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Columbus Pool Rooms

STUDY OF POOL HALLS, THEIR USES BY
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS, AND A SUMMARY
OF PUBLIC BILLIARD AND POOL ROOM
POPULATIONS OF THE LARGEST CITIES IN
UNITED STATES

Report of the Survey Committee

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Central Philanthropic Council

JAMES E. HAGERTY, *President*

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OFFICE

175 South High Street
COLUMBUS, OHIO

June, 1916

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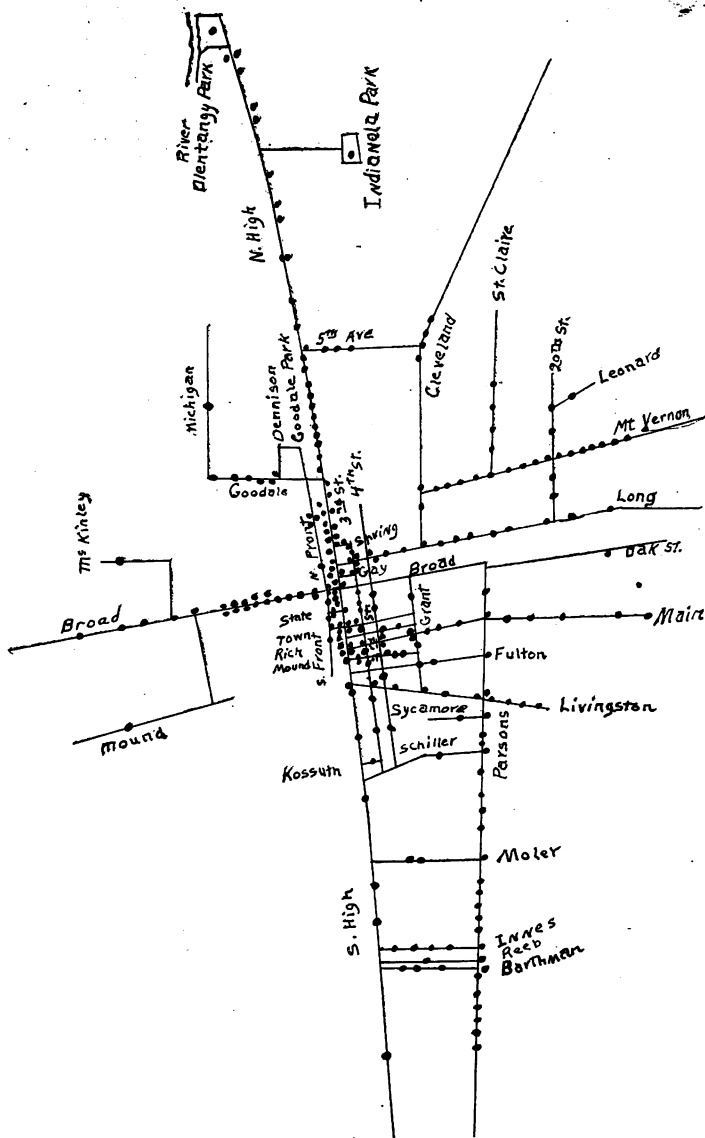
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Map of the Location of the Pool Rooms of Columbus
(Prepared by Leslie J. Gossard)

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FOREWORD.

Studies of public pool rooms have been made in connection with recreation surveys in many American cities. Of necessity they have been extensive rather than intensive, superficial rather than thoroughgoing. The Committee on Program and Surveys of the Central Philanthropic Council came to the conclusion that the social phenomenon of pool-playing is so vital a factor in the life of men and boys as to demand special and scientific study. The following report presents the salient facts in the pool room situation as a basis for intelligent community action.

The field work was begun in February, 1916. Since then, the question of pool playing and the regulation of pool rooms has been forced upon public attention. The introduction of pool tables in one of the local High Schools raised a storm of controversy in the city in regard to the relation of pool playing to the character formation of the High School youth. More recently, two ordinances have been introduced into the City Council: the first by Mr. L. A. Alcott providing for Sunday closing and early closing of pool rooms; and the second by Mr. F. P. Zimpfer requiring the licensing of pool rooms.

The Legislative Committee in co-operation with the Committee on Program and Surveys of the Central Philanthropic Council desires to bring to the attention of the City Council and the citizens of Columbus, the provisions of the Model Pool Room Ordinance, formulated under the auspices of the National Playground and Recreation Association of America. At a special meeting May 27, 1916, the Central Philanthropic Council went on record in favor of a recommendation that the City Superintendent of Public Welfare should have control of the inspection and supervision of public pool rooms. This action is in conformity with the following provision of the City Charter, defining the duties of the Superintendent of Public Welfare: "He shall have charge of the inspection and supervision of all public amusements and entertainments." Section 112 of the City Charter of Columbus, approved by popular vote May 5, 1914.

Columbus, at the present time, has no ordinance governing pool rooms. She has the opportunity to enact an ordinance superior to that of any American city.

The Committee is indebted to Mr. Leslie J. Gossard, Mr. Robert Rowlett and the staff of student investigators for the field work and the tabulation; to Miss Mary Louise Mark, of the Department of Economics and Sociology, Ohio State University, and to Mr. James L. Fieser, Secretary of the Central Philanthropic Council, for many valuable suggestions and criticisms; to Miss Clara Mark for generous assistance in the preparation of charts; and to the City Y. M. C. A. for the loan of the cut showing pool playing under good influences.

ERNEST W. BURGESS, Chairman,
Committee on Program and Surveys.

