

SAPERE AUDE



The
Gulme
Victorian.



FIDE SED. CUI VIDE

E. Elliott
D.R.

The Hulme Victorian.

JANUARY, 1904.

SCHOOL NOTES.

Following the grand old Rule of Life which teaches "Duty first and pleasure afterwards," our Chronicle begins with a record of the work of the year—a record which, on being compared with that in which the various sections of the Games' Club narrate their histories, affords yet another example of the old Roman poet's remark respecting a *mens sana* and a *corpus sanum*.

As usual, the Lower Certificate Examination of the Oxford and Cambridge Joint Board was the means of testing the work of all the girls in Forms IV. and V., though only three entered their names as candidates for the certificates: these were M. Martland, A. Haigh, and E. Wright. All three passed—Marjorie Martland with First Classes in Scripture, English History, Literature, and French, while the two Fourth Form girls also distinguished themselves in History, and the following table shows that the Girls' Grammar School compared well with the other higher Secondary Schools throughout the country:—

| | Total No. of Candidates. | Total No. who passed. | Percentage of Passes in | | | | | | Total. |
|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------|------------|---------|--------------|---------------|--------|
| | | | Scripture | History. | Literature | French. | Arith-metic. | Mathe-matics. | |
| TOTAL NUMBERS... | 1131 | 575 | 78'1 | 61'1 | 57'1 | 70'5 | 72'9 | 56 | 50'8 |
| OLDHAM | 3 | 3 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 33'3 | 100 | 100 |

| | Percentage of First Classes. | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|----------|------------|---------|--------------|---------------|
| | Scripture | History. | Literature | French. | Arith-metic. | Mathe-matics. |
| TOTAL NUMBERS | 10'5 | 18'3 | 8'3 | 11'6 | 20'9 | 17'3 |
| OLDHAM | 33 | 100 | 33 | 33 | 0 | 0 |

In most of the papers the non-candidates did still better, and we find in the written report of the FRENCH examiner that in *Unseen Translation*, with one exception, the papers of all were "very satisfactory." In *Grammar* and *Composition* the same is said of the answers sent in by Gladys Millington, Mary Schofield, Ethel Matley, May Kershaw, and Marjorie Martland, while in *Dictation* the last four are described as "good," and G. Millington as "excellent." In SCRIPTURE, M. Martland and A. Haigh "deserved praise for considerable merit," and we are glad to read, of all but two, that the "answers were clearly written, and well expressed," and that "the knowledge of the text was good." In HISTORY, "the work was exceedingly creditable, both in quantity and quality. The narrative was fully and clearly written, and the essential features correctly emphasised." In ARITHMETIC, "the non-candidates all did better than the candidates;" in ALGEBRA, "the work was written out in very good style," and G. Millington and E. Matley "sent in excellent sets of answers, shewing a thorough grasp of elementary Algebra." In EUCLID, "the work was all satisfactory," some of the non-candidates' papers "were excellent, both in substance and style," and "the average mark may be considered exceptionally good."

In the General Paper on Arithmetic, the work of Form Lower IV. "was of high average value;" A. Dellow, H. Clayton, H. Jackson, and F. Simpson "did very well indeed," and "none did very badly."

In his report on his oral examination of the Lower Forms, Mr. Bell of Oxford says that "in distinctness of utterance there was a marked improvement in all the School since last year." In questioning the little girls of Forms I. and II., he remarks of their object lessons that he "was pleased to find that they were well aware of the importance of cotton in Oldham," and he specially mentions Phyllis Brothers, Helen Bowes, and Dora Rountree as having answered well. The Lower III. are again commended as "a very bright form, Gertrude Mellor, Phyllis Lansdell, Marjorie Jennings, Priscilla Fletcher, and Doris Warhurst having answered best." In Form III., "Bertha Martland, Edna Lees, and Mary Prosser were distinguished," and Elsie Kershaw, Florence Chadwick, and Madge Mellodew also received honourable mention. In Form L. IV. "the general answering was very good. There was no really silent member, which is very rare in a Lower Fourth. Harriet Jackson, Margaret Higgs, Sibyl Wright, and Alice Dellow were the most distinguished from the others." The report ends with the following sentence:—"As the general impression of my visit, I can only confirm what I said last year, that it is pleasant to see a new School like Oldham, where the girls are thoroughly taking advantage of the efforts which have been so well and wisely made in their behalf."

