

AUSTRALIA. Second Innings.

W. Bardsley, c Lilly, b Reif	0
P. A. McAlister, not out	19
A. E. Gregory, not out	18
Sundries	4

Total for one wicket 41
 Bowling Analysis: Reif one for 9, Hirst none for 28.

The Australians have put up a great performance in winning the second test by so substantial a margin. Their victory was due to sheer merit, and has effectually dissipated the fear engendered by their showing in the first test that they were outclassed by the Englishmen. All through the Australians have shown to advantage, their bowling was good, their fielding, although a couple of chances were missed, was described as brilliant, and their rate of scoring at the wickets was much ahead of that of the home side. When the bare scores were first cabled through, one naturally thought that the wicket must have been sodden and in favour of the bowlers, but the detailed account showed that it was all the other way, and the dismissal of so strong a batting side on a plumb wicket for 121 runs is a remarkable performance, for which the main credit must be taken by Armstrong, who has proved of immense service to his side all through the tour.

The third test commences on July 1 at Leeds, while the fourth will be played at the end of the month, and the fifth on August 5. The last will be played to a final should the teams have an equal number of wins.

The Australians have now played twelve matches, winning five, losing three, and drawing four.

West of Scotland Beaten.

West of Scotland, in the second innings against the Australians, made 144 runs, and the Australians won the match by an innings and 188 runs.

The weather was fine and the attendance numbered 6000.

The Effect of Visiting Teams on English Cricket.

(By H. D. G. LEVESON-GOWER, of Surrey.)

To express one's view on the above subject is not altogether an easy task, rendered none the less easy for me personally from the fact that I have never had the advantage of a visit to Australia, so I am unable to say anything on that score: I can only form an opinion from what has appeared to me to be the effect of foreign cricket tours to this country on cricket in England. To my way of thinking, there is no doubt at all in the imperial value of these tours. I am sometimes afraid that we in England are rather inclined to be too insular, too narrow minded in our outlook, and with all our much vaunted love of good sport and fair play we are not, taking one huge cricket crowd with another, always ready to allow that England or English sides have had luck, whilst we are not slow to notice if a shower of rain or perhaps an obvious mistake in umpiring has advanced the cause of the visiting team.

Classiness and Pride.

of one's country or country, which are much the same thing, are excellent in their way, but they can be carried too far when allowed in cricket, or other games, to overrule one's sense of fair play, or to usurp the place which by right ought to be occupied in the mind of every Briton by a strict feeling of impartiality. During visits of foreign teams we find that however good we may previously have thought ourselves there are others just as good if not better. Once one has recognised that fact a good thing has been accomplished. For it is very true that we do not sufficiently recognise that we who have for so long led the whole world in sport and in games cannot hope to do so for ever. Other and younger nations, as far as sport is concerned, must of necessity improve, and we have as time goes on to fight accomplished performers, and not novices. That we are often beaten does not mean either that we are one whit worse players than we were, or that the visitors have had all the luck, but it means that the others have profited by the lessons we gave them in past years. I do not think all the writers on games in the columns of our sporting papers quite realise this. These tours help to broaden our views, and that most certainly assists the game generally by inducing a more generous

spirit of appreciation of the deeds of the visiting team, whether it be from Australia, South Africa, or America, or whether it be that of a neighbouring county. Generous and healthy rivalry is one thing, that engendered by the horrible atmosphere which surrounds a crowd of that kind, is quite another thing. Better and finer cricket, or football for the matter of that, is played when the rivalry is a healthy and a sporting one. The reverse is the case when there is the slightest semblance of acrimony both in the Press and among the cricket following public, and my view of foreign tours in this country is that they tend to reduce that sort of thing to vanishing point, and by doing so do the game generally ever so much good.

Lessons We Have Learnt.

Now, as to the good done to the game itself cricketers have no doubt whatever upon this score. Both the Australians and the South Africans have taught us something. Placed under separate heads I may enumerate the various teachings of the two cricket powers as follows. The Australians of course come first, just as they came first to our shores, but I am not sure that the South Africans have not taught us the best thing of all. That, by the way. Here are the things these foreign tours have taught. (1) The Australians showed us the value of fast break-bowling. (2) Of how to place the field. (3) Of doing away with the longstop, thereby having another fieldsmen to place elsewhere. (4) The South Africans showed us the real efficacy of good "googlie" bowling, which before we had only half suspected, and had regarded only as freak bowling, a passing fancy which would retire from the game with its inventor.

