

A. A. A. CHAMPIONSHIPS.

7

Gordon Pirie the 22 year old bank-clerk from Coulsdon in Surrey proved himself undoubtedly the greatest middle distance runner of ^{TO DAY} ~~all-time~~ when, with a heavy cold on him, he streaked away from the rest of his challengers to beat the world's record for the six miles at the White City, clocking 28 minutes 19.4 seconds.

31

Next day the three A's Championship had still fifteen titles to be decided and interest centred mainly in the mile, and in particular Nankeville's pace-making for Roger Bannister. Everyone was hoping that the miracle of the four minute mile might yet be his, but it was not to be. All the same it was a tremendous race and Bannister did the trip in 4 minutes 5.2 seconds, just two seconds over his own previous best, which remains a British all-comers and national record.

69

Thirty-two year old McDonald Bailey nearly stole the show with a superb hundred yards, his seventh in these Championships at 9.8 seconds.

82

And in the three miles once again Gordon Pirie repeated his winning performance of the previous day in the six miles, by making it a double event. He fought off a fine challenge by Freddie Green of the Midlands to get home first in 13 minutes 43.4 seconds, eleven seconds outside another world record.

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Harry Whittle, another comparative veteran at 31, romped home a winner in his fastest ever 440 yards hurdles ; though two flights out he had looked beaten, strength and courage got him home a yard ahead of his nearest challenger in 52.7 seconds, an English native record.