BASE BALL EXPERIMENTS.

Special League Rules that Hamper both Pitcher and Batsman.

Since the League Convention professional circles in the League club cities have been considerably excited in regard to the effect of the new rules governing the pitcher's and batsman's positions which are to go into effect next season. Several pitchers of note have been interviewed recently, and as a general thing they do not relish the new rule, which puts them back five feet further from their batting opponent than they stood before. They thought their work pretty hard as it was before in sending in balls at almost rifle-like speed, besides having to impart the difficult bias to the ball which makes it form a horizontal curve through the air in its passage to the bat. They have, of course, all become familiar with the existing distance of forty-five feet from the front line of their position to the line of the home base, and they calculate that the additional five feet of distance is going to bother them. In fact, they will have to train all over again in order to attain a correct measurement in delivery of the new distance.

There is another point which bears upon the new rule of fifty feet distance between the pitcher's and batsman's positions, and that is its effect upon the course of the ball. One pitcher says that it will help his curve, inasmuch as his pace is such that the curve bias does not begin to be felt until the ball is almost close up to the bat, and therefore he can now gauge his curve better. Another pitcher, however, asserts that the new rule will have almost a negative effect on his delivery, as it will enable the batsman to judge the line of his curve better than before. The fact is, however, that as a general thing it is all surmise thus far as regards the practical working of the new rule in either strengthening or weakening the effect of the pitcher's delivery. One thing is pretty certain, however, and that is that the increased distance between the pitcher and batsman will have a decided tendency to enable the batsman to judge the ball better.

As regards the new batting rule, which lessens the number of fair balls the batsman is allowed to let go by him without his striking at them, there is little doubt that it will still more cramp the batsman in his effort to hit the ball than did the old rule, inasmuch as it lessens the number of fair balls from four to three. It was a pretty hard task for the batsman to hit the swift curve balls sent in to him under the previous rule of his being allowed four fair balls, and it will be still more difficult for him to bat with confidence and judgment when he has only three balls to strike at. Under the new rule the first three balls sent in over the home base and at the height called for must be struck at by the batsman, or the umpire is obliged to decide him out on three strikes. Before this amendment was made, after two good balls had been struck at or passed without being struck at, the umpire was empowered to call "Good ball" on the third, and he was not allowed to give the batsman out until the fourth ball sent in fairly had been struck at or let go by. But now only three good balls are left for the batsman to choose from, and the batting fraternity naturally regard this figure as too small a margin for good batting. It is true that this curtailment of the number of fair balls has been effected by a reduction of the number of unfair balls delivered by the pitcher, the batsman now being allowed to take his base on seven balls, instead of eight, as last season. This is only a slight reduction, however, and far from being in proportion to the value of lessening the number of fair balls. The coming season is evidently likely to be one of experiment as far as these special rules are concerned.

NICOLO PIZZO'S FATE.

What the Detectives have Learned Concerning an Alleged Murder by a Padrone.

The story of an Italian boy, now living in Rochester, setting forth the grounds for suspicion that his brother, Nicolo Pizzo, was murdered in this city eight years ago by a padrone named Felice Padula, at 45 Crosby street, was printed in THE SUN on Nov. 19. A Rochester policeman heard the Italian boy say that he had received a letter from Antonio Belleterie of 54 Thompson street, in this city, in which Belleterie wrote that he saw Padula kick Nicolo Pizzo to death.

Inspector Murray requested Capt.Ealy to look into the matter, and the Captain detailed Detectives Brennan and Moran for the job. They have made their report. They say that nothing could be learned at 45 Crosby street concerning Padula, but they found Belleterie at 54 Thompson street. Belleterie told the detectives that one afternoon in 1872, while he was playing cards with Padula in the latter's dingy room at 45 Crosby street, Nicolo Pizzo, one of Padula's boys, entered with his violin broken. As soon as Padula saw the broken instrument he flew into a rage, and, without waiting for an explanation, kicked the boy in the back with his right foot. The boy uttered a piercing scream and fell to the floor insensible. Padula lifted him and carried him into the next room, where he was laid on the bed. The boy was unconscious. Belleterie never saw the boy afterward. He often asked Padula where Pizzo was, and always received the answer: "Oh, he has run away." Pizzo, Belleterie told the detective, was one of seven boys whom Padula brought to this country, having purchased their services from their parents in Italy.

