

Athletes of the Year.

THEIR PERFORMANCES AND METHODS OF TRAINING.

ENGLAND, at the present time, may be said to be able to hold her own in all branches of athletics. Men have come to the front during the season just past who, pitted against the best of Continental or Colonial athletes, would be able to more than hold their own. Our Universities lead the van amongst kindred institutions, as witness the defeat of Yale by the Oxonians during last summer. On the flat, coming farther afield, we have such athletes as F. E. Bacon, Sid Thomas, C. A. Bradley, and E. C. Bredin; on the cycle track we have Green, Shorland, and Watson; in cricket we have Brockwell; on the football field Sandilands, and many others who might be enumerated; and on the links Taylor, the professional champion, is a leader amongst leaders. C. B. Fry, again, the triple Blue, is an exponent of rare excellence in almost every branch of sport that might be mentioned; and although the sculling championship is held by a New Zealander, yet, seeing that he has definitely settled in his English home, we could place in the field a recognised team second to none. In the descriptions which follow we have traced the records of the leading athletes of 1894, while much that is interesting may be learnt from the individual methods and manner of preparation.

F. E. BACON.

A TRULY formidable list of championships is that held by F. E. Bacon. Born at the pleasant little hamlet of Boxted, near Colchester, in 1870, he is now in his 24th year. But although he may yet be expected to improve upon his performances already effected, it may be mentioned that he holds the titles of one mile champion of England, 2 miles Northern Counties champion, $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile steeplechase champion 1892-93, mile Essex champion, 10 miles Ashton champion 1892-93, 1,000 yards Scotch record holder, one mile Isle of Man record holder, 1,000

yards champion 1892, Essex cross-country champion 1892, 10 miles Northern cross-country champion 1893, 4 miles champion of England, and 1, 2, and 3 miles Scotch record holder, where in the mile, which he covered in 4min. 18 1-5sec., George's previous time was beaten. At an early age he commenced running, locally at first, and then in 1891 he came prominently before the public. His best performance, however, was that in the 4 miles scratch race, at Stamford Bridge, where he met the best men of the day—Sid Thomas, Crossland, Watkins, and Pearce. Running grandly, he had the measure of his opponents from the start, and sprinting ahead at the finish he succeeded in tying George's record of 19min. 39sec. dead for the full distance. The same men he again met and defeated at Ashton-under-Lyne in a 5 miles race in 24min. 25sec. dead, while another of his best performances was the carrying-off of a 3 miles handicap, in which the limit man was in receipt of a start of 300yds. This year he has only competed in two of the championships, the mile and the 4 miles. He won both, and was, in fact, defeated in but one scratch race up to the end of the regulation athletic season. It may be added that Bacon is a pleasantly-mannered young fellow, standing 5ft. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in height, weighing, when "peeled," 9st. 3lb. He has this season won 36 first prizes and 11 seconds, while the value of the trophies secured during the whole of his career he places at £1,850. He has, strange to say, no special method of training, running at practice half a mile for a mile, or 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 miles for a 5 miles race.

SID THOMAS.

LITTLE wonder, indeed, that Sid Thomas discovers by this time that training is somewhat irksome. He has been upon the path and remained in championship form far longer than any of his contemporaries. Born at Chelsea, in July, 1868, he is thus in his 27th year, and, although slight in form, is



F. E. BACON.

From a Photo. by G. C. Melville, Manchester.



SID THOMAS.

From a Photo. by Adrian Smythe, Putney.

one of the "wiriest" runners that has ever donned a shoe. The 10 miles amateur championship of England has fallen to his lot on four occasions—in 1889, 1892, 1893, and this season—he securing a win twice at Stamford Bridge, at Birmingham last year, and on the last occasion, it is almost needless to add, at Huddersfield. In 1889 Thomas was both the 4 miles amateur champion of this country and 10 miles champion of America. He has also won two of the cross-country championships of the South of England, in 1888 and 1889. But in 1892 Thomas eclipsed all his previous performances, by establishing world's record for the 15 miles, at Stamford Bridge. The little Chelsea crack has also established fresh records for the $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles in 6min. 53 3-5sec., 3 miles in 14min. 24sec., 4,000yds. in 10min. 58 1-5sec., and 5,000yds. in 13min. 43 3-5sec.