At the London University three of our Sixth Form girls matriculated—Gladys Millington in the Second Division last June, while in the recent January Examination Ethel Matley passed in Division I. and May Kershaw in Division II. That all our candidates for the year have passed is specially gratifying at this time, for the changes in teaching methods and in the character of the questions has turned the once familiar matriculation into an unknown land, from which only some forty-two per cent. of the two thousand and odd candidates have emerged in safety. The subjects taken by our girls were English, French, Latin, Mathematics, and Chemistry.

In July, M. E. Anderton passed the Intermediate Examination for the B.Sc. degree, and at the June Entrance Examination of the Royal Holloway College of the London University she stood second in Science, and was awarded by the College a bursary of £30 a year, tenable for three years. This high place was gained in spite of the unfortunate fact that during one day of the Examination week she was obliged to surrender herself into the hands of the College nurse, so that we are not surprised to hear that she is the only Science student of her year whom the tutors consider capable of taking honours in Physics at the final Examination. This is partly owing to her being able to devote the whole of her three years to working for the Final, while none of the other students have had the advantage of taking the Intermediate Examination at School, and they must therefore give to it at least one of their years at College. So pleased were the Governors with her work that they decided to award her a Mrs. Charles Lees Leaving Scholarship of £50 a year for three years.

With regard to that part of our work which calls for dexterous fingers and eyes-that-see-with-understanding, we have maintained our former satisfactory level. Of the 100 papers sent in for the Examination of the Royal Drawing Society, 77 passed, 27 with honours: there were no failures among the girls taking Divisions V. and Preparatory, and of the whole Examination the Examiner reported "a good result." At the annual Exhibition held at the Society's Studio in Queen Anne's Gate, London, Gladys Millington was "highly commended" for her flowers and shaded drawing, and the following were "commended":—Phyllis Newton, Margery Jennings, Margaret Higgs, Mabel Higgs, Nelly Winterbottom, Harriet Jackson, and Bertha Halliday.

In the Examination held by the Incorporated Society of Musicians all our candidates passed as follows:—

PIANOFORTE, Grade III.—Harriet Smethurst and Mary Hodgson.
Grade II.—Margery Jennings and Constance Wilde.
Grade I.—Gladys Fell.

VIOLIN, Grade II.—Constance Wilde, with honours.

We congratulate ourselves in having with us so able a musician as Miss Mitchell, for none of our girls need waste time or strength in going to and fro in all weathers in order to obtain first-class teaching in Music. Only a corridor and one short flight of stairs separates our classrooms from our music-room!

As to our Needlework Classes, Forms III., L. III., II., and I. have been hard at work under Miss Strange's superintendence on pinafores, petticoats, and babies' vests—practically applying the knowledge of stitches, gathers, and buttonholes, first learned on small scraps of calico, for the benefit of such poor children as regard even a print pinafore as a valuable gift, which enables some small shy scarecrow to present herself at School under the guise of a tidy-looking little girl. During the Autumn Term an even greater variety of garments was produced, voluntary work parties devoting their time to Liliputian millinery, as well as to the fashioning of miniature complete outfits for the dolls which were sent to the children of Hulme, together with the useful gifts contributed by the members of the Old Girls' Association.

