

more than compensate for the temporary absence of even a really great batsman.

Failing a great improvement in fielding, and especially in catching, or some extraordinary weather that will have the effect of destroying the plumbness of the prepared wicket and yet allow sufficient time to play matches out, we do not see what is to save us from an increase in the percentage of drawn games during the ensuing season, and from the customary columns of suggestions showing how the game could be improved by playing it in slabs, the sides taking it in turn to occupy the wickets for periods varying from ten minutes to two hours, or from those extremely original notions for the elimination of the drawn game, namely, the plan of adding an inch to the height of the wicket or introducing an extra stump. If the art of catching has really fallen into desuetude and the missing of catches is not occasioned, as we believe it is, by staleness brought about by too much cricket, and by want of fielding practice, we would suggest that the situation would be most easily met by altering the wording of Law 22 so that it read: "Or, if the ball, from a stroke of the bat or hand, but not of the wrist, *ought, in the opinion of the Umpire, to have been held before it touched the ground*—'caught.'" We are certainly not ripe for such a drastic alteration in the laws at present, but——

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