E. C. BREDIN,

THE quarter and half mile champion, was born at Gibraltar, in March of 1866, his father being a colonel in the Royal Artillery. Educated at Wellington College, and later at Frank Townsend's, the famous Gloucestershire cricketer, he was thus thrown into an athletic coterie at an early age. His first prominent appearance, we find, was as far back as 1886, when he won the 150yds. level race at the

L.A.C. meeting, beating such fliers of the day as A. J. Gould, J. D. Bassett, and E. H. Pelling. After this he was abroad for nearly five years, at first in Canada and then in Ceylon, but upon his return in 1892 he started training at once. On July 9th of the same year he set up new figures at Paris in the 400 mètres, beating the previous records created by C. G. Wood and M. Remington. The Welsh quarter and the Midland Counties championships also fell to his lot, while he finished up the season by creating the British record of 1min. 11 4-5sec. for 600yds. Last season, on May 13th, in the quarter-mile handicap at the L.A.C. meeting, he accomplished the fastest time for the distance ever made on the circular track from scratch, while he tied world's record for 600yds. at the Civil Service sports a little later. On July 1st he won the quarter-mile championship in 49 1-5sec., and the half in 1min. 55 $\frac{1}{4}$ sec., the latter being the fastest time ever made in the championship, and a week later he established Scotch records for the quarter and half mile. In July of this year he again ran in, and secured, the championships for the quarter and half mile. On July 22nd the English champion was a competitor in the International meeting at Paris, where he experienced not the slightest difficulty in



E. C. BREDIN.

From a Photo. by Lambert & Co., Bath.

annexing the scratch quarter and the handicap half. His method of training, it may be added, is to run a varying distance every day when fine, sprinting as fast as possible, and on one occasion going 300yds. at top speed and on another 1,000yds. slowly.

A. OVENDEN.

NEVER was Ovenden, the popular L.A.C. sprinter, running in better form than he has displayed up to the close of the present season. He was born at Tunbridge Wells in 1866, stands 5ft. 9½in. in height, and with a long, raking stride, gets over the



A. OVENDEN.

From a Photo. by Searle Bros., Brompton Road, S. W.

ground at a tremendous pace, while he is one of the smartest of short distance runners to get off the mark at the crack of the pistol. His first race was run at his local place when only 15 years of age, in 1882, and encouraged by the success then achieved, he was after that very frequently in running costume. In 1892 he joined the L.A.C. Prize after prize was confiscated in rapid succession, while, in the summer of 1892, he literally cleared the board at the Berlin meeting of August 14th. Unfortunately, he has met Bredin and Bradley in many of the leading events, his best performance being the 50 3-5sec., accomplished in the 1893 championship of 440yds. at Northampton. During the season just concluded he has secured the 220yds. and 120yds. challenge

cups of the L.A.C., and defeated Fry in the L.A.C. v. Oxford University match of March last.

C. A. BRADLEY.

To win the 100yds. championship four years in succession is the great ambition of this gentleman. Three years he has already done so, but this feat, it may be mentioned, has been effected by W. P. Phillips and J. M. Cowie. Should Bradley succeed in his attempt, he says that he will retire from the path altogether. At the present time he ties with A. Wharton in the 100yds. English record of 10sec. dead, and is also upon an equality with W. P. Phillips in the 120yds. with 11 4-5sec. He holds, moreover, the Scotch records for 120yds., and last year at the St. Bernard's meeting at Edinburgh he won the 120yds. handicap off scratch, doing 11 7-10sec.; this performance being equal to 3yds. inside 12sec., or beating even time by the same distance. The Huddersfield flier has been running since 1890, and in that time has won £1,500 worth of prizes. He has won outright the Bradford Cup, valued at £50, in the 100yds. scratch race, and has also made the Manningham Vase his own property, the Armley Cup, the Wortley Vase, and also the Bingley Cup, the aggregate value of these being



