

**OUTDOORS: A BOOK
OF HEALTHFUL
PLEASURE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649370887

Outdoors: a book of healthful pleasure by Various

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VARIOUS

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A BOOK OF

Healthful Pleasure

BOSTON
POPE MFG. CO., PUBLISHERS
221 COLUMBUS AVE.
1894

SG 105. 16

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In the Open.

It is our business to do good and make money, to spread the gospel of the open air, to make people happier, to fill them with the exhilarating oxygen of natural healthfulness. The selections herein are by the best procurable talent, written for us. They are authoritative articles by the world's best recreative writers, illustrated by the best artists,—all calculated to make the public appreciate the necessity of the open air. We preach the gospel of outdoors—teach the doctrine of a “sound mind in a sound body”—incidentally suggest that we make Columbia bicycles. We know there are none better. If our friends will not ride and enjoy the most valuable of healthful exercises, this little book still tells them all about outdoors—of its pleasures and benefits—full of sound sense and good advice.

Yours for the best kind of a good time,

POPE MFG. CO.

LAWN TENNIS.

BY F. A. KELLOGG, EDITORIAL STAFF, OUTING MAGAZINE.



OUNTAINS of ancient and mediæval history have been delved and sifted in vain search for the ancestry of lawn tennis. The results only show a feeble alliance with ancient handball, while court tennis is pointed to as a source from which lawn tennis — its namesake, not its descendant — has derived many excellent features. It may, therefore, be concluded that this pastime is a creation of modern ingenuity. Yet I would hesitate to aver that lawn tennis sprang, Minerva-like, from the brain of Major Wingfield, the inventor of spairistike, lest such an assertion meet in future ages the onslaught of that critical school of historians who even now ruthlessly rob history of many a sentiment, and in their synthetic crucible convert kings, heroes, and authors into myths. Philosophers of 2892 would scoff at a story that a sport indulged in throughout the English-speaking world had emanated from an individual mind; they would argue that Wingfield never existed, or at most was only an obscure local champion, the village Hampden of some embryotic game; or that lawn tennis had been practised in all ages, handed down, perhaps, from Grecian maidens to their Roman sisters and at last introduced into England by William of Normandy.

While still clinging to the innocent belief that Major Wingfield was the prime factor in the unique origin of lawn tennis, it may be more philosophical to look upon the game as one created by the increased demand of modern society for outdoor exercise and diversion. All ages have had their sports to satisfy the natural desire of humanity for amusement and excitement, or even to pamper brutal tastes. Competition is ever ready to foster trials of skill. In the present age, however, not only have sports arisen in public favor but there is also a remarkable craving for individual participation in outdoor pastimes. It is in response to this universal requirement that cycling also has gained such popularity. One of the most wholesome and manly instincts of our nature is the desire for outdoor recreation, and to gain in heaven's wide amphitheatre laurels of health and vigor. Impelled by this instinct the

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cycler becomes wedded to the diverse enjoyments of his wheel; and in obedience to the same impulse tennis players become devoted to the fascinations of their favorite pastime.

It must not be supposed that lawn tennis in its inception was in its present perfected shape. The idea contained in spairistike at once met with favor in England, but for several years the game passed through a legendary stage of development. The court was changed from an hour-glass shape to a rectangle; the net, at first five feet in height, was lowered by degrees until it reached three feet at the centre, to favor effective volleying, and four feet at the posts, which the calcitrant base line player subsequently reduced to three feet six inches, its present height. This rapid transition from a battle-dore and shuttle-cock period to a state of such perfection that even the playing rules have remained substantially unchanged, not only flatters the early tennis legislators, but shows also that the game has elements of intrinsic worth in direct compliance with the popular demand for wholesome and refined sport. It has survived the vicissitudes and perils of a probational state, and in the recognition and permanency now gained as an athletic sport lawn tennis has turned the laugh on those who have frequently scoffed at the game as a mere fad soon to be dropped for some new popular toy.

1874 is the date of Major Wingfield's patent spairistike. The following summer the Marylebone Cricket Club adopted a code modifying the game somewhat, and during the same year, while tennis was still in a very crude state, several sets were brought to this country. Yet lawn tennis did not become established here until several years after the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club had made further modifications in its rules, and previous to our first national championship in 1881, four English championships had been won. This priority of development has justified a claim of superiority in the skill of England's players, which has in general been supported by the few contests that have taken place between players of Great Britain and America. Yet with the recent advances here in skilful match playing the difference between our best players and the English experts is presumably slight.

The historic muse has inspired worthier pens than this to narrate the progress of lawn tennis, both here and in Great Britain, during the last fifteen summers. These annals redound in descriptions of contests between giants in tennis, and trace with interest the struggles for supremacy between the various methods, styles, and tactics of play. But it is not the past with which I purpose wholly to deal, nor do I invite attention only to the achievements of those who in trials oft shine as exponents of tennis skill.

