

A NOVELTY IN

Mileage Records Will Almost Certainly Be Smashed to Pieces.

SIX DAY

CYCLE RACES.

Approaching Contest at Madison Square Garden, New York

SIX day bicycle races have always been well patronized by the American public, which seems to be fond of the spectacle of a dozen or more weary, bleary-eyed men cycling a wooden track in endless rings. Nowhere have these week-long grinds been

an average gait of 21 miles to the hour must be more of a strain than 142 hours with an average mileage of about 16. Besides this, the men say that the time spent on the wheel, while it will give them an opportunity to rest and recuperate, will also permit their muscles



men of all shades. The track at Madison Square Garden, New York, where the race will be held, is ten laps to the mile and is banked higher, probably, than any other track in the world. For this reason the entries have been weeded out, and only the best 25 teams will be allowed to start, so as to eliminate as nearly as possible the element of danger.

In a contest like this a leg gained or lost at the start may be the means of winning or losing the race, so that when the pistol is fired the field will quickly bunch, with the better sprinters out for the lead with a rush. These sprinting matches, in which all will be obliged to take part or be hopelessly left in the rear, will run the mileage up with great rapidity and wear the men out more than ever did the monotonous plugging, day in and day out, of former races.

The changes in the teams—that is, the taking of position of a mate—will be effected without loss of ground, as the newcomer will be allowed to stow himself in the line before his partner drops out. During the race there will be seen nearly always a bunch of riders waiting on the special platform provided for this purpose ready at the nod of their partners to take their places in the contest.

Some people find the training quarters of the men one of the most interesting features of a race. Although the spectators are not allowed in that section of the Garden, it can be seen from the galleries and other parts of the building. Here there will be 25 little tent-rooms arranged like bedrooms, with

THE STAGE IN GOTHAM

The Coming Production of "Ben-Hur."

"SHERLOCK HOLMES," which the programme of the Garrick theater describes as a "drama in four acts by William Gillette and A. Conan Doyle," and which is further referred to as "being a hitherto unpublished episode in the career of the great detective and showing his connection with the strange case of Miss Faulkner," is about the most mixed up mess that has appeared on the stage of a first class New York theater during the past decade. Still it is, in spite of its technical impossibility, a success of the first water, and it is not improbable that it will remain at the Garrick theater during the remainder of the present season.

There is not a single scene or a single character in the play of "Sherlock Holmes" which could by stretch of imagination or partiality to the distinguished actor-author be considered as even vaguely resembling any phase

heart has the audacity to appear to be willing as the final curtain falls to consider himself a worthy husband for her instead of speedily besting himself to the nearest bridge and perishing by himself to fall to some convenient and jagged rock far below. Still "Sherlock Holmes" permits Gillette to shine as an actor, and that is more than can be said, so far as I am aware, of any play which he did not himself write.

Some persons contend that Gillette is a natural actor; others declare that if he were given the most unimportant role in some play selected haphazard he would butcher it as horribly as the most puffed up graduate of a school of acting. In reality Mr. Gillette has made a reputation and won a following for himself by reason of the fact that no actor on the American stage could have surpassed him in those roles with which he has in recent years been identified. That is due to Mr. Gillette's marvelous appreciation of his own limitations, as well as to his unquestioned ability as a playwright. He has so exactly fitted himself that it has not been necessary for him to act at all. All he has had to do was to walk on to the stage, light a cigarette, clear or pipe, puff away at it and reply in an imperturbable monotone to every question asked. And that is precisely what he does in "Sherlock Holmes."

Of one thing, however, Mr. Gillette's friends should warn him. At two or three points he seems to be tempted to go in for elocutionary effect, and when he does that he is nothing less than amusing, especially if he happens to wish to be serious. At such times he uses the same old "magnificent" monotonous but he also gives a very, very bad imitation of Henry Miller's peculiar but always effective declamatory method. Mr. Gillette should go no further in this department; in other words, as the gamblers put it, he should "stick to cases." He has won fame and fortune in the old way simply because he never tried to act, and if he now sets out to be a regular conventional performer he is certain to drop with a dull, sickening thud.

There is no love story in "Sherlock Holmes," and that is perhaps the greatest weakness of the play. Still, other melodramas have succeeded without love-making, and "Sherlock Holmes" will repeat that experience. It is true that Sherlock toward the close does say something to indicate that he is not indifferent to Miss Faulkner's charm of person and manner, and that he does a little later permit himself to be won by her, but those "bits" are so brief as to scarcely be worthy of being called episodes. As strong a success as "Sherlock Holmes" undoubtedly is from the box office standpoint, its hold upon the popular fancy might be greatly strengthened by the injection of a little more of heart interest into the earlier acts.