C. A. BRADLEY.

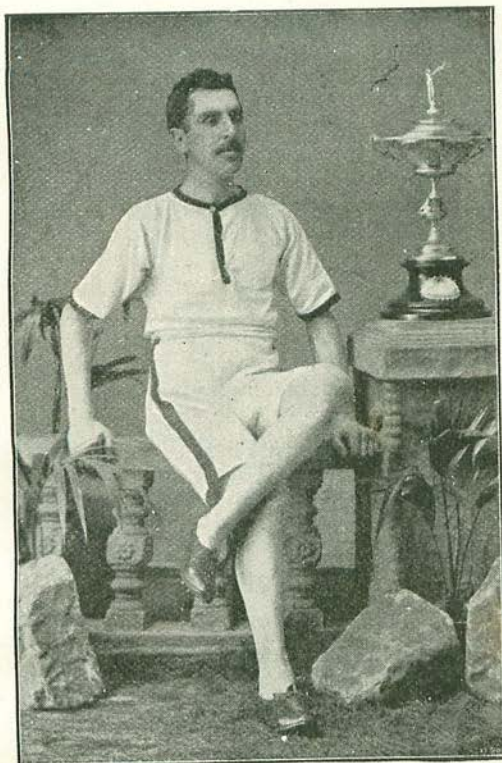
From a Photo. by Selman & Co., Huddersfield.

255 guineas. Other smaller races he has carried off without number, and against all comers, having taken part in 54 scratch races and proving successful in the whole in succession. When training, Bradley is in the open shortly after eight o'clock every morning, and practises bursts over the full distance about four times each day.

CHARLES PEARCE.

A PLUCKY runner is "Charlie" Pearce, one of the veterans of the path of the present time, and who has held the titles of Midland Counties, Railway, English 4 miles champion, and World's 4 miles grass record holder. His first appearance was on Whit

C. R. THOMAS.



CHARLES PEARCE.
From a Photo. by C. Katters, Northampton.

Monday as long ago as 1876, at that time he being 15 years of age. In 1890 he carried off the 4 miles Midland Counties championship, and since then has been in the forefront of matters athletic. On July 1st of last year he secured the 4 miles championship of England, and then, after several meetings had been arranged and run off, he met and defeated Sid Thomas over a distance of 5 miles, on November 25th, at Northampton. That concluded the season, but early in the present year he was first home in the inter-club race between the Birchfield Harriers and Northampton. Hannah, the Scottish champion, he met and defeated at Newcastle-on-Tyne, on May 5th, 4 miles being the distance, while Sid Thomas went down before him again in a 2 mile race at Southampton during the Easter meeting at that place. Other races also fell to his lot, it being calculated that the worth of his trophies must now amount to over £800, of which over £150 was won last year, one of the latest of his achievements being the carrying-off the 1,000yds. championship of Berks, Bucks, and Oxon. Breaking down badly in the National, he was thus unable to defend his title of 4 mile champion this year, and now states that he will give up cross-country work.

BORN at Merthyr Tydvil on May 28th, 1873, C. R. Thomas, the Welsh champion, is thus in his twenty-second year. His rise in the athletic world has, however, been of a somewhat meteoric character. In 1892, Thomas left his home for Reading. At that place, as is well known, there is a capital running track on the local athletic club ground, and, acting upon the advice of his friends, the new arrival lost no time in getting into training. On August 12th, 1893, we find him set against C. A. Bradley at Cardiff. But it must be admitted that Thomas on this occasion courted defeat. His medical man had advised him not to run, yet he was only beaten by the champion by a couple of yards in 10sec. dead. The season was concluded by his winning the 100yds. Welsh championship by at least 4yds. in 10 1-5sec. This year Thomas has been equally successful. Taking 13 races (9 handicaps and 4 scratch), he has won 6 first prizes in the former, 2 in the second, and a second when running far from his usual form. On June 8th



C. R. THOMAS.
From a Photo. by W. D. Dighton, Cardiff.

he effected what was a really great performance. Competing in a 120yds. handicap at Alresford, on a grass track, but down a slight slope, he was timed by Mr. C. Herbert, the hon. sec. of the A.A.A., to do 11 4-5sec., tying with the records established by W. P. Phillips, at Stamford Bridge, in March, 1892, and by C. A. Bradley at Edinburgh last year. Going into South Wales later in the season, he again carried off the championship; his time being returned at 10 1-5sec. for the distance. The style of the Welsh crack is beautifully easy, with a long, "loping" stride. He has no hard-and-fast rules respecting diet while in training. His practice consists of three or four bursts of 50 or 60yds. each day, with a club mate ahead in order to draw him out, while, more than anything else, he attaches the greatest importance to pistol practice.

MAX WITTENBERG.

