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MELBOURNE BOWLING CLUB.

The bowling season opens on the grounds of the Melbourne Club, adjoining Chapel-street Station, to-day, by a grand scratch match of all the players; and as the new green will then be played on for the first time, ample accommodation will be afforded to all the members. The introduction to Victoria of this fine old English game, in its improved form, is chiefly due to Mr. Campbell, the hon. secretary of the Melbourne Bowling Club. Wherever gravitation water can be applied, for the purpose of reviving the grass in hot weather, it will be found that no out-of-door game can be more charming or better suited to this climate. The Melbourne Bowling Club opened last year on the 22nd October, and played every week-day for upwards of nine months, when the green was closed for repairs. It was found soon after the opening that one green would be inadequate, and Mr. Johnstone, landscape gardener, of St. Kilda, contracted to form a new one in close proximity, and parallel with the original, under the superintendence of the hon. secretary. The work has been done in a most satisfactory manner, and the green is now covered with as fine a carpeting of grass as ever was produced in so short a time. The two greens together form an area of 330 feet by 143 feet, skirted with broad walks, alongside of which are planted choice shrubs and trees. A permissive grant of about three quarters of an acre of land adjoining the two greens was first given to the club by the Melbourne Railway Company, and the grant has been confirmed by the United Company's board of directors.

This piece of ground is of great value to the club, in so far as it serves as a lawn for croquet, and gives room for five rinks at quoits—a game in which the members have made rapid progress in skill since the close of the bowling season. Since the example set by the Melbourne Bowling Club, greens are being formed in all directions:—The Fitzroy, in Victoria-parade; the Prahran Club, in Izett-street; the St. Kilda, adjoining the station; Ballarat, &c.; besides several greens in connexion with hotels.

The thorough drainage necessary in the first formation of proper bowling-greens, so as to insure the growth of perennial grasses of the best description, must be beneficial to the health of those who have an opportunity of daily visiting the bowling-green. About 4,000 feet of pipes drain the two greens of the Melbourne Bowling Club, so that it is not possible for damp to lie for any length of time in or around the spot. The Melbourne Bowling Club has nearly 200 members, and is limited to 250. A pavilion is in course of erection; and the pleasure of lady visitors has been provided for by the enlargement of the croquet ground.

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