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NEWS IN THE SWIM.

Swimmers from Egypt are among the 17 entrants from all over the world, who will soon be competing in a cross-Channel swim. Down at Folkestone, they and their rivals are getting ready, for the big day, practising in a huge pool near the front. Britain, France, Denmark, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Argentine, Mexico, Malta, American, Lebanon and Syria are all represented. This is Beltram, a Mexican.

American Bob Payson, on the left, Lebanese Toufic Bleik, and Beltram obey trainer Sam Roche it's order to go "jump in the pool". On the day, they'll make the crossing from Cap Gris Nez and will probably finish somewhere near Dover. During their training they brush up on the art of dining from a swimming buffet. Payson and Bleik, have made the swim before. Another Lebanese, Nicholas Sabril, intends to use the back-stroke all the way. If the swim sounds too much like hard work, well the prizes are worth the effort. A cheque for £500 and a silver cup worth 1,000 guineas will go to the winner.

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