THE performances effected by this speedy young runner are of a startling character. In fact, up to April of this year he did not attempt to train seriously. But by that time his successes in numerous events of a minor character, his friends considered, justified his preparing to meet C. A. Bradley, the 100yds. champion. So he proceeded to train, still attending to his business during the day. On April 28th he was a competitor at the Essex Beagles' sports, where he ran into second place in the 100yds. scratch and third in the 120yds. Possessed of a tremendously long stride, and endowed with the faculty of getting off the mark at the pistol shot, there were those who, after these performances, did not fail to predict a long series of successes for him. In this they were not disappointed. He has run in eighteen first-class races since that time, securing eight firsts and ten seconds, his trophies amounting in the aggregate to the value of £91 18s. Very soon the

question was floating round: Would he defeat Bradley in the championship? In this, however, he just failed. The Huddersfield crack jumped off with the lead at the start, and, holding his own to the finish, won by about a yard. But when once started there was apparently but a slight difference in the relative speeds of the pair, and with Bradley at his best and Wittenberg steadily improving, it is quite an open question as to which will win the coveted honour in the hundred of 1895. Wittenberg has not much to say respecting his methods of training. He uses dumb-bells and club exercise freely, while stamina is obtained by means of long walks. Prior to a big race he devotes considerable time to pistol practice during the earlier hours of the day, running 30 or 40yds. at top speed some half-a-dozen times. Then he closes his work by going right through the distance in which he would compete.

C. B. FRY.

OF all-round athletes, the Oxonian, C. B. Fry, is admittedly the best. Not a branch of athletics, jumping, sprinting, cricket, football, and even golf, but what he excels in. Of somewhat over medium height, not an ounce of tissue upon his body is wasted. Watch him as he prepares for a jump, or when upon the football field. With eye gleaming brightly and every muscle at its full tension, he is beyond question one of whom any college may be proud to call its own. Wadham, however, secured him by something approaching a fluke. Originally he intended going up to Cambridge upon his leaving school, but at the crucial moment fell ill. Upon his recovery, he was persuaded to try for one of the Oxford scholarships, and being successful in his endeavour, there he has remained ever since. At present he intends embracing the scholastic profession, but, despite all his study, he yet finds time for the necessary amount of training. With respect to his perform-



MAX WITTENBERG.

From a Photo. by R. Moffitt, Accrington.

ances, he stands at the head of his *confrères* in the long jump; has acquired his place in the Association football team of his University; while now he intends taking up the Rugby game and attempting to acquire a position in the O. U. R. F. C. With Blackheath he will play occasionally at three-quarter, and has played at centre-forward and back for the Casuals this year.

H. A. MUNRO.

ONE of the best runners ever numbered amongst those who have brought the hospitals well to the fore in matters athletic is H. A. Munro. A glance at his long, lanky form as he toes the mark at the start, and his raking stride, which carries him over the ground at a tremendous pace, proves to even the most casual observer that he is one of those who are practically in condition at any time of the season. But he has peculiar ideas with respect to training. "Any man can cover a distance if he but goes slowly at it," he says, and in his practice he invariably sets himself the task of getting his pace up considerably. The greater portion of his training is done by the daily walk to and from his duties, about two miles, while when training for path racing he runs upon the track some three times a week.

Curiously enough Munro commenced his athletic career as a jumper and sprinter, two branches which he has now apparently forsaken for races over longer distances. In this branch of sport he is practically unapproachable by his *confrères* in the hospital ranks.



C. H. FRY.
From a Photo, by Richard Thomas,
Champside.

Since leaving the University he has represented the Lea Harriers three times in the S.C.C.C.C., and secured the 10 miles championship of that club in 1891, 1892, and this year. For the last four seasons he has been first man home in the United Hospitals' 10 miles challenge cup race. He has thrice finished first for the Hospitals *v.* Oxford, and once *v.* the Lea Harriers, and for four years has annexed the mile and 3 miles at the United Hospitals' sports. His best times are 14min. 56 4-5sec. for the three miles, and 4min. 34 1-5sec. in the mile, run a little later in the same afternoon. Against Oxford in 1893 and this year he carried off the 3 miles in 15min. 9sec. and 15min. 1sec. respectively.

GEORGE MARTIN.

ONE of the most popular of athletes is George Martin, ex-steeplechase champion of England. Born at Pimlico, in 1873, he is just now at his best. At an early age, however, he gave evidence of being very fast over a varied course, running his first race at Cobham, Surrey, in 1890. His first championship was taken part in while he was a member of the Essex Beagles. Soon after starting something went wrong with his shoes, and at the half-distance both dropped off. Nothing daunted, Martin continued to keep up the pace. At the finish, however, he



H. A. MUNRO.
From a Photo, by Fradelle & Young,
Regent Street, W.



From a

GEORGE MARTIN.

