

work. How hard *he* had striven! . . . And with what result?

Women were wonderful! . . . This letter was natural as Juliet herself. It suggested delicate feeling, no rough copies, and just a little agitation. It was perfect. She was going to be married, quite recently. . . . What did that mean?

. . . Then he was stunned. He had taken it in.

He was too angry to 'pace' now. He remained 'rooted to the spot.' 'What a woman!—what a woman!'—Ungrateful, treacherous! . . . He was madly jealous; he was furious. She had ruined his life. His heart was broken. She had taken the best years of his life and spoiled his future.

*Never* would he marry May! It would look like petty revenge, or pique.

. . . Besides, he could n't stand May. As to Juliet—well! He was an Englishman. He would do the right thing.

He looked vaguely for help at the green bookcase. . . . What would E. V. Lucas do? . . . Big game?—But he could n't shoot!

There was a loud report. . . .

Stanley had thrown the bottle of 'Metrodonal' through the window.

[*The National Review*]

## MODERN LAWN TENNIS

BY K. McKANE

The ball no question makes of Ayes and Noes,  
But right or left, as strikes the player, goes.

THERE is not quite the transparent simplicity which these lines imply in the game of lawn tennis to-day, but there is no doubt that it is the popular game, and that for every one who plays golf or cricket in the summer there are probably at least four who play lawn tennis. The fascination of the game is not hard to understand. It is played

in the open air, in a comparatively small space, requires only a small number of players, needs no very elaborate instruments, and provides healthy exercise in a most enjoyable and exciting way. It is not difficult to become reasonably proficient at the game, and it is a game which gives unending chances. You may be a set down to your opponent and four or five games behind in a second set and yet win your match. It can be made highly scientific or it can be enjoyed with a minimum of scientific skill. With all these advantages it has yet to win its way into the great public schools, and so long as it is practically banned there seems very little hope of this country ever being able to produce players who are good enough at an early enough age to wrest the championship from the invaders. In United States boys' and girls' clubs are as flourishing, and more so, than ordinary clubs, possessing large numbers of courts and ample scope and encouragement in tournaments and matches of every description.

The outstanding fact about this year's lawn tennis was of course the success, for the first time in the history of the Wimbledon Championships, of an American in the Open Singles. For nearly twenty years the Americans have done their utmost to win the highest honor of lawn tennis, the World's Championships on grass, and for the first time they have succeeded in the person of Mr. W. T. Tilden, whose wonderful all-round play, variety and severity of stroke, and cheerful match-winning temperament took Wimbledon by storm this year. It was his first appearance in the Centre Court, yet he reached the Challenge round with the loss of only three sets, and only lost one set then to the holder. He has since equaled Mr. H. L. Doherty's hitherto unparalleled feat of winning the American Open Cham-

pionship in the same year. Not content with this victory in the singles, America secured the Men's Doubles Championship with Messrs. Williams and Garland, the former perhaps in his day the most brilliant exponent of the game in the world and the latter the essence of first-class steadiness, with every good shot and no mistake to mar them. The Ladies' Singles once more left the country and remained in the possession of the French girl champion, who, with Miss Ryan, won the Ladies' Doubles, and with Mr. Patterson, the Australian, secured the Mixed Doubles.

This is a disastrous record as far as this country is concerned, and it is not easy to see where the remedy lies. Every year the critic looks for some rising star in the young men players who enter for tournaments, and every year he seems destined to be disappointed. It is good, therefore, to learn that next year Harrow School has decided to recognize lawn tennis as a school game and thus show the other great public schools the road which may once more lead to the establishment of English supremacy on the court. This year perhaps the most promising discovery was Mr. T. Bevan — a young soldier — who only played in tournaments late in the season, but who gave signs of developing into a very fine player. Among the ladies the critics commonly say that there are more signs of young players coming on than among the men, and Miss P. L. Howkins, Miss D. C. Shepherd, Miss Kemis Betty, and my sister, Miss M. McKane, have all been cited as promising examples of young English players. But the most regular winners of open tournaments in this country are still to be found among 'the old guard,' both in the men's and ladies' events, and it is the regularity with which the 'old-fashioned driving

game asserts itself that makes the critics despair.

