

In 1884

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TIME,
New York, N.Y.

Sirs:

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In your edifying article on Sir William Osler (TIME, July 13, 1925) you say that at the Barrie Grammar School he "threw a cricket ball 115 yards--'a throw never beaten, at least by an amateur.'" I beg, modestly, to offer a correction. At the field day sports, University of Wisconsin, in 1884, I threw a baseball 384 feet one inch, or 39 feet one inch farther than the Osler record. Chicago, Milwaukee and Madison papers of that day published the fact; and before me is a copy of "The Colonel's Daughter," a novel by Captain Charles King on the yellowing flyleaf of which the author--now Brigadier General Charles of Milwaukee--penned the following:

"To O.D.Brandenburg, University of Wisconsin. Souvenir of the longest baseball throw ever made by any collegian. Distance 384' 1". Date 1884. With the regards of his old friend and former member of the faculty."

It is but fair to add that a cricket ball may be very slightly heavier than a baseball, the rule specifying that it must weigh "not less than $5\frac{1}{2}$ ounces nor more than $5\frac{3}{4}$," while a baseball must weigh "not less than 5 ounces or more than $5\frac{1}{4}$ ounces." In circumference the balls are the same. The utmost possible difference of one-quarter to one-half ounce in weight should not, I am reasonable sure, noticeably affect throwing distance--at any rate not 39 feet and over. Probably, with a cricker ball, slightly heavier yet with no more atmosphere resistance, I might have thrown even farther. Field day exercises were held on the old state fair grounds, now Camp Randall, the throw down the level racetrack, on a day devoid of

wind, in the presence of a large assemblage. If this record ever has been equalled by amateur or collegian, I never have heard of it. However, unlike young Osler, I never slaughtered a pig with a stone behind the ear, though in boyhood at Baraboo I let fly a potato at a bibulous shoe merchant just as he was turning into a saloon far down the alley, hands crossed behind back; and ~~he~~ had he but shut the outer hand opportunity, he would have found himself in unexpected possession of a perfectly good tuber. It is needless to observe that during the rest of my boyhood I had to register absent whenever that surprised worthy appeared in the offing.

O.D. Brandenburg