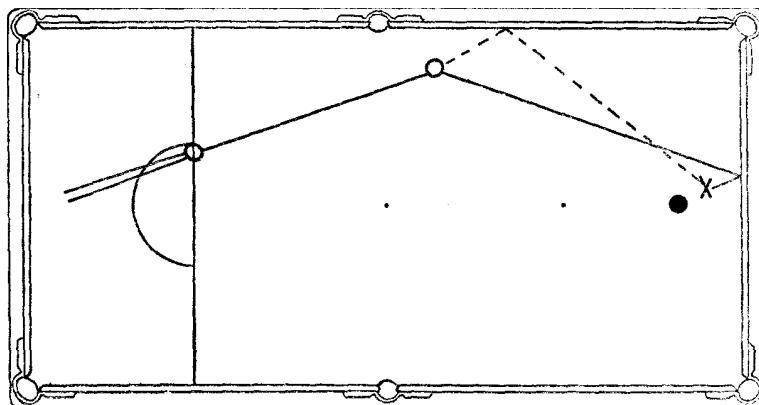


My next diagram shows another cannon which often catches the useful amateur unawares. Diagram 75 shows what happens. The red is on the billiard spot, the white is eight and a half inches from the left side cushion and eleven and a half inches from the centre of the middle pocket. The cue-ball is in hand, and it looks as if you can place your ball with every confidence to play a plain-ball, natural-angle cannon off the top cushion, which is just what many amateurs do. Then, very frequently, they get a kiss at the point marked by a cross in my diagram, and the "hard lines" is intensified because the cue-ball was "making straight for the red". Really, however, there is no bad luck about it, as the kiss is almost a certainty if the stroke is handled in this *wrong* manner.

DIAGRAM 75



The *right* way to do it is shown in Diagram 76. You should place the cue-ball five and a half inches from the left-spot of the "D" and play a shade finer on the white, with a lot of right-hand side on the cue-ball--then the kiss cannot possibly happen, and if you play at nice strength, good position is assured. This shot, with its obvious variations, is in constant request—I grade it as a match-winner of no small value, and advise you to practise it until it is so familiar to you that you would never dream of playing the plain-ball cannon and risking the almost inevitable kiss.

DIAGRAM 76

