

# Curve Balls

The "Spit Ball," the "Rise Ball," the "Fade Away Ball" and Other Marvels of the National Game. Why a New Curve Is a Bonanza.

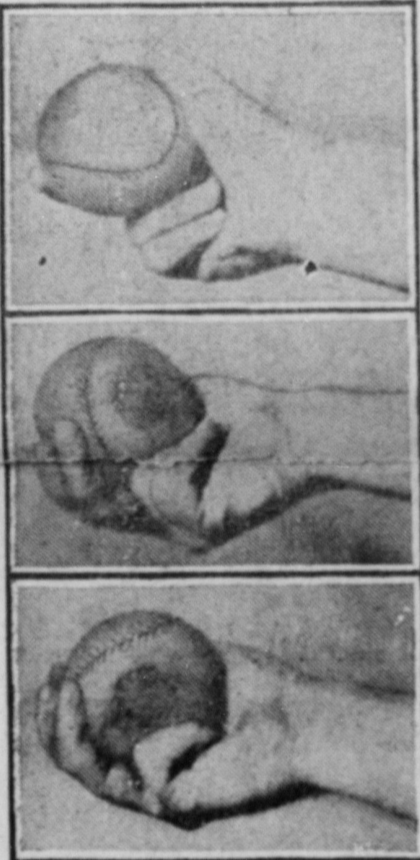
By FREDERICK R. TOOMBS.



HOW THE "SPIT BALL" IS HELD.

BASEBALL pitchers find the study of the phenomena of curve balls a most interesting as well as valuable pursuit. It was the discovery of the curve that gave baseball much of its impetus as a scientific sport, and men spend years in seeking to develop new variations of it and new possibilities. Those who successfully demonstrate a new species of curve find no difficulty in earning \$5,000 to \$8,000 or \$10,000 a year. Considering that almost any major league pitcher can, by careful living and judicious treatment of his so-called "salary wing," succeed in staying in the game for ten years, it is seen that it is almost as profitable to study ball curves as it is to elect yourself president of the United States. And, so far as a corporation presidency is concerned, the clever pitcher for a big league team makes practically as much money and runs far less risk of going to jail.

Among the new curves are what have become known as the "spit ball," the "rise ball" and the "fade away ball." The "spit ball" is probably more disconcerting to batsmen than any other curve because it is said to "break" or curve in at least two different directions and in such a manner that not even the man who delivers it can accurately gauge just how it is going to act. The "spit ball" is grasped in the middle of the pitcher's palm with the



HOW PITCHERS HOLD THE BALL IN THROWING CURVES. [At the top, ready for an incurve or shoot; in the middle, an out curve or shoot; at the bottom, a drop.]

thumb and all the fingers extended as far around it as they will go. The pitcher moistens with his tongue (hence the name of the curve) one of two of his fingers so that these fingers exert practically no pressure on the ball and then throws it with all the force that he can muster and yet be reasonably accurate. The fingers that were not moistened exert pressure on the sides of the ball so peculiarly as to make the revolutions of the ball vary in direction during its flight, and so the two different curves during one flight of the ball are produced. The "initial" cut in this column shows how the ball is held by the pitcher who delivers the "spit ball." This photograph and the others used in illustrating this article were specially posed for by Joseph McGinnity of the New York National league team.

The "rise ball" is the result of experiments of men who have for years been trying to perfect an "up curve" or "up shoot." While pitchers could produce without much difficulty "in-curves," "outs," "drops" and "out-drops," they could not for many years make a ball rise as it went over the home plate.

The inshoot is delivered by sending the ball away over the ends of the index and middle fingers.

It is the revolving of the ball on its axis that makes it curve, or, to be more accurate, that leads to its curving. The ball that revolves swiftly from left to right offers more resistance to the air on its left side than it does on its right, so the ball swerves to the right, or in toward the batsman.

The outshoot is delivered by sending the ball away over the side of the forefinger, and when the ball is released the back of the hand is turned downward. Now the ball revolves from right to left, and so it swerves to the left, or out from the batsman.

The drop can be delivered in two or three different ways, and in most cases the ball is held just as for an out-curve, but it is frequently let go with more of a snap and always with the back of the pitching hand turned to the right or partly to the front, so as to make the ball revolve away from the holder and with its axis at right angles to the course it pursues to the plate.

## A MODERN MERMAID.

Annette Kellerman, Champion Woman Swimmer, and Her Adventures.

