

### Picture Palaces.

In all the principal thoroughfares will be found **Cinematograph Theatres**, offering their patrons a constantly varied and frequently excellent programme. These entertainments are very popular, and are crowded throughout the afternoon and evening. Well-known establishments of the kind are the *Stoll Picture Theatre* (formerly the London Opera House), Kingsway, W.C.; *New Gallery Kinema*, Regent Street; *Marble Arch Cinema*; *Cinema House*, 225, Oxford Street; the *West End Cinema*, Coventry Street, W.; the *Polytechnic*, Regent Street; the *Coronet*, Notting Hill Gate, W.

### SPORTS AND GAMES.

The Londoner not only works strenuously, but makes the most of his hours of leisure. The weekly half-holiday enacted by a beneficent legislature is generally devoted to games of one kind or another, and during "week-ends" the river is crowded with pleasure boats. The extension of evening light afforded by "summer time" is also greatly appreciated. In 1922 the London County Council sanctioned the playing of games in the public parks on Sundays. We can do no more than mention the head-quarters of the various forms of sport, and the leading annual events:—

**AVIATION.**—The aerodromes at Croydon (starting point of the Continental air services), Hendon, and Brooklands are the principal centres for civilian flying. Flights or journeys can be arranged on almost any day when the weather is favourable. Bookings at any tourist or theatrical agency.

**BOWLS.**—Provision is made for this popular game on a number of club grounds. The L.C.C. maintain greens for the free use of the public in Battersea Park, Finsbury Park and Ravenscourt Park, and provision is also made in many of the suburban parks.

**CRICKET.**—Lord's, at St. John's Wood (p. 139), is the head-quarters of the Middlesex C.C. The principal annual fixtures are Eton *v.* Harrow and Oxford *v.* Cambridge, always attracting large crowds. **Kennington Oval** (p. 244), on the south side, is the headquarters of the Surrey C.C. There are many private cricket grounds, and pitches are allotted to regular players in most of the local parks.

**CYCLING.**—Only riders of nerve and experience should cycle in the motor-crowded thoroughfares of central London. In planning a ride into the country, it is generally advisable either to start very early in the morning, before traffic has congested the streets, or to take train to a station a few miles out on the line of route. Now that all the main roads out of London are used by electric tramways and motor omnibuses, this point is of more importance than ever. The rail charge for conveyance of cycles accompanied by passengers is only 9d. for under twenty-five

miles. If it is necessary to cross London from north to south, or vice versa, the existence of the river must not be forgotten, and the roads converging on bridges are almost invariably crowded. See also map facing p. 25.

In the notes dealing with suburban resorts we have given, wherever possible, the road route to each place of interest. Both to the south and north of London, the country a few miles out is decidedly hilly, but the scenery, particularly the leafy lanes and stretches of open common, is very charming. Bold as it may seem to make the assertion, there are beauty-spots within sight of London smoke that will challenge comparison with any in Great Britain.

**FISHING**—The fresh-water angler can do fairly well in the neighbourhood of London, but a short railway journey is generally necessary. Fishing in the Thames is free up to the London Stone at Staines, and beyond that there is also plenty of free fishing, the only places on the main stream where riparian owners have succeeded in maintaining their "rights" being in the Maidenhead district and one or two other small reaches. All tributary streams are strictly preserved. To fish from the weirs it is necessary to obtain a permit from the Thames Conservancy (10s. per annum). For full details see the *Guide to the Thames* in this series. Coarse fish, such as roach, chub, dace, perch, barbel and pike are fairly abundant. A good deal of re-stocking is done. The Lea is also frequented (especially at Rye House, Hoddesden); and the rivers Colne and Chess on the north-western confines of Middlesex, and the Essex Blackwater have many admirers. There is fair fishing also in the Brent Reservoir at Hendon. But enthusiasts will not look for detailed information in a book of this general character when they are so admirably served by special publications.