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THE COLUMBUS POOL ROOM STUDY

In December of last year, Mr. R. S. Wambold, then director of city recreation, suggested the need of a thorough and scientific survey of the pool rooms of Columbus. The work was undertaken by the Committee on Program and Surveys of the Central Philanthropic Council. The study falls into three main parts:

A. A survey of 243 public pool rooms by a staff of twenty-six students in the Department of Sociology of the Ohio State University under the direction of Mr. Leslie Gossard, an advanced student in the department. The names of the field-workers follow: G. F. Achauer, J. C. De Long, A. F. Diehl, T. D. Evans, H. H. Foreman, Raymond Givens, E. B. Graham, B. R. Griffith, G. R. Holman, H. K. Havilecek, W. H. Lees, J. W. Leyshorn, H. F. Ludeman, I. H. Peterman, Seth Paulin, G. E. Rader, C. W. Rucker, H. E. Schwall, W. F. Schwall, D. D. Simes, H. R. Stine, P. M. Stokes, T. J. Tippy, C. R. Trautman, J. L. Vesper, and J. E. Whiteside.

B. The report of a questionnaire filled out by 875 high school boys through the co-operation of the high school principals. Mr. Robert Rowlett of the Godman Guild gave valuable assistance in directing this division of the study.

C. A comparative survey of the ordinances and regulations governing pool rooms in forty of the fifty-two largest cities in the United States.

A. THE SURVEY OF THE COLUMBUS POOL HALLS.

The survey of pool rooms was undertaken by a staff of students under the direction of Mr. Leslie Gossard. The students were provided both with blanks to report and with investigation cards to be used in collecting information. Each student was assigned a separate district. He was instructed to remain in the pool room at least one hour, and to make the visit at night. It was not possible in all cases to carry out these instructions. This was especially true where the saloon was located in a bar room, or where the pool hall was of the type frequented by immigrants and negroes.

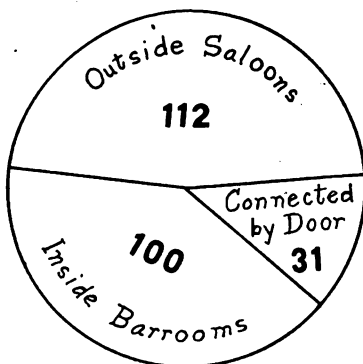
The names and addresses of the pool hall proprietors were obtained from the federal collector of internal revenue. Although the fiscal year from July 1, 1915, to June 30, 1916, was not complete, the names and addresses of 306 places were secured. Of these, the students reported that 56 were closed and that 7 were outside the city limits, or could not be found. This left 243 pool rooms as the basis of the study.

The survey of pool rooms may be divided into four parts: I. General facts; II. Sanitation; III. Violation of the law; IV. Moral atmosphere.

I. General Facts.

Two hundred and forty-three rooms were included in the study. Of these 112 were outside of saloons; 100 were inside bar rooms, and 31 were connected by door with bar room. That is, 112 were outside of saloons and 131 were in connection with saloons. The total number of billiard and pool tables is 795. In studying the number of tables two facts stand out. First, 173 out of the 243 pool halls, or over two-thirds, have only three or less tables. Secondly, out of the 795 tables only 44 are billiard tables, the remainder are pool tables.

The Majority of Pool Rooms



Are in Connection with Saloons

The classification of pool rooms by race is significant. One hundred and sixty-six halls are frequented by Americans; 51 by men of the immigrant groups in America: Italian, Hungarian and Greek; and 26 by negroes.

The location of the pool room is important. In Columbus practically all, or 221, are on the main floor. Only 14 are in the basement and but 8 upstairs. However, with scarcely an exception, the pool halls upstairs or in the basement are those with a large number of tables.

The question of open or obstructed view from the street was investigated. Only 82 of the 243 pool halls tabulated have an open and unobstructed view from the street. In the remainder the open view was obstructed by blinds, screens, glazed or painted glass, partitions, basement location, etc. Open view provides for community supervision and diminishes the opportunity for violations of the law.

The aggregate seating capacity of the 243 Columbus pool halls is 4166. The aggregate attendance at the time of the visit of the investigators was 3438. The daily attendance of Columbus pool rooms may, therefore, be estimated at from 15,000 to 20,000, the weekly attendance from 105,000 to 140,000, or a yearly aggregate of 5,250,000 to 7,000,000.

II. Sanitation.

Recreation should promote health. The sanitation, lighting and ventilation of public pool rooms is a matter of community concern. In the study of pool rooms the investigators report the sanitation as good in 64 halls, as medium in 112 and as bad in 65. The lighting is characterized as good in 111 places, as medium in 83, and as bad in 47. The ventilation was entered as good in 52 rooms, as medium in 102 and as bad in 87. On two halls no reports were given as to general sanitation.

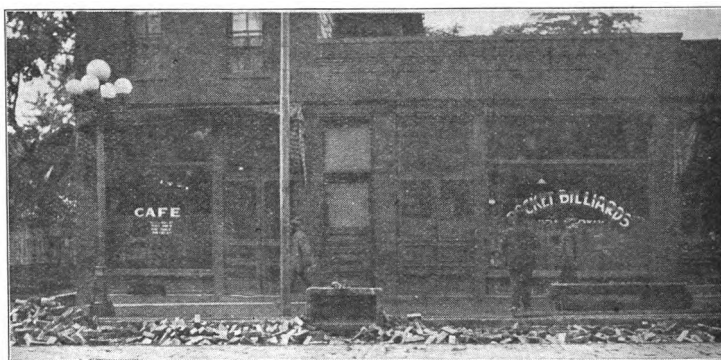
Since the toilets of pool halls serve as public comfort stations, their sanitary condition is doubly important. The following is the summary of the report upon conditions of toilet: Good, 46; medium, 78; bad, 92; no report, 14; no toilet, 13. The condition in many instances was filthy beyond the power of words to describe. The following is the report upon one of this type:

"In one back corner of the room I found a filthy toilet. If disease germs require filth for their reproduction (and it is confirmed that they do) this toilet certainly would have been a palace for them. The floor in this toilet was slimy, the odor almost unbearable, and the equipment was thoroughly covered with filth."

This study shows the need of inspection of pool rooms on public health grounds alone.



