



## WATKINS' CENTRIFUGAL PITCHER

**T**HE question of an occupation for ball players during the winter months is a hard one to answer as players, like men in other professions, have different dispositions, ability, etc., and what one could take hold of and make a success, another might prove a failure.

While on a recent visit to one of the nearby summer resorts I was attracted to a game of indoor baseball, which, judging from the crowd that was both playing and watching it, seemed to be a money maker. It was not a catch-penny proposition, on the other hand it struck the writer, who is familiar with baseball, as a very good substitute for the national game.

The game itself was built around a pitching machine that seemed almost human in its ability to throw any kind of a ball—fast, slow, drop, curved, high or low and the batter could never tell in advance what kind of a ball he was going to get any more than he could in a big league game. The game was laid out around big league scenery and if the batter hit the ball he got a 1, 2, 3 bagger or home run, each of which counted so many points. Of course the batter with the highest number of points won the game. What appealed to the writer as

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much as anything was the fact that the player got to the heart of baseball—batting.

It appeared to the writer that a big league ball player with his large following in his home community could run one of these games during the winter and make a very good income. With this idea in mind he called on the owners and learned that they had installed the games in several western towns, one of them in Portland, Ore. The man that had taken hold of the game for that territory was Judge McCreedy, owner of the Portland Baseball Club. The owners claim that Judge McCreedy took out 6 pool tables from his pool room to make room for the indoor baseball game and claim also that he is making more money from it than he had made before with the 6 tables. If this statement is true, and we have no reason to doubt it, it would seem that a ball player owning one of these games, and with a large following, could have a very pleasant occupation, as the fact that it was a baseball game run by a baseball player would draw more people than as though the ball player was in some other line of business.

The object in outlining this opportunity is merely to inform ball players, whose season will be over in a short time, of a source of possible revenue. The writer is only judging from what he has seen and he wishes it distinctly understood that his ball player friends must investigate this proposition carefully and understand it thoroughly before he becomes financially interested.

For your information you can address the National Indoor Baseball Co., Pennsylvania Bldg., Philadelphia, Pa.

This company states that they have one game running in Atlantic City—opposite the Million Dollar Pier and that they will shortly have one running in Boston, one in Philadelphia, and two in New York. The writer's advice would be to write to the company for particulars as to where you could see this game in operation, then go and see for yourself just what it is and whether you would be interested.