* * *

Of our Old Girls at the universities, the letters printed below give us tidings. Among those who hope to be teachers in Elementary Schools, and who have been working for three or more years at the Pupil Teachers' Centre, Alice Gallimore and Maude Siddall have passed the London Matriculation. At the King's Scholarship Examination of 1902, M. Browne, G. Bradbury, A. Brierley, and M. Siddall were all in the First Class: and in the same examination of 1903, B. Feber, M. Hoyle and A. Stopherd also passed in the First Class, F. Crompton and E. Lancaster in the Second. S. C. Lees has taken up Kindergarten work, and is being trained at Bedford. She has already passed the Elementary Examination for the Certificate of the National Fröbel Society. B. Mellor has just passed the Post Office Examination held in Manchester, and is fourth on the list of successful candidates. Among the violinists of the Oldham Orchestra we find the names of E. Stott and E. Wade. To E. Potts we offer congratulations on her marriage, and wish her all happiness in her new home at Chester.

* * *

At our Speech Day last November, in the speaker of the evening we were glad to welcome among us the Dean of Manchester, who is also Chairman of that Hulme Trust to which our school owes its origin and power of usefulness. He began his address by impressing on the girls that to their keeping would be entrusted the home-life of the coming years, and that therefore their education must be the means of drawing out and strengthening such faculties, moral, intellectual, and physical, as would give them the health, judgment, method, intelligence, and sympathy which, combined with the practical domestic arts, would most perfectly fit them for this high calling. As to their leisure hours, he strongly deprecated their being spent on worthless literature. There were few pleasures so great and ennobling as the reading of a good book, whether novel or otherwise, but they must be careful not to vitiate their tastes, and lower their standards of life by the trashy fiction so prevalent at the present day. On concluding, the Dean distributed the prizes given on the year's work, and the proceedings were then varied by the following part-songs sweetly and correctly rendered by the senior singing classes:—

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------------|
| Fairest Isle—from King Arthur | ... | ... | music by Purcell. |
| O Lovely Peace!—from Judas Maccabæus | ... | .. | Handel. |
| Sweet and Low—words by Tennyson... | ... | .. | Sir J. Barnby. |
| Hail to the Chief!—words by Scott | ... | ... | Sir H. R. Bishop. |

After reading Miss Clark's Report for her, Mr. Emmott gave some account of the call now being made by the Board of Education on the secondary schools to help in the education of those intending to become primary teachers, and to the girls themselves he addressed a few words on the subject of their games. Votes of thanks to the Dean were proposed and seconded by Mr. Needham and Canon Rountree, and God Save The King concluded our evening in time to prevent the Lower School eyes from beginning to twinkle and various small persons from falling asleep.

PRIZE LIST.—Form VI.—Ellen Anderton, prize presented by Mr. Hesketh Booth. Form L. VI.—Gladys Millington, prize presented by Mr. Emmott. Form V.—Marjorie Martland, prize presented by Mr. Booth. Form IV.—Elizabeth Wright, prize presented by Mr. Emmott. Form L. IV.—Alice Dellow, first prize presented by Mr. Emmott; Harriet Jackson, Second Prize. Form III.—Edna Lees, First Prize; Gertrude Browne, Second Prize; Bertha Martland, Third Prize. Form L. III.—Elsie Millington, First Prize; Gertrude Mellor, Second Prize; Hilda Marcroft, Third Prize. Form II.—Phyllis Brothers, Prize. Form I.—Florence Kempsey, Prize.

TENNIS PRIZES PRESENTED BY MRS. EMMOTT AND MISS PLATT.—Mary Schofield and Lillian Neild.

SWIMMING PRIZE PRESENTED BY THE GIRLS' CLUBS.—Senior, Mary Hodgson ; Junior, Constance Mallalieu.

* * *

Grammar School girls are proud of the antiquity of their Hulme foundation, which dates back nearly three hundred years to 1611, when the two halves of our small island had scarcely yet recovered the shock of finding that henceforth they were no longer two halves but one whole. For a visible token of our ancient lineage we are indebted to Mrs. Charles Lees, who rescued from destruction the last pane of stained glass from the windows of the original Oldham Grammar School, and presented it to the School so framed as to show the old colours and shield which looked down on our great-great-great-.....grandfathers as they, like us, puzzled over the mysteries of Cicero and Euclid, and, unlike us, alack ! rushed out after school into the rich meadows and orchards which covered the hills and dales where now bricks and mortar, smoke, soot, and grime bewilder the guileless stranger who seeks to replenish her flower vases on Primrose Bank, and thinks to provide for dessert in Cherry Valley. This most interesting relic is now fastened against one of the windows of the Hall, where its colours show well against the light.

