

successful, but there has been no particular individual brilliance. Messrs. Trumble, Jones, Howell, Noble and—towards the end of the season—Mr. McLeod, have done a lot of hard work, and taken a number of wickets. When the final averages are published, however, I am afraid the bowling statistics will compare rather unfavourably with the records of previous Australian visits. The hardest worked trundler of the team has been Mr. Trumble. Every bowler has at times come off, but, generally speaking, there has been nothing out of the way brilliant in the

Australian attack. Mr. Darling's bowlers included no Palmer, Boyle, Spofforth or Turner, or the English county teams would not have been able to score so freely. A man of the calibre of those former heroes to help the 1899 team, would have turned the majority of the drawn games into victories. The fielding of the Australians has throughout the tour been quite up to the best traditions of the game, the activity and smartness shewn calling forth the highest praise and admiration from expert English critics.

FOOTBALL.

When the English footballers, captained by that "mighty atom" the Rev. Mullineux, were defeated in their first match with the representatives of Australia, English writers fell foul of the team for calling itself representative. Now that the Englishmen have won the other three "test" games, I suppose there will be a revulsion of feeling, and the victors will be welcomed right royally and over-whelmed with fulsome adulation. Undoubtedly the Englishmen proved themselves a good lot, but they never met the best representatives of Australasian Rugby football. They ought to have come to New Zealand for the highest exposition of the Rugby game. Want of time, or some other reason, precluded such a desirable visit, so for the present the question of supremacy between England and New Zealand is undecided. A meeting of the representatives may not be long in coming, however, for the Rev. Mullineux has expressed a desire that the next team of English footballers should include New Zealand in their tour, and the idea of getting a New Zealand team together to invade England is also mooted.

The visit of the English players has called attention to the question of wing forwards. After witnessing the half-back play of their visitors, New South Wales writers believe that a death blow to the wings has been dealt. That remains to be seen. Such a consummation is decidedly to be desired, for anything more barbarous than to see two pair of men engaged in a purely personal rough and tumble encounter in a game supposed to be one of skill and dexterity, it is difficult to imagine. In nine games out of ten wing forwards are mostly engaged in a scrapping match pure and simple. Furious struggles are witnessed of men trying to put one another on the ground, but these, beyond appealing to the friends of the particular players, are unworthy of, and have nothing to do with, the game of football. Brute force is required for pushing in the scrums, but outside the pack science is the necessary article. Wing forwards are about on a par with the hacking tactics prevailing in "Tom Brown's" days at Rugby, and if the visit of the Rev. Mullineux's team should result in the abolition of the wing forward, the defeat of Australia will not have been in vain.

ATHLETICS.

The coming Australasian Championship Meeting at Brisbane, is attracting much attention just now, more especially as there is some talk of sending a team of athletes to Europe next year for the purpose of competing

at the Paris Exposition, and afterwards in England. One New Zealander, at any rate, is a certain competitor if an Australasian team goes Home. Mr. George W. Smith, the present Hundred Yards and Hurdle Amateur Cham-