Dealing with these seriatim—there is no possible doubt that until the appearance of Spofforth we in this country had not realised how much deadlier good fast break-bowling is than slow break-bowling. The late Alfred Shaw, the emperor of slow medium right hand bowlers, as an admirer not inaptly had termed him, was good enough in all conscience, but for sheer deadliness his slow break-bowling was not to be compared with that of the faster Spofforth, of C. T. B. Turner, and later W. Lockwood and T. Richardson. Naturally the physical wear and tear being ever so much less, the slower bowlers had longer careers than the fast, but given both at their very best for a given week there is no question but that the fast break-bowler who was practically unknown to us until Spofforth's arrival (though he was never a fast bowler like N. A. Knox, W. Breamley, Lockwood or Richardson) would always beat the slow against good batsmen.

Scattering the Field.

Secondly, we had a fair idea of how to place our field before the Australians began to win test matches, but they undoubtedly showed us many wrinkles in the art of placing men where most likely to be useful. It is said that in the back-blocks of Australia the usual word of command of the fielding captain on arriving at the pitch is: "Now, then, boys, scatter." But, believe me, that is not the way W. L. Murdoch or J. J. Darling used to place their field, nor do I expect any of our umpires will overhear M. A. Noble start operations in a test match this year in this delightfully inconsequent fashion. Australian captains study the batsmen very closely, even down to noticing that the non-striker is either a very bad or over-eager backer-up—not a single thing escapes them. They are, one must say, most admirably seconded in their efforts by their bowlers, who not only bowl to orders, but may be trusted far more to bowl to orders than is the case with many of our bowlers in county cricket. In this connection, I can recall one of the best bits of captaincy seen on an English ground for many a year, that of Darling at Lord's in 1905. The unobservant critics were caught napping very badly that day. As a natural result, C. B. Fry and Hayward came in for a severe criticism for slow play, which was quite undeserved. On a slow easy wicket Darling had Armstrong bowling wide to leg at one end, and McLeod bowling round the wicket, going away very wide to off, at the other. Both, Armstrong especially, kept a superb length, while Armstrong's "width," which barely received notice by the critics, was such that scoring was in any case difficult. But with the place in-field Darling had posted, it

became to all intents and purposes impracticable. Whether this was a good match-winning tactic is not the point here. It was unquestionably good captaincy if the object of it was, as there is sufficient presumptive evidence to assume it was, to tire out the batsmen and so secure a good start—that most invaluable asset in all big cricket. But opposed to these tactics we had two of the most imperturbable batsmen of all time. Hayward far too stolid and steady to be drawn, and Fry ever so much too far seeing and calculating to ever be guilty of throwing his wicket away merely because his principal scoring strokes were blocked. It is in all such examples as these that the Australians have taught the art of placing the field to any who will learn.

Thirdly, J. McCarthy Blackham came and shocked the cricket proprietors by standing right up to the stumps and "taking" all bowling alike. Since then we have had a long line of stumpers—in fact, and not in name only. Men like Lilly, H. Martyn, Stradwick, Humphries, Board, and Butt, among whom the professionals do not stand close up to the extra fast bowling, not because they cannot, but because in nearly every case their captain orders them not to. "Googlie" Bowling.

Fourthly, and finally, the South Africans—R. O. Schwarz, G. A. Faulkner, A. E. Vogler, and G. C. White—created a marked sensation during 1907 by the pitch of perfection to which they had brought the delivery of the off-breaking ball, delivered with a leg break action, which was first bowled by B. J. T. Bosanquet. Right through their tour only one man could we find who can be said to have really played their bowling, and that was C. B. Fry at the Oval in the third test. Haroldstaff played a good innings against it at Nottingham, but for some reason or other Braund had very little of it to play during the first test match at Lord's. Though Vogler was unmistakably the best bowler on the side, G. A. Faulkner was the best purely "googlie" bowler of the tour, as he could break both ways at a good pace. The effect of that tour on cricket generally was to awake us to the fact that we have not yet by any means plumbed the depths of the bowling art or sapped its treasures. There are now many votaries of the art of "googlie" bowling all over England. Schoolboys practise the thing almost daily, and to my way of thinking the test match side of the future is incomplete without a "googlie" bowler. It is futile to argue that this particular delivery will be mastered in time by batsmen. May I ask, Has the good off-break or leg-break delivered in copy book way ever been truly mastered? There are people to be found still who argue that "googlie" bowling is only freak bowling. They are wrong, I think. The "googlie" is a distinct addition to the bowler's battery, and is, in fact, his most deadly weapon, no defence being invincible against it.

LACROSSE.

The concluding matches of the second round were played on Saturday, in splendid weather, and before a number of interested spectators. The West End Ponsonby encounter at Victoria Park resulted in a win for the first-named by 8 goals to 4, while on the Domain Grafton had a victory over Auckland by 9 goals to 7.