A Ramshackle, Uninviting Place for a Pool Room



"Have Pool Rooms in uncurtained places. There is no cause to be ashamed to be seen playing pool." High School boy (A 229) *

**Because the information from the High School boys is confidential, the High Schools are indicated by letters and the boys by numbers.*

III. Violations of Law.

Of the 3438 persons observed in the pool rooms 183 were under 18 years, 1305 from 18 to 25, 1950 over 25. This is a small number given as under the age limit, less than 1% of the total number. Two explanations may be given for this. The investigators were conservative and gave boys of doubtful age the benefit of the doubt. Then, too, a large proportion of the pool rooms are also bar rooms and the age limit here is 21.

Gambling was reported in 101 of the 243 places visited. Probably the number of places where gambling is not openly carried on could be counted on the fingers of one hand. Chief of Police Carter said to me that the percentage of places his men had to watch for gambling was 100%. The evidence of the pool hall investigators is that the proprietors connive at and often encourage gambling.

The three following illustrations are the few among the many that might be cited:

February 6. Entered pool room (X4) at 11 P. M., Sunday night. Three young men about twenty-five years old were playing pool on pay balls under sign reading "Absolutely No Gambling." The proprietor stood by and took his ten cents out of the pot at the end of each game. During the game when one of the men asked who was winning, the proprietor said, "This is a game where I win." At fifteen minutes to twelve, when the place closed, one of the young men was twenty-five cents ahead, another was twenty-five cents behind, while the third had lost nearly four dollars. The proprietor was right. He was the only one who won. Spectators varied from three to five.

Signed E.

April 23. Entered pool room (X1) at 10:20 P. M. Sunday night. Two boys probably under eighteen were playing pool at first table and three men of twenty-five to thirty, one of them the proprietor, at second table.

Men at second table looked up suspiciously as I entered, but I passed on without second look to the toilet. A minute later I came out and took my seat with three other spectators of second game without attracting attention. The three men were playing pea-pool with ten cents on the dead ball and twenty-five cents on the winning ball. One of the men seemed to be losing consistently. Suddenly at the beginning of a new game, the "cop" on the beat entered and the pea-pool game changed to an innocent game of rotation pool. During the time the policeman remained the rotation game went on, but as soon as he left, the game of pea-pool was resumed. But not until one of the men had gone to the door and looked out to make sure that the policeman was not loitering near the door. I left shortly after 11:30 P. M.

Signed A.

Saturday night, 10:30. In one of the pool halls with the largest number of tables, the manager of the place and a patron of middle age began shooting dice on one of the tables in the back of the room. They endeavor to get the investigator into the game but fail. They finally succeed in getting three young boys into the game of craps. The amount up on each game was 25 cents for each participant. Quite an amount of money changed hands until one of the table men came up and in a whisper said to the manager: "The 'cop' around the corner is watching us." The men had one more throw of the dice and the game was over for that night.

Signed W.

The gambling games and devices used are numerous. Pea-pool, eight-ball, other pay balls are common forms of pool games primarily for gambling. Dice and the dice box are not infrequently seen. Gambling is very often associated with card playing. Playing for checks or drinks in saloons is frequent and pernicious, making as it does direct connection between recreation and drinking.

Gambling cannot be entirely eliminated, but its volume can be greatly reduced. The abolition of the obstructed view from the street and the inspection of halls by plain clothes men will go a long way to this end.

IV. Moral Atmosphere.

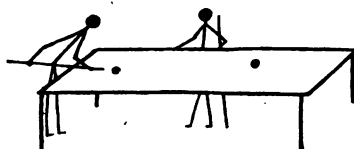
The moral atmosphere of a public meeting place for men is hard to appraise. The following rough standard was adopted: "Good," to signify the normal state of conversation of a group of men; "medium," to signify conversation punctuated with profanity; and "bad," to denote conversation that was obscene as well as profane. No attempt was made to apply "Sunday school" standards in gauging the moral atmosphere. The following results were obtained from tabulating the results of the study: "Good," 53; "medium," 88; "bad," 84; not given, 18. The following table shows the difference in moral attitude in comparing the pool room outside of saloons, inside bar room, and connected to saloon by door.

Pool Rooms.	Number Good	Number Medium	Number Bad	Number Not Given
Outside saloons	36	39	26	12
Inside bar room.....	12	37	47	4
Connected by door.....	5	12	11	2

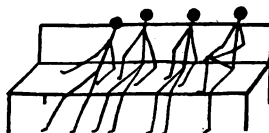
Evidently the moral atmosphere of the saloon is worse than that of the pool room.

The demoralizing effect of the low moral atmosphere is greater upon the loafer than upon the pool player. The statistics show that of the 3438 men and boys observed in the pool halls, 1223 were playing and 2215 loafing at the time of the

OF EVERY 6 MEN IN COLUMBUS POOL ROOMS



2 WERE PLAYING



4 WERE LOAFING

visit. The fact that at one time nearly two-thirds of all persons in the halls were lounging rather than playing shows the danger of loafing and idleness.

The investigators agree that all but a small fraction of the public pool rooms of Columbus are hardening, toughening places for the boy. Here the boy is freed from restraint; by his language he desires to show that he is "tough" and "wise."

The common use of the toilet for advertising the many remedies for venereal diseases is both a moral and a public health problem. The investigators report that they found these advertisements in 88, or over one-third of the toilets. This is probably for many reasons an under-report of the number. There are two dangers in this situation, first, that the advertisements give a false impression as to the curability of these diseases, and, secondly, that these advertisements send patients to patent medicines instead of to physicians.

Conclusion.

The study of the Columbus pool rooms shows the need of an ordinance licensing the pool rooms of the city, with provisions for the improvement of conditions brought out in the study.

B. THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDY.

The high school study was undertaken as an experiment. Through the co-operation of Principal C. D. Everett, a questionnaire was prepared and given a try-out in the North High School. The answers to the questions were satisfactory beyond expectation. The replies of the boys were sincere and serious. Out of 246 schedules returned from North High only 3 had to be omitted from the tabulation because of flippant and frivolous returns.

