

MISS GAST'S CYCLE RIDING.

Record-Breaking Performance Over a Course on a Long Island Roadway.

Marguerite Gast, the young German woman who for the past twelve days has been riding a bicycle 200 miles a day over the Long Island roads in the vicinity of Valley Stream, finished her twenty-fifth century (100 miles) at 11:15 yesterday morning, and immediately announced her intention of riding another thousand miles before she would stop. After a short interval of rest she again mounted her wheel, and at 7:30 had completed her twenty-sixth-hundredth mile. She will probably finish the 3,000 miles to-morrow evening, and then will probably decide to make it 4,000. It is said that her real intention is to ride at least 4,500 miles in order to beat the record of 4,500 miles in thirty days, made by Mrs. Emma Bayne last July, and then, if she is still in condition, to continue to 5,000 miles, where she may be induced to stop.

At present Miss Gast is riding her 200 miles a day with great ease and regularity, and as far as present appearances go seems able to keep it up indefinitely. She rides sixteen hours a day, and sleeps or rests during the other eight. She is not only losing no flesh, but on the contrary, thanks probably to the regularity of her exercise, diet, &c., is actually gaining slightly in weight.

While the harrowing tales of a hysterical woman in a state of physical collapse being goaded to superhuman efforts by a merciless trainer are greatly exaggerated, it is a fact that the dwellers along the twenty-five-mile stretch of road which the young woman, preceded by a number of more or less noisy pacemakers, traverses eight times a day, are practically unanimous in their denunciation of the spectacle, and especially of the effect which they consider is produced upon the minds of the children who witness it. A movement to prevent such exhibitions in future by prohibiting fast riding is now under way in several of the villages along the course.

As regards the matter of record-breaking, it may be said that few persons have troubled to establish any such records in the past. A year ago "Will" Brown, who is training Miss Gast, and is said to be engaged to marry her, rode 2,000 miles in 225 hours and 6 minutes, which stood as the record until last Monday, when Miss Gast made the same distance in 222:05:30. She also broke Brown's record of 162:24 for 1,500 miles by making it 162:00. Beyond 2,000 miles any figures she makes are records, and will be accepted as such by the Century Road Club of America, which has jurisdiction over road riding in this country.

A comparison of these road records with the indoor record made at the six days' cycle races shows a great discrepancy in favor of the indoor racers. In the last six days' races held at the Madison Square Garden in December, 1898, Charles Miller, the winner, rode 2,000 miles in 140 hours, as against Brown's 225 hours 6 minutes, and Miss Gast's 222 hours 5 minutes 30 seconds.