* * *

Last Summer Term we had a delightful surprise. For nearly five years we had been carefully saving up the profits on the second-hand books, and had collected only just enough to buy one good picture for Form IV., and we were feeling somewhat discouraged at the prospect of the many years that would go by before we could cover a little more of the large tracts of bare wall which distinguished most of our classrooms when a number of great packing-cases arrived, and we were told that they contained twelve large pictures sent by Mr. Hesketh Booth for the Girls' School. Twelve pictures all at once ! we could scarcely grasp it. Before another day had passed Form I. was rejoicing in three large coloured landscapes and a good engraving, which, with their own little cats, furnished their walls completely. These small people promptly began a letter of thanks to Mr. Booth for his kind thought for them, and their example was joyfully followed by Forms IV., L. IV., III., and L. III., all of whom had received one or more of his most welcome gifts.

* * *

On Thursday, April 30th, Schubert and his works was the subject of a most interesting lecture given by Miss Mitchell, and illustrated vocally and instrumentally by the school girls and the members of the Old Girls' Choral Society. So many of the parents who were present expressed their appreciation and pleasure that this year the singing classes have been at work on a number of part-songs by English composers, with whom we hope to soon spend an evening under Miss Mitchell's guidance. We were interested to find our programme quoted in full in the *Musical Review*, with a paragraph "heartily commending Miss Mitchell's scheme to all who could carry it out—even partially"—for "no more interesting, thoroughly useful, and educational form of School Concert could be given."

FRANZ SCHUBERT, 1797-1828.

SYNOPSIS.

Schubert's unique position among musicians—
Firth and parentage—Becomes a pupil of Holtzer
—Enters the Imperial Chapel and Stadtconvict—
Life at the Convict—First Compositions—He
becomes a Schoolmaster—His numerous Com-
positions—Rosamunde.

ILLUSTRATION No. 1.

PROGRAMME OF ILLUSTRATIONS

FROM "ROSAMUNDE."

1. Pianoforte Solo ...Ballet MusicC. Wilde
and M. Jennings.
Shepherds' Chorus "Forth to the Meadows"
Senior Class
Violin and Piano...Entr'acteC. Wilde
and G. Fell.
Romance ..."The Full Orb'd Moon" ...
A. Ferguson and F. Simpson.

PROGRAMME (CONTINUED).

Schubert as a Song Writer—Comparison with Mendelssohn—Three classes of Songs—Characteristics of Schubert's Music—The "Erl King" and the "Wanderer."

ILLUSTRATION No. 2.

Schubert leaves the School—Becomes Music-master to Count Esterhazy—Life with Mayrhofer in Vienna—His ceaseless activity—The "Mullerlieder."

ILLUSTRATION No. 3.

Schubert's Pianoforte Works—"Valses" and "Moments Musicaux"—Schumann's appreciation—Comparison with Beethoven—Shakespeare Songs.

ILLUSTRATION No. 4.

Recognition of Schubert's talents—Love for Caroline Esterhazy—Meeting with Beethoven—Death of the great Master—Success of Schubert's first Concert—Illness and death—Impromptus.

ILLUSTRATION No. 5.

Songs from Sir Walter Scott.

ILLUSTRATION No. 6.

Gradual appreciation of Schubert's music—Popular taste of the present day—Schubert's later Songs more serious in character—The "Winterjourney"—Choral Works.