The chariot race in "Ben-Hur" will be the most effective reality ever seen in a theater, either in this country or abroad. Its development into an actuality may truthfully be said to be the triumph of stagercraft. In this incident eight horses and two chariots will be shown apparently racing at breakneck speed, the animals galloping with all their power. Four horses, "the two blacks and the two whites," are driven by Messala, and the four Arabian bays by Ben-Hur. Messala leads; Ben-Hur

smashes the wheel of his chariot, the Roman falls beneath the feet of his crazed horses, and Ben-Hur wins the race. Every vital incident in the chariot race described by General Wallace in his book will be seen when the drama is presented at the Broadway theater in this city, Wednesday evening, the 29th inst.

Solving the mechanical problems connected with the presentation of this race and the construction of the apparatus on which it is run will cost Klav & Erlanger over \$15,000 before the curtain is raised on the first performance. The mechanical difficulties solved by the construction of a working model, the next step was to secure the horses that would fit the description written by the author. This required three months. Over 120 horses that physically fitted the requirements were tested before eight satisfactory principals and four substitutes were secured. Then began their training, which was at first conducted in a stable in Twenty-eighth street. Three weeks ago the race apparatus was built into the Broadway theater stage, requiring the entire reconstruction. This mechanism consists of two great cradles, 20 feet in length and 14 feet wide, which are movable back and forth on railways supported by a bridge structure, capable of upholding 20 tons. The tops of the cradles are two inches below the stage level. Each cradle bears the four horses and the chariot of each contestant.

On each cradle are four runways, or treadmills, of hickory slats, two inches wide, covered with rubber 12 feet long and 2 1/2 feet wide. On each of these treadmills a horse is secured by invulnerable steel cable traces, which hold him in place and prevent him from moving forward off the runways. As each horse gallops the treadmill revolves under his feet, thereby eliminating the forward pressure created by the impact of his hoofs which would force him ahead on an immovable surface. By this mechanical arrangement it is possible for the horses to actually gallop with all their speed within the space of their own length. The device which secures the horses to their places on the cradles is entirely independent of their feet, thereby eliminating the danger to them just as they would be were the horses running in the open air. The wheels of the chariots are worked with wonderful rapidity by rubber rollers, operated by electric motors revolving in the opposite direction to which the wheels actually turn. To give the chariots the bumping and jolting they would experience in an actual race they are equipped with special wheels.

The effect of the losing of the race by Messala and winning it by Ben-Hur is produced by moving the great cradles backward and forward on their rails, as the situation demands. To create the impression of the charioteers covering ground at high speed a great panoramic background, 25 feet high, representing "the walls of the arena, with thousands of people sitting in their seats, is whirled rapidly in an opposite direction to that in which the racing chariots are headed. These features, with their incidental effects combined, will make up the most perfect reality that has ever been conceived for the stage presentation.

Ever since the race apparatus was built in the Broadway theater the horses used in this incident have been trained daily. Now, every night after the performance in the theater, the stage is occupied by Klav & Erlanger's forces and the chariot race is run with all the effect incident to it just as it will be in the performance. This feature will actually have had three months' preparation before it is seen for the first time at the Broadway theater, Nov. 29.

ARTHUR CRISPIN, New York.

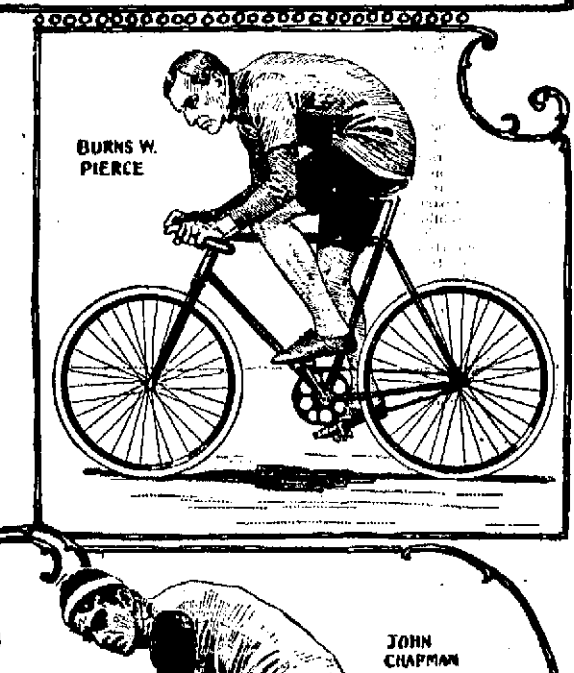
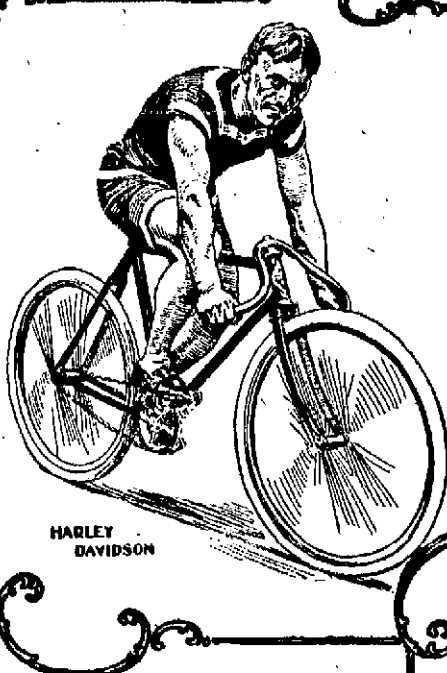
Advertisement for Baker's Breakfast Cocoa, featuring a woman in a dress and the text: "A Perfect Food," "Preserves Health," "Prolongs Life." Baker's Breakfast Cocoa is described as a delightful food and nourishing drink.

