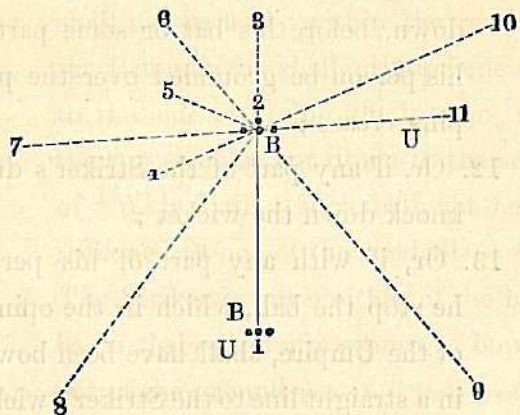


A CRICKET FIELD.

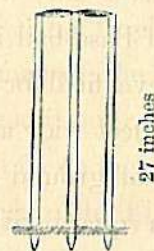


EXPLANATION.

...The wickets ; B, B, the batsmen ; U, U, the umpires ; 1, the bowler ; 2, wicket-keeper ; 3, long-stop ; 4, point ; 5, short-slip ; 6, long-slip ; 7, cover-point ; 8 long-off ; 9, long-on ; 10, long-leg ; 11, square leg.



THE BAT



THE WICKETS

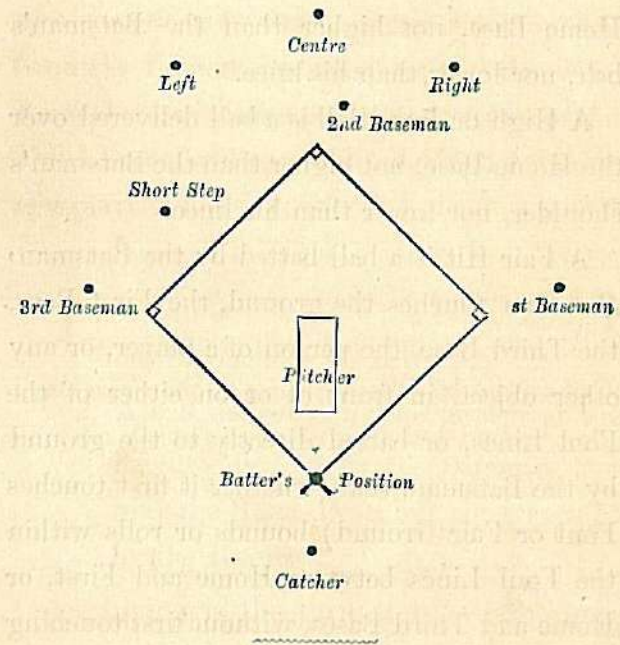
BASE BALL.

Base Ball is the national game of the American people. Although originating in the English game of Rounders, it requires manly qualities in a high degree to excel in it. The theory of Base-ball is as simple as that of any field sport in vogue, and therein lies one of its most attractive features : but yet to play the game up to its highest point of excellence requires as great a degree of mental ability,

and the possession of as many manly physical attributes, as any known game of ball. The theory of Base-ball is as follows:—In the first place a level field for play is selected, about three hundred feet wide and five hundred feet long. A space of ground is then marked out in the form of a square, with one corner as the position of the Home Base, and the other corners for the First, Second, and Third bases, the first Base being on the right of the Batsman, as he stands at the Home base, and the Third Base on the left. There are two parties, nine players in each, in contesting a game of Base ball. These nine players occupy the following positions : Catcher, Pitcher, First, Second, and Third basemen, Short-Stop, and Left, Centre, and Right Fielders. The first six players above-named form the “*in-fielders*,” and the last three the “*out-fielders*,” the nine taking the field being called the “*field*” or “*out-ha d.*” After the

parties toss for the innings, the losing side go to the bat, and the winning party to the field, and each man to his position. The Pitcher then delivers the ball to a batsman of the opposite nine, who endeavours to send it out of reach of the opposing field party, and far enough into the field to admit of his running to the First Base or as many of the Bases as he can, if he run once round, and is not put out in the interim, he scores a run. He is followed by his companions, one after another in regular rotation, until three of the batting side are put out, when the field side take the bat and have their innings. Nine innings constitute a full game, and no game is considered as played unless five full innings have been completed. In case of a tie at the close of the ninth innings, the game must be prolonged innings after innings, until one or other of the contesting sides obtains the most runs in an equal number of innings.

