

Watchman's Comments.

A "WASH-OUT."

The first day of the cricket season of 1931 was a "wash out," play being impossible, for most of the grounds in this district were under water, owing to the heavy rains of Friday and Saturday. There was to have been a red-letter day at Clifton-road, arrangements having been made for Mr. C. Waddilove's team, including eight county players, to open the Brighouse Cricket Club season. The engagement, however, had to be cancelled at noon. Rastrick should have opened their season with a home fixture against Lanthwaite. The visitors put in a hopeful appearance at Roundhill, but they had to return without a ball being bowled.

It is hoped that the "fannel wearers" will be more fortunate tomorrow (Saturday), so far as the weather is concerned. Both Brighouse and Rastrick have home matches, the former entertaining Bingley and the latter Almondbury. Increased interest should be taken in the Clifton-road game from the fact that Wilfred Barber (the Yorkshire County player) will assist Brighouse, while Arnold Carter (Rastrick) and C. Harrison (one of last year's Brighouse pros.) are included in the visiting side. Rastrick are hoping that their attack will be strengthened by the appearance of Frank Hopton, the fast bowler, who has returned to the side from Greenfield. Elland will be at home to Slaithwaite.

JUNIOR CRICKET.

Looking back at the history of junior cricket in Brighouse and district, writes a correspondent, one is conscious of a feeling of regret that so many clubs have gone out of existence. Brighouse Parish Church, Park Church, Ballife Bridge, Rastrick St. John's and Elland Upper Edge have played a notable part in local cricket, and it is a pity that they are now out of the game. Elland Edge has never been quite the same place since cricket was dropped, and it cannot be denied that cricket does much to keep up village patriotism and good fellowship. Happily, there is one club that continues to keep the flag flying—Rastrick New Road. Started in 1886 it had one or two setbacks, but since it was resuscitated in 1896 it has carried on for 35 years, and no club in the Huddersfield Association has won a greater respect. There is no need to mention names, but many lads have graduated from New Road to the higher-class cricket at Round Hill. In these days of professionalism and talent money it is refreshing to know that New Road players have always paid their own expenses and been amateurs in every sense of the word. It may be of interest to give the names of the officials so far back as 1896. Mr. A. Holdsworth was secretary, and Messrs. P. Firth, T. Marshall, W. Smith, F. Wolfenden, J. Wolfenden, F. Ellis, A. Smith, M. Cartwright, A. Thornton, J. Ramsden, F. Squire, W. Firth and J. H. Morton formed the committee, with Mr. J. H. Ramsden as chairman.

EGG COLLECTION.