This is, however, a little unreasonable. It is only comparatively recently that the lady volleyer has appeared on the scenes. A few years ago it would have been considered utterly ridiculous if it had been suggested that a French girl of barely twenty years should come to Wimbledon and sweep all before her in the championships at her first attempt, playing a typical man's game, serving overhead, volleying and hitting with a severity which many men might envy. The old-fashioned ladies' four, in which all the players entrenched themselves on the back line and drove at each other in rallies of interminable length has gone forever. It is recognized now that even the formation of 'one up, one back' is hopelessly out-classed by a pair who can adopt the 'both up' formation.

I have recently seen an interview which Mr. G. L. Patterson gave at Colombo on his return journey to Australia, and his estimate of Mlle. Lenglen is interesting compared with Mr. Tilden's, which will be found in the latter's new book on the game.\* Last year's champion (Mr. Patterson) went so far as to say, 'Very few men of the front rank can beat her level. When I tell you that she can beat a player like Gordon Lowe, you can realize what she must be like.'

Mr. Tilden, however, writes as follows: 'Mlle. Lenglen's speed of foot is marvelous. She runs fast and easily. She delights in acrobatic jumps, many of them unnecessary, at all times during her play. She is a wonderful gallery player, and wins the popularity that her dashing style deserves. She is a brilliant court general, conducting her attack with a keen eye on both the court and the gallery.' He then goes

\* *The Art of Lawn Tennis*, by William T. Tilden. Methuen & Co., 6s. net.

on to suggest that Mrs. Mallory, the American champion, might quite possibly be Mlle. Lenglen's successful challenger next year. While allowing for patriotic motives and the personal element in both these judgments, the diversity of opinions about the much discussed French champion is very noticeable. Might not the Executive Committee of the All England Club put the matter to the test in 1921 by arranging an exhibition match between Mlle. Lenglen and any first-class man whom she might herself select? Or is it possible that the problem may be settled before then by the recently reported match for a wager which is to take place between Mlle. Lenglen and her brilliant compatriot, M. Laurentz?

Mlle. Lenglen has not only got all the shots which make her game so interesting to the spectator, but she is wonderfully graceful, and is therefore more pleasing to watch than perhaps any other player. She runs as fast as a boy, she never seems to be in an awkward position for a shot, and she is desperately accurate and steady. Her overhead service is quite straightforward, but well-placed and severe, and anything in the nature of a weak return is punished unmercifully. The most striking point about her low volleying is the distance from her body that she hits the ball — especially on her back hand with an almost straight arm. Mlle. Lenglen has, of course, been playing for many years, has been very well coached by her father, and has been in training ever since she first started, with the result that wherever she goes she wins without much effort. Her game was learned entirely on the hard courts of the Riviera, and her victory last year in the championships at her first attempt on a grass court is therefore all the more wonderful, for anyone who has had to change from one surface to another knows how

difficult it is to get accustomed to the strange conditions. We had a good illustration of that at Antwerp this year. When the English team first arrived there to take part in the Olympic games on hard courts they all started very badly, finding great difficulty in controlling the ball and complaining how quickly the balls became light. Then came the rain, the courts became much heavier, and the balls bounced in much the same way as off a grass court. The whole team at once played very much better and with greater confidence.

An interesting comparison which helps to give a clue to Mlle. Lenglen's form is afforded by players of an earlier generation who have vivid recollections of Miss Lottie Dodd's achievements. Miss Dodd volleyed and had a forehand and backhand drive which was apparently little, if at all, less effective than the present lady champion's. She was probably a born athlete and far more a natural player than Mlle. Lenglen, for on giving up lawn tennis she became amateur lady golf champion and subsequently archery champion. She never devoted her whole life to the one game, in the same way as the French girl does, but well-known players who have seen both ladies play say that they do not know which would have won had a match been possible. The question of relative ability of players to-day and of an older generation is one that players are never tired of discussing. I have heard it maintained with equal certainty that Mr. H. L. Doherty at his best would have beaten anyone living to-day, that there has never been a player with such good shots as Mr. E. W. Lewis, and that no one of any generation could possibly expect with any degree of certainty to defeat Mr. Tilden. It is rather a profitless discussion, for nothing can settle the point, but as the game

progresses the standard should gradually improve, and I should be sorry to think it is true that such a magnificent exponent of the 'all court' game as Mr. Tilden could be beaten at all easily by any player of a past generation.