The Catcher plays behind the Batsman to receive the ball from the Pitcher. The Pitcher stands near the centre of the *in-field*, fifty feet from the Home Base, and he is allowed only to “*pitch*” the ball to the bat, not to throw it, jerk it, or bowl it. The First Baseman attends to balls fielded to him on the base, his principal duty being to hold the ball, while having one foot on the base before the Batsman reaches it. The Second and Third Basemen have not only to hold the ball, but also to touch players running to the bases before they can touch the Bases. The Short-Stop attends to the duties of backing up the Pitcher and Basemen generally, and of stopping balls from the bat, and throwing them to the Bases, when the ball happens to come within reach. The principal duties of the three out-fielders are to catch long high balls, and to return balls sent to their positions.



DEFINITIONS & RULES.

A High Ball is a ball delivered over the Home Base, higher than the belt of the Batsman, but no higher than his shoulder.

A Low Ball is a ball delivered over the

Home Base, not higher than the Batsman's belt, nor lower than his knee.

A High or Low Ball is a ball delivered over the Home Base, not higher than the Batsman's shoulder, nor lower than his knee.

A Fair Hit is a ball batted by the Batsman, that first touches the ground, the First Base, the Third Base, the person of a player, or any other object, in front of or on either of the Foul Lines, or batted directly to the ground by the Batsman, that (whether it first touches Foul or Fair Ground) bounds or rolls within the Foul Lines between Home and First, or Home and Third Bases, without first touching the person of a player.

A Foul Hit is a ball batted by the Batsman, that first touches the ground, the person of a player, or any other object, behind either of the Foul Lines, or that strikes the person of such Batsman, while standing in his position,

that (whether it first touches Foul or Fair Ground) bounds or rolls outside the Foul Lines, between Home and First, or Home and Third Bases, without first touching the person of a player.

A Strike is

1. A ball struck at by the Batsman without it touching his bat ; or.
2. A ball delivered by the pitcher at the height called for by the Batsman, and over the Home Base, but not struck at by the Batsman.

An Inning is the turn at bat of the nine players, and is completed when three of such players have been put out.

The Batsman becomes a Base-Runner.

1. Instantly after he makes a Fair Hit.
2. Instantly after seven Balls have been called by the Umpire.

3. Instantly after three Strikes have been declared by the Umpire.

The Batsman on taking his position must call for a "High Ball," a "Low Ball," or a "High or Low Ball." The Umpire shall count and call every "Unfair Ball" delivered by the pitcher, and he shall also count and call every Strike.

The Base-Runner shall be entitled, without being put out, to take one Base, in the following cases.

1. If, while he was Batsman, the Umpire *calls* called seven balls.
2. If the Umpire awards a succeeding Batsman a base on seven balls, and the Base-Runner is thereby forced to vacate the base held by him.
3. If the Umpire calls a Balk.
4. If he be prevented from making a base by the obstruction of an adversary.

5. If a Fielder stop or catch a batted ball with his hat or any part of his dress.

The Base-Runner shall return to his base, and shall be entitled to do so without being put out.

If the Umpire declares a Foul Hit and the ball be not caught by a Fielder before touching the ground.

The Base-Runner is out :

1. If, having made a Fair Hit while Batsman, the ball be caught.
2. If, after three Strikes or a Fair Hit, he be touched with the ball in the hand of a Fielder before such Base-Runner touches First Base.
3. If, immediately after three strikes, seven balls, or a fair hit, he fails to run to First Base.
4. If, at any time-while the ball is in play, he be touched by the ball in the hand

of a Fielder, unless some part of his person is touching a base he is entitled to occupy, provided the ball be held by the Fielder after touching him; *but* in running to First Base he may overrun said base without being put out for being off said base, after first touching it, provided he returns at once and retouches the base, after which he may be put out as at any other base. If, in overrunning First Base, he also attempts to run to Second Base, he shall forfeit such exemption from being put out.

5. If, when a Fair or Foul Hit is caught by a Fielder on the base occupied by the Base-Runner when such ball was struck, before he retouches said base after such Fair or Foul Hit ball was so caught.

One run shall be scored every time a Base-

Runner; after having touched the first three bases, shall touch the Home Base before three men are put out.

ATHLETIC SPORTS.

An afternoon of Athletic Sports is very enjoyable. They all require some practice before the day.

100 YARDS RACE.

This distance is a very popular one. The Competitors start at a given signal and race to the winning post which is at a distance of 100 yards from the starting post. Any Competitor who starts before the signal should be put back one yard.

The same is said of 200 yards, $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile, and $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile races.