Advertisement for The Southern Railway, titled "TO FLORIDA Double Daily Fast Trains VIA THE SOUTHERN RAILWAY." It details the winter season schedule, including routes to Jacksonville, Savannah, and other Florida cities.

Advertisement for Dr. Fenner's Golden Relief, claiming to be a cure for all inflammations, including colds, coughs, and sore throats.

Advertisement for Nervita Pills, described as a cure for impotency, night emissions, and other ailments related to vitality and strength.

Advertisement for Garland Stoves and Ranges, featuring an illustration of a stove and the text: "Gold Weather is Coming. Now is the time to have your stoves put up." It also includes a notice about laundry services.



successful, both in the matter of money and mileage, as in New York. After the race in that city last winter, however, a law was passed which forbade any man to ride for more than 12 hours in one day in a contest for money. It was at first thought that this would put an end to six day affairs. That has not proved to be the case, however, for the promoters have evolved a plan which conforms to the law and at the same time allows for a race lasting six continuous days. In addition to this it is more than probable that under the new conditions the affair will be much more close and exciting, while a far greater mileage will be piled up.

This year the riders will contest in teams. Two men will form a team. Each rider has the privilege of riding 12 hours in each 24 or 72 hours during the week. This, however, is the only limitation. The men of a team may relay at any time and as often as they see fit. In this way the contest will go on without a break from the start on Sunday night at 12:30 o'clock until the finish on the following Saturday night. The mileage ridden will, of course, be enormous, as the contestants will have ample time for sleep and refreshments and will be fresh when on the track.

to become relaxed, so that when they resume the strain will be greater than if they had been riding the whole time.

For the past few years all the six day races held in this country have been international in character, and the present one will be no exception in that respect. Never in the history of these great annual struggles have there been so many foreign champions entered, while the list of our home riders is no less formidable.

Six teams of foreigners have come direct from Europe to compete, while as many more couples who came over in former years and remained in America are entered. Canada is also represented by her best men. Some of the pairs which have already handed in their names are as follows: Schinnerer and Forster, representatives of Germany; Archie McEachern, the unpaired champion, and Otto Meyen, the handicap winner; Earl D. Stevens of Buffalo and Charlie Turville of Philadelphia, first and second men respectively in the 24 hour race at San Francisco last spring; Johnson and Comeau, an American team; W. C. Stinson and O. V. Babcock, sprinters of ability; John Lawson and Oscar Julius, representing Sweden; and Harley Davidson and Alf Boake, crack Canadian team.



small cots for sleeping places, sloves for the trainers to do the cooking for their charges and the regular boarded affairs on which they like to have a rub down. Here, while the race is going on, may be seen a trainer pleading with a refractory man or employing harsher measures if necessary.

In a contest of this kind the riders have to be treated very much like small children, for the constant glare and their weariness bring up all sorts of hallucinations, so that very often they think the trainers are abusing them or trying to make them lose.

The first three days are regarded by the trainers as the crucial ones. They say that the riders who get over them in fair shape and within halting point of the leaders have good chances for raking in some of the prize money.

The A. A. U. Ten Mile Championship.



THEODORE G. MCGILL. The ten mile race for the A. A. U. championship is the principal event of the great carnival of sport to be held at Madison Square Garden, New York, on Thanksgiving day. All the crack long distance runners have entered, among them the following: T. G. McGill, N. Y. A. C.; Deb Grant, ex-Harvard crack; Alex Grant, U. of P.; A. L. Wright, Brown university, and Eugene Estoppy, Shamrock Harriers of Brooklyn, and the best of the long distance men in the various big athletic clubs in and around New York.

It would be a difficult matter to pick a winner from such an aggregation, though McGill is the present champion, as it occurred in 1897 when the last race at the distance was held.

AMUSEMENT NOTES.

A new comedy is entitled "Miss Prince of Wales." "The Gay Lord Quest" is to be given in Italian in Turin this season. The management of a new farce called "Hunting For Hawkins" hit on a novel plan for bringing it to notice in Chicago. When the curtain fell on the last act of a drama then playing a regular engagement, it was rung up again on a rehearsal of this new farce, the rehearsal being practically a trial production.

Doyle play, Gillette, in the title role, introduces the hypodermic needle as a stage accessory. He inserts it in his arm in full view of the audience. Maude Courtney, "the singer of the old songs," is going to desert the vaudeville for the legitimate. She has signed with David Belasco and will have a part in the play, "Naughty Anthony." Sol Smith Russell in his less prosperous days was one of the Berger family of bell ringers. Spandoni, a new juggler, who has made a hit in London, drives on the stage in