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UMPIRES.

As it is a well known fact that, in the words of a certain authority, "without professional umpires you can never feel sure of your decisions," and as in the majority of Canadian clubs it is next to impossible to find any one capable of satisfactorily filling this most important position, and as many gentlemen (especially in small clubs which play few matches) will be glad of a little assistance in the performance of the onerous duties which they so kindly undertake, we make these leading observations on the subject. As the basis of our remarks, we take the "hints" which form part of the late John Lillywhite's "Cricketer's Companion," repeated for several years but discontinued of late.

First in counting the "overs," as we generally take five balls, the fingers of the hand are convenient. Next the umpire must remember that in every case he is bound to give every doubt in favour of the batsman. Though he be *morally* certain that the batsman is out, if not *absolutely* certain of the fact, he *must* give him "not out,"—such is the law. Again, as to the vexed question of l. b. w. The words of the law are, "The striker is out if with any part of his person he stop the ball, which, in the opinion of the umpire at the bowler's wicket, shall have been pitched in a straight line from it to the striker's wicket, and would have hit it." The words "a straight line from wicket to wicket," clearly demonstrate the parallelogram formed by joining the opposite wickets from their opposing stumps. The wording of the rule is unfortunate but its intention is evident, and we repeat a previous observation made in this journal, that "from wicket to wicket" means "within

the parallelogram between the wickets." Of course a case of l. b. w. can *seldom* happen with bowling "round the wicket," but it *can* happen, and, if only once in one hundred times, it is the umpire who must decide the point.

Of course, as we have no professional umpires, complaints are frequent, and both batsmen and bowlers have their grievances. In a recent match a bowler bowling round the wicket, taking advantage of the inexperience of the umpire, appealed almost every time the ball (on a bad wicket) struck the batsman. He had publicly to acknowledge having appealed when the ball (on very bumpy ground) struck the batsman *between the shoulders*. Comment is unnecessary, but we cannot help thinking that a *true* cricketer will never appeal to an uncertain umpire without being perfectly sure of the justice of his appeal.

"No ball" should be called the moment the foot is *on* or over the line (ball delivered) or the batsman loses the chance of a hit. Remember also that it is impossible for a bowler to lift his hindermost foot before delivering the ball. Before commencing a match the umpire should agree to signal byes by raising his stick or bat, leg-byes by striking his leg, and wides and no balls by calling. A "wide" depends entirely upon the judgment of the umpire, and here he may surely give the benefit of the doubt to the bowler. What would be wide to a short man (Jupp) would not be so to a tall man (W. G. Grace). Canadian umpires are unnecessarily severe on this point, and ought to consider what a man's reach is. We know a player who stands but 5 ft. 8, and can cover easily $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet to "leg," and nearly the same to the "off." It is most absurd to see "wides" called time after time when the ball is less than three feet from the wicket—any cricketer can cover at least $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet to "leg."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is thought that Law's Eleven will meet the Australians in September.

The following is taken from Lillywhite's remarks on Oscote College for 1881. The Mr. Daly referred to has lately joined the Toronto Club: "A. Daly (average 22), captain of the eleven, improved very much in batting this season, made several very high scores, has good style, and scores quickly when set; a good out-field, and bowls well—fast round-arm."