**FOOTBALL**.—The principal London clubs playing the Association game are:—Arsenal (Gillespie Road, Highbury, N.), Brentford (Griffin Park, Brentford, W.), Chelsea (Stamford Bridge, Fulham Road, S.W.), Clapton Orient (Millfields Road, Clapton, N.E.), Crystal Palace (The Nest, Selhurst Road, Croydon), Fulham (Craven Cottage, Fulham, S.W.), Millwall Athletic (The Den, New Cross, S.E.), Queen's Park Rangers (Loftus Road, Shepherd's Bush, W.), Tottenham Hotspur (Tottenham, N.), West Ham United (Boleyn Castle, Upton Park, E.). The leading amateur teams are the "Corinthians" and the "Casuals," playing at the Crystal Palace. In connection with the Empire Exhibition to be held in 1924 at Wembley Park there has been constructed a fine sports arena, in which Cup Final matches are to be played. At Leyton is the Army Sports Ground.

Rugby is also becoming increasingly popular, and there are several first-class teams in London. The Rugby Union International Matches are played at Twickenham, and the Oxford v. Cambridge University Match at Queen's Club, Kensington.



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MONUMENT TO NURSE CAVELL, ST. MARTIN'S PLACE.

**GOLF.**—In the various Golf Annuals will be found a complete list of the golf courses near London. In most cases visitors introduced by members are allowed to play for a day or two free, or on payment of a fee of about 2s. 6d. a day (generally more on Saturdays and Sundays). For weekly and monthly players the charges are reduced. There are public 18-hole courses at Hainault Forest and in Richmond Park, and practice is permitted in the early morning on public open spaces like Hampstead Heath and Clapham Common.

**HORSE-RACING.**—The race-meeting which most appeals to the Londoner is undoubtedly the famous **Derby**, run at Epsom on a Wednesday either a fortnight before or a fortnight after Whitsun, and succeeded two days later by the **Oaks**. On a Derby Day all the roads and railways leading south from London are packed with people, and the sight on the course is one never to be forgotten. **Ascot Week**, a great Society gathering, generally attended by the King and members of the Royal Family, comes a fortnight after the Derby. **Goodwood** races, also largely attended, commence on the last Tuesday in July. Other races are held at Alexandra Park, Sandown, Kempton Park, Windsor, Hurst Park, Gatwick, Newbury, etc.

**LAWN TENNIS.**—The Championship of the World is generally decided towards the end of June at the All England Lawn Tennis Club at Wimbledon, whose courts and stands were entirely reconstructed in 1921-2. The Covered Court Championship and the Amateur Championships in tennis and rackets are usually held at the Queen's Club, West Kensington. Both hard and grass courts are provided in many of the public parks, and can be used by anyone on payment of a small charge per hour.

**POLO.**—This popular military pastime is chiefly followed at Hurlingham and Ranelagh.

**ROWING.**—The **Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race**, invariably attended by huge crowds, is rowed on the Saturday before Holy Week. The course is from Putney to Mortlake, a trifle over  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles. Oxford, dark blue; Cambridge, light blue.

Of the **Regattas**, the most famous is that of Henley, usually held at the beginning of July. Other Regattas are held in July and August at Molesey, Staines, Kingston, Richmond, Marlow, Bourne End, etc. See our *Guide to the Thames*.

The **Serpentine**, in Hyde Park, and the sheets of ornamental water in Regent's Park, Battersea Park, Finsbury Park, Victoria Park and Southwark Park are used for boating, the County Council charge per person being 6d. an hour. Parts of the River Lea are also available.

**SKATING.**—Only at rare intervals are the waters around London frozen for a long enough period to give skaters satisfaction. The chief resorts are the Serpentine in Hyde Park, the lake in Regent's Park, the Hampstead Heath and Highgate ponds, the Welsh Harp water at Hendon, the Long Water at Hampton Court, and the Pen Ponds in Richmond Park.