

# Tennis Again to the Fore

By EDWIN A. GOEWEY

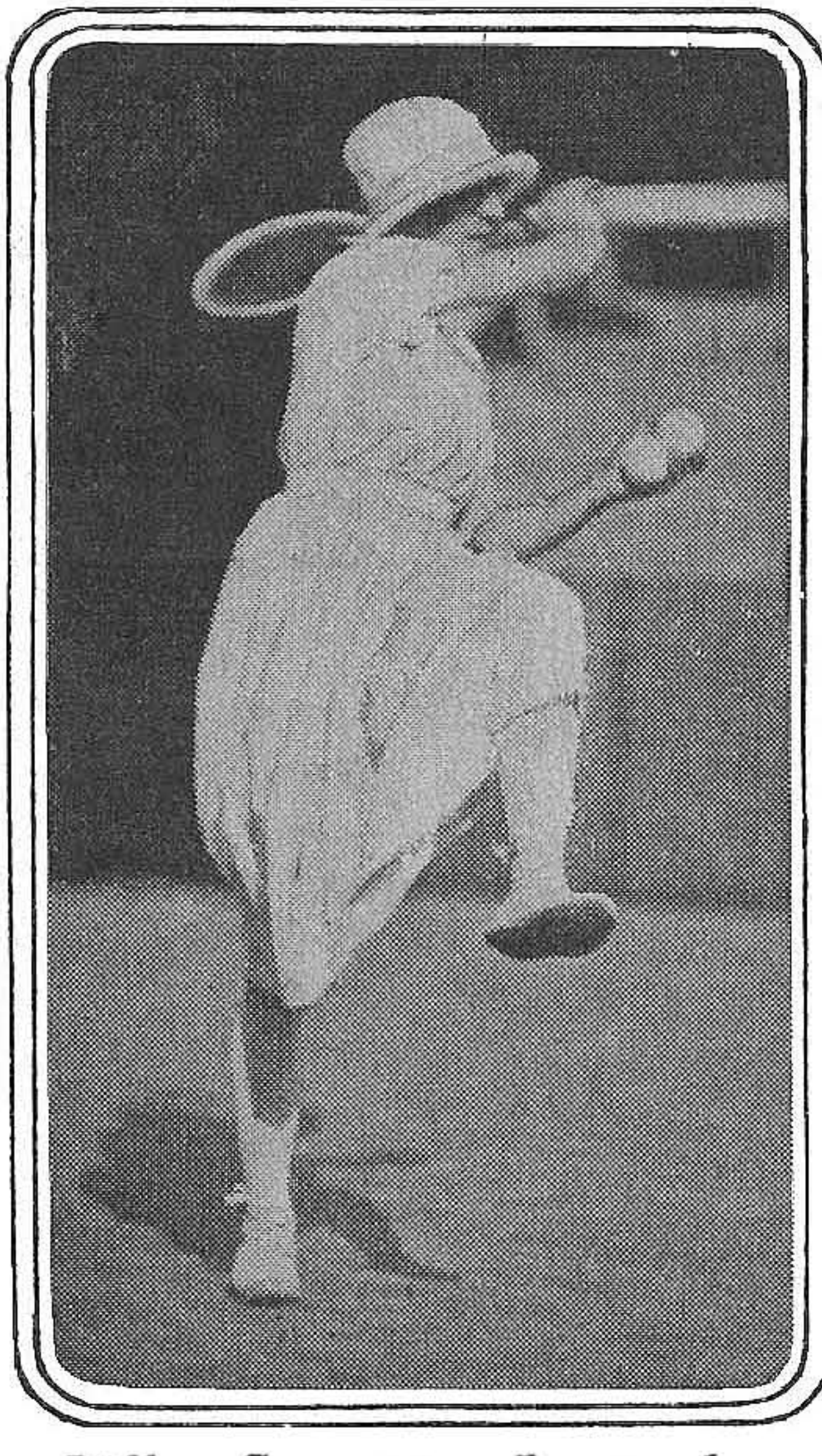
TENNIS, which, like all other sports, languished throughout the period of the war, again is coming to the fore in the world of athletics, and ere long promises to find its deserved place in the sun.

American net enthusiasts have been doing their full bit to restore the pastime to the plane it occupied before the Teutons began running amuck, and right now it might be said truthfully that the tennis revival in the United States is under full swing.

Interest in tennis affairs locally has been increased, no doubt, by the fact that the formidable Australian team, headed by the famous Norman E. Brookes, is in America

to play the best of the home talent, while abroad a positive sensation was created by Mlle. Suzanne Lenglen, the French miss, who defeated Mrs. Lambert Chambers at Wimbledon, and is believed by many to be the world's best woman player. Certainly her recent performances have been sensational.

