

Not All Cricket

WAS IT ALL CRICKET? By Daniel Reese. Introduction by Sir Pelham Warner. George Allen and Unwin, London. English price, 25/-.

46 NOT OUT. By R. C. Robertson-Glasgow. Hollis and Carter, London. Our copy through the British Council. English price, 10/6.

THE GRACES (E.M., W.G., and G.F.). By A. G. Powell and S. Canynge Caple. The Cricket Book Society, England. Our copy through the British Council. English price, 15/-.

TWO of these three books are divided between cricket and the other businesses of life, such as earning a living and travel. In the third there are a few mentions of the fact that W. G. Grace and his two famous brothers were doctors, and one again wonders how "E.M." and "W.G." managed to combine cricket with medicine so assiduously and for so long, but the book is about cricket and little else. "W.G." was the greatest cricketer the game has produced anywhere. Daniel Reese was the best all-rounder in New Zealand cricket history. When Dan Reese (no one ever thinks of him as Daniel) was a young man, he played in Grace's London County side, and his accounts of the games and his

picture of the Old Man are among the many attractive things in his book. In one respect he is "W.G.'s" superior. He writes much better than Grace did.

There has been nothing in New Zealand cricket to equal Dan Reese's career. At fifteen he played for a senior Christchurch side visiting Wellington, and did the hat trick. At sixteen he played for Canterbury, and kept his place in the side. At nineteen he was chosen for the first New Zealand team to visit Australia, in 1898. Out of his engineering apprenticeship, he went to Melbourne for more training and played in the Melbourne Club's first eleven, which brought him into close contact with Hugh Trumble and other giants of the game. Back in New Zealand he scored two centuries against Warner's team. After working his passage to England as an engineer, he played with Grace and W. L. Murdoch, the famous Australian batsman of the 'eighties. Following more service at sea in pursuit of his chief's ticket, he was included in the Essex county side. Established in his own country, he captained all New Zealand elevens from 1907 to 1914, and



THE LONDON COUNTY Team which played Gloucestershire in June, 1903—J. West, A. Kermode, W. G. Grace (captain), C. J. Posthuma, W. Attewell, J. Gilman, J. W. H. T. Douglas, D. Reese, L. O. S. Poidevin, R. B. Brooks, H. V. Hesketh-Prichard, W. L. Murdoch, A. E. Lawton.

played in many interprovincial matches in that period and later. In the second tour of Australia, he headed both the batting and bowling averages. For more than twenty years he was a member of the Management Committee of the New Zealand Cricket Council.

It is not only that Rees played so much, in so many countries, and among

so many players. He was liked by those he met, and won their confidence. Either he kept a diary, or has a very good memory, or both, for he re-plays many matches of long ago in detail, and tells us not only what players did, but what they said. These recollections of "old happy far-off things and battles long ago," cover some historic struggles for the Plunket



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