The success of the experiment led to the extension of the study to the other high schools of the city. Through the cordial co-operation of the principals the questionnaire was filled out also in the East, South, West, Crestview High Schools and in the High School of Commerce.

Before turning to the results of the study the following points should be noted:

1. Only students in the second, third and fourth years of the High School were included. This limitation was necessary to bring the task of tabulation within feasible limits.

2. Monday was selected for filling out questionnaires in order that events of the past week would be fresh in mind. The particular Monday taken for each school is as follows: March 27 for North High, April 10 for South and West High Schools and the High School of Commerce, May 1 for East High School and May 8 for Crestview.

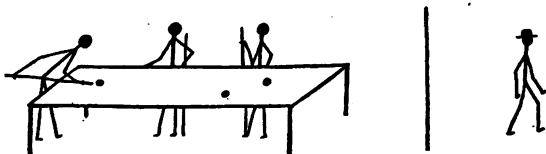
3. Of the 883 schedules returned, only 8 had to be discarded because of flippant or frivolous replies. This fact is high testimony to the attitude of the High School youth toward a problem that vitally concerns him and to his willingness to co-operate in a movement for improving conditions.

The High School study was undertaken to find out five things: I. The number of High School boys who know how to play pool. II. The age at learning to play pool. III. The place of learning. IV. Violation of law known to the boys in regard to gambling and the age limit. V. The boys' own suggestions for improving conditions.

I. Number of High School Boys Playing Pool.

The first question in the schedule was "What percentage of High School boys do you estimate play pool?" The answers varied from 10% to 100%; the single percentage most often given was 75%. It is interesting to note the psychological fact that the percentage given by boys who know how to play was in general far higher than that of those who do not know how to play. The answers to the second question, "Do you know how to play pool?" made possible an exact enumeration. Of the 875 boys in the senior, junior and sophomore classes in our High Schools, 645 state that they know how to play pool; 230 say that they do not know how to play pool. Practically three out of every four boys admit knowledge of the game.

OF EVERY 4 HIGH SCHOOL BOYS



3 KNOW HOW TO PLAY POOL

What is the significance of the fact that three out of every four High School boys know how to play pool? It means that pool has a tremendous hold upon the young man in his teens. A closer study of the returns will show the relative degree of the power of the game over the High School youth.

A study of the answers from the standpoint of present age shows that the percentage of boys knowing how to play pool increases with age. The following

table gives numbers and percentages of boys knowing and not knowing how to play pool classified by age:

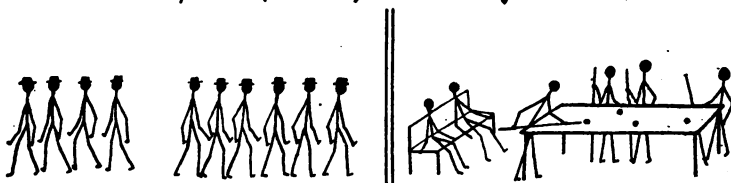
Age	No. at each age	Number knowing how to play	Number not knowing how to play	Per cent knowing how to play	Per cent not knowing how to play
13	7	4	3	57.1	42.9
14	48	29	19	60.4	39.6
15	130	77	53	59.2	40.8
16	163	109	54	66.9	33.1
17	192	140	52	72.9	27.1
18	181	159	22	87.8	12.2
19	85	71	14	83.5	16.5
20	11	11	0	100.0	0.0
Not recorded....	58	45	13	77.6	22.4
	875	645	230	73.7	26.3

Over one-half of the boys 13 years old included in the study know how to play pool; all the boys of 20 state that they are familiar with the game. Nothing could be more eloquent of the pull of pool than these cold, hard figures. But these statistics do not inform us in regard to the proportion of boys who are regular patrons of public pool rooms.

From the answers to the seventh question: "Check afternoon and evening of the days of last week that you were in a pool room; check twice if you played pool," it was possible to ascertain the number of High School boys entering pool rooms and the number playing pool. Of the 875 boys writing statements, 645, or 75%, of the boys as we saw know how to play pool; 318, or nearly three-eighths of the number, were in pool rooms during the week, and 232, or something over one-fourth of all the High School boys, played in public pool rooms. The High School boy* (D441) who said "75% of the boys play, 25% have the fever," made a remarkably close estimate.

A Week's Pool Room Record

Of every 16 high school boys



4 6 6
 Don't know Play but were not Went inside a pool room,
 how to play inside a pool room 2 to loaf and 4 to play

The following table indicates the numbers and percentages on basis of total number of boys in the study, of the boys knowing how to play pool, of those entering pool rooms, and of those playing pool there during the week of the study, classified according to whether the boy is under 18 years of age or 18 years of age and older:

Age	Total No.	No. know how to play	No. enter	No. play	Per cent know how to play	Per cent enter	Per cent play
All boys	875	645	318	232	73.7	36.4	26.5
Boys 18 years and over...	277	241	157	111	87.0	56.7	40.1
Boys under 18 years.....	540	359	135	102	66.5	24.8	18.9

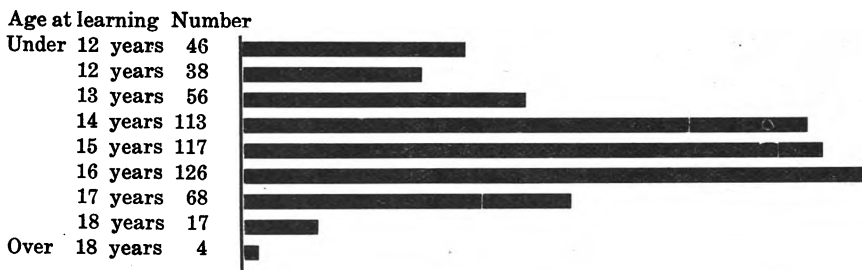
*See note page 6.