There are no mermaids now except in variety shows and funny stories, but Annette Kellerman, the champion woman swimmer of the world, comes pretty near to being one. She is almost as much at home in the water as on dry land. Miss Kellerman recently came to this country from England to meet the expert swimmers of the United States. She is of practically perfect physique, with tapering wrists and ankles, olive complexion and gray eyes, which light up a winsome face. She is of Australian birth, but her mother was born in America of French parents. Miss Kellerman is twenty-one



MISS KELLERMAN AND A SNAPSHOT AT HER WHILE SWIMMING.

and has been an expert swimmer from childhood. Last year she made a new record on the Danube, swimming twenty-three miles in 3 hours, 11 minutes and 20 seconds. She has had some amusing experiences in the water, but the most unique was when, during her attempt to swim the English channel in 1905, a man proposed to her. In relating the story Miss Kellerman said:

"Rather a unique place for an offer of marriage? I call it my 'channel proposal.' A well known swimmer, and a very fine one, too, paced me during my swim. After a half hour or so of silence, to my great amusement, he turned suddenly and said: 'We go very well together in double harness, don't you think? and forthwith made me a proposal of marriage. Surprised? Yes, but more amused, I think. I told him I preferred waiting until I saw him out of the water, as I would never marry a little man. I met him after at the supper given in my honor and found he was of short stature, so I declined his flattering offer.'

## A WELCOME BOY.

Queen Victoria of Spain and Her Gift to Alfonso of an Heir.

Great preparations were made for the heir to the Spanish throne who has just arrived. Queen Victoria made King Alfonso a very proud papa when she presented him with a bouncing boy. Although a girl would have been welcomed, a boy in this particular instance was much more desired. If the little prince lives to succeed his father on the Spanish throne it will be the fulfillment of the present young monarch's most ardent wish. In consequence of the importance of the birth of an heir the king himself issued an official proclamation shortly before the event was expected, giving explicit directions as to all ceremonies connected therewith. The decree began thus:

In order that the ceremonies which must take place in connection with the approaching accouchement of my dear and beloved spouse, when the Almighty per-



QUEEN VICTORIA OF SPAIN.

mits that so happy an event shall be realized, may be carried out with all the customary solemnity, I make this decree.

Then followed directions as to the dignitaries who should attend the presentation of the heir. Article 5 read:

In order that the inhabitants of the most heroic town of Madrid may know without delay whether the newly born child is a prince or an infantia there shall be hoisted in the first case the Spanish flag over that part of the royal palace known as the Punta del Diamante, and there shall be fired a salute of twenty-one guns at the customary places; in the second case the flag shall be white, and the salute shall be fifteen guns. Should the birth take place at night, a light of the appropriate color shall be placed beneath the flag.

## PETER M'ARTHUR, POET.

Talented Canadian Bard and His New Book, "The Prodigal."

"Where are your poets?" asked Ambassador James Bryce at a dinner in New York recently, and ever since the now historic question was put efforts at answering it have been in evidence. Many writers of verse, young and old, have been pointed to as proof that America has at the present time real bona fide possessors of poetic genius. Naturally opinions differ as to the rank the respective versifiers should take. The question is especially difficult when applied to the younger writers. Among the latter is Peter McArthur, a Canadian of Scotch descent, now a New Yorker, who has made a selection from his privately printed sonnets and from his contributions to the Century, Atlantic Monthly and other magazines and embodied them in a volume entitled "The Prodigal and Other Poems."



PETER M'ARTHUR.

It is published by Mitchell Kennerly. Mr. McArthur is about forty years of age, talks Scotch Gaelic fluently and was at one time editor of New York Truth. Later he was associated with W. T. Stead in London journalism. His poems have been widely published. The title poem of his new book, "The Prodigal," which originally appeared in the Youth's Companion, is as follows:

**THE PRODIGAL.**  
Last night the boy came back to me again,  
The laughing boy, all credulous of good,  
Long lost, far wandered in the ways of men,  
He came and roused me with an olden mood.  
He came the lover and enthusiast,  
Shook off my years and with enlivened eyes  
Smiled at the shadow that the world had cast  
And looked at life with all the old sur-  
prise,  
And I, the slave of patience, took him in,  
Gave him my heart and bade him welcome home,  
Thrilled with his dreams of all I yet may win—  
Allured again in golden paths to roam,  
And now I know life has no greater joy  
Than, having lived, to be once more a boy.

## PRINCE OSCAR.

Son of Emperor William Who Would Like to Study in America.

Emperor William of Germany and the empress have had seven children, six boys and a girl, and one of the most promising members of the family is the handsome Prince Oscar, who has been spoken of as likely to take a course of study in this country at Harvard university. One report had it that the emperor said he would not hesitate about the matter if it were not for the newspaper correspondents. He



PRINCE OSCAR.

feared lest they might be so inquisitive as to his son's student life as to interfere with the young man's studies.

