



NEWS AND COMMENT.

The suggestion advanced by Father Chadwick regarding the abolition of the rubber-glove in use to designate where a pitcher shall stand in delivering a ball, and substituting the old pitcher's box meets with support in every quarter. The rubber is more or less a bluff, there being several twirlers in the League who pay no more attention to it than if it was not there at all. Frank Killen, of the Pittsburghs, is the greatest offender in this particular line in the big League. "Jo" Meekin and "Dad" Clarke, of the New Yorks, also are good "hunchers." And to use a popular expression, "there are others." The return of the box would put an end to stealing up, in that it would give an umpire a better opportunity to see just where a player stands in delivering a ball.

And while the Rules Committee is monkeying with this proposition, it might go a trifle farther and more emphatically define an illegal delivery, its penalty, and the enforcement of the same by umpires. Last season there were no more than five—probably less—illegal deliveries allowed. Yet several pitchers, of whom Pink Hawley is one, made a practice of jumping into the air in delivering a ball at a critical stage of the game, and never were called down for it.

As for the other proposed changes we have only to say that fewer rules and not more new ones would be preferable. The old ones are not being enforced properly, so why should there be new ones?

The "powers of Europe," so frequently referred to in diplomatic lingo, may be great shucks, but the Powers of base ball are becoming so numerous and influential that they will soon become "the" powers. Three Leagues—the Eastern, Southern and Interstate—are presided over by gentlemen of that name, while Tom Powers is a first baseman of note.

Quincy has signed a Louisville third baseman named Chick Crowe.

The Louisville Club directors are going to give President Pulliam and Manager Rogers support by a liberal policy. They have voted \$10,000 to strengthen the team and have offered \$1000 to the players to finish ninth, together with \$1000 for each higher position; also five \$100 prizes for best batting averages, most runs, most sacrifice hits, most stolen bases and best pitching record.

The Buffalo team will next season present the unique spectacle of a red-headed outfield.

It is reported that Fred Pfeffer is engaged to be married to Anna Boyd, the original "widow" in "A Trip to Chinatown," and who was seen here recently in "The Nancy Hanks." Rather late for Fred to think of marrying, but better late than never.

"Tun" Berger, well known as a catcher, is subbing on the St. Louis fire department.

The latest report about the once-noted fourth-pitcher, Frank Knauss, is that he has given up all idea of getting his left arm in pitching shape again and will settle down in Cleveland as a billiard room keeper.

The world is still waiting for the Atlantic League and Texas League averages.

Dud Risley, the clever, all-around man with Cedar Rapids, last year, is reported as having been signed by Manning, of Kansas City. While Risley is a pitcher, he is capable of doing out and infield turns in a highly satisfactory manner.

Dr. Arlington Pond is now assisting the resident staff at Baltimore's City Hospital.

Buck Ewing bewails the scarcity of capable substitute players, and wants catcher Dexter, from Louisville. Young Charles McIntyre, Buck says, will be given a thorough trial, and his League future rests with himself.

Dr. James McJames plays handball for recreation during his days of study at the Charleston (S. C.) Medical Institute.

There is little doubt that Bug Holliday's days as a Cincinnati player are numbered, and that a reasonable offer from any League club would secure the "Bug," who is still a good outfielder and hard hitter.

"Bug" Holliday often has expressed himself as being willing to go anywhere—but to St. Louis. "If I must leave Cincinnati," says James, "let the Cincinnati Club trade me anywhere—Louisville, Washington, Brooklyn—anywhere but St. Louis. I don't want to play in my old home." And that is the way a majority of players feel about playing in their native city.

A Pittsburg man who is close to President Kerr says that Denny Lyons will have an equal chance with Harry Davis for first base on the Pittsburg team.

Frank Foreman is putting in the winter at Baltimore as instructor at the Ice Palace.

Manager Loftus and his entire Columbus constituency, are dead sore over the drafting of catcher Bill Wilson at the eleventh hour by Louisville. By the way, what a refined aggregation the Colonels

will be when Werden and Wilson both get on the coaching lines.

Cleveland fans are becoming apprehensive, and there are loud demands that the Spiders be strengthened in the infield and outfield.