It is apparent that double the proportion of older boys frequent the pool rooms and play there than of the younger boys. Pool room going and pool room playing is not transitory in its attraction. These statistics justify us in stating that 7 out of 8 High School boys 18 years and over know how to play pool and that over half of the High School boys over 18 years of age are regular frequenters of pool rooms.

II. Age at Learning.

More important than ascertaining the proportion of boys playing pool is the question of the age at learning. When does "the fever" for playing pool seize the boy? After what age is he relatively immune from it? These two questions are important alike to those who approve and to those who condemn pool-playing as recreation.

The following chart indicates the number of boys learning to play pool at different ages according to the statements of 555 boys:



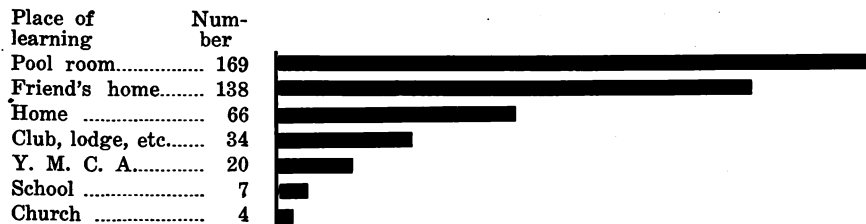
A study of the chart shows that 14, 15, 16 are the ages when the "craze for pool" is strongest. Over five-sixths of the boys who now know how to play pool learned before they were 17. Later we will seek to answer the question: Wherein lies the attraction of pool-playing to the boy of 14, 15 and 16? Is it the natural depravity or perversity of the boy? Is it the diabolical spell of the game? Of does the explanation lie in its intrinsic recreational value?

We turn now to answer our third question: Where does the boy learn to play pool?

III. Where Does the Boy Learn to Play Pool?

The answers to the question: "Where did you learn to play pool?" are for all the High School boys except those in North High. This question was added to the questionnaires after the experimental try-out.

The following chart shows graphically the number of High School boys who learned to play at the different places:



A number of facts stand out in an analysis of this chart.

1. While the public pool room is the place of learning of the largest single group, the large majority learned outside of pool rooms.
2. The fact that one-seventh of the boys learned at home shows that Columbus homes are beginning to welcome pool.
3. The small number learning in school or church and Y. M. C. A. shows that these institutions have made little or no provision for this recreation.

IV. Law Enforcement in Pool Rooms.

The testimony of the High School boys on the non-observance of the age-limit and the violation of laws against gambling is valuable because of their intimate knowledge of pool room conditions.

Since the state law forbids the manager of a pool room to permit a minor under 18 years of age to play on pool tables or even to remain in the pool room, the following inquiries were presented to the High School boys: "Question No. 9: Has the proprietor ever asked you your age? Question No. 10: How many times have you been asked to leave a pool room on account of your age?"

Of 538 boys answering the first question only 199 state that the proprietor has ever asked their age as against 339 who state that their age has never been asked. Of 525 boys giving affirmative or negative answers to the second question only 95 confess to having been asked to leave the pool room, while 430 state that the request was never made to them. One boy says that although he was asked to leave that he stayed just the same. Another boy of 18 (B503), in demanding that the law be enforced in regard to the age-limit, states: "The proprietor never inquires of the boys concerning their age, because he wants their nickels."

Only one conclusion can be drawn: The state law prescribing an age-limit is a dead letter in Columbus, "scrap of paper laws," a young High School lad contemptuously calls them in pleading for their enforcement.

What light does the experience of the boys throw on the questions: "Number 11. Have you seen playing for money or treats in a pool room? Number 12. Have you played for money? Have you played for treats? Note: Do not count the custom of the loser paying for the game as treating."

Of 537 boys making statements in regard to personal observation, 309 admit having seen playing for money, while 228 deny all first-hand knowledge of gambling in pool rooms. It should be noted here that those observing gambling are from those who are frequent patrons of the pool hall.

Of 576 High School boys making statements in regard to playing for money, 128 admit and 448 deny participation in gambling. Of 561 boys answering the inquiry in regard to playing for treats, 157 confess that they have indulged in the practice to 404 who state that they have not.

The answers to these inquiries show that of the High School lads reporting, nearly 63% state that they have observed playing for money in pool rooms, 22% admit that they have played for money and 28% state that they have played for treats. Not only is gambling prevalent in the pool rooms according to the returns from the High Schools, but a considerable portion of the boys admit that they have been drawn into the practice.

V. Recommendations Made by High School Boys.

The object of the questionnaire sent to the High Schools of Columbus was not only to find what were the conditions in the pool room, but to ascertain from the boys what suggestions they might have for improvement. Consequently, Question Number 13 was added to the schedule, reading: "What do you think could be done to make pool rooms better places for boys?"

The answers to this inquiry constitute the most valuable part of the study. The replies contain the live, warm attitude of the boys to a problem that vitally concerns them.

A study of their answers brings out the following facts:

1. The number of flippant answers to this question was extremely small, not 1 in 50.

2. A very small number of the boys regard pool and billiards as harmful. A young man of 19 (C257), who does not know how to play pool, writes: "They are immoral places of crime, and their only product is ruined, degraded, low-minded men. Why not destroy that which destroys the best of unrestrained American boys?" Another lad of 17 (E367), who also does not know how to play pool, states: "I think the only way to make pool rooms better places is to do away with them altogether. This form of amusement leads a large percent straight to destruction and everlasting punishment." He adds, in parenthesis: "I am not a

preacher's son, either." A 17-year-old boy (D436), who also does not know how to play, writes forcibly: "Kick the pool rooms out of town." The same idea is put more picturesquely by another lad 15 years old (A42), who likewise does not know how to play: "The proprietor should lock his doors from the outside and throw the key away." One fact stands out, that none of these four boys so bitterly opposed to pool playing know how to play pool, that two have never been inside of a pool room, and that of the other two, one has been in only one pool room and the other in only two pool halls. This attitude of uncompromising hostility to pool playing is found not at all among those playing pool and in only a small percentage of the replies of those not playing pool.

