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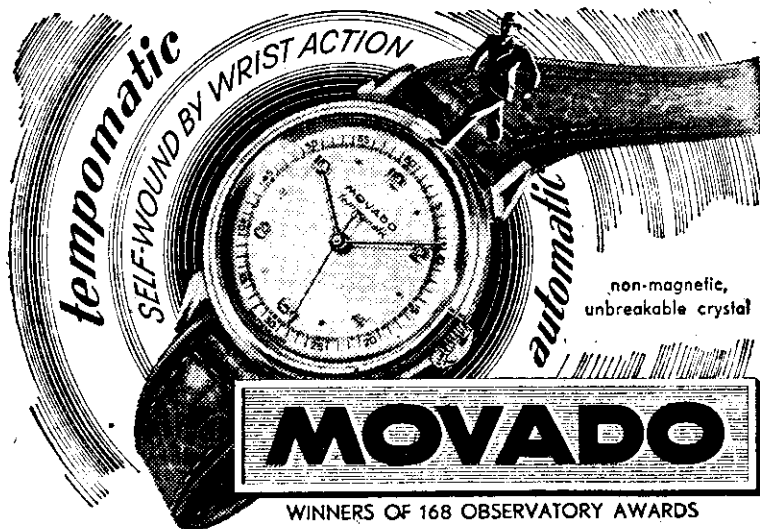
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WINNERS OF 168 OBSERVATORY AWARDS

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Ashley Heenan Wins English Croquet Title

A MUSICIAN who has achieved distinction beyond his special field is Ashley Heenan, a member of the NZBS staff who went to England last year on leave of absence to continue his studies at the Royal College of Music, London. When he left he was national croquet champion of New Zealand. Now, partnered by a ranking English player, Miss D. A. Lintern,

he has become the first New Zealander to win the mixed doubles croquet championship of England. In the final Heenan and his partner defeated R. O. Hicks (singles champion of England) and Mrs. Rotherham (No. 3 ranking player), with the scores in three games 26-22, 7-26, 26-20.

When he was 20 Ashley Heenan won the Men's Open championship of New Zealand at Timaru in 1946, and in 1948 he won the New Zealand Open championship at Dunedin. Before World War I. the late Keith Izard, of Wellington, who was considered one of New Zealand's greatest croquet players, played in the "best ten" tournament in England in 1908, 1909, 1912 and 1913, but he did not win an English championship title.

Heenan had a few games in England at the end of last season, but as he had arrived straight from the off-season in New Zealand, he was not at his best. This year he struck form early and was given the English handicap of minus 1½ bisques. At the Peel Memorial Handicap meeting, at Hurlingham in May, he performed well, reaching, with his partner, the semi-finals of the handicap doubles, and the extra handicap singles. At the end of the meeting, after winning in four rounds, he was defeated, by only 26-25, by a noted English player, M. B. Reckitt (minus 2½).

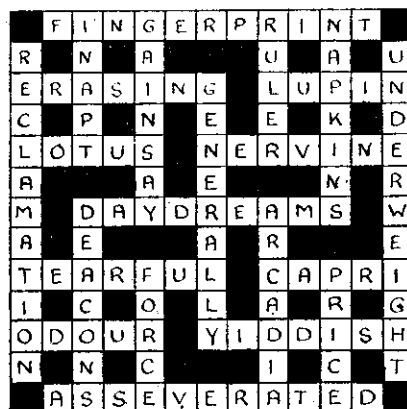
Ashley Heenan has also maintained his interest in Rugby since he has left New Zealand. Last winter he refereed regularly in matches in the London area, and impressed the classification committee sufficiently to gain grading as a senior referee.



Spencer Digby photograph
ASHLEY HEENAN

"THE LISTENER" CROSSWORD

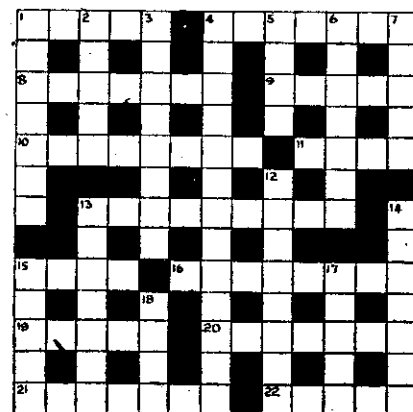
(Solution to No. 451)



Clues Down

1. My niche behind the fireplace.
2. Fall into; if over able, it would be past remedy.
3. Proclaim Ann over weight.
4. Abnormal.
5. Palindromic time of day.
6. Sit, dear, but not thus, if you're a lady!
7. "If this be —, and upon me proved, I never writ, nor no man ever loved" (Shakespeare).
12. Book of words.
13. Polish the statue? It's just one more river to cross.
14. "Buttons and Bows," for instance (4, 3).
15. "To sleep: perchance to —" ("Hamlet," Act III., Sc. 1).
17. Give off.
18. Stigma.

No. 452 (Constructed by R.W.C.)



Clues Across

1. This form of chain is easily broken.
4. Pace around the inn in a boat?
8. Does burning this make you angry?
9. The cad loses his head with this animal.
10. Runs true (anag.).
11. Happier but hapless.
13. Recite, Don! This is abstruse.
15. Disraeli called it "the prolific mother of folly and of crime."
16. True song? This is a bit fishy!
19. Surpass.
20. Hot cure (anag.).
21. Animal, vegetable or —.
22. This trope is the opposite of hidden.