[Photograph.

was forced to be content with second place. Last year he was successful in the 2 miles championship, decided at Northampton. He also carried off the 1,000yds. at Leeds, while he was second to Sid Thomas and Willers in the Ranelagh Harriers' 3 miles contest, in which fresh records were established. This season he trained chiefly at Paddington, but failed unexpectedly in the championship. He got off badly at the start, and, never regaining the ground thus lost, was beaten by A. B. George. This, however, must have been something approaching a fluke, for, a fortnight later, when running at Stamford Bridge, Martin turned the tables in a $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile steeplechase, while he also ran second to Harry Watkins in the 4 miles at Windsor, and second to Pearce at Wembley Park, after securing the steeplechase event off the scratch mark.

J. GREEN,

THE holder of the whole of the N.C.U. championships of 1894, with but one exception, may best be described as a veteran rider. Born in the little Northumbrian village of Barrington on November 8th, 1867, he is now in his 28th year. His start was made on an ordinary, the first race being ridden some thirteen years ago. At that time, of course, he was placed upon a long mark, but very rapidly he came back to his men, and he was well-nigh upon scratch when the great Robert English appeared upon the scene. The latter soon joined the professional ranks, and a little later Green, who had become a scratch man, deserted the track, considering that he would not race again. Then came the safety type of machine, and within a short time he was back again, this time turning his attention principally to trick riding. It was impossible for

that to last, however, and from that time up to the present he has won races absolutely without number. In 1891 he won the 5 and 10 miles N.C.U. championships of the Newcastle Centre. In 1892 he placed the 5 miles championship of the same body to his credit, while last year he accomplished a similar performance in the 10 miles race, and was placed second in the 25 miles championship. Coming now to the present season, he has won a perfect shoal of handicaps and scratch events which might be mentioned, while he broke up his field at Birmingham in the 5 miles N.C.U. championship, open to the world. This performance he repeated in the Metropolis on the occasion of the 25 miles race, while he was also first past the judge in the International team race, England *v.* Scotland, at Glasgow. His latest achievement was in the 50 miles championship at Herne Hill, where he not only won with a bit in hand, but also broke the then world's record for the distance, amateur or professional.

A. J. WATSON

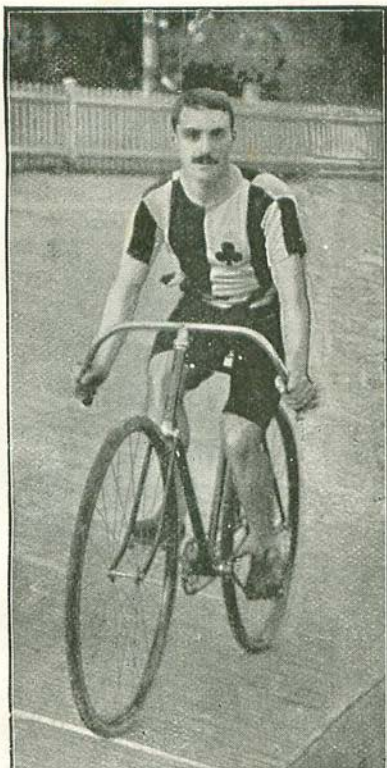


J. GREEN.

From a Photo. by Barrass, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

THIS gentleman is one of those who have had considerable difficulty in the present season with the licensing authorities of the N.C.U. He was as fit as possible early in the season, but owing to the absence of the necessary permit, was debarred from riding in many of the leading events of the year. His career upon the path, however, dates from as far back as 1886. Winning several club championships, in 1890 he essayed several appearances upon Metropolitan tracks. A unique experience awaited him, for, coming down heavily in one of his races, he sustained

a broken jaw. The sporting papers reported him dead, yet he was so far alive as to ride in and win a half-mile handicap after this fall. A family bereavement kept him off the path



A. J. WATSON.

From a Photo. by R. Lang Sims, Brixton Road, S.W.

until last year, when he embarked upon what he might term "training." This embraced regular living, and a fair amount of practice every day. He carried off the 5 miles championship of the N.C.U., and a little later the England *v.* Scotland race of the same distance, on that occasion defeating, amongst others, Harris, Vogt, and Sanger. Totalling his wins up for the season, he placed thirty-five firsts in scratch races to his credit, while smaller events almost beyond number fell to his share. His defeat in the 5 miles N.C.U. championship of this year may be fairly attributed to the license trouble already alluded to, for, although he secured the second place, he was scarcely in form to ride. Up to the end of September, however, he had secured 40 firsts, while he was equally successful in his Continental tour, winning 22 prizes in a space of three weeks.

