

**WALTER JOHNSON TELLS ABOUT HIS SUCCESS**  
(Continued from page 2—Part 1)

If you don't get your shoulders and back working for you you'll soon wear out.

I get thousands of letters from boys, and most of the senders seem to think that I use a half-dozen curves, at least. Actually, we in the big league don't throw as many curves as pitchers in the minors. In the first place there's the reason I told you about—curve balls are hard on the arm. If I had relied heavily on curves I would not have lasted eighteen years in the majors. You don't need a lot of curves. Very few big leaguers use more than one curve a fast ball, and a slow ball, or change of pace. The outcurve is most popular among major league pitchers, and the outdrop. Not many pitchers throw a straight drop.

"If you don't throw three or four different kinds of curves," a boy once asked me, "how do you fool a batter?"

The answer is: Pitch to the batter's weakness. Use your brains. What you throw to the batter is if anything more important than show you throw it. In deciding what sort of ball to pitch you must keep two things in mind—the batter's particular weakness, and your own "best" ball. Don't in an effort to reach your opponent's weak spot, expose your own. Maybe he has trouble hitting outdrops. If you have a good outdrop, blaze away at him. But if outdrops are hard for you to throw, better not chance them.

As most boys know, my specialty is fast ball pitching. More than anything I rely on a high fast one. But I mix 'em up. I work the corners; I shoot the ball in around a batter's hands; I throw it speehigh and outside. There's the reason for every ball I throw.

Some batters, of course, are death on any kind of a pitch. Babe Ruth is always dangerous. Several years ago the Yankees were playing Washington. From the bench I watched Ruth, as I'd watched him many times before, and decided that slow curves might keep him from hitting. So the next day I fed him nothing but slow ones. The first time he struck out, the second time he punched an easy bouncer that I tossed to the first baseman; the third time he again struck out. In the eleventh he came up again, with the score a tie. I threw him another slow ball—a perfect one that went exactly where I'd intended it to go. The Babe hit it a mighty swat.

Eventually that ball came down. But when it did there was a fence between it and our nearest fielder; Babe Ruth had another home run to his credit, and I a lost ball game.

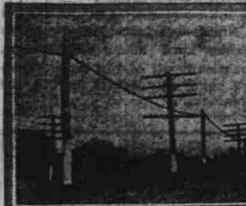
Ty Cobb is another batter whom pitchers dread. He is tricky; he can pretty well tell what kind of a ball the pitcher is going to throw; and he knows how to keep the pitcher from finding out what sort of pitch he is expecting. Moreover, Ty is a "chop" hitter; he doesn't set himself so completely for one kind of ball that another kind, coming unexpectedly, will catch him wholly off guard. I have found that Ty Cobb's weakness, if he may be said to have a weakness, is a low ball. So I throw him lots of low balls.

Find out ahead of time as much as you can about rival batters; study them before the game and during it. If a batter appears nervous, for instance, and over-anxious, slow up your delivery. By your very calmness, and deliberation, you can increase his nervousness. Feed him bad balls; he's likely to reach for them. If a man stands unusually far back from the plate, work the outside corners. If he crowds the plate, a high inside one may make him swing like a gate. If he catches up his bat, keep the ball away from him—make him reach far out for it.

If a batter is a free-swinger, a fast inside ball, around his hands is likely to keep his batting average down. Try to make a free-swinger bite at bad balls; if you

**Diagnosing Telephone Troubles Is Big Half of Repairman's Job**

**A Living Example of the Value of the Proverbial "Ounce of Prevention," He Keeps the Nation's Speech Highways Clear.**



When the wires are strung between poles, the cables buried in the streets and the telephones installed in houses, the builders of the nation's speech highways have but just started upon their tasks. For they do much more than construct; they also maintain.

The exchange repair man is in reality a telephone doctor. So as to keep the service ready to meet all emergencies, not only is he a "mender," but he must be able to diagnose "symptoms," to locate trouble quickly, and make the necessary repairs. Generally the actual work of repairing takes very little time. It is the tracing and locating of the trouble which causes the real work.