I do not think that I am very well qualified to give anything in the nature of advice or instruction, but everyone has their own views of how the game should be played and what is the best way to learn. It is almost a truism nowadays to say that one should learn young and should learn to volley. In the modern game volleying is one of the essentials, but it must be learned with the game as a whole. It is no good just being able to hit the ball before it has bounced or to hit it terrifically hard. Half the secret of success in volleying lies in knowing in a flash the right ball to come up on and the right spot on the opponent's court to which to direct it. Placed volleying is almost always more paying than mere hard slamming. In the 1919 championships Mr. Patterson smashed his way to victory with a terrific service and hurricane volleying, which seemed to have a terrifying effect on his opponents. But a quieter style is no less effective. If you watch Mr. Lycett, Mr. Doust, Mr. Roper Barrett, or at times Mr. Fisher, you will see the art of placed volleying at its best. The play of the American team this year enforced the valuable lesson of learning when 'to come up.' Messrs. Johnston and Tilden were quite content to stay at the back of the court until they had made their opening and could make their excursion to the net with safety.

Another stroke which has increased in importance as the game has developed, and on which some champions have built their success, is the service. A good first service is a very valuable asset and a good second service even

more so. A well-known champion of some years ago has given me his opinion that the best service for a lady is underhand. He says it takes less out of her, is more easily controlled, and that no lady's overhead service is fast enough to warrant the effort it entails. Opinions will differ about this, and personally I am in favor of an overhead service, but the placing of the service is even more important in many ways than its pace. There are many examples among the leading men players of a comparatively innocuous-looking service which is yet very difficult to return. Mr. Gore's service looks comparatively simple, Mr. Doust's even more so, but they are by no means as simple as they look. Mrs. Larcombe's underhand-cut service looks easy, but it keeps very low and it is extremely difficult to make a winning shot off it.

Most players find the forehand shot easier than the backhand, and in their anxiety to win concentrate on this shot and neglect their backhand, which consequently develops a weakness that may let them down at a critical moment. In practice games the thing to do is to concentrate on one's weakest shot and ignore the number of points gained or lost. There is no need to spend laborious hours on one shot or to neglect one's pet shot entirely. I believe Captain Wilding used to take a dozen balls on to a court and practise one shot for an hour or more by himself; but this is making rather a business of what, after all, is a recreation.

Finally, to come to the most universal and in many ways, the most enjoyable form of the game, tournament tennis: there is no better way of improving one's game than by entering for tournaments, but to this should be added a word of warning. Do not enter for a tournament week after week consistently all through the summer. This, although it is done by large numbers

of first and second class players, results in staleness and slackness, if nothing else, and is too great a strain in every way. The wisest plan is perhaps to enter for tournaments not more than two weeks running and then take a week's rest in between. Occasionally take a fortnight's rest and play only practice games, and sometimes knock off altogether for a few days and come back to the game with renewed zest. I do not, of course, suggest this as an inviolable rule — if plans work themselves out so, it may be necessary to play in tournaments for three or four

weeks running, but as far as possible arrange for adequate 'breathers.'

Perhaps I may add one last word. Do not take the game too seriously. By that I do not for a moment mean that one should encourage fooling. Take every shot seriously and concentrate on every one, but do not worry too desperately about the final result, as if the match were a matter of life and death. Lawn tennis is a game and a very fine game, and to play it as well as one can and enjoy it without regret is all that the keenest player should ask for.

[*The New Witness*]

## HEUREKA

BY JOHN HERON LEPPER

As after a sleepless night  
 When mists concealed the sky  
 And the spirit was fain to fly  
 Like a bird from behind the bar,  
 One sees shine out on high,  
 Oh soul-reviving sight,  
 A clear and lovely star  
 That makes all heaven grow bright:  
 So, so to me you are,  
 You treasure of delight!