2. Song ... The Wanderer... Vida Shaw.
Pianoforte Solo ... Adagio from the Wanderer
Fantasia ... Miss Mitchell.
- 3 "Songs of the Mill."
Wandering Class
Whither?..... Elsie Tweedale.
Impatience Esther Stott.
The Green Ribbon..... Edith Dottridge.
The Hateful Colour Ada Ferguson
4. Pianoforte Solo . . . Six Valses.. Emily Ashtou.
Pianoforte Solo... Moment Musical in C sharp
minor... Mary Hodgson.
Shakespeare Songs... Hark! hark the Lark!
Who is Sylvia? B. Price and H. Clayton.
..... Class
5. Pianoforte Solo ... Impromptu in E flat
Margery Jennings.
Pianoforte Solo ... Impromptu in A flat
Miss Mitchell.
Song "Cradle Song" ... Bertha Martland.
Song "Wild Rose" Ada Ferguson.
6. From the "Lady of the Lake."
Huntsman, Rest! Class.
Coronach Class and O.G. Choral Society.
Litany Vida Shaw.
Serenade Esther Stott.
The Linden Tree (from Winterjourney).....
F. and M. Simpson.
The Lord is my Shepherd
O.G. Choral Class.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

* * *

This Concert Lecture was followed in May by an Entertainment in aid of the League of Pity—an undertaking chiefly due to the energetic members of the Lower Third, who begged to be permitted to earn some money for the Society. Having promised the choristers of the Junior School, who were deeply disappointed that no place had been given them in the Schubert programme, that they also should have an opportunity of letting their mothers judge their vocal powers, Miss Clark now called upon the "babies" to contribute two songs. These, with the help of Form III., were rendered with great spirit and amid a fluttering of wayward balloons. Under the guidance of Miss Bott and Miss Strange, the Lower Third enacted the story of Cinderella, and we all, old and young, were greatly pleased to meet the familiar friends of our nursery days. Once again we burned with indignation as Proudie and Crosspatch, in festive array, swept off to the ball, leaving Cinderella bewailing her hard fate. The entrance of the fairy godmother with her high-steeped hat and magic wand changed the aspect of affairs, and Cinderella was soon waltzing up and down the stage trying to look over her own shoulder at her beautiful train, while a chorus of admiring fairies sympathised with her delight. At the ball Cinderella, her sisters, Prince Charming, and his friends danced a minuet with much grace and precision, Miss King-May having most kindly undertaken the production of this scene. Under the stage management of Miss Ellis and Miss Evington, the performance of Scenes from *Cranford*, by the elder girls, also went off happily. Into ancient wardrobes great had been the researches for the early Victorian costumes, which to the elders recalled dim memories of the ladies of their childhood—so to them enhancing the charm of Mrs. Gaskell's most charming story. After paying all expenses, the girls were able to send to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children the sum of £15 2s. 6d.

Hearing that the Oldham branch of the sister society for protecting the helpless in the animal world was so greatly in need of funds that not only was it unable to provide the merciful lethal chamber for its waifs and strays, but was even in danger of being obliged to curtail its present most necessary work, the School set to work to provide at very short notice a few items which, being added to the annual show of Hulme garments, would justify the modest demand for threepence from all visitors. Drawings and maps were brought out and pinned up round the Hall, tables were brought in and artistically decorated with quaint and beautiful curios lent by many kind friends, with Miss Baguley's collection of geological specimens, the botanical albums of the Field Club prize-winners, and with the garments, toys, and dolls destined for Hulme. So prettily had Miss Baguley arranged the Hall that many of us thought the sight alone was worth the coveted threepence! But there were further attractions provided. The young ones contributed Band of Mercy songs, and these with solos from Ada Ferguson, Emily Ashton, Phyllis Lansdell, and Bertha Martland, together with pianoforte performances by Margery Jennings and Emily Ashton, produced a programme which lasted half-an-hour, and convinced us all that we should dearly like to still further help the cause of Dog Dash and the kitties of whom the "babies" sang, by going downstairs to the Play-room and asking for a cup of tea. On adding up all our threepences and tea money we found ourselves in possession of £6 1s. 3d., which enabled us to pay all expenses and send £4 16s. to the Secretary of the Society.

