" may each month be looked for with eager interest; and the Editor will always be glad to receive from his readers or their friends suggestions of every kind likely to promote the success of this new department of the Magazine.

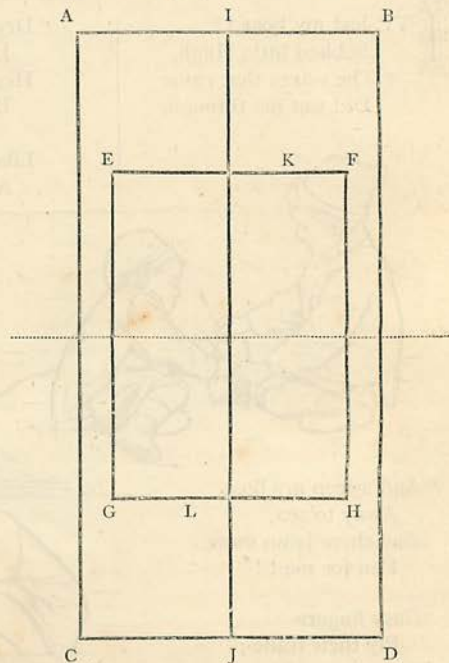
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First and foremost among the out-door sports for July stands Lawn Tennis—that healthful game which is so popular because it is one of the very few which can be played by boys and girls together. Now Lawn Tennis is usually played by two, three, or four players, and the recognised rules do not provide for a larger number. But how often does it happen that there are six players on the ground, all anxious to play, but two are obliged to stand out and wait their turn while the others decide a

set! And yet, although it is not strict Lawn Tennis, there is an easy way out of the difficulty, by which all the aspirants can play at once—three on either side. In the accompanying diagram of a Lawn Tennis Court, marked out for the four-handed game, the server would stand between A and I, while his partner would take up his position somewhere about F. Now for the six-handed game let the first player serve from the usual position, while his partners stand at about K and B respectively, the player at K being careful to keep out of the server's line. In the same way let the three players on the other side stand at H, L, and C, or thereabouts. The serving may be managed in either of two ways: the players at A and B, and their opponents in similar positions, may take it in turn to serve, to the exclusion altogether of the centre players; or the turns may be arranged as follows:—

- First Game. A serves with B and K in positions shown.
 Third " B " " A in B's place.
 Fifth " K " " A in K's place.
 Seventh " A " " B and K in positions shown.
 Ninth " B " " A in B's place.
 Eleventh, K " " A in K's place.

Of course the three players on the other side would



change places in a similar manner for the second, fourth, sixth, eighth, and tenth games of the set.

At Lawn Tennis, as at other games, it must often happen that two opponents are not evenly matched, and that the better player must endeavour to equalise matters. This he does by giving certain advantages or "odds," which are known technically as a *bisque* (or *bisques*), half-fifteen, fifteen, half-thirty, thirty, half-forty, forty, half-court; and as these terms are not very generally understood, a short explanation of them may be of service. A *bisque* is one stroke (or score), which may be claimed by the receiver of the odds at any time during a set, with two exceptions: it may not be taken after the service has been delivered, neither may it be taken by the Server after a fault, although the Striker-out may then claim it. One or more *bisques* may be given in augmentation or diminution of other odds. *Half-fifteen* is one stroke given at the beginning of the second and every subsequent alternate game of a set. *Fifteen* is one stroke given at the beginning of every game of a set. *Half-thirty* is one stroke given at the beginning of the first game, two strokes at the beginning of the second game, and so on alternately in all the subsequent games of a set. *Thirty* is two strokes given at the beginning of every game of a set. *Half-forty* is two strokes given at the beginning of the first game, three strokes at the beginning of the second game, and so on alternately in all the subsequent games of a set. *Forty* is three strokes given at the beginning of every game of a set. *Half-court*: the players having agreed into which Court the giver of the odds shall play, the latter loses a stroke if the ball, returned by him, drop outside that court.

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In July Cricket is at its zenith, and the records of great matches prove, amongst other things, how important it is that players should be able to "catch" a ball, when the opportunity offers. A little time, therefore, may be well spent in practising "catches," but this fact should always be borne in mind: A ball thrown by the hand is a very different thing from a ball hit by the bat; in the first case you may have a simple catch, while in the second case there will be a lot of spin on the ball, and it will wriggle out of your hands before you know it. Practise catches, therefore, *off the bat* as much as possible; you will then always look out for the spin, and grip the ball tightly.

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The Midsummer holidays bring to many a trip to the seaside, but even at the seaside time sometimes hangs a little heavy. Few seaside resorts are over well provided with grass lawns for Tennis or Croquet, but where the sea is kind enough to provide hard firm sands this does not much matter.

Many and many a good game of Tennis, or Badminton, or Croquet, or Bowls may be played on the hard sand, from which the sea has recently receded. And what a splendid Archery-ground the sea-shore makes! Intending visitors to the sea will often do well to remember this, and may be wise to carry a little extra luggage in the shape of racquets, or bows and arrows.

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But apart from this there should be no lack of amusements at the seaside. Rowing and Sailing may be indulged in to almost any extent if the weather be fair, while collectors of shells and seaweeds, or of anemones and other marine creatures, find plenty to do; July and August, too, are good months in which to collect wild flowers and ferns, and next month a few hints will be given as to the best way of drying and pressing flowers and seaweeds. But the mention of Rowing and Sailing brings Swimming to mind, for all those who are constantly on the water should be able to swim. If any of you, then, are unable to swim, make up your minds to learn at once, for, as you know, salt water is much more buoyant than fresh water, and with a resolute will you may turn your holiday at the seaside to good account, and learn to swim without much effort. First make sure that there are no dangerous currents where you bathe, and that the tide is not receding; then, standing facing the shore, with the sea nearly up to your shoulders, strike out boldly and confidently with arms and legs, caring little if you swallow a little water now and then; repeat this morning after morning, and you will not want swimming lessons; you will soon find that the sea buoys you up—in other words that you can swim, even though it be but slowly.

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Wet weather will come sometimes in July just as in other months, and a rainy summer day is worse than a rainy winter one, for winter amusements have been put aside and there is nothing to take their place. But is there not? For instance, have you ever played a game of Racquets in a cellar? If not, try it by all means, and you will often be thankful for the suggestion. All you want is an empty underground cellar, or room, lit by gas, as there will probably be little daylight. Here you can make a very good impromptu racquet-court, with side walls and all complete; or here you can play fives or tennis—all games which do not trench at all on the winter amusements proper. Truly, indeed, there are pastimes for all times and all weathers if only we know where to look for them; and it is hoped that in this respect this new department of the Magazine may be a useful guide.