J. ROWLEY.

THE pastime of cycling, taken up as a hobby more than with a thought of racing, was the case with the subject of this brief record. At the start of his career, some

twelve years ago, Rowley confined his attention solely to touring in England and upon the Continent. But at length he was bitten by the then prevailing fever. Four years ago he took up speed cycling seriously, and in company with Mr. H. Arnold he attacked the 12 hours tandem tricycle record then existent. In that undertaking the pair proved successful. Emboldened by this success, Rowley next went for and placed to his credit the tricycle times for 50 miles in competition, while he also earned the distinction of being the first three-wheeler to reach the goal in the North Road C.C. race of 1892. In that year he commenced training upon the track, and carried off the one mile (tricycle) championship of London, while the blue ribbon event of the Stanley C.C. also fell to his share in 1891-92-94. The tricycle championships of the same club he also secured for three years in succession, in 1892-93 and this season. His great effort was, however, made in the N.C.U. championships of this year, where he proved successful in the one and the 10 miles. Beyond these events enumerated, Rowley has also been successful in many of the smaller events, but, strange to say, he has no particular method of training.



J. ROWLEY.

From a Photo. by Richard Thomas, Cheapside.

F. T. BIDLAKE

MIGHT be fairly considered to be the pioneer in long distance tricycling. That is to say, he has established record after record from 1889 onwards. But it must not be thought that he goes in for training pure and simple. "My idea of preparation," he says, "is to take plenty of long rides at an easy pace, getting fit meaning, in my case, being in a sound condition of health." Bidlake first started riding in 1883, and was the first tricyclist home in the North Road 24 hours races of 1888-90-91-92-93. In 1889 he broke the record for 100 miles upon the road, doing 6 hours 55min. 58sec. on a solid, a time which stood until the introduction of pneumatics. He also rode from York to London on the same machine in 18 hours 28min. In 1890 he ran fifth in the North Road 24 hours race, with a score of 289 miles on his three-wheeler, while he was also the first tricyclist in the North Road open 100 miles. Coming now to 1891, he was a competitor with Shorland in the North Road 24 hours, being third at the finish. Meanwhile his York to London record had gone by the board, but in 1892 he again reasserted his supremacy, scoring



F. T. BIDLAKE.
From a Photo, by Richard Thomas,
Cheapside.

15 hours 28min. in June and 13 hours 19min. in September. This brought him up to last year, when, on one occasion, he rode 333 miles in one day, on a tandem in company with M. A. Holbein, and then in the Cuca Race for that year he ran into second place to Shorland. In August of 1893 he also rode second to the present holder of the trophy just mentioned in the North Road 24 hours, getting over 331 miles, while his most prominent performance of this year has been the breaking of the 50 miles tricycle record on the road with 2 hours 22min. 55sec.

LEWIS STROUD.

A GENERAL favourite, "hail fellow, well met," is Lewis Stroud with the whole of the members of the cycling fraternity. He has been riding for many years now, both upon

the path and the road, securing a multitude of prizes from either. But, although he carried off the 50 miles amateur championship last year, this season he has found himself unable to devote sufficient time to training, so acted wisely in standing down from the contest, which was won, as already related, by Green, the Northumberland flier.

In his principal engagements of last year he carried off, with but one exception, the whole of the first prizes for races in which he competed. On June 17th he ran second in the mile tricycle N.C.U. championship, and third in the 5 miles championship. At Paddington, in the



LEWIS STROUD.
From a Photo, by Richard Thomas,
Cheapside.

50 miles Local Centre N.C.U. championship, he was the first to pass the post in 2 hours 35min. 8 1-5sec., while five days later he reduced all tricycle records from 2 to 10 miles. He rode second in the mile London Centre N.C.U. championship on July 29th, and then after a provincial tour came back to the "battens" once again. On this occasion (September 22nd) he set up fresh times for a mile and intermediate distances upon his three-wheeler; the day following he established another record for the flying quarter, and twenty-four hours later not only did he successfully assail tricycle records from 2 to 22 miles, but also made an hour's record of 22 miles 180yds.

