



# AT COUNTY NETS

1948

## LOCAL CRICKETERS SHOW PROMISE

Two local cricketers have been at the Yorkshire county nets, Kenneth Halsey, son of Mr. L. Halsey, of North Bank Road, Cross Bank, Batley, and Ernest Blakeley, son of Mr. Joe Blakeley, of Raikes Lane, Birstall.

Kenneth Halsey is 17 and was discovered by Mr. Fred Hirst as captain of the Batley second eleven after the war, and has received encouragement from Mr. Jack Barrist. He has had coaching from A. Mitchell and Bill Bowes and undoubtedly has promise. He was at the county nets last Monday. At 14 he played with the Batley first eleven scoring two not out against Cleckheaton. He has played regularly with the second team since the last war and in the team's most successful seasons, viz., 1946 and 1947, when they won the league championship, 1943, runners-up in the league, and in 1947 as Crowther Cup finalists.

His best performances have been as follows: 62 runs and 5 wickets for 5 runs v. Hanging Heaton; 7 for 6 v. Dewsbury; 6 for 24 and 6 for 19 v. Thornhill; and 7 for 28 v. Calkekenley.

In 1945 when 14 he scored 25 (not out) out of a total of 62 against Merley, and against Heckmondwike first team in 1948 he scored 24 (not out) and 44. Total runs scored to date is 500 with 100 wickets, and he claimed the highest number of catches in 1947.

Officials and players at Leeds Road, Birstall, are hoping that a spearhead in their attack this coming season will be 22-year-old Ernest Blakeley, a very fast left-hand bowler. Because of examinations he will be unable to take part in the games against Heckmondwike and Cleckheaton, but is hoping to have a crack against Hanging Heaton, at the Bennett Lane ground, the second match of the season.