* * *

Last summer it rained, and it rained, and it rained, and we thought it would never stop raining, and we feared that we would forget how to run, when at last the sun came out, and for three days stayed out. "Quick! let us hold our sports," we cried, and we bustled about and practised hard, while Miss Ellis invested in prizes, arranged events, and set us to carry them out under a depressingly discontented-looking sky. The flag-race was a novelty, and proved most exciting, though a small two-year-old visitor was pained to find that we waved flags without also sounding trumpets. This youthful critic afterwards informed his parents that the girls had eggs and threw them about, from which lucid account the intelligent reader will gather that in the egg-and-spoon race most of the competitors failed to arrive at the winning post along with their luggage. Fortunately for the ground, the eggs had been made in Germany—of china. The domestic race took the form this year of discovering which girl could combine speed with personal neatness. Each competitor was to change her shoes, don hat, jacket, tie, and gloves, open her umbrella, and, with her school-bag, present herself neatly dressed before the judges, who were standing a hundred yards away. Those who wore long boots struggled feverishly with their laces while the owners of walking shoes were vainly endeavouring to persuade their neckties to fall into their accustomed folds, or were wondering why all their fingers had turned into thumbs just as they were trying to fasten the last glove-button. An umbrella opened with a joyous click, and M. Hodgson was seen speeding across the field, to be quickly followed by others, who in due time were carefully scrutinised as to the neatness of their hair, the angle made by their hats with their heads, the condition of their buttons and shoe-laces—marks being awarded for each point as well as for the speed with which the dressing had been accomplished. In the examination race we made a paper toy, declared how we should find our way if we came to a fallen signpost at four cross roads, rightly answered questions on postage stamps, points of the compass, the manners and customs of hens, and the inevitable orange and a half which cost three halfpence; we even dug up two hidden towns buried in two simple sentences, but we failed to render "Pas d'elle yeux Rhône que nous" into idiomatic English. An appeal to Miss Evington elicited the translation, "Paddle your own canoe!" Just in time to be too late to spoil our afternoon the rain came down, and we hurried into the big hall where the laurels were waiting for the happy winners. Mrs. J. E. Newton had most kindly consented to distribute the prizes, and the proceedings concluded with a very hearty vote of thanks to her and also to Mrs. Martland and Mrs. Wilde for their beautiful gifts.

The following is a list of the events and winners:—High Jump (Senior), M. Hodgson and A. Haigh; (Junior), D. Wilde. Examination Race (Senior), G. Millington; (Junior), P. Newton. Hundred Yards (Senior), M. Hodgson; (Junior), M. Prosser. Tandem Race (Senior), H. Taylor, M. Martland, L. Newton; (Juniors), C. Wild, J. Wilde, D. Wild. Throwing the Cricket Ball (Senior), H. Jackson; (Junior), M. Varley. Domestic Race (Senior), M.

Hodgson ; (Junior), E. Millington. Hoop Race, J. Wilde. Flat Race (Senior), H. Jackson ; (Junior), T. Fletcher. Potato Race, D. Millington. Sack Race, D. Wild. Egg and Spoon Race (Senior), E. Hurst ; (Junior), B. Martland. Flag Race (Senior), M. Hodgson, D. Millington, A. Haigh, D. Higgs, H. Jackson, R. Chadwick ; (Junior), E. Ashton, K. Spencer, D. Wilde, C. Wilde, D. Mellodew, J. Wilde. Consolation Race, D. Warhurst.

Judges (Examination Race), Miss Baguley, Miss Evington, and Miss Mitchell. Umpires, Miss Richards and Miss Strange. Starter, Miss Bott.

* * *

Once upon a time there lay a dreary waste between the two wings of the school building which project beyond the large hall. To-day this is a flower garden, planted and tended by some thirty girls to whom the various beds were apportioned by lot. It was an exciting moment as one's hand drew a numbered piece of paper from a vase, and one looked to see whether the number had two digits or only one, for some beds there are on which the sun shines with far greater partiality than on others. Still, there is also the bitter north-easter to be considered, and from him the least sunny beds are perhaps the most safely sheltered. Already in some there are vigorous signs of plant-life coming into being, and we wish warmly to thank Mrs. Newton for most kindly shewing her interest in our efforts to beautify Oldham by her promise to present a prize to the best gardener. Miss Richards and Miss Baguley have kindly undertaken to inspect the gardens periodically—mark-books in hand—and on their report at the end of the season the prizes will be awarded.