FRANK W. SHORLAND.

BORN at Orton, in Northamptonshire, in 1871, Frank W. Shorland, winner of the Cuca Cup, is at the present time practically in his prime. He started riding about ten years ago, then bestriding an ordinary. As soon as the safeties came into vogue he exchanged for a Facile, and then again to a Humber, upon the latter type he having won the majority of his races. But it is to the road that we must turn for the greater number of his successes. A member of the North Road C.C., he first came prominently before the public when he was 18 years of age, in establishing a record of 160 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles for 12 hours. In the 24 hours' club race of 1890

he met and defeated G. P. Mills, while the same race he placed to his credit in 1891-92-93. Last year it will be recollected he came down heavily, spraining his shoulder, and being rendered almost unconscious by reason of his fall. He pluckily remounted, however, after a rest of a few minutes, finishing in a manner surprising to witness. To him also belongs the honour of having been the first rider, English or foreign, to cover 400 miles in one day, a feat accomplished in 1892 on the occasion of the first race for the Cuca Cup, the exact distance covered being 416 miles 1,615yds. Last year he increased the distance to 426 miles 44oyds., and this season he made the trophy his absolute property. His method of training may be very briefly summarized. Riding winter and summer alike, he is fit and well at all times, while when engaged in a race he depends upon boiled rice, eggs, and lemons to bring him through.

C. C. FONTAINE.

A VERY slight description will be sufficient for the gentleman who has earned the distinction of securing, probably, the last of the great 24 hours' road races. An American by birth, Fontaine has experienced a varied career. Prior to taking up the pursuit of the wheel he was engaged as a wire-walker at various variety theatres. But his friends persuading him to train, he rapidly developed staying power of a high-class order. He came to England, and the inevitable "boom"



C. C. FONTAINE.
From a Photo. by Richard Thomas, Cheapside.
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followed. He was credited with riding trials of an extraordinary character, until at length, when it was seen that he had entered for the Cuca Cup race of 1894, followers of form commenced to wonder whether he would succeed in defeating the redoubtable Shorland. The latter was decidedly



FRANK W. SHORLAND.
From a Photo. by Edgar Scamel, Crouch Hill, N.

nervous himself respecting the result of the meeting, but at an early stage of the race it was evident that Fontaine would not stay at the pace which was set by the champion. Eventually he retired, and then nothing further was heard of him until he got up in and won the 24 hours' race of the North Road C.C. decided in September last.

A. A. ZIMMERMAN.

WHO does not recollect the visit of the speedy American wheelman to these shores some three seasons ago? Without

question he was the one rider *par excellence* when he first descended upon the English tracks. Born some twenty-four years ago, Zimmerman is just now at the heyday of his prime. Long, lanky, and with not an ounce of superfluous flesh upon him, the subject of this brief sketch is enabled to get a

tremendous amount of power into his tread in consequence of the almost abnormal development of the muscles of his legs and thighs. Regrettable in every way was his last visit to England as an amateur. His license was refused by the N.C.U. upon grounds which provoked considerable discussion at the time. Consequently he was unable to ride against the leading amateurs and to defend the championship titles which he held. Then he returned again.



A. A. ZIMMERMAN.
From a Photo. by Edgar Scamel, Crouch Hill, N.

to America, and the next we heard was that he had thrown in his lot with the professional element. Amongst the latter he has cleared the whole of the principal prizes in races for which he has entered, while some three months ago he visited England again, riding at Herne Hill, Sheffield, and other places. But professional racing does not "catch on" here, and the natural inference is that he will make his headquarters at Paris.

A. W. HARRIS,

"THE Little Leicester Lad," as his friends delight to call him, has made a place for himself in the hearts of all those who may love the sport of wheeling for its sake alone. Of a medium height, and of a spare and wiry form, he rapidly worked his way to the front, especially in 1892. He then won almost the whole of the races in which he competed, adding trophy to trophy, until their aggregate value must have reached close upon £2,000. But at length the N.C.U. came down upon him with the license question, and although he survived yet another season, he at length took the header into professionalism pure and simple. Since then he has toured throughout the length and breadth of the Continent, but he has made his home at the Velodrome Buffalo, Paris. At that track he has during



A. W. HARRIS.
From a Photo. by Richard Thomas,
Cheapside.

the season just passed ridden races without number with varying degrees of success; and in company with Zimmerman, Wheeler, Bander, and other leading cash prize men, visited England once again at the end of last summer. On the safety, however, he cannot be said to have been very successful, but as a tandemite, among the recruits of that machine, he is coming rapidly to the front.

