



# Forbes Field

## The Great Stadium of the Pittsburgh Pirates

By L. H. CONSTANS

"FORBES FIELD," the home of the first of the modern concrete and steel baseball plants erected in the National League circuit, and the second in the order of any built in this country, being ante-dated a few months by Shibe Park in Philadelphia.

Shibe Park was opened at the beginning of the season of 1909, and less than three months later, on June 30th, Forbes Field, named after the great general of Colonial fame, was thrown open to the baseball patrons of Pittsburgh.

Situated in the residential district of Pittsburgh, and over-looking Schenley Park, one of the finest natural parks in the country, Forbes Field has an outlook and surroundings that are the most beautiful of any ball field in the world, and in this respect at least it will probably never be excelled; and with its elegance of fabric, its gray terra cotta walls and green trimmings, and beauty of architecture, it still stands pre-eminent as the most magnificent structure in baseball to-day, although several other cities in both the National and American League circuits have since emulated President Dreyfus's enterprise in erecting huge baseball plants.

The great concrete and steel stand spreads its wings, approximately, from

end to end, a distance of nine hundred feet and is seventy-five feet high. It is composed of three tiers, the main tier, balcony tier and roof tier, the latter containing only boxes, and the main and balcony tiers are also lined in front with boxes—263 boxes in all—each containing eight seats. The seating capacity of the stand is over 16,900 persons, making it the largest in the baseball world, with the exception of the Polo Grounds of the New York Nationals in New York.

A better idea of the immensity of Forbes Field may probably be gained when one learns that in the building of this great plant more than 300 cars of gravel and sand were used, 60 cars of steel, 60 cars of brick and lumber, 45 cars of terra cotta and cement, 30 cars of chairs, 21 cars of cornices, ornamental iron and roofing, and 21 cars of glass, frames, sash, sewer pipe and similar material.

In keeping with the latest ideas for convenience and safety in the handling of great crowds, not a step of stairs need be trod in reaching either of the main seating floors of this huge stand, the main tier or the balcony. Seven large entrances, each ten feet wide, cut directly through the main tier of the stand on a level with the encompassing streets, and two broad inclines, one on the right

and one on the left of the main entrances lead up to the rear of the main floor, whence six other inclines, three to each wing, lead on up into the balcony, where eight entrances level with that floor, cut directly into the seating space of the balcony tier. But with all these facilities for the easy reach by walking, of any seat in the stand, two large elevators with a carrying capacity of more than fifteen persons to a trip, ply steadily between the ground floor and the balcony and roof tiers, a feature that is enjoyed by the patrons of no other baseball stand in the country.

That the wisdom of the architects has been justified in providing for the most convenient and safest way of handling crowds by the doing away with stairs, is evidenced by the fact that with the stand crowded to its capacity, Forbes Field can be emptied in slightly over six minutes, a feat that cannot be paralleled in any other Park of the same size in the country, and probably not by any other amusement structure of even much smaller seating capacity. All in all, Forbes Field, in the beauty of its surroundings and the fitness of its facilities, stands to-day without a peer.

