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THE CRESTA RUN

For so long a time has the Cresta Run been one with St. Moritz, that few people can remember a time when it did not exist. Nearly fifty years ago a committee of five men started toboggan races on an ice track from St. Moritz down the gully to Cresta Village, and the development of the run, and the introduction of the skeleton are due chiefly to Major Bulpett and Col. Thomas Badrutt.

In 1901 A. T. Bott, who won the classic race of



Phot. Niedocken



that year, introduced the sliding seat on the skeletons, which has now been universally adopted by all runners.

In the early days of the great race the times for the course were about 2 minutes and when it is pointed out that this has now been reduced to 58 seconds (J. R. Heaton 10th February 1929), the results of the improvements in the building of the track and in everything connected with it are very apparent.

After the war the run was not opened from the top until 1920/21. Since then it has been open every season from February onwards and from the Junction and Stream Corner at a much earlier date.

During the last fifty years the list of challenge cups to be raced for, has grown enormously and the fact that ladies have raced and do race with excellent times rather contradicts the common idea that this sport is amongst the most dangerous. It certainly calls for skill and courage, but for the practised competitor there is no more danger than there is in most other sports.

Probably the most dangerous, and certainly the most painful, run in the history of the Cresta was that made by the lady spectator, who inadvertently slipped, sat on the ice Track, and made a record time till rescued. Needless to say, this is *not* recorded in the annals of the Cresta Run!

W. Amstutz.

Phot. A. Steiner

The Cresta Run at St. Moritz