3. The third fact gained from the study is that the number of those who regard pool halls as places needing no improvement is as small as those who would abolish pool playing altogether. One reply will indicate this unusual attitude. A young man 18 years old (D401), who played pool every afternoon and evening of the week covered in the study, states that no changes are necessary. "The billiard rooms of Columbus," he writes, "are excellent and need no reforming."

A few of the boys, while apparently aware of room for improvement, are doubtful in regard to the feasibility of suggestions for making pool rooms better places for boys. Several, like one 15-year-old boy (C47), who knows how to play pool, reply laconically: "It can't be done." Another lad, 17 years of age (A115), has worked out a complete *laissez faire* policy of his own. "Nothing can be done, for you cannot alter the motives and principles which are found in the average individual."

4. By far the great majority of boys, while convinced that pool playing is a good game in itself, offer incisive criticism of existing conditions and fine constructive suggestions for improvement. We will present first a few of the most intelligent criticisms and then consider a number of the suggested remedies.

A boy of 16 years (C72), who plays pool, emphasizes the influence of the physical surroundings in relation to the evils associated with pool halls. "Never have saloons or tobacco stands in connection with, or next to, pool rooms. Always have them where everybody passing by can see in; not in basement or second floor."

A young man 17 years of age (E290), who learned to play pool in a pool room two years ago, writes from his own observation: "Don't allow the 'bucket gang' around the pool room. Don't allow the saloonkeeper across the street to come in and get acquainted with the gang." Does not his statement make clear the way in which the boy graduates from the pool room into the saloon?

A young man of 19 years (A198), who does not know how to play pool, writes that "it would be all right to play two or three games in a pool room with the right kind of a boy and then go." He adds, "but do not make a home out of the place." He recognizes that the evils connected with the pool room are more in loafing than in playing.

A 19-year-old High School student (A199), who does not play pool, writes as follows: "I think a pool room will be a fit place for anyone when they stop charging for the tables. The boys have to pay for the use of the table and so gamble to get part of the money back."

A young man of 21 years old (D441), who does not play pool, but who has been in a large number of pool halls, writes: "The atmosphere in most of the rooms would spoil any man's character. The proprietors will admit this, that is, if they have any self-respect."

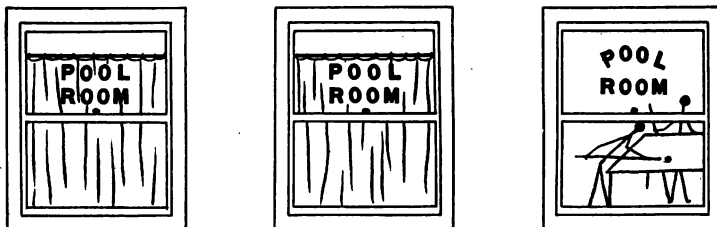
A young man 18 years old (D178), who plays pool, writes: "If they did not allow vulgar or smutty stories nor allow profane language in pool rooms, I think it would be all right for boys to go into and play."

Another 19-year-old young man (C191), who knows how to play pool, has gone much further beneath the surface than most of his friends: "I think," he says, "the trouble with pool rooms is the fault of the proprietor. They are not at all strict, and some even encourage wrongdoing. Pool rooms are O. K. when the 'prop.' is O. K."

There is not space to give, in the boys' own language, their constructive suggestions. The remedies proposed are, for the most part, intelligent and worth considering. A few follow, given in the words of the boys:

Age 18, plays pool (C162): "Have pool room some distance from the school."
 Age 16, plays pool (C51): "Take down the screens in the windows and doors."

TAKE DOWN THE BLINDS



ONLY 1 OUT OF 3 POOL HALLS HAS UNOBSTRUCTED VIEW

Age not given, plays pool (D426): "Make the pool rooms resemble up-to-date club rooms. Expel anyone using profane language, and in all other ways make it a fit place of recreation for real gentlemen."

Age 19, plays pool (C206): "Cut out the gambling. Though there is a law against gambling, it is going on in nearly every pool room."

Age 13, plays pool (D1): "Stop shooting craps for money or for merchandise. Stop bets between spectators. Have plain clothes men visit oftener and eject a few roughnecks and bums. Stop use of profane language. Make all boys leave at 10:00, not later than 10:30."

Age 19, plays pool (D416): "Rid pool rooms of the fellows who loaf about them all the time to get other fellows' money."

Age 17, plays pool (E276): "Have parent certify willingness to have his boy play."

Age 16, plays pool, but not in pool room (B459): "For my opinion, I think that the pool rooms at present are all right, if the laws regarding pool rooms were enforced as to not allowing boys under 18 years in the pool rooms nor allow the boys to play for money. Some might say, how can you be assured of the boy's age? If the proprietor questions the boy's age, let him have the boy sign his name regarding his age."

Eighteen, does not play pool (B563): "I would suggest a proprietor who is a good moral or religious man. The average pool room proprietor is a rowdy who does not care about the actions of his patrons."

Seventeen, plays pool (B495): "I think pool rooms would be better for boys if run by a recreation department or by a man working for the good of the boys, not to make money."

Sixteen, plays pool (A68): "Have either a bigger Y. M. C. A. or have another one. And have a larger pool room and more tables in the Y. M. C. A."

Nineteen, plays pool (A196): "Place the proprietorship of the pool rooms in the hands of a lady and bar admission to curbstoners, alley guys and scrums."

Sixteen, plays pool (C58): "By changing not only the name but also the environments to those of a 'billiard parlor.'"

Two (C260) and (A147) suggest that in these ideal places both sexes be admitted.

Seventeen, plays pool (E24): "I think pool room owners should be licensed as the saloonkeepers are and be compelled to live up to the regulations of the city or lose their license. The regulations, however, should be much stricter than saloons, as they are patronized by a younger class of people."

Only two of the hundred answers suggesting that pool tables be introduced in schools can be given.

Nineteen, plays pool (C198): "The only way of bettering conditions, in my notion, is by putting up a municipal pool room in this end of town as tried by the principal of Clinton—a man with a keen insight."