Manager Chauncey Stuart has signed Kld Gourley, of Big Run, Pa., for his Bradford team. Gourley is a good youngster. He can fill any infield position. He is also one of the best pitchers throughout Western Pennsylvania. Since he has become a full-fledged manager Chauncey Stuart wears his trousers creased, a red carnation and hair parted in the middle. He is the Beau Brummel of Bradford.

Charles McIntyre is the full name of the Cincinnati's new utility man.

Henry Manning, formerly a player in the California League, and now a dental student in Boston, is booked to pitch with the Newporters next summer. He has been getting some winter practice at the Brown University gymnasium cage recently.

Jack Seagrist, once a crack backstop, is a stage carpenter at the National Theatre in Washington.

Manager Burnham, of the Brockton Club, has signed G. R. Hall, a pitcher, who played last season with the Beardstown, Ia., Club. He is said to be a clever player and is highly recommended by first baseman Krieg.

Boston will let outfielder Slagle go and use Yeager, a Cincinnati boy, as utility player.

Third baseman McGraw has been asked to coach the Johns Hopkins University base ball candidates during March and he may accept. Jennings and McGraw have been asked to coach Princeton University before the team leaves for Macon, the latter part of March. As McGraw will marry Miss Minnie Doyle on Feb. 3 he says he would rather coach the Hopkins men.

Pitcher Dolan is sure to be released by Boston. Stiverts, Nichols, Lewis, Klobedanz and Sullivan are the twirlers who will be carried.

The Cincinnati Club has decided not to avoid a clash with the horse racing game this season. Last season's experience, has convinced President Brush that the races do not interfere with the attendance at the ball games, as an entirely different class of people visit the race track than see base ball games.

Gettinger is the only one of the 1896 Grand Rapids team who will play in that city this year.

The offer of special money prizes by the Louisville Directory to the Louisville players as a team for certain positions in the race is a commendable move, but the offering of money prizes for individual excellence in certain departments of the game looks like a mistake, as it is really putting a premium on individual playing, which always degenerates into record playing.

Joe Strauss and catcher Belt are wintering in Jacksonville, Ill. The former spends his time hunting, while Belt is an attendant at the State Insane Hospital.

Ex-Manager McGunnigle has accepted a position as a traveling salesman for a Lowell (Mass.) shoe firm. He is temporarily, perhaps permanently, out of base ball, but as he has had experience in the shoe business, he will be all right. His many friends all over the country will wish him all possible luck.

The Order of Elks is the favorite secret organization with base ball people.

Louisville's new executive, Harry Pulliam, is the youngest president, and the Colonel's new leader, Jimmy Rogers, is the youngest manager in the major League. The former is 28 and the latter 27.

The latest additions to the Lancaster team are outfielder Buttermore and short stop Arthur Madison, late of the Athletics.

We are told that Manager Donovan is going to teach Harry Davis how to be a hitter, so that Harry may hold his job as first baseman of the Pirates. Donovan's task will be watched with interest, as any successful tutor could make big money developing batsmen.

The Chicagos will train two weeks at Galveston, and then go to Kansas City to finish their spring practice.

There is some talk in Cleveland base ball circles to the effect that Jack O'Connor will be tried on third base early next season and McGarr left at Hot Springs until his joints are thoroughly thawed out—usually a two-months job.

Rochester has signed pitcher McFarlan, late of the Virginia League.

The veteran outfielder, Hugh Nicol, late manager of the Rockford Club, but who now has a position as traveling salesman for a tombstone establishment, is mentioned as a candidate for a National League umpireship. He has done good work with the indicator, and as he is a close friend of President Young, he may land the prize.

The correct name of Cincinnati's new catcher is not Kehoe but Kahoe. He is to be transferred to Indianapolis.

Pitcher Griffith and short stop Dahlen have been engaged to coach the Illinois Cycling Club base ball team until the Colts leave the city for their annual spring trip. Light indoor practice will begin at the club house in about two weeks. Griffith will devote his time to the battery, Murphy and Sauter, while Dahlen will look after other candidates.

Al Selbach declares that "crap shooting" and not warfare is George Cuppy's longest suit.

"Doggy" Miller goes to Hot Springs shortly for his beauty. He throws up his

hands in horror at the prospect of going back to the St. Louis Club, and claims to have a promise from the Louisville Club that should ever he become de trop his release would be an unconditional one.

Bill Earl says that neither McGraw nor Lowe can secure the coaching of Princeton's team, as he holds a contract for the work.