R. R. SANDILANDS.

OF a somewhat ungainly form upon the field, yet possessed of a rare turn of speed, the old Westminster boy, R. R. Sandilands, is a prolific goal-scorer. He was born in

1868, and went to Westminster in 1882. His first Cup tie was played when at school, in the final for the London Cup between the Old Westminsters and the Casuals. From 1888 up to the time the fixture was abolished he played for the South v. North, while he has also secured his International cap against Wales in 1892, against Ireland in 1893, and again against the Principality in the earlier part of the present year. Unfortunately, for two years after leaving school Sandilands was ineligible for London Cup ties, owing to his residing in Kent, but since then he has played consistently for the "Pinks."



R. R. SANDILANDS.
From a Photo. by Richard Thomas,
Cheapside.

For the past four years he has also played pretty regularly for the Corinthians, and occasionally he has taken a place in the Casual team. Ever a dangerous man, his greatest number of goals in a single match was scored against the Army for the Corinthians last year. On that occasion he beat the goal-keeper no fewer than seven times.

J. TAYLOR,

THE professional golf champion of 1894, is another exemplification of what dogged resolution will accomplish. Born at the pretty little Devonshire village of Northam, some 24 years ago, at an early age he acted as caddie upon the famous links at Westward Ho! Mr. Horace Hutchinson and other leading gentlemen were at that time constantly upon these links, and to the first of these Taylor acknowledges he owes many a useful hint. But soon after entering his teens he met and defeated Mr. Horace Hutchinson, and then determined to turn his attention to the game as a profession. In this he has made rapid strides, having beaten both Douglas Rolland and Andrew Kirkaldy.

BROCKWELL.

THE most prominent cricketer of 1894 is admitted on all hands to be Brockwell, the young Surrey professional. But the success attained was not secured without season after season of unremitting attention to the game.

Take 1893 as an instance. In that year he secured an aggregate of 699 runs only, with an average of 22 per innings. This year his aggregate amounted to 1,491, with an average of 38·23. Taking the season right through, he has played for his county 45 innings, in first-class cricket, of course, while he has carried out his bat on six occasions, his highest total for an innings being 128. Centuries, however, he has run up on five occasions: 107 *v.* Gloucestershire, on May 17th; 108 *v.* Essex, on June 18th; 103 *v.* Yorkshire, on June 25th; 128 for South *v.* North, on August 2nd; and 106 (not out) *v.* Notts, on August 6th. On the reverse side of the sheet, however, comes the pair of spectacles annexed against Leicestershire, on July 19th.



J. TAYLOR.
From a Photo. by H. Philpot, Croydon.

like character of which he is possessed are considered, it will be admitted that we are justified in our assertion. Born at Auckland, New Zealand, in September, 1868, Sullivan is now in his 27th year. He stands 6ft. 1in. in height, measures 42in. round the chest, and, when fit and well, his rowing weight is 11st. 12lb. He first started sculling at 13 years of age, and in 1888 or 1889 he met M'Kay, the then amateur champion of New Zealand, whom he conquered. In 1891 he met and defeated George Bubeare upon the Nepean with ease, while on only one occasion since he joined the professional ranks has he suffered defeat, that being at the hands of Stansbury, when he rowed for the championship of the world. It may

be mentioned, however, that Sullivan holds the



BROCKWELL.
From a Photo. by Richard Thomas, Cheapside.

TOM SULLIVAN.

THE English championship of the sculling world could have no better holder than Tom Sullivan. That perhaps may sound somewhat ambiguous, yet when the geniality of the man himself, his un-failing good humour and good nature, and, more than all, the thorough sportsman-



TOM SULLIVAN.
From a Photo. by Adrian Smythe, Putney.

records for both the Parramatta and Nepean rivers, the only two recognised waterways of Australia. For the latter his time is 19min. 15sec. for the full championship course, and the former 18min. 41½sec. His last great race was against Bubeare on the Thames for the championship of England and the *Sportsman's* challenge cup, in which he won as he wished.