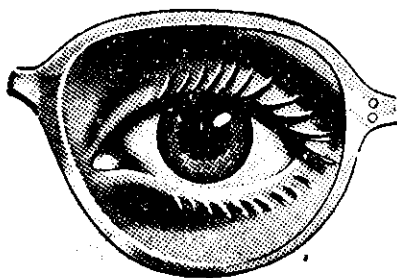


Do YOU wear GLASSES?



You know how dirty your glasses get in the course of the day. This same dirt can also get into your eyes—and can sometimes cause serious trouble to eyes which already need more than the usual amount of care.

You can get rid of this dirt quite safely and tone up eye muscles at the same time by the use of Optrex Eye Lotion.

Optrex gently washes away irritating foreign matter and helps keep your eyes fit and healthy—it gives glasses a chance to do their best work. Try a bottle of Optrex and use it regularly—note the difference it makes to your eyes.

You should have your eyes examined at regular intervals by a Qualified Practitioner, whether you wear glasses or not.



EYE LOTION

Full supplies now available at all chemists.

Optrex costs 4/3 per bottle;
triple size 8/6.

Optrex (Overseas) Ltd., 17 Wadsworth Rd.,
Perivale, Middlesex, England. 2.6

★ ENGINEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Are many, but only if you have the
necessary Certificates.

BOWERS can help you to obtain these
Certificates. Write now for Free Part-
iculars of their CLASS AND COR-
RESPONDENCE COURSES in all
branches of Engineering.

BOWER'S

ENGINEERING AND RADIO SCHOOL Ltd.

13 Swanson St., Auckland, C.1
Phone 42-123.

This Umpiring Business

THESE Test matches are a grim affair. What with questioning of the umpires' decisions from the stands, and suggestions that the umpires be changed in the middle of the series, and that in future we may have *neutral* umpires—Test cricket grows every day more like a U.N. conference.

We were taught at school (or we should have been) not to question the umpire's decision. The lesson lasts with many. There was a man who received his death sentence in the prime of his powers. "I'm sorry," he said, "but I've never disputed the umpire's decision, and I'm not going to start now." Newspaper correspondents who are squealing about Australian umpiring may have been to good schools, by which I mean any good school, primary, "public," "county," or what you will. If so, what has become of their code? Has it been crushed out of them by the solemnity of the occasion, or have they played or watched too much village cricket? In either case they have lost their sense of humour.

Roping Them In

Umpiring is often incompetent and sometimes biased. Roughly speaking, the lower you go in grades, the more likely are you to get one fault or other, or both. This goes for games generally. All sorts and conditions of men are roped in for cricket umpiring. There was, for example, an inexperienced vicar. "How's that?" came the first appeal. "How's what?" "How's that for leg before?" "What constitutes leg before?" A book of the rules was brought to the wicket, and after studying it for ten minutes, the vicar gave his decision. "Without the slightest hesitation I give him not out."

In another match a spectator consented to stand, but said he didn't know much about the game. "Oh, that's all right," replied the home captain. "We're fielding first, and all you have to do is when anybody says, 'How's that?' say 'Out.' Later on, when we go in to bat, I'll tell you a little more." "Not out!" But next time he will be! was a reply to an appeal. I know a man (a last wicket brought in to fill up the side and a complete "rabbit") to whom the umpire made a similar remark on the quiet. Don't be too sure that a soldier or a sailor won't incline to mercy where a popular officer is concerned—or a villager, asked to decide the fate of the squire or the squire's son.

"Our Combined Efforts"

That lovable Victorian, Dean Hole (does anyone read him now?) defined the duties of an umpire as "Fairation



"The umpire knows best"

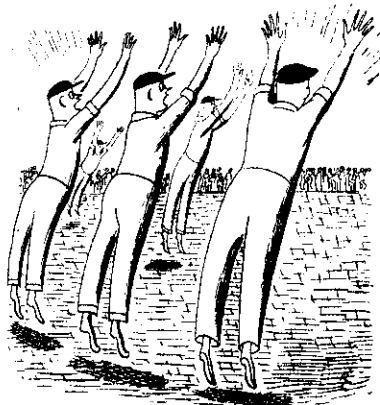
at all costs—with perhaps a little leaning towards your own side." It was another Church of England clergyman who gave out this announcement in church: "Next Saturday our team play H— (a neighbouring village). I shall act as umpire, and I trust our combined efforts may prove successful." The origin of this story, I hasten to add, appears to be *Punch*, but isn't it possible *Punch* got it from life? Not for nothing did the MCC issue an instruction: "Umpires are appointed for each end not for each side."

"Are we playing under the new rule?" asked a visiting captain of the home side's umpire. "What new rule?" The Captain explained the new lbw rule. "Noo rule, you call it? Why, I bin givin' 'em out like that for nigh on sixty years!"

Big Cricket

These backslidings and incompetencies should not be taken too seriously. They are part of the fun of the greatest of games. But when you get up to big cricket, it is a fair assumption that the umpire knows his job and is quite impartial. I don't know how they choose umpires for Test matches in Australia, but does anyone suppose they don't take a good deal of trouble to get the best man? In England old "pros" stand in county matches, and are reported on every season by the county captains.

This panel, I believe, supplies umpires for Test matches, and I do not recall any complaints about umpiring in these games. These "pros" are quite capable of standing up for themselves. A batsman remonstrated with one of them as he left the wicket. "Oh, not out, wasn't yer?" was the reply. "Well, you wait till you see the evening papers."



"One might think it was a wool sale"

Wise players temper their annoyance with two considerations. One is that in