Belleterie firmly believes that Pizzo died from the effects of the kick given him by Padula. The padrone quitted this city about six months after the assault upon Pizzo, and went to Rochester, where he lived until three years ago, when he went back to Italy. Belleterie says that he now lives in Laurenzana, a small town about 150 miles from Naples. The parents of Pizzo live in Pigeron, which is near Laurenzana.

A Queer Clock.

A private view has lately been offered, at 958 Broadway, of a most ingeniously constructed clock. In its multitudinous crooks and recesses may be seen a running locomotive, a mechanical walking man, a representation of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the figures being carved out of wood and working in the most lifelike manner, a procession composed of all the Presidents since Washington, Mr. Tilden, and Lincoln emancipating the slave. In the latter representation a door slowly opens and a slave is seen bound to a block. Lincoln approaches and removes the fetters from his limbs. A group also represents infancy and old age. A babe crawls forth upon its knees, shakes its rattlebox, and retires. Old age steps forth, bows sadly, and disappears.

The arts and sciences are represented by a miniature of the famous Strasburg clock. The apostles appear, bowing to the Lord. Peter turns his back, Satan appears, the cock crows, Death stalks stiffly forward, and the Roman sentinel advances. The days of the week are given, the day of the month, phases of the moon, and other celestial phenomena.

Unable to Make Up his Mind.

A man in Burlington County, N. J., could not decide for whom to cast his vote at the late election, and he made it a subject of prayer. He then put the two opposing tickets in his vest pocket, went to the polls, pulled out one of the pieces of paper without looking at it, and voted it. On his return home he discovered that he had voted in favor of a barrel of cider. He tried in vain to change his vote.

NOTES OF ENTERTAINMENTS.

Ball of the Congregation Chaari Zedek, Irving Hall, Jan. 22.

The Hebrew fair in the Metropolitan Concert Hall is to be closed on Tuesday.

Reception of Company D, Ninth Regiment, in the armory, Thursday evening.

Ball of Herd No. 1, Benevolent Order of Buffaloes, Irving Hall, Thursday evening.

The fair of the Temple Beth Elohim, Brooklyn, E. D., is to be opened in the Temple to-day.

Winter games of the North Side Athletic Club, Wood's Grounds, Christmas eve. Exhibition by Howard, Dobler, and Krohne.

Wrestling by Edwin Bibby and Clarens Whistler for $250 and the championship of America in the Rink to-morrow evening.

Lecture by the Rev. Robert Collyer, on "Something about Home," before the Young Men's Hebrew Association, Chickering Hall, Jan. 5.

The annual Martha Washington reception and ball for the benefit of St. John's Guild will be in the Academy of Music on Wednesday evening, Feb. 9.

A fair for the benefit of the regimental and armory fund of the Fifth Regiment will be opened in the armory today, and be continued until the 29th.

Thomas Davidson, M. A., of Boston, will read a paper on "The Recent Excavations and Discoveries at Athens and Olympia" in Chickering Hall to-morrow evening.

The Sisters of Charity in charge of St. Vincent's Hospital will hold a fair for the benefit of the hospital, beginning on Thursday evening next and closing on the 31st, in the armory of the Twenty-second Regiment, Fourteenth street, near Sixth avenue.

The fifth annual children's carnival in aid of the building fund of the Western Dispensary, is to be in the Academy of Music on the 7th of February, under the management of Prof. Carl Marwig and the special patronage of Mrs. Cornelius. The programme is new and picturesque.

Archibald Forbes, the war correspondent, has chosen for his last lecture in this city the one on "The Inner Life of a War Correspondent." It embodies the personal experience of war-correspondents in actual service in stirring sketches of the most prominent of the associates in that work, and exciting episodes, and is to be delivered in Chickering Hall on Wednesday evening next.

Court Calendars This Day.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.—Third Monday motion calendar of special term. SPECIAL TERM—Adjourned for term. Part I.—Nos. 2098, 1973, 1527, 2412, 1424, 1924, 2397, 1962, 2168, 2129, 2374, 2449, 2457, 2466, 2471, 2474, 2467, 1902, 2025, 671, 862, 2361, 2270, 2149, 2480, 2531, 1787, 1788, 1675, 1890, 2133, 2426, 2425, 553, 1020, 1030, 2680, 2685, 2341, 2027, 2574, 2576, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2587, 1741, 11—Ex. 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626,