

SHORT SLIPS.

The Canadian I Zingari will not go to Philadelphia this year, but will make a Canadian tour similar to that of Winnipeg instead.

The Winnipeg Club play the first match of their tour at Chicago on July 19th and 20th. They then meet Detroit, Guelph, Hamilton and Toronto in rapid succession, playing two days at each place.

Port Hope has the following officers: Col. Williams, President; A. Hugel, P. Robertson, Rev. J. Brown, G. M. Furby, Vice-Presidents; J. N. Kirchoffer, Captain; W. R. Wadsworth, Treasurer; T. A. Bird, Secretary. Committee: W. S. Bletcher, H. A. Ward, T. T. Baines, E. J. Burton, J. H. Balderson. Ground Committee: W. B. Hall, W. S. Bletcher, B. Nicholl.

COMMUNICATION.

HINTS FOR CRICKETERS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Cricket Field.

DEAR SIR,—You were good enough to ask me to write some remarks on cricket. The subject has been so well and ably treated by others, and more particularly by my old friend Wanostrocht in his "Felix on the Bat," by Mr. Pycroft in the *Cricket Field*, and by the "great leviathan" himself, that I feel somewhat reluctant to enter the arena with such competitors. In the hope, however, that every article written on the subject may help to induce those who play or are learning to play, particularly the latter, to earnestly try and play correctly, and thereby become proficient in the noble game, I send you some remarks on what I consider essentials, and most conducive towards making a finished player, and in which I note a lamentable deficiency among cricketers in Canada in general. These are, first: Proper defence; and second: A good and correct style of hitting.

Now, defence depends a good deal upon holding the bat properly, and having a good and easy attitude at the wicket. The bat should be held with the knuckles of the upper hand facing the umpire. This grip is easily obtained. Take hold of bat with both hands and put it on your shoulder; the hands then will assume the position in which they should be when you are going to play. Unless the bat is so held it is impossible to play forward, hit round to the leg, or cut correctly. Wrong holding begets bad hitting and bad form generally. The first thing, therefore, is to hold the bat properly; the next, and very important thing, is to keep the shoulder well forward. These two requisites are the great specifics for playing with a straight bat—the first thing to learn in cricket.

In standing at the wicket keep your foot just free of the leg-stump; the guard of two leg will give you this; then make a line with a bail just inside where your foot should be—say of three or four inches long; you will then know where you are, and can make for yourself guard for any stump you please without asking the umpire. This is far better than the ugly and absurd plan of making a hole with the bat for guard. It is annoying to see some players hammering away with their bats, and many of them asking for guard every time they are going to play. A line drawn as stated answers every purpose, and does not injure the ground as those miserable holes do.

Having the foot properly placed, the best attitude to adopt is, I consider, one similar to what one would have in fencing; that is, let the weight of the body rest on the leg behind the crease, whilst the other is thrown forward, not too far, but just enough to give you an easy attitude.

Hold the bat with both hands, but more firmly with the lower one, and raise it an inch or two off the ground, with the bottom slightly inclined towards the wicket. It is in this position ready for any kind of ball, and more easily wielded than in any other. Having now got the bat properly held, foot correctly placed, and shoulder well forward, the next thing is the playing. Every ball should, if possible, be played; the bat should come on the ball, not the ball on the bat.

In playing forward the leg should be extended as far as it can be easily, at the same time that the batter lunges forward his arms. Many cricketers I have seen play the ball without moving their legs forward at all, or so little that it does more mischief than good. The result is, they either play over the ball, if it shoots, or under it and consequently up, and so get caught out.

The forward play, when properly done, saves you from these disastrous results, for by advancing your leg as far as you can without losing balance, your arms will carry the bat (when held correctly as above mentioned, but not otherwise) in a straight line close to the ground, so that no shooter can go under or catch be made.

The great thing in learning to play forward is to find out how far you can reach without losing your balance or command of the bat. This is easily obtained by practice in a room. See how far you can stretch out your leg conveniently to yourself without losing your balance, taking care, however, that you do so in a straight line and don't get it in front of the wicket. When you have obtained the correct movement in a room, try on the cricket ground. See how far you can reach and put a piece of paper down where a ball may pitch and you can cover it by playing forward; in time and by practice your eye will tell you this spot without the paper. Any ball short of this spot must be played back; if over this spot, it can be driven hard along the ground by a quick forward lunge of the arms.

In hitting to the leg throw your head forward and down; this will naturally cause your leg to go forward to support your weight; but stretch it out as far as you can, and as you do so throw your bat on your shoulder and then rapidly sweep it at the ball, and if the stroke is timed correctly, the ball will be hit clean, hard and all along the ground. Many leg hits are missed or muddled by not adopting this plan. Instead of throwing the head forward and down, I have seen most players in Canada do the reverse, and never attempt to move their leg; the consequence has been, ball missed, or, if struck, sent up into the air, catch made, and wicket lost instead of score increased. These observations of course only apply to a certain kind of leg balls. It depends upon the length and closeness of the ball what kind of play should be adopted; at present I am only speaking of those which are nearly straight or well within reach, and either of good length or a little over pitched. Short pitched ones are best played by tapping them. Those that are not well within reach are better left alone; you cannot command them, and if hit, the chances are they will go up. Practice will soon tell what sort of ball it is; but if you find yourself missing them, it is a good plan to watch one without hitting at it. The chances are you will find you have misjudged the length or closeness, or both.

We now come to cutting a ball. This is one of the prettiest and most effective hits, but how few there are who do it properly. Many times one has seen a player hit a ball back to the bowler which should have gone between slips and sometimes even pulled to the outside! This is chiefly owing to the bat being held wrongly, and not using the proper action in striking. Throw your bat on your shoulder (this brings the hands up and the wrists down); as you do so, shift the foot inside the crease towards the line in which the ball is coming, and strike swiftly. Practice will soon give the correct action.

I have now given you my views on what I consider the essentials for making a good batsman, and in which I notice a great deficiency among Canadian cricketers. In conclusion, I strongly recommend all those who wish to excel in the noble game to take as much pains in practice as they would in a match. Bad habits and style are easily picked up. Try to play every ball correctly; mark spots on the ground for a good length ball; above all, let the bat be held properly, and the left shoulder kept well forward.

Wishing you all success in your new work and praiseworthy efforts to encourage a great interest in the noble game,

I am, Dear Sir, yours faithfully,

W. PICKERING.

ENGLAND

EDMUND YATES says in the *London World*, that the Oxford wicket-keeper is called the "Ancient Mariner," because "he stoppeth one in three."

Lately some very high scoring has been recorded at Cambridge. On Wednesday, May 24, the Magdalene College Eleven were in all day against Clare College for 394. Mr. W. N. Roe, who the day before had scored 108 for his college against Saffron Walden, contributed 126, and Lord Throwley 115. On the 24th, too, Mr. Polhill Turner scored 124 for the Assyrians against Trinity College. On Thursday last a still more noteworthy item of batting was recorded in a match between Caius and Emanuel Colleges. Messrs. C. E. Broughton and G. C. Fitzgerald went in first for Caius, and at the end of the day they were still at the wickets, Mr. Broughton, each of them not out, 159, and the total, including 35 extras, 353.