

# GOLFERS DIVIDED OVER FOURSOMES

John M. Ward Defends It, While  
Mr. Calkins Says It Is  
Abundantly Abhorred.

## OF SOCIAL VALUE TO GOLF

Efforts May Be Made to Substitute the  
Four-Ball Match for the Les-  
ley Cup Contests.

There is a bare possibility that an effort may be made this Winter to alter the conditions of the Lesley intercity cup competitions so as to eliminate the foursome feature of the team competitions, substituting four-ball matches. Pressure has already been brought to bear in the past to abandon the foursome team feature, but the advocates of what has been dubbed the old-fashioned foursome game have been sufficiently numerous to retain it in the cup competitions, and as the lines are about equally drawn now as a year ago, it seems reasonable to suppose that the foursome will be retained.

Added interest has recently been given to this discussion by the radical views expressed by John M. Ward and Leighton Calkins, Secretary of the Metropolitan Association, in the initial number of *The American Golfer*. Mr. Ward favors the foursome. Mr. Calkins cannot find words strong enough to denounce it as a form of competition.

"The foursome is old-fashioned and abundantly abhorred," says Mr. Calkins.

Mr. Ward does not deny its antiquity, but apart from its age and custom he is careful to add that it has authority on its side.

Mr. Calkins is evidently not ready to admit this assertion, for he returns to the attack fiercely.

"Its history proves it to have been pre-eminently a lazy game for tired old men after luncheon," he adds. "As they mainly supported the game long before the discovery of America, they may have had a hand in the first definition of the

game, being careful to include the form of competition least calculated to interfere with their gastronomic habits and pleasures."

This is about as hard as the foursome has even been hit; but when one looks at Mr. Ward's defense and his statement that the four-ball match is a comparatively recent modification of the game, designed to meet the nervous requirements of the modern player, the fair-minded golfer will doubtless be forced to admit that Mr. Calkins views the old-fashioned foursome through the medium of the nervous golfer of the present day.

Mr. Ward regards the game of golf as a great social accelerator. It should embody something else besides the mere desire to win. So in his defense of the foursome, his apology for it is both refreshing and deserving of serious attention.

"The foursome has always seemed to me," he says, "to offer more opportunities for the friendly interchange of advice, encouragement, and sympathy between the partners which goes so far to make up that sociable feature that should be a part of every game of golf. In the four-ball match, one is, of necessity, almost entirely engrossed with his own game. In the foursome, each partner is vitally interested in every stroke of the other. The partners are constantly together, advising, encouraging, and consoling each other, and thus are united by the strongest bonds of interest and sympathy."

In summing up his argument Mr. Ward says that the foursome seems to be in the Lesley cup matches the fairest test, because "every stroke of each partner counts in the result, which never can be true of a four-ball match."

Mr. Calkins, on the other hand, is a stickler for individual play throughout every match, and he boldly advocates new conditions for the intercity cup events, asking, "Why not frame the Lesley cup conditions so that the team of ten players shall have a joint interest and participation in the progress of a single ball?"

With such diametrically opposite views expressed by two such able exponents of golf it will be interesting to watch the efforts likely to be made this season to alter the conditions of the cup competitions.

## GOLFING AND BILLIARDS.

Cases of Players Who Excelled in Both  
—How Vardon Won.

The affinity between golf and billiards has recently aroused an interesting discussion among English players of the royal and ancient game, due primarily to the fact that two well-known golfers have been selected on the board of the new governing body of billiards in Great Britain. In this country the question has never attained peculiar prominence, although it is well-known that many prominent amateur golfers are tolerably adept with the cue. Wilson P. Foss, the ex-

amateur billiard champion, is one of the few cases, however, where a prominent billiardist has become a convert to golf, and although Mr. Foss still receives a generous handicap, he can get over the links in very fair figures.

One of the notable cases abroad of a player who excelled in both these games is that of Sidney Fry, who was once the billiard champion, and who very nearly won the golf title a few years ago.

"I entirely agree," said Mr. Fry, "that, given a good physique and aptitude for golf, the man who can play billiards well is likely to become a good golfer, for he who is a good billiard player is almost sure, if he gives himself sufficient practice, to put and approach well in golf, for in both of these departments of the game success almost invariably depends upon strength of wrist and accuracy in gauging strength, just as is the case in billiards."

The two golfers who have recently been designated as Governors of the new English billiard organization are Leslie Balfour Melville and W. Herbert Fowler. Mr. Melville is the better known in the golfing world. He has held the British golf championship and last year was captain of the old St. Andrews team and this year won the Glenie medal at St. Andrews. Mr. Melville is one of the best amateur sportsmen in Great Britain. He played in the Scotland team against England thirty-six years ago at Rugby football. He has held the lawn tennis championship of Scotland, and for over thirty years has been one of the prominent cricket players of Scotland.

In connection with this discussion on golfing and billiards an amusing story has been told about a singular victory achieved by Tom Vardon, the open golf champion, on numerous occasions. Vardon at one time made the acquaintance of an amateur golfer who was an artist, and had painted a picture which Vardon greatly admired. The artist played billiards better than golf, and he offered to play Vardon a match for the picture, the conditions being that a match at golf and billiards should be played on the same day, and the player who first won both matches on the same day should be declared the victor. For several days the contest went on, Vardon invariably winning on the links while his opponent triumphed at billiards. The matches being suspended for a while, Vardon engaged the services of an expert with the cue, and so readily did he acquire the fine shots of the game that when the next match was played Vardon had no difficulty in beating the artist in billiards as well as in golf, and he now owns the picture as a souvenir of this interesting combination of games.

## Barnard Athletes in Training.

All athletes at Barnard College are ready for work. The first basket ball practice was held on Saturday morning, Nov. 7, in the Thompson Gymnasium. Edgar Fauver, the coach, is going to put the team through hard practice for the first 'Varsity game of the season, which is to be played against Smith. Early next month Barnard team will play water polo against Teachers' College.