

HERTS COUNTY CRICKETER PASSES.

Feats of Late Mr. C. H. Titchmarsh.

Loss to Harpenden Club.

Regret will be felt in cricketing circles, particularly at Harpenden, at the death of Mr. Charles Harold Titchmarsh, who passed away at his sister's home at Royston, yesterday. He was aged 49, and had been ill since January, when he had a stroke, from which he never fully recovered. His home was at Tennyson-road, Harpenden, and he leaves a widow and four sons, with whom much sympathy will be felt.



THE LATE MR. C. H. TITCHMARSH.

(Photo: F. & H. Thurston.)

Mr. Titchmarsh was a native of Royston, being the youngest son of a well-known cricketer of that town. He was educated at Bishop's Stortford College, was in the cricket team there, and in 1900 made his first appearance in the Herts County team. In 1901 he played seven innings for an average of 20.23, but did not turn out for the county again until 1906, when he played 29 innings, and headed the averages with 44.22, scoring his first century in county cricket—170 against Norfolk at Norwich.

LEADING MINOR COUNTIES BATSMAN.

From that time onwards he was a leading figure among the batsmen of the Minor Counties, steadily progressing until he reached his prime, in the seasons 1911-14, when his batting averages for the county were 34.05, 44.37, 51.21, and 67.60. In 1913 Mr. Titchmarsh compiled no fewer than 21 centuries, a number unapproached by any other cricketer before or since. That season he made 4,016 runs all told, with an average of 62.75.

During the war Mr. Titchmarsh was a lieutenant in the A.S.C., and he only played in one county match—against Beds—in 1919. He subsequently resumed his place as a regular member of the County side, and was at the top of the averages in six of the following seasons. Last season he averaged 51.35 for 12 innings, and was second in the batting list for the whole of the Minor Counties.

TOURED AUSTRALIA.

Mr. Titchmarsh played for the Gentlemen against the Players at the Oval in 1921, scoring 58 in the first innings and 28 in the second. In 1922-23 he toured Australia and New Zealand with A. C. Maclaren's team, scoring a total of 998 in 30 innings, his average of 33.33 being second only to that of A. P. F. Chapman, the present English captain.

He played a great deal of club cricket, first appearing for Harpenden in 1899, and always remaining loyal to the club. Hundreds of people visited Harpenden Common from the surrounding district to see him bat.

Although small in stature he had a very neat style and a strong defence—he was particularly good against fast bowling—and had most of the scoring strokes at his command. A. C. Maclaren once said of him that there was no other player who could whip a ball off his eyebrows and round to leg like he could. Most of his runs, however, were obtained in front of the wicket. In his early days Mr. Titchmarsh was a very good wicket-keeper, but as a fieldsman he was not first class. There is little doubt that his fielding been on a par with his batting he would have been considered for the highest honour that can be accorded a cricketer.

Mr. Titchmarsh was always ready to give advice to youngsters, and brought several young cricketers into prominence. One of those who probably got their inspiration from him was C. Bray, who recently captained Essex against the Australians, and lived in Cravell's-road, Harpenden, as a boy. From 1920 to the time of his death Mr. Titchmarsh was hon. secretary of the Club Cricket Conference fixture bureau. In business he was associated for many years with the firm of Spaldings, sports outfitters.

The funeral will take place at Royston on Monday.