The Australian team consists, in addition to Mr. Brookes, of Gerald L. ("Hurricane") Patterson, R. V. Thomas and Randolph Lycett. Whenever brilliant tennis matches are talked about, the famous international contest of Maurice E. McLoughlin, "the California Comet," and Mr. Brookes in 1914 at the Westside Tennis Club comes in for a large share of comment and generous praise. That really was a splendid match which was played five years ago. It is a matter of history that Mr. McLoughlin has not improved since that time, though he might stage a come-back; but Mr. Brookes has passed the age when a come-back on his part can be looked for. In 1914 both of these men were at their best. Brookes then was a marvel, for he had won the British title from the late Anthony F. Wilding at an age when the average athlete is through



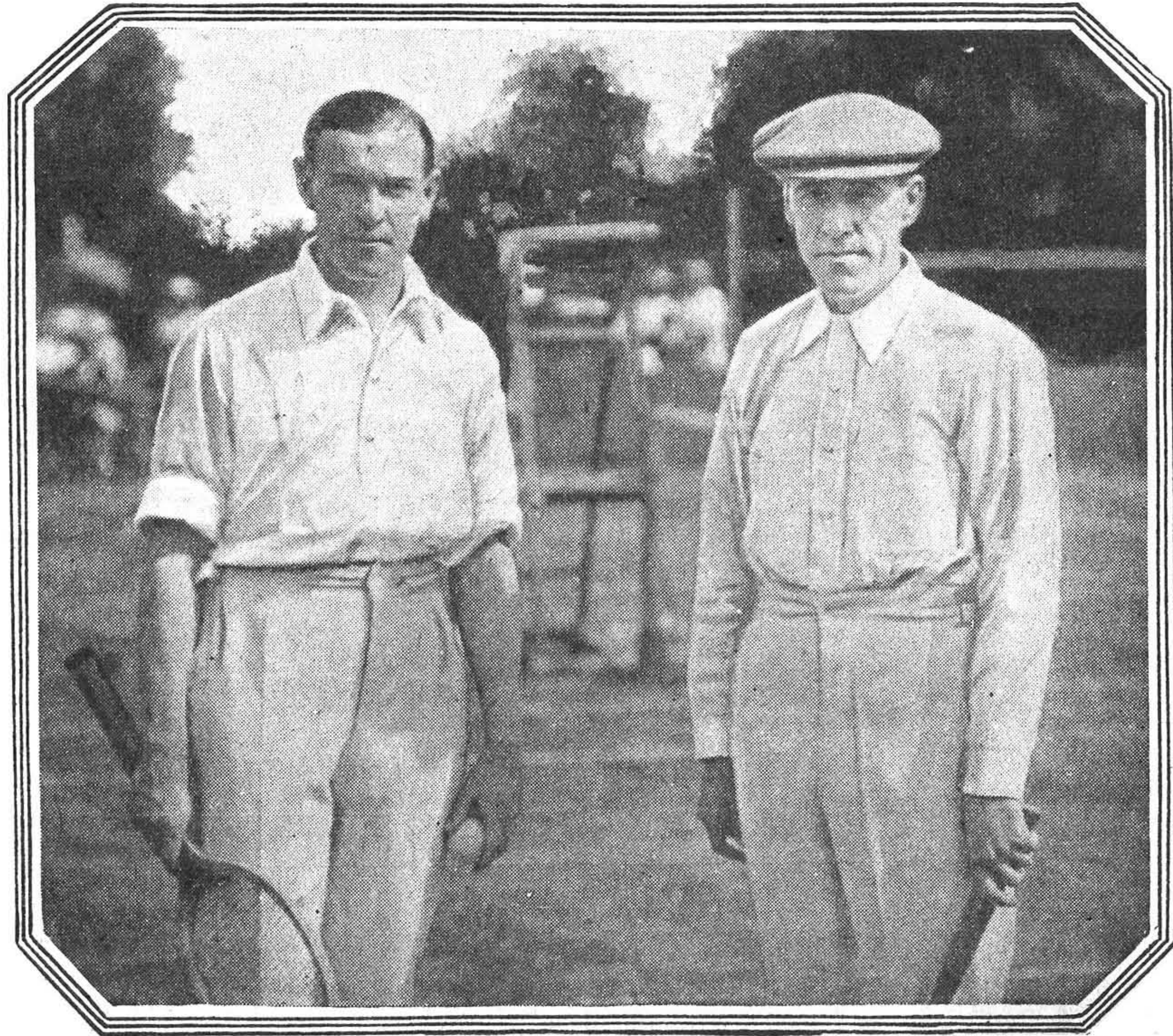
Mlle. Suzanne Lenglen, the twenty-year-old French player whose playing has astonished the tennis world.

with trying competition. Even then he lacked the stamina shown by McLoughlin. But for the war Mr. Brookes might have kept on top of the heap for a considerable time, but there no longer remains a doubt that he is not to be feared as he was in the days of yore.