Considerable foresight and care is exercised by the successful repairman in his efforts to keep the lines free from trouble. For example, the limb of a tree may grow out so that it rubs against telephone wires leading into the house, and if this condition is not discovered in time to be remedied the insulation would eventually be worn off the wires and a "short" or "ground" would result which would mean trouble on the telephone. The alert repairman is

need to fan him, work the corners. Don't try to strike anyone out, by the way, unless there's need for it. Many pitchers, particularly young ones, forget that they have eight men to help them. If you can make a batter hit an easy grounder to the shortstop you're a lot better off than if you fanned him, because you haven't tired your arm. Keep your arm fresh for emergencies.

The man who makes the most trouble for a pitcher is the fellow who can tap a ball as well as swing on it. Eddie Collins of the White Sox does both to perfection. Against a pitcher of medium speed he'll whack the ball a mile. When I start burning them in to him, however, he sets himself and slaps the ball, often for a safe hit.

Some pitchers throw often to first base, and arrange complicated signals with the first baseman in the hope of catching a runner napping. I don't believe in either practice. I don't believe you actually retire a runner in this way—the only object of throwing is to remind him that you're watching him. I simply keep my eye on the first baseman, and if he is covering I sometimes throw. The catcher helps me watch runners on second, and signals me when their leads are incautiously big. I always try to keep exceptionally fast men hugging the base.

Don't overlook fielding practice for if a rival team finds you can't field your position they'll smother you with bunts.

Some players rely heavily on the bunt, and must for that reason be watched eternally. Archdeacon, third baseman for the White Sox, is one of these. Folks call him the fastest man in baseball; I guess he is. Our club finally had to develop a special defense to stop him. We bring all our basemen in a full ten feet closer than they'd normally stand.

Always walk dangerous batters when a hit means runs. No use "working on them" under such

circumstances; your team is better off if you take no chances. Not long ago Bib Falk, the big left-hander who plays left field for Chicago, faced me three times in a close game. Each time the Sox had a runner on third and another on second. A single would therefore have brought in two runs. On the other hand, first base was open. So three times I purposely passed this hard hitter. The bleachers jeered, (the game took place at Chicago) but my strategy was unquestionably correct.

Hooper of the White Sox is another man who makes me trouble. He seems to like my style of pitching, and to hit balls that others—good sluggers, too—can't hit. There's only one way to treat such a batter—feed him bad balls. If he wants to strike at them, all right. If he doesn't let him walk.

Many boys have an idea that lots of pitchers throw "bean balls" to scare batters. Nowadays very few do. Hitting a man, other than by accident's is unexcusable. Usually pitchers are weak hitters.

In the big leagues, where the pitcher's burden is an unusually heavy one, it is sometimes considered an actual disadvantage for him to hit. We were playing

Philadelphia on an extremely hot afternoon last summer. Rommel, Philadelphia's great pitcher, came to bat. His team was leading by two runs. He slapped out a sharp grounder, and then remained idly in the batter's box while our infield got the ball to first.

Doubtless Connie Mack, the shrewd manager of the Philadelphia team, figured that his club had a safe margin of runs. He figured, too, that pitching in oppressive weather was hard enough on a pitcher without making him run bases.

Entirely aside from control, and headwork, and speed and curves, many pitchers deliberately ruin themselves by getting into a wrong frame of mind, and staying there. Every big leaguer knows of dozens of smart, promising men who came up from the minors, hung on a while, and then dropped back for good, because of a swelled head. Modesty—energy—willingness to take advice—these qualities are fundamental in the building of a pitcher. My own success is due as much as anything else to my willingness to follow good advice. There's no place for conceit in baseball. Depend upon it, every opponent has something, big or small, to teach you.

In baseball physical condition means everything. Luckily for me, I realized that many years ago. The big league pace is so severe unless a man's body is performing in topnotch shape he won't long stand the pace.

My own training rules are simple. First, I get lots of sleep. When I'm at home in Washington I'm rarely up after 9 o'clock. Away from home, and living at hotels, I usually retire before 11. I plan on eight or nine hours of sleep, always.

A fellow can't play ball on a full stomach. During the baseball season, especially in summer, I skip lunch. I eat a late breakfast of ham and eggs, or some sort of meat, a cereal, and fruit.

**Dahlia Culture Is Not Difficult, Expert Says**

By R. W. Gill, of Gill Bros. Seed Company, Portland, Oregon

The dahlia is an American production and originally grew wild in Mexico. The flowers of the wild dahlia were small and single. It was named dahlia after a Swedish botanist named Dahl.