HOCKEY.

The championship cup matches were continued on Saturday. Principal interest centred in the United-Grafton match, which resulted in a draw, each side netting a goal. Auckland defeated St. George's by 5 goals to nil, and College Rifles beat Ponsonby by 5 goals to 3. At Devonport University beat North Shore by 4 goals to nil. As the result of United's draw with Grafton, Auckland, last year's champions, are leading for the championship by one point from United.

In the second grade University beat St. George's by 4 goals to 2, Training College defeated Ellerslie by 3 goals to 2, College Rifles defeated Ponsonby by 8 goals to 1, and Epsom won from Auckland by 5 goals to 1.

The matches under the auspices of the Auckland Ladies' Hockey Association were continued on Saturday, and resulted as follows:—Rangitira A. Boat Ladies' College by 5 goals to nil, Moana beat Rawhiti B. by 3 goals to nil, and Rangitira B. and Rawhiti A. played a draw, each side netting three goals.

GOLF.

LADIES' GOLF UNION.

This paper has been appointed the official organ of the Ladies' Golf Union, New Zealand branch.

Secretaries of ladies' golf clubs are invited to forward official notices, handicaps and alterations, results of competitions, and other matters of interest, to reach the publishing office not later than the Saturday prior to date of publication.

Wanganui.

On Wednesday, June 9th, the monthly match was played by the Wanganui Ladies' Golf Club, over the 18-hole course. Only four players are at present qualified to play for the silver L.G.U. medal, though doubtless many others will, by the end of the year, hold handicaps under the 25 limit. The course at Belmont is a new one, and the ground is still very rough to some eight or nine holes. The distance round the links is 5040 yards, and the record is held by Miss Cave in 99. The par of the green is 85. Following are the scores sent in for the silver medal in June, played conjointly with the monthly match:—Miss O. Stamford, 100—25—81; Miss Cave, 99—15—84; Miss Cowper, 104—17—87; Miss Stamford, 110—23—87.

Alterations of handicaps: Miss Cave reduced to 14, Miss O. Stamford reduced to 22. Mrs. Good, with scores of 115 and 107, obtained a 25 handicap.

L.G.U. Year Book.

Copies of the Year Book for 1909 will have reached secretaries of affiliated clubs by the last English mail. The Year Book is edited and compiled by Miss Issette Pearson, hon. sec. of the Ladies' Golf Union in England, and contains a complete list of the clubs affiliated to the English branch of the Union, and also of the New Zealand clubs, giving all details as to the membership of the clubs, the handicaps of members, pars of greens, etc. The book also contains the revised rules of golf, as adopted by the Royal and Ancient, in September last. The rules of the Union and the regulations for handicapping are fully set forth and explained. Secretaries and handicap managers of clubs should go carefully through these rules, and they would thus clear up points upon which they may have been in doubt. A point that is worth the consideration of the New Zealand clubs is that of the appointment of handicap managers, apart from the secretaryships of the various clubs. It seems to be the custom to pass the office of secretary on, and no exception can be taken to this custom, as it is right that the work entailed should not always fall on the "willing shoulders"; but in the regulating of handicaps it would seem to be desirable that when one person has thoroughly grasped the system and got her club into smooth working order, she should not then hand the managing of handicaps over to another member who has to begin de novo. In England a handicap manager acts for, perhaps, six or eight clubs, and continues to act in that capacity year after year.

Another point which occurs when looking through the Year Book is the desirability of getting the New Zealand clubs to hold their annual meetings in the spring, so that the information supplied for the Year Book would be for the current season. The year in England starts from January 1: clubs hold their meetings and appoint officers, etc., prior to that date, and the information for the Year Book is compiled in January. If the New Zealand clubs could hold their meetings in the spring, the information in the Year Book could be made more up-to-date than is the case at present so far as the officers of the club are concerned.

Auckland Clubs' Competition.

The members of the Auckland Golf Club held a four-ball best-ball match at Cornwall Park links on Saturday. The winners of the match were Greg and S. Upton, who put up a very good score of 74 net, and they were each presented with a handsome travelling clock by Mr. E. D. O'Rourke. Other score-cards returned were: Allen and Chalfield, 77; Heather and Burns, 77; Alexander and Tonks, 78; Lusk and McCormick, 79; Macfarlane and Kirker, 80; Gordon and Bruce, 80; P. Upton and Dargaville, 80; Jackson and Ball, 81; Kelly and Hanna, 83; Purchase and Marriner, 84; Lewis and E. Horton, 84; Daddley and Bloomfield, 84; Stringer and H. Kirker, 85; Ruddleck and Mair, 88; Webster and Foster, 90; Cave and McIntosh, 91.