

nearly every case, the umpire is in a better position to judge than the batsman, and the other that wrong decisions against a batsman are balanced by wrong decisions in his favour. Quite a lot of argument and some rancour would be saved if spectators would only reflect that they cannot possibly see what is happening as clearly as the umpire. Only one man can say with a reasonable amount of assurance whether a batsman is out or not lbw, and that is the umpire. Yet one hears appeals from cover-point and the slips, and positive assertions among the crowd. You see the same thing in football. It is easier for a referee to make a mistake, but he is doing his best, and nearly always he sees more of the game than his critics. It seems certain Bob Deans did touch the ball down in that famous match with Wales, but what of it? Was it necessary to keep that disallowed try alive with almost the care bestowed on a border feud?

If I were a cricket captain, I would discourage general appealing. Only two men are in a position to appeal for a catch at the wicket or an lbw — the bowler and the wicket-keeper. In some sides (the Australians seem to be prone to it) there is apt to be a chorus of shouts, with uplifted arms. One might think it was a wool sale. Also I suggest that it is a proof of a man's sportsmanship if he appeals only when he is pretty certain the batsman is out. There is a classic retort by the most famous of English umpires, "Bob" Thoms. A bowler kept on appealing for lbw, and eventually, after a particularly outrageous "try-on," Thoms said: "Young man, when you bowls a wide, I'll say so."

As for "neutral" umpires, whether it is cricket or football or tennis, the idea should be laughed off the map at once. Games are not an international dispute or the choosing of an American jury. Unfortunately, as things are going, there is more and more point in a remark by George Hirst, himself a Test player of renown: "There's nowt like a game of cricket, lad. I said a game. Cricket was never made for any championship. . . . Cricket's a game, not a competition."

—A.M.

### Between the Serials

AFTER a few weeks of experimenting, the ZB stations have found that, although a day-time serial may have a large number of followers, it is quite easy to entertain them equally well with something other than what they have come to expect. For presentation between the serials, whose plots rely largely on "problems of the home and complexities of modern life," Commercial Division officials have chosen an album series, and already there have been many inquiries for repetitions of these items. Programme organisers have found, too, that the listening public has a short memory. The heroine of a serial may be forgotten within a few days of her forsaking the air, and her successor, whether another heroine or a straight-out entertainer, quickly supplants her in popularity. The current ZB experiment consists of presenting (in album form) between serials such artists as André Kostelanetz, Marian Anderson, Victor Borge (of phonetic punctuation fame), Gladys Swarthout, Dorothy Maynor, Pat Harrington (Irish tenor), the Southernaires (Negro spiritual quartet), Carmen Cavallero (pianist), and Josef Marais (South African singer).

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ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Keep this announcement for future reference.

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