

By his innings of 207 against Surrey—which is the highest score in a first-class match except that of Murdoch against Sussex—at the Oval, August 7th and 8th, Shrewsbury raised his average from 16 to 32, becoming second best of the season thus far to Ulyett, whose average is 34.13. Ulyett has, however, played 40 innings against Shrewsbury's 16, and has made 1,237 runs against the latter's 448.

The English cricketers who are to visit Australia in the winter under the command of the Hon. Ivo Bligh, I learn, will have to leave England nearly a month earlier than was originally intended. According to the first arrangement they were to start in the second week of October, but it is now found that they will have to sail in the P. and O. Steamer *Peshawar*, leaving Gravesend on the 14th September. A difficulty had arisen with regard to the four professionals who stipulated for first-class instead of second-class passages as proposed, but the committee of the Melbourne Club, the promoters of the trip, have conceded the point, and with Bates, Barnes, Barlow and Morley, the team is now definitely completed. Bates and Barlow are down to play for Shaw's Eleven against the Australian Eleven at the Oval, but as they can leave London on the 22nd of September in time to catch the rest of the travellers at Suez, they may be able to arrange matters so as to have a last turn with Murdoch and his men before their departure.

THE AUSTRALIANS v. THE PLAYERS OF ENGLAND.

The victory of the Players in this match at Kennington Oval was eminently satisfactory to English cricketers, for more than one reason. It was some compensation in the first place for the defeat experienced by the Gentlemen of England on the same ground in June. Then, again, it tended to show that Australian cricketers were not, as some critics have tried to represent, much, if at all, superior to a thoroughly representative team, and there was certainly much consolation in the thought. The Gentlemen were beaten chiefly by the manifest weakness of their bowling, and those who argued that the superiority of the Players in this respect would make them more of a match for the Australian team, proved to be quite correct. When it is remembered that in the absence of Barlow and Midwinter the Players were deprived of two of their most useful all-round men, their success is all the more creditable. Their victory it must be admitted was won by sheer hard work and good all-round play, and it will hardly detract from the brilliance of their achievement to say that they had the best of the luck. In winning the toss, a side always has a certain advantage, but as the light is late in the day at the Oval, and as the wickets have worn this year, the first innings goes a long way towards winning the game. On the first day the ground played very easily, and the Australian bowlers, with Spofforth away, certainly appeared rather stale, to judge by the comparative ease with which they were met by the batsmen. The Players began very badly, losing four of their best wickets for 37 runs. Had the Australian fielding only been up to its usual mark, in all probability the English team would not have reached a large total. As it was, Bonnor at short-slip gave Read and Barnes, who made the stand of the innings, each a life, and had these chances only been taken, the game would have presented a very different aspect. Up to luncheon time the batting had shown a noticeable lack of confidence, but afterwards Read and Barnes played with any amount of nerve, and while they were together they put on as many as 159 runs. Barnes's 87 was the better innings of the two, but although Read was badly missed at long-on when he had got 87, his hitting all round, particularly to leg, was very well timed, and his score of 130—the highest, he it added, as yet made against this Australian team—was immensely popular with the spectators, so much so indeed that a collection of upwards of £41 was raised for him on the ground. Score :

PLAYERS.

Shrewsbury, c Bonnor, b Emmett, c Bonnor, b Garrett 21	Emmett, c Bonnor, b Garrett 21
Palmer..... 6	Peate, c Boyle, b Banner-
Ulyett, c Bannerman, b Gar-	man..... 1
rett..... 12	Sherwin, not out..... 10
Barnes, b Bannerman..... 87	Morley, c Bannerman, b
Bates, c Bannerman, b Gar-	Palmer..... 8
rett..... 0	Extras..... 19
Lockwood, b Palmer..... 3	Total..... 322
Read, run out..... 130	
Flowers, b Boyle..... 25	

AUSTRALIANS.