Age 17, does not play pool (C250): "I think Mr. Castle, of Clinton High School, has the best and, in fact, the only way."

Anyone reading the answers could not but come to the conclusion that if the introduction of pool tables in High Schools were left to the vote of High School boys it would carry by an overwhelming majority.

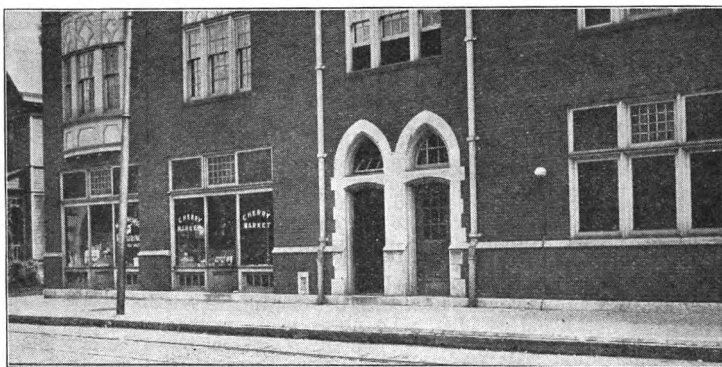
Before concluding this study of the High School and the pool playing, we must attempt to answer the three central questions in the problem: "Why do boys learn to play pool?" "What do they find attractive in pool?" "Has pool playing any value?"

1. The first question is, "Why do three out of every four Columbus High School boys learn to play pool, and why does the one not learn?" The conduct of the three is to be explained, I think, very largely by imitation. The older fellows, 9 out of 10, play pool, and the younger lads follow their example. The first step is taken when the boy first enters the room to watch a game. The next step, that of learning to play, is not long delayed. Then, too, the very fact that pool playing is somewhat under a ban adds often to the desire of the boy to learn. Two of the papers give a good statement of the psychology of this attitude (C83): "Many boys frequent pool rooms because they think they are doing something big. If the prejudice which many narrow people hold against pool rooms was removed, this idea would leave and pool rooms would become places of innocent recreation." Another boy, 18 years old (C148), who plays pool, writes: "Have the law read that anyone can go into a pool room. Then there will not be so much trouble. It is always the things that are against the law that the boy wants to do." The fact that one out of four High School fellows does not learn to play pool is most largely due to parental influence, though often in part by lack of interest in the game.

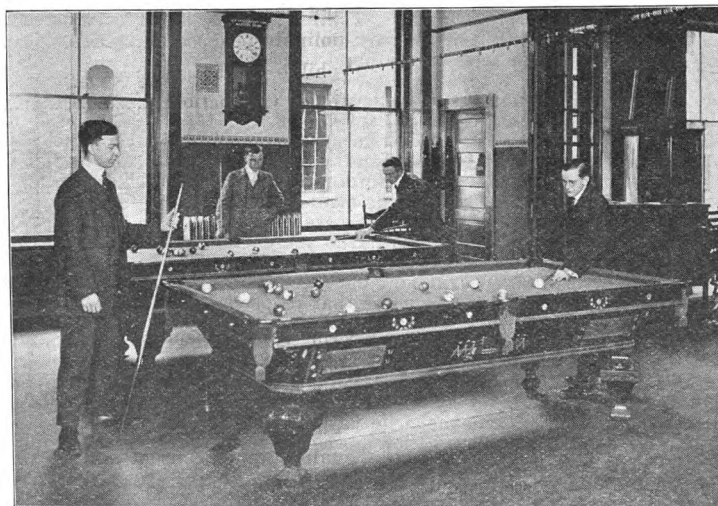
The second question in regard to the attraction of pool for the boy is more difficult to answer. The fact that it exists is self-evident. A boy 15 years old (C32) writes: "I never played for money, but I can say that pool is a fine game." Another, age 19 (C188), states: "I think that pool and billiards are fine, healthy games." A boy of 16 (C71) writes: "I think pool is a perfect recreation and cannot be bettered." An 18-year-old boy points out: "Pool is a good scientific game and helps the mind as well as the hand to be accurate."

This last statement contains, I believe, the secret of the explanation of the fascination of pool and billiard playing for the boy of 14, 15, 16 and 17, the ages when most boys learn to play pool. Fourteen years is recognized by anthropologists to be the year of greatest body growth for the boy, after which the rate of increase rapidly decreases from year to year. Before fourteen we would, therefore, expect a game requiring the cruder motor adjustments and the use of the larger muscles to be the most popular game with boys. So we find everywhere that the small boy takes to baseball. After 14 years, with the increasing rate of body growth, we come to the physiological period favorable to the development of the finer co-ordinations of hand and eye, what Thorndike calls the "finer adjustments in motor skill." Now, this to the point: There is no game that involves such delicate, precise, accurate co-ordinations of hand and eye as billiards. Billiards is a game of skill, to quote an editorial in *The Independent*, "where success depends upon absolute control of hand and brain, extreme delicacy of touch, and accurate measurement of all gradations of force." No wonder that the boy emerging from the stage of crude motor movements is fascinated by a game where success requires the finest and most delicate motor skill. In boyhood he has reduced his larger muscles to control and now he desires to bring his smaller muscles into obedience to his will.

There remains only the answer to the third question: "What is the value of billiards?" This question is half answered by the answer to the second. No other game, no other activity affords like opportunity to achieve such perfect control of the human machinery. The mother who wonders at the awkwardness of her 17-year-old son, and at the same time holds him to a promise not to learn to play pool, does not put two and two together. More than one boy asked for the introduction of pool tables into schools so that the students might have instruction in using the cue. The full value of pool will never be realized until the game is run for recreation and not for profit.



Pool Room at Wilson and Oak Commended by Two High School Boys



Pool Playing under Good Influences at Y. M. C. A.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Suggested by 875 High School Boys.