Manager Patsy Tebeau expects McDermott to develop so much that the Cleve-lands will have the best pitching department of any team in the country next season. Young, Cuppy, Wilson, Wallace and McDermott do loom up pretty big.

Third baseman Charlie Irwin is faring badly out in Frisco, as the ponies won't run right for him.

Harry Pulliam will be the nominal president and actual manager of the Louisville Club, while Rogers will be nominal manager but actual captain of the team on the bench and in the field. Dr. Stucky will, with Mr. Pulliam, represent the Louisville Club at all the League meetings, and we presume perform the most important function of voting. Rather complicated, isn't it?

Charles McIntyre, the Cincinnati's new utility man, cannot be classed as a young blood. He is between 28 and 29 years of age.

It is, by the way, quite a coincidence that the Washington team should have furnished the League with two new managers in one short year. It will be remembered that both Joyce and Rogers were members of the Senatorial aggregation before Joyce was released to New York and Rogers to Louisville.

Dick Buckley, the veteran catcher, is going to open a gravel and sand yard in Milwaukee.

It is said that Mr. Von der Horst, of the Baltimore Club, is thinking of making another attempt to play Sunday games at home. As to Sunday playing, he said the other day: "I'm glad that Mr. Abell intends giving the Sunday games at Brooklyn a trial. I am confident it will be a success. This talk of Sunday ball ruining the attendance during the other days of the week is all nonsense. It has very little influence on the week-day attendance. The increased attendance at Sunday games is caused by those people who find it utterly impossible to go to a ball game on week-days."

The gross attendance at Louisville last year was 119,000, and the club reports that it did not make any money.

Centre Fielder George Van Haltren, of New York, who has re-signed with New York, recently received a check for \$100 for having made the greatest number of base hits among the Giants last year. He made 199. The money was offered by Senator Grady. Tiernan was second to Van Haltren, with 195.

Selee and Joyce are making a great winter how-do-do about their new outfielders, "Chick" Stahl and Dennis Houle.

Old base ball men who know the Phillies' new manager, George Stallings, and are familiar with his base ball career, confidently predict that he will make a great success of his new position as manager of the Philadelphia Club. It is claimed for him that he understands base ball thoroughly and possesses the necessary executive ability to handle ball players successfully.

The veteran Mike Scanlon, of Washington, guesses that the leaders in the coming League race will be, in the order named, Baltimore, Boston, Cleveland, Chicago and Cincinnati.

The new Sunday ground of the Cleveland Club will be only four miles from the centre of the city. The majority of the Cleveland enthusiasts are delighted over the prospects of Sunday games at home. This promises to be the making of Cleveland as a base ball city.

The suggestion that the pitcher's "box" be restored is warmly approved by "Dad" Clarke. "Dad" is one of the few pitchers who worked the box to good effect.

Dasher Troy, the old base ball player, will manage a new boxing club which will hold forth in the next building to the Polo Athletic Club. The new club will be known as the Tabasco Athletic Club. The "Dasher" always was hot stuff.

The New York Club has contributed three lawyers to the bar—Ward, O'Rourke and Sullivan. Now Stafford talks of tackling Blackstone.

The Chicago Club has asked President Young for as many Sunday games at home as possible, as Jim Hart believes that Anson has so well fortified the Chicago team in every department that it now has a first-class chance to capture the pennant.

President Young does not believe Anson's suggestion to the Playing Rules Committee to restore the "trap ball" play will be adopted.

President Kerr, of Pittsburg announces the sale of the Toronto franchise to Arthur Irwin. This ends the Pittsburg Club's farming experiment for good. The club lost considerable money in Toronto last year. It is supposed that the price paid by Irwin is \$2500. He hails from Toronto and expects to make some money there this season. He has been guaranteed 200 season tickets and the free use of the ball park.

Bob Allen ought to make a rattling good manager-captain for Detroit. Vanderbeck was lucky to get him.

The New York Club has added its ninth pitcher to the pay roll in the person of Ernest Beam, late of the Philadelphia and Athletic Clubs. Beam tried to catch on with Cincinnati but was turned down by Ewing, but nothing daunted, tried again, with the

result that he is once more back in the League.

Pitcher Rusie has opened fire on the New York Club from the correct angle now. He has brought suits in the United States Circuit Court at Trenton, N. J., for damages and release from reservation. As the New York Club is a Jersey corporation, the suits are within the proper jurisdiction and will have to come to trial.