1st Innings.	2nd Innings.
A. C. Bannerman, c Shrews-	b Peate..... 14
bury, b Peate..... 0	
H. H. Massie, c Sherwin, b	c Barnes, b Peate..... 31
Morley..... 0	

W. L. Murdoch, b Peate..... 35	c Lockwood, b Ulyett..... 15
P. S. McDonnell, c Peate, b	c Sherwin, b Ulyett..... 18
Ulyett..... 12	c Shrewsbury, b Morley..... 3
T. Horan, c Peate, b Morley..... 47	
G. Giffen, c Shrewsbury, b	
Emmett..... 12	c Ulyett, b Morley..... 23
J. McC. Blackham, b Morley..... 17	c Barnes, b Morley..... 1
G. J. Bonnor, b Ulyett..... 9	c Sherwin, b Barnes..... 0
H. F. Boyle, run out..... 1	c Flowers, b Peate..... 0
T. W. Garrett, b Morley..... 0	not out..... 15
C. E. Palmer, not out..... 3	b Barnes..... 0
Extras..... 14	Extras..... 10
Total..... 150	Total..... 130

AUSTRALIANS v. AN ELEVEN OF ENGLAND.

Another drawn game attended the efforts of the Australians in this match. The England Eleven was fairly strong in batting, but deficient in bowling, with only Barnes, Flowers, Shaw, and Mycroft of any account. Most of the English Eleven scored fairly in the first innings, and eight got double figures; Mr. Tylecote, who was so successful against the Australians last week at Canterbury, again playing well for fifty-six, the highest contribution. At the end of the second day the game did not look very uneven, as the Australians were only 72 behind, with Horan in and four wickets still to fall. Murdoch, who has not been very successful of late, was again to the fore with a rather lucky innings of 70, and Jones also was fortunate, though the pair made a useful stand, adding 125 runs while they were together. On the second night there seemed very slight chance of the game being completed, but the rain caused the wicket to play very treacherously yesterday, and in all nineteen wickets fell for 201 runs. The Australians, when they went in, had 129 to win, and when the play ceased they still wanted 38, having lost half their wickets. It will be noticed that Mr. Tylecote caught 5 Australians out the first innings behind the wickets, an unusual performance. Score :

THE ENGLAND ELEVEN.

1st Innings.	2nd Innings.
C. I. Thornton, c McDonnell,	b Garrett..... 18
b Spofforth..... 29	
E. F. S. Tylecote, c Murdoch,	1 b w, b Spofforth..... 14
b Spofforth..... 56	
Maurice Read, c Murdoch, b	
Boyle..... 28	c Garrett, b Spofforth..... 0
Barnes, c Murdoch, b Spofforth 25	c Boyle, b Spofforth..... 1
Shrewsbury, c Murdoch, b	
Boyle..... 24	b Garrett..... 1
Flowers, c Bonnor, b Spofforth 12	c Horan, b Garrett..... 6
L. C. Docker, c Jones, b	
Boyle..... 3	c Blackham, b Boyle..... 10
Scotton, c Murdoch, b Garrett 26	b Boyle..... 10
C. Marriott, b Spofforth..... 11	c Murdoch, b Spofforth..... 8
Shaw, c and b Garrett..... 1	c and b Boyle..... 0
W. Mycroft, not out..... 0	not out..... 1
Extras..... 17	Extras..... 9
Total..... 230	Total..... 78

AUSTRALIANS.

1st Innings.	2nd Innings.
S. P. Jones, b Mycroft..... 50	not out..... 12
T. W. Garrett, c Tylecote, b	
Barnes..... 0	
F. R. Spofforth; c Marriott, b	
Barnes..... 2	
A. C. Bannerman, b Barnes..... 3	c Tylecote, b Mycroft..... 24
W. L. Murdoch, c Tylecote, b	
Barnes..... 70	b Thornton..... 32
T. Horan, c Tylecote, b My-	
croft..... 24	c and b Flowers..... 4
H. H. Massie, c Tylecote, b	
Mycroft..... 4	b Barnes..... 14
P. S. McDonnell, b Barnes..... 2	c Barnes, b Flowers..... 2
G. J. Bonnor, c Tylecote, b	
Barnes..... 12	not out..... 0
J. M. Blackham, c Read, b	
Barnes..... 0	
H. F. Boyle, not out..... 2	
Extras..... 11	Extras..... 3
Total..... 180	Total..... 91