

IN THE WORLD OF YACHTING



WILLIAM S. COX

*I*n any ranking of the topnotch racing skippers today the names of many of the younger sailors who only a few years ago were in the junior class are sure to be found. Which is a tribute not only to their skill but to the training they got at an early age through the keen competition they had to face in Sears Cup and other junior title events. It was in this school that William S. (Bill) Cox, who now sails on the Western Long Island Sound circuit, got the experience that has brought him a ranking among the best on the Atlantic seaboard.

Bill Cox is a product of the Vineyard Haven school of yachting. At the age of ten he was sailing his first boat, the "Osprey," off West Chop, in the Dog Boat Class, and it is claimed that he won the first race that he ever sailed in her. Five years later he graduated into the Baby Knockabout Class, sailing his "Speedy Q." By 1930, when he was seventeen years old, he was skippering one of the Vineyard Sound Interclubs and that year he was captain of the Vineyard Haven Y. C. crew that won the Sears Cup in the Junior Championship. During the following four years, after graduating from the ranks of the juniors, he helped to develop the younger sailors of the club, two of whom, Frank Jewett and Jack Ware, kept the Sears Cup at Vineyard Haven from 1933 to 1936.

In the meantime, "Bill" Cox went to college and in 1935 he was commodore of the Princeton Yacht Club and also headed the Intercollegiate Yacht Racing Association. That year he was captain of the winning Princeton crew in the Intercollegiates. In 1936 he sailed the Interclub Class sloop "Canvasback" for Robert McC. Shields and this past summer he was at the stick of one of the new International Class bearing the same name, and was runner-up to "Corny" Shields for the championship of that one-design class.

Altogether quite a comprehensive training for one only twenty-five years of age.