Prince Oscar is now about eighteen and is the favorite of the empress. He is a fine carpenter, it being the custom for Hohenzollern princes to learn some trade. He has been raised under a vigorous regime and never was pampered by court luxuries. His three meals a day have been of the plainest fare, and, though the kaiser believes in plenty of exercise, he has seen to it that his son gave close attention to study

## The Battered Hobbyhorse.

A scarred and battered hobbyhorse, with one eye missing, its mane and mane reduced to ragged wisps of hair and a little leather saddle worn almost to fragments on its back, formed a part of the baggage carried by an aged couple in the Union station waiting room at St. Louis the other evening. It captured the interest of a crowd that gathered. The old man listened to the comments, some of them unkind jests. Then he spoke, almost in a tone of apology. "We're goin' to Texas, and we couldn't leave it behind," he explained. "You see, it belonged to our little boy that's dead. He used to set a night or there by that old horse, and now it's all we've got to remember him by. We kept it all these years back in Indiana, and then when things got bad and our daughter down in Texas sent for us, why, we just packed up and started. Had to leave lots of things back there, but not that. We couldn't leave that, could we?" He turned to his wife. "No; we couldn't leave the horse," she said.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

## Buying Clothes.

"I suppose everybody has some plan of making purchases," said a man holding a list of wearing apparel that he was about to buy. "Do you see those two articles I have crossed off? I am not going to buy them till the end of the season, when the price will be cut. For the same reason I am not going to lose a day in securing the articles not crossed off. The two articles I cut out I can wait for without much inconvenience. As for the others, since I have to buy them in season and pay the regular price, I will buy them at once and have at least a month and a half's extra use of them. That makes me break even with the end of the season. I save by purchasing early and late, though the early purchases I deem most economical, particularly in things where style is a consideration."—Columbus Dispatch.

## The Seat of Authority.

It is an unwritten law on shipboard, and especially on men-of-war, that the quarter deck is for the exclusive use of officers, and all good seamen remember it, in spite of their ambitions. It once happened that an ancient mariner, a "five strip," while on shore leave captured a mule. Not without difficulty he mounted the animal and perched himself as near the tail as possible. The mule objected in every way known to a mule and in ways several and unexpected.

## The Modesty of Women.

Naturally makes them shrink from the indelicate questions, the obnoxious examinations, and unpleasant local treatments, which some physicians consider essential in the treatment of diseases of women. Yet, if help can be had, it is better to submit to this ordeal than let the disease grow and spread. The trouble is that so often the woman undergoes all the annoyance and shame for nothing. Thousands of women who have been cured by Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription write in appreciation of the cure which dispels all the examinations and local treatments. There is no other medicine so sure and safe for delicate women as "Favorite Prescription." It cures debilitating drains, irregularity and female weakness. It always helps. It is almost always cured. It is strictly non-alcoholic, non-secret, all its ingredients being printed on its bottle-wrapper; contains no deleterious or habit-forming drugs, and every native medicinal root entering into its composition has the full endorsement of those most eminent in the several schools of medical practice. Some of these numerous and strongest of professional endorsements of its ingredients, will be found in a pamphlet wrapped around the bottle, also in a booklet mailed free on request, by Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y. These professional endorsements should have far more weight than any amount of the ordinary lay, or non-professional testimonials.

The most intelligent women now-a-days insist on knowing what they take as medicine instead of opening their mouths like a lot of young birds and gulping down whatever is offered them. "Favorite Prescription" is of known composition. It makes weak women strong and sick women well. Dr. Pierce's Medical Adviser is sent free on receipt of stamps to pay expense of mailing only. Send to Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y., 21 one-cent stamps for paper-covered, or 31 stamps for cloth-bound. If sick consult the Doctor, free of charge by letter. All such communications are held sacredly confidential. Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets Invigorates and regulates stomach, liver and bowels.

"Jack, sit more amiable," called out an engineer officer who happened past; "you'll ride easier." "Captain," grinned the old salt, "this is the first craft I ever commanded, and it's a pity if I can't stay on the quarter deck."

## Stanton Could Swear.

One day President Lincoln saw Senator Fessenden coming toward his office room. Mr. Fessenden had received the promise of some appointment in Maine for one of his constituents. The case had been overlooked. As soon as Mr. Lincoln caught sight of the senator he saw Fessenden was angry and called out, "Say, Fessenden, aren't you an Episcopalian?" Mr. Fessenden, somewhat taken aback, answered, "Yes, I belong to that persuasion, Mr. President." Mr. Lincoln then said: "I thought so. You swear so much like Seward. Seward is an Episcopalian, but you ought to hear Stanton swear. He can beat you both. He is a Presbyterian."

Charleston, S. C., was at first called King Charles Fort in honor of Charles I. Charleston was substituted for the earlier designation in 1783.

## LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS.

### ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

Estate of MICHAEL CORMAN, JR., late of Walker township, deceased. Letters of administration in the above estate having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make payment, and those having claims to present the same without delay, to WILLIAM H. CORMAN, Adm'r. Zion, Pa. W. HARRISON WALKER, Atty. 233

### ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

Estate of SAMUEL GINGERY, late of Worth township, deceased. Letters of administration in the above estate having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make payment, and those having claims to present the same without delay, to W. B. GINGERY, Adm'r. Martha, Pa. CLEMENT DALE, Atty. 232

### EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.

Estate of SUSAN ZIMMERMAN, late of Walker Township, deceased. Letters testamentary in the above estate having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make payment, and those having claims to present the same without delay, to THOMAS FULTON, Executor. Minerva, Pa. W. G. HUNKLER, Atty. Bellefonte, Pa. 232

### ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

Estate of SARAH E. PLETCHER, late of Howard township, deceased. Letters of administration in the above estate having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make payment, and those having claims to present the same without delay, to JOSEPH H. PLETCHER, Administrator. Blanchard, Pa. W. G. HUNKLER, Atty. Bellefonte, Pa. 234

### EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.

Estate of SADDIE I. EMERICK, late of Walker township, deceased. Letters testamentary in the above estate having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make payment, and those having claims to present the same without delay. The executor will be at Snyderstown, May 2 and 3, to receive probated accounts. H. E. DUCK, Ex. Millheim, Pa. 232

## SEALED PROPOSALS.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania—State Highway Department. Harrisburg, Pa. Sealed proposals will be received by the State Highway Department of Pennsylvania, under the act approved May 1st, 1906, for the construction of 4,957 feet of road, extending from the borough of Bellefonte to the Boggs Township Line in Spring Township, in the county of Centre. Plans and specifications can be seen at the office of the County Commissioners, Bellefonte, Pa., and at the office of the State Highway Department, Harrisburg, Pa. Bidding blanks will be furnished by the State Highway Department upon request. Bids must be endorsed "PROPOSALS FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF ROAD IN SPRING TOWNSHIP, CENTRE COUNTY," and received at the office of the State Highway Department not later than May 23rd, 1907. JOSEPH W. HUNTER, State Highway Commissioner. 232

## SEALED PROPOSALS.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. State Highway Department. Harrisburg, Pa. Sealed proposals will be received by the State Highway Department of Pennsylvania, under the Act approved May 1st, 1906, for the construction of 5,208 feet of road, extending from the Spring Township Line to the borough of Milesburg and known as the Milesburg Pike, in Boggs Township, in the county of Centre. Plans and specifications can be seen at the office of the County Commissioners, Bellefonte, Pa., and at the office of the State Highway Department, Harrisburg, Pa. Bidding blanks will be furnished by the State Highway Department upon request. Bids must be endorsed "PROPOSALS FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF ROAD IN BOGGS TOWNSHIP, CENTRE COUNTY," and received at the office of the State Highway Department not later than May 23rd, 1907. JOSEPH W. HUNTER, State Highway Commissioner. 232

## STOCKHOLDERS' NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that by resolution of the Board of Directors of the "Hayes Run Fire Brick Company" a meeting of the Stockholders of the said Company will be held at its principal office at Orvis, Centre County, Pa., on Friday the 25th day of June, 1907, between the hours of 10 a. m. and 12:30 p. m., for the purpose of holding an election to vote for or against the proposed increase of the capital stock of the Company from \$225,000 to \$250,000. W. O. BENTLEY, Secretary. 16-35

## AUDITOR'S NOTICE.

In the Orphans' Court of Centre county. In the matter of the estate of CATHERINE HAAG, late of the Borough of Bellefonte, dec'd. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned Auditor, appointed by the Orphans' Court of Centre County in the above named estate, to make distribution of the funds in the hands of the Administrator as shown by his first and final account to and among those legally entitled to receive the same, will meet the parties interested in his office in the Crider Exchange building in the borough of Bellefonte, on Saturday, May 25th, A. D. 1907, at 10 o'clock a. m., at which time all persons interested in said estate are invited to appear and present their claims. N. B. SPANGLER, Auditor. Bellefonte, May 1st, 1907.

## LEGAL NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the following accounts will be presented to the Court for confirmation on Wednesday, May 23rd, 1907, and unless exceptions be filed thereto, on or before the 2nd day of the term, the same will be confirmed, to-wit: The First and Final Account of Jackson Watson, guardian of Elsie Watson. The First Account of Fillmore Craig, guardian of Rev. John Craig. Second and Final Account of William H. Miller, guardian of John A. Miller, filed by Charles E. Wetzel and Sarah E. Gares, administrators of William H. Miller, deceased. First Account of H. J. McGintire, guardian of Nancy Ellen McGintire. A. B. KIMPORT, Prothonotary. April 16, 1907. 231

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