There are seven main classes, all quite distinct in form; Cactus, peony, decorative, show, pompon, single and collarette. The best cut flowers are found in the decorative and pompon types.

Dahlias do best in a sunny location and should be planted in well drained soil containing plenty of humus. Avoid planting them close to large shrubs or trees.

**Work Soil Thoroughly.** When ready for planting, work the soil thoroughly until it is loose and free from clods. It is preferable to use ground that has been cultivated the previous season, but soddy soil can be used, provided it is worked early in the spring and the grass is well rotted before planting. The soil should be worked deep and care should be taken not to prepare the ground too wet. In case of heavy clay soils, it is well to mix sand with the portion where the bulb is to be planted. In fact, place the bulb in pure sand and cover over. Soil which will produce a good crop of potatoes is satisfactory for dahlias.

It is best to spread fertilizer over the surface of the soil and spade it in. If pure barnyard manure is available, it is recommended, but better results can be had by supplementing with potash and superphosphate. Commercial fertilizer which analyzes about 4-10-10 is very good. Dry ground sheep guano in sacks in a handy fertilizer to use and gives fine results. In addition to the use of

any of these fertilizers, we recommend application of blood meal during the blooming season. Spacing depends upon fertility of the soil, and as to whether water can be applied artificially or not. Where water can be applied, plant about three feet apart and four feet between rows, or without water, four feet apart and five or six feet between rows.

**Making Selection**

The best method of making a selection is to visit dahlia show gardens and see them in bloom. You can then see the habit of growth, freedom of bloom and length and strength of stems. If you cannot see the dahlias in bloom, then make your list from a responsible catalogue.

Oftentimes it is well to leave the selection to the dahlia specialist for all reliable growers know that they can best build their trade by selling varieties which give good satisfaction, as this will mean repeat orders. It is best to buy good varieties even if they do cost more, for in buying dahlias,

the original cost is minimized by the increase in bulbs. Most varieties increase from three to five in a season.

The time to plant will depend upon the locality. We are con-

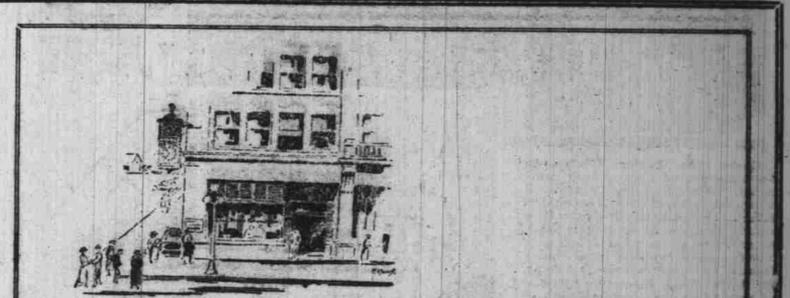
vinced that many failures are due to planting too early. If the blooming season is advanced the heaviest bloom will come during hot weather which, of course, is not desirable owing to sun scalding.

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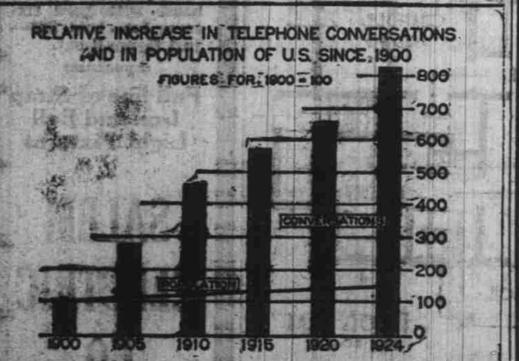
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**Americans Are Talking More Than They Were a While Back; That's Sure**



Americans are talking more than they used to—at least by telephone. The above chart is a graphic illustration of the rapidly with which the increase in the number of telephone conversations in this country has outstripped the increase in population. Where there were 100 people in 1900, there are now 147 people. But where there were 100 telephone conversations in 1900 there are now over 300 telephone conversations. This is over five times as many as there would be if the growth in telephone traffic had merely kept pace with the growth in population. That means that the average American of today telephones five times as often as the average American of twenty-five years ago.

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