

AFTER THAT NOTTINGHAM DEFEAT

IN CRICKET you always have to keep your eyes on the game. Now we have to add our ears. Two new players have entered into this England vs West Indies series. They score boundaries every hour every day; for example.

"Do you know that although Christopher Columbus discovered the West Indies he never represented it at Lords?"

"That is a fact, a most interesting fact. But you don't seem to know that in addition to Dennis Atkinson and DePeiza holding the world record for the seventh wicket, two West Indians, George Headley and C. C. Passaglia have held the world record, 487, for the sixth wicket since 1931-1932."

"A MOST interesting fact. I have looked it up while you were talking and I see that it is correct. Do YOU know . . . ?"

All I know is that these gentlemen will be in a lot of trouble to keep this going for two more Tests. They have done pretty well so far but they seem to have exhausted their range already.

However, sufficient unto the day is the good thereof. And although they were an intrusion they had virtue. A word or two later about the English COMMENTATORS.

Now to begin with the teams. The West Indies team was not only superior in every respect but, (risky though it is, I am prepared to take the risk) we should not lose another Test, barring whatever malicious (and chauvinist) tricks the English weather may play against us in a particular game.

There seems to have been a feeling about in England that for three days England held the upper hand. Unless you are there to see your impressions are always second hand. But though second hand they can nevertheless be solidly grounded. Never at any time did I ever feel that England was on top.

Yes, they got us out for 235. Terrible? Even shameful? Indulge in your masochism as freely as you please. Not only did we on the same day get out three wickets for 33. But there was always our second innings. And I stick firmly to my belief that I do not see the English bowlers who can get us out twice for small scores in five days.

English batting

Our batting proved itself more than adequate to any strains that may be placed on us. That D'Oliviera and Underwood made a last wicket stand which gave the Englishmen a lead of 90 would not have caused any flutter in the mind of any mature West Indian.

The English batting on the whole was not good enough for Test cricket. Cowdrey and Graveney made a fine stand. But before them there was nothing; and after them there



was little. The England second innings was almost as bad, in fact it was worse.

That same member of the side made over 70 runs was quite n a t u r a l. Somebody always does. But batting in the sense of command of the bowling, there was the stand in the first innings, predominantly defensive, and in the second innings there was none.

For comparative judgment just look at the line of our batsmen in this Test: Hunte, Lashley, Kanhai, Butcher, Nurse, Sobers, Holford.

We can reasonably expect that Lashley at No. 2 will do his share in the fourth and fifth Tests. In his second innings, Holford showed himself to be in command of the situation, brief though it might have been.

As a team there is nothing in the England batting to correspond.

It is the same thing when you come to the bowling. Our bowling was not only able to meet all strain or to reassert itself after any check. When it was most needed. Griffith in the last innings reasserted his

England must find 12 new players to battle WI

— SAYS —
C. L. R. JAMES

old self not only with 4 for 34, but with the wickets of Boycott, Graveney and D'Oliviera. Our bowling and our batting have reserves which can emerge at any moment that seems to demand it.

About the fielding I am rather confused. Both sides seem to have dropped catches which should have been held. There is only one catch about which we can be concerned. On Monday afternoon, from the last ball of the day, Lashley dropped Milburn. It was most disappointing.

Your captain declares and gives the other side half an hour's batting, against fast bowling. Every nerve should be stretched to its full height. You are on the tips of your toes.

Circumstances

Under those circumstances you can add a foot or two to your reach and take catches that under other circumstances you would miss. Particularly the last ball of the day is important. As is the last ball of any session. The batsman is likely to relax and feel that he only has to play one ball and then go in.

I could give many examples of how important is this last ball of a session, particularly to new batsmen and fielders in the slips or near the wicket, during the last half hour of the

day. It is to guard against this menace that we have the night-watchman.

As to strategy, against Cowdrey, I have nothing to say. There are some who blame him for not taking more advantage of the situation at such and such a point. Those people are romantics. Cowdrey did the best he could with what he had.

It is not the business of the bowlers to bowl maiden overs, but to get batsmen out. Besides Cowdrey's temperament of going on the defensive is known. I would say that the best thing for England is to select a new team, new captain and all, and let the twelve men know that they will play in both coming Tests.

Avenging angel

In regard to West Indian strategy, Gary Sobers was magnificent, all things to all men on his side, to the England team an avenging angel. Only one point arises, the monotonous forward-defensive of Kanhai on Saturday afternoon. Distance lends enchantment to what may have been actually very irritating to the view.

But there never should have been any misunderstanding as to what was going on. Kanhai his 23 in 32 minutes. In the next two hours he made 17. From the beginning, the reason was quite obvious. It was that Lashley got out. It was when Lashley got out that Kanhai closed down.

It is certain that during the interval he must have had instructions from Sobers who would not have allowed so sharp a change in the game

without expressing his wishes. The thing was to make sure that Nurse, and Sobers himself, would come in on the Monday.

Kanhaj and Butcher were not to get out, and allow the English bowlers after a rest on Sunday, to start off all cock-a-hoop on the Monday. That was what the situation required and that was done.

Two more points only, in reality, one. The English commentators play a great part in the game for us who are listening. Yardley is as usual quite cautious. Freddy Brown is, as he always has been, more adventurous. These men are former captains of England. Whatever they say is worth listening to. They are quite fair and when England is doing well all that they allow themselves (or what happens to them) is an increasing excitement in the selection of incident and heightened pace and pitch in the voice.

Racialism

The only real reporter is John Arlott. Arlott may seem to show a special interest in the volatile West Indian members of the crowd. That is not really so. He has always been interested in the responses of all cricket crowds.

He had a special warmth for the success of D'Oliviera. I shared his feelings. About racialism in cricket I have had this to say to those who deplore it. "Those exquisites remind me of ribaldry about Kant's Categorical Imperative: there was racialism in cricket, there is racialism in cricket, there will always be racialism in cricket. But there ought not to be!"

"Ought not to," indeed! The whole of Africa was watching D'Oliviera's success and the majority, in South Africa, in particular, rejoicing at this demonstration of the irrationality which prevents such a man from playing for the country of his birth. I am not African but I revelled in it.

Does ANYONE follow Kant with his "ought not to be?" **BETTER NOT. OR YOU WILL BE BOWLED DOWN WITH A YORKER FASTER THAN GRIFFITH'S FASTEST.**



NOT OUT—Seymour Nurse, in foreground, holds the "catch," but England's No. 11 Derek Underwood is not out since the ball came off his pad. Underwood and Basil D'Oliveira (the non-striker) shared a record last-wicket stand in England-West Indies Test last Saturday at Nottingham.