Number of Times Suggested		Number of Times Suggested	
Prohibit profanity.....	138	Eliminate students.....	6
Prohibit betting on game.....	113	Enforce rules.....	6
Prohibit gambling.....	104	Pay by the hour.....	6
Schools (substitute).....	95	Remove prejudice.....	6
Prohibit smoking and chewing.....	91	Hold proprietor responsible for boys	5
Prohibit playing for treats.....	63	Run them for pleasure and recrea-	
Separate from saloons.....	61	tion only.....	5
Observe age limit.....	51	Reduce the rates.....	5
Eliminate pool rooms.....	35	More pool rooms.....	5
Eliminate undesirables.....	32	Limit number of games or hours of	
Prohibit drinking.....	28	play	4
Prohibit sale of tobacco.....	27	Reduce age limit.....	3
Prohibit loafing.....	27	Change name to "Billiard Parlor"....	3
Home and private clubs (substitute)	27	Addition of music.....	3
Separate for boys.....	26	Reading room, writing desk, loung-	
Prohibit loser paying for game.....	25	ing chairs, fountains.....	3
Better sanitation.....	21	Eliminate pea pool.....	2
Competent and careful supervision....	20	Prohibit checks.....	2
Municipal recreation halls.....	19	Provide instruction.....	2
Better location and environment.....	19	Open to both sexes.....	2
Prohibit dice.....	18	No age limit.....	2
Remove obstructions.....	18	Advertise right.....	2
Efficient and respectable manage-		Distant from school.....	2
ment	18	Serve light refreshments, candy, soft	
Close earlier.....	15	drinks	2
Provide free games.....	14	Control by state.....	1
Y. M. C. A. (substitute).....	12	Form "Pool Association".....	1
Stricter regulations.....	11	Pay by membership fee.....	1
Church (substitute).....	9	License	1
Close Sunday.....	9	Higher tax.....	1
Prohibit vulgarity, vile talk, obscene		Obtain parents' consent.....	1
pictures	9	Fine proprietor for breaking rules....	1
Inspection, municipal, police, etc.....	8	Don't trust boys who are "broke".....	1
Better service and facilities.....	8	Hours for boys only.....	1
Prohibit sale of soft drinks.....	7	Take out of barber shop.....	1
Prohibit cards.....	6	Play fair.....	1
Raise age limit (19-21).....	6	Have lady proprietor.....	1
Studies, like this.....	1		

C. POOL AND BILLIARDS REGULATIONS IN AMERICAN CITIES.

On April 22, 1916, an inquiry was sent out to the city clerks of the 52 largest American cities in regard to the provisions of ordinances regulating public billiard or pool rooms. Forty city clerks sent either the present ordinance or filled out the questionnaire inclosed.

Of the 40 cities replying, 34 have an ordinance, 6 are without an ordinance. Columbus is one of these six cities. In several cases, however, the ordinances have no provisions regulating public billiard or pool rooms beyond providing a license fee or prescribing hours of closing.

Provisions relating to age-limit, location, hours of closing and Sunday closing, prohibition of other games, are of interest to Columbus in framing an ordinance.

Age Limit. In 3 cities minors under 16 years, in 13 cities minors under 18 years, and in 13 cities minors under 21 years are forbidden to remain in public billiard or pool rooms or to play billiards or pool.

Location. In 13 cities, billiard and pool tables are permitted in barrooms. 9 cities report that billiard and pool tables are not allowed in barrooms. In 3 other cities there are no saloons. In 15 cities, billiard and pool tables are allowed in rooms directly connected by door with barroom. In 6 cities, billiard and pool tables are prohibited in this type of location. Three other cities, we must remember, have no saloons. In Seattle the Police Department do not allow a billiard or pool table near any school.

Obstruction of Open View. 3 cities prohibit and 22 allow the obstruction of the open view from the street. Cities are only beginning to realize the importance of publicity in securing community supervision.

Hours of Closing and Sunday Closing. The following table shows number of cities prescribing the various hours of closing:

Hour of closing	No. of cities
11:00	1
11:30	2
12:00	11
12:30	2
1:00	9
None	2
Not given	13
	40

Sunday-closing of public billiard and pool halls prevails in 13 cities as against 10 cities where they are open on Sunday.

Prohibition of Other Games. 9 cities report no prohibition of other games in pool rooms, 10 report such prohibition, while 2 others place the ban on games played for money. Of course, all cities have general ordinances against gambling.

Other Provisions. The license fee for public billiard and pool rooms varies from the registration fee of 50 cents a table in New Haven to \$80 a table in Birmingham.

Chicago made provision for the examination of the moral status of the applicant for a license as well as of the moral status of the proposed location by its efficient Moral Commission before the issue of a license.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Your committee on program and surveys makes the following recommendations:

1. That the Central Philanthropic Council support the passage of an ordinance providing for the licensing of the public billiard and pool rooms within the city limits of Columbus, with the penalty of revocation for the violation of the provisions of the license. That the following provisions be suggested for the consideration of the Mayor and the City Council.
 - (a) That the license be issued only after investigation by the City Superintendent of Public Welfare of the moral status of the applicant and of the moral and sanitary conditions surrounding the proposed location.
 - (b) That no pool tables be allowed in barrooms or in rooms connected by door with saloon.
 - (c) That blinds, curtains, partitions or other obstruction of the open view from the street be prohibited.
 - (d) That the age limit be 18 years.
 - (e) That no games of chance be allowed in billiard and pool rooms.
 - (f) That provisions against gambling and profanity be incorporated in the ordinance.
 - (g) That the Superintendent of Public Welfare have direction of the inspection of the public billiard and pool rooms, and that a license fee be fixed, all or a part of which shall go to the enforcement of the provisions of this ordinance.
2. That the advisory committee on publicity and action of the survey committee be authorized to give publicity to the survey study and promote action in accordance with this resolution.
3. That the executive committee be authorized to investigate the cost of printing this report, with power to act.

These resolutions were adopted by the Central Philanthropic Council at a special meeting, May 29, 1916.

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