

in the field—to greatly reduce the present proportion of over 40 per cent. of games drawn?

The result of the meeting of the county captains has been to discountenance any project of altering the law of l.b.w. in favour of the bowler and to initiate a crusade against doubtful bowling; the prospect the approaching season holds forth as regards drawn games is therefore very promising, and great scores will thrive more than ever unless there is a revival of the good fielding that was current in the days of the Walkers, Parr, and many other captains of the past, who kept up their teams to so high a standard of fielding that to miss a chance was regarded by the offender in much the same light as if he had committed a crime. This standard, we are afraid, is hardly likely to be again attained as long as so much first-class cricket takes place under present conditions. If it is absolutely necessary to play day after day, day after day, county committees should pay more attention to the fielding form displayed by the members of the eleven; at present, if a batsman plays a succession of single-figure innings, the chances are that he loses his place in the eleven; if, on the other hand, his fielding, say at mid-on, results in his opponents amassing many runs through his slovenliness in the field and through dropped catches on his part, not the slightest notice is taken of the fact, so far as leaving him out of the eleven is concerned, as long as his batting average is on the right side of thirty, though in many cases a net gain would accrue to the team if the batsman were left out in favour of a safe field and less brilliant performance with the willow. It was very noticeable during the course of last summer how those wicket-keepers who had been temporarily incapacitated, when they at length resumed their positions behind the stumps, displayed more than ordinarily brilliant form as the result of their enforced idleness; if, instead of waiting until they were prevented by accident or illness from playing, the selection committees of our county clubs were to rest their fieldsmen at the first sign of staleness in the field, we feel sure that the gain in having smart fielding and safe catching would