A British expert, writing recently of the Brookes-Patterson contest for the English title, has this comment to make on their work, and it also gives a line on the ability of the "Hurricane": "Mr. Patterson beat Mr. Brookes in three sets, with a loss of only ten games—but without increasing his reputation. He made more mistakes than in any previous matches, and several blunders not to be accounted for by the accumulative of long rallies. He had proved himself the best player in the All-Comers beyond cavil, but in a very lean year. The match for the much-traveled champion of 1914 was to show his comparative rank. He beat Mr. Brookes to be sure, but not the Mr. Brookes of 1914. There have been matches this year when other players have shown themselves, for a time, Mr. Patterson's equals in the rallies. Perhaps to be criticized after beating Mr. Brookes in a challenge round, 6-3, 7-5, 6-2, is, after all, a compliment." This would indicate that all critics are not united in believing that Mr. Patterson is a world-beater. Mr. Lycett does not rank very high as a singles player. He is, however, a doubles player of the very first order. He won the doubles with Major Heath at Queen's in the Allied armies' tournament and at Paris. At one time he was picked as a member of the Australian Davis Cup team, but was unable to play in the matches. His tennis is not flashy, but is steady and well-balanced.

Thomas, too, is a wonderful doubles player and probably quite a bit better than

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Norman Brookes and Gerald L. Patterson, Australians who are playing the tennis stars of this country. There has been a great revival in tennis in the United States.

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Lycett. His generalship is superb, his overhead strokes are exceptional, and he is sure and accurate off the ground. His all-around game is sufficiently strong to make him a dangerous opponent in singles and with a good partner well-nigh unbeatable in doubles.

### Changes Favored by Brookes

It is believed here that a part of the object of the Australians' visit is to decide upon future policies surrounding the competition for the Davis International Challenge Cup. Mr. Brookes, in the past, has expressed himself as favoring certain revolutionary changes in the rules governing Davis Cup matches. His most radical suggestion, and one that he discussed when here in 1914, and with the late Anthony F. Wilding won the trophy, is that each year the nation that holds the cup should have its team play through the tournament series and not stand out to meet the players of the nation winning the preliminary matches. This view of Brookes's has met with favor among most of those who appreciate the advanced trend of modern sports.

The solution which he is said to favor is that of holding a great international tournament, all upon the same courts, the teams of the various nations meeting each other according to the fortunes of the draw. This would bring all of the most famous players of the world together at one time and place.

### France's New Star

Mlle. Suzanne Lenglen, the young French girl who won the tennis tournament at Wimbledon recently for what is now called the world's championship, truly is the sensation of the tennis world today.

She is only twenty years of age, but has earned a place at the top abroad through the very strength and soundness of her game. In the final round at Wimbledon, she defeated Mrs. Lambert Chambers, four times holder of the All-English championship, in a brilliant match by a score of 10-8, 4-6, 9-7.

After playing for fifteen successive days against the best players in the world, and displaying remarkable form, this young woman was called upon to demonstrate her skill at Wimbledon before their Majesties the King and Queen of England and Princess Mary. This naturally was a trying ordeal for a player so young in years, but, as she said, "the spectators were kind to me and their spontaneous and enthusiastic reception made me do my best."

This victory disposes of the old theory that most English women are muscular, but not elegant in dress while all French women are well dressed, but hopeless in athletic games. Several American tennis experts, who watched the play of the women abroad during the war period, have stated to the writer that today the French

girls play a snappier, faster game of tennis than either their English or American rivals.

However, it must not be imagined that Mlle. Lenglen is not truly feminine, both in dress and feeling, and she also possesses a fine sense of humor. She relates that immediately after the match in which she won the championship she was surrounded by a crowd who shook hands in congratulation, sought her autograph and asked questions. One lady, she said, inquired why she always wore a hat when playing. Her reply was the simple explanation that she did it to keep her hair in order. Another lady asked her why she wore shoes and thin stockings instead of boots and thick stockings, as advocated by many for supporting the ankles and protecting the feet, and her reply, truly feminine, was "simply for my own comfort and ease, and because I think they look well."

### French Surprised

On the day after the victory the petite champion received many telegrams from France, from friends, known and unknown, congratulating her; but their tone indicated, in most instances, that they had not anticipated that she would win such a glorious victory. She realized when she came to England that her chances were not looked upon with favor in her own country, and also was well aware that on the stock exchange "bookies" had offered as high as 40 to 1 against her victory.

Tennis is not the only hobby or chief athletic occupation in this young woman. In fact she is clever in many other lines of athletic endeavor, and in the last few years has become a splendid swimmer. She is possessed of an unusually long breath which has enabled her to make a favorable showing as a distance swimmer. The young woman has been spending her winters at Nice and when there has engaged in swimming, practicing daily, in the Mediterranean. "From my childhood up," she said recently, "I have paid a great deal of attention to physical culture. Many do not attach enough importance to its rhythmic movements which develop every part of the body. One-quarter of an hour's practice every day will preserve one in a perfect state of suppleness and freshness. I also have practiced high jumping and at one time could clear 4½ feet. Now I am the world's champion on the hard court and grass, and my ambition now is the winning of the Covered Courts championship of the world."

Mlle. Lenglen was most anxious to return to her native France immediately after winning the championship, as her trip to England was her first journey from her native shores. Incidentally, her mascot is a tiny Belgian griffon, something like a Skye terrier, a present from her aunt after she won the world's championship on hard courts at St. Cloud in 1914.