Catcher Billy Merritt was successfully married to Miss Riley at Lowell on the 7th inst.

The Toronto University base ball team is arranging a trip to Chicago this spring, and the manager, J. L. Counsell, would like to secure the services of a good coach from the middle of March to the end of May. Correspondence should be addressed to him.

Kansas City has signed her eighth pitcher in the person of Boylan, late of Lynchburg.

J. Earl Wagner rises to object to the allegation that Winnie Mercer is mixed up in a dicker. "That story," writes Earl, "originated in Pittsburg, alias Smoke-town, which sports more medals for fake base ball news than ever Old Sport Campana wore on his vest."

Pitcher Andy Boswell, of the Columbus team, threatens to bring suit against a Columbus paper because it dared to criticize him.

Manager Buck Ewing, in response to the request of the Rules Committee for suggestions, had but one to make. He thought the suggestion of Captain Anson to compel the pitcher's toe instead of the heel to rest against the rubber plate was a good one.

Charlie Farrell expects to corral a young pitching phenom up in New England for the Washington Club.

The Colonels' new manager, Jimmy Rogers, is 27 years old. He was born in Lebanon, Pa., and learned to play ball there. For years he has been playing as a professional. He first achieved prominence in 1895 with the Providence team. Last year was his first in the big League.

John E. Flora, of Cincinnati, has been committed to an insane asylum because he imagines he is "Buck" Ewing.

Manager Hanlon has sold second baseman Harry Truby to Kansas City for \$400 and is negotiating to dispose of Joe Quinn to Louisville. Kelster will be kept as substitute infielder with Catcher Clarke to fall back on.

Pitcher Bill Phillips again is in form and expects to do such good work this year that Cincinnati will recall him for 1898.

Some of the critics in the Western League are already picking pennant winners for 1897. Kansas City seems to be the favorite, with Detroit, St. Paul and Milwaukee following in the order named. No one seems to think that Indianapolis will be in the race, but Watkins is likely to fool the wise men.

Henry Boyle, the veteran twirler, is now a Quaker commercial tourist. He is traveling for a brewery.

Pitcher Hoffer is hunting bear and deer in the far Northwest. Hoffer writes that people who think Professor Hinton's pitching gun a great thing should see his bear gun, which shoots around trees, over hills and just any old way and kills the bear every time. Hoffer says he is taking lessons from that gun.

Every base ball man should have one of the pocket catalogues of "Victor Athletic Goods," just issued by the Overman Wheel Co., of Chicopee Falls, Mass. The catalogue is obtainable gratis upon application.

The announcement is again made that Bill Schriver will wear a Cincinnati uniform next season.

Manager Bancroft, of the Cincinnati Club, has finally signed contracts for the Reds to put in their spring practice on the new grounds at New Orleans. He has been guaranteed first-class training grounds.

The Carlisle Indians are to make a spring trip.

Bill Joyce opines that Bill Lange is a greater outfielder than Curt Welch, Jimmy Fogarty or Dicky Johnson; in fact, the greatest that ever lived. This opinion, however, only goes when batting and fielding combined are considered. In fielding pure and simple Lange is no whit superior to any of the great trio mentioned.

The birthday Ewing celebrated on Christmas day, 1896, was really only his 36th.

The salaries of the Atlantic League umpires for '97 will be the same as the Eastern and Western, \$225 per month. Charlie Jones and Thos. McNamara are the only men engaged by President Barrows up to date.

Pitcher Gus Weyling has been signed as manager-captain and pitcher of the Ft. Wayne Club.

President Byrne, of the Brooklyn Club, has offered the use of his club's grounds to the New York and Brooklyn Elks for a series of games next season. The New York lodge team is contemplating an extended trip next summer, when it will meet many of the Elk lodges in this State and Pennsylvania.

We have letters for Pitcher Morse, W. W. Zimmer, D. Dextraze, W. Goodenough, George Harper, Catcher Clements, Alex Brodie, Tom Turner, Eddie Leach, William Sharsig, George Reed, Bob Quinn, Frank Lafferty, Charles Maguire, E. M. Barrows, J. J. McCloskey, Ben Ireland (2), J. J. Strouthers, Bob Stafford, Ira Davis and William Hynes.