

Fencing at the Racquet Club.

BY the courtesy of the governors of the New York Racquet and Tennis Club, we are enabled to present to our readers a photograph of the contestants for the Perpetual Championship cup, presented by that club to the collegiate team winning the greatest number of bouts in the annual competition given under the auspices of the Racquet Club and the Inter-Collegiate Fencing Association.

The event, which took place in the gymnasium of the Racquet and Tennis Club, on the 5th inst., was of considerable interest, not only for the reason that it was the first occasion of the meeting of teams from Harvard, Yale, and Columbia, but because it was also the first competition under the new rules of the club, and making a radical departure from those of the Amateur Fencers' League of America—the features of marked difference being the manner of judging and the abolition of chalked points on the foils.

That the Racquet Club and the Inter-Collegiate Fencing Association have, in their first trial of the new system—for which the former has long contended—achieved a signal triumph, was demonstrated to the complete and unanimous satisfaction of the large audience present. The abolition of chalked points and the consequent uninterrupted course of each bout, followed by the prompt and satisfactory decisions of the judges, formed a marked and pleasing contrast to the constant and annoying interruptions inseparable from the chalking up process after each point, called for by the old régime.

The entries for the event under discussion were Messrs. L. M. Lawson, Jr., S. G. Fitzhugh Townsend, and Hamilton Fish, Jr., representing Columbia College; James P. Parker, J. Ellis Hoffman, and Archibald G. Thacher, of Harvard; and H. P. Disbecker, W. T. Damiston, and G. S. Haydock, representing Yale College. It was a matter of regret that the latter team were unable to compete, owing to the temporary disablement of one of their number. The nine bouts between Harvard and Columbia were, however, hotly contested, and it was not until the final event was decided that Harvard pulled off a hard-won and well-earned victory, by the score of five wins to four. The fencing of Messrs. Townsend and Lawson, of Columbia, and Mr. Thatcher, of Harvard, was excellent, both as regards general good form, attack, and defense; and it is by no means impossible that each of these undergraduates will, in the course of a few years, succeed in holding his own with the best of our amateurs—not even excepting Messrs. W. S. Lawson and H. K. Bloodgood, the cracks of the Racquet and Tennis Club.

As already stated, the judges, Messrs. H. K. Bloodgood and George L. Day, of the Racquet and Tennis Club, Dr. James T. Kemp, of the Fencers' Club, Alfred Howard, of the Boston Fencing Club, and Dr. M. J. Echeverria, of the New York Athletic Club, did their work with a promptness, impartiality, and unerring accuracy of judgment, that impressed all with the superior merits of the new system. In a word, the whole event was a pronounced success, not only as regards the merit of the contestants, but in respect to the marked smoothness and lack of friction developed throughout, owing to the energetic and able management of the affair, from its inception to its end, by Mr. W. S. Lawson, of the Racquet and Tennis Club.

Among the numerous audience present were: Hon. Nicholas Fish, Wm. Manice, Walter Eldridge, Charles De Kay, Dr. J. Herbert Claiborne, Frank Blauchy, Wm. Scott O'Connor, Dr. G. M. Hammond, Sewall Cabot, L. M. Lawson, Prof. J. H. Van Amringe, Samuel T. Shaw, Malcolm Campbell, D. A. Clarkson, E. E. Fraipont, James W. Gerard, Jr., Truman Heminway, Charles C. Nadal, S. Montgomery Roosevelt, Charles Tatham, Isaac Townsend, Robert C. Cornell, Louis J. Francke, Henry R. Hoyt, E. La Montagne, Jr., C. L. Perkins, Frank L. Henry, Wm. M. Laffan, Wendel Goodwin, Hon. Cecil Baring, R. J. Cross, H. de Coppet, Geo. W. Pollock, and a number of undergraduates from Harvard, Yale and Columbia.