* * *

Old Girls are joining with the School in one common feeling of deep regret that the claims of home are taking from us Miss Bott, who is leaving Oldham at the end of this term. Miss Bott has been in the school since it was opened nine years ago, and for some time past has been the only link connecting us with those early days round which strange legends are already gathering. For one tradition, however, we all can vouch from our own experience. That is, that in those old times, whether in their work or in their play or in their efforts for the welfare of others, the girls could always confidently rely on the unfailing help and sympathy of Miss Bott. Her work will be taken up by Miss Clegg, B.A., of Durham University.

* * *

The London University Gazette gives us the following news of an old friend:—"The Gilchrist Travelling Studentship of £70 has been awarded to Miss Margaret Kerly, B.A., of University College, Aberystwith. Miss Kerly proposes to study the organisation of the teaching of English in New England and Canada."

* * *

We were glad to see among us again, though only for a few hours, another old friend, Miss Fox, who is now Second Mistress of the Girls' High School, Retford.

* * *

When afternoon school takes the form of an excursion to the Park it possesses unusual charms in the eyes of Form Upper IV. Gladly accepting a very kind invitation from Dr. Wilkinson, a party of fifteen girls, conducted by Miss Bott, started from School at three o'clock on Monday, March 7th, and walked to the observatory in Alexandra Park. There we were met by Dr. Wilkinson, under whose control are the various meteorological instruments, and from whom we were to receive a practical lesson in physiography. First, we went up into the observatory and looked at the barometers and thermometers. Then we mounted the ladder one by one, and watched the hand on the dial as it recorded the speed of the wind. We had previously noticed the four brass balls revolving, and now saw that these turned a rod connected with the hand on the dial. Dr. Wilkinson had brought with him a small anemometer which helped us to understand the larger one. Next, we went inside the gate of the small enclosure

containing the outside thermometers. In one the bulb of mercury is enclosed in a larger bulb from which the air has been exhausted, and this showed a considerably higher temperature than the other of the same kind. Besides these two there is a foot thermometer, one foot below the surface of the ground, and a four-foot thermometer, four feet below. We should like to express to Dr. Wilkinson our appreciation of his great kindness in showing us all these things. There will be a new interest for us in visiting the Park, where, our guide informed us, "We make the weather, you know."

S.H.B.

THE CLUBS.

THE LITERARY SOCIETY.—The author chosen as the subject of our first meeting this year was Scott. Two of his works were selected for special discussion—*Kenilworth* and *Marmion*—the former being taken as an example of his powers as a prose writer, and the latter to show him as a writer of verse. N. Anderton drew a very vivid sketch of Scott; her points and extracts were so well chosen that she succeeded in giving us some idea of the magic of his spell, and made us feel that Scott's title of "Wizard" was no empty one. Her paper has already appeared in an earlier number of this magazine, under the title of "The Wizard of the North." S. Wright told us of the immense popularity that Scott enjoyed during his lifetime, and of the numerous copies of his works that were sold—a sign of appreciation that unfortunately has by no means always fallen to the lot of even our greatest authors. The story of *Kenilworth* was told by Miss Richards, and M. Martland gave us some account of the antiquarian researches undertaken by Scott before he would embark on a story of this kind, involving, as it does, so much knowledge of local colour and of historic detail. To the better understanding of the novel we did a little research ourselves, or more correctly, D. Higgs did it for us. She read a very entertaining description of some of the Elizabethan festivals and sports. Her paper (which appears in the present number) was very interesting, and she must have gained a great deal of information while writing it. Miss Bott sent us an account and view of the ruins of *Kenilworth* as they stand at present. The Society owes A. Buckley warm thanks for her paper on *Marmion*. It was a very clear and well written account of the poem, and it showed us that Scott could tell a tale equally well in verse as in prose. The excellence of Scott in both these realms was well brought out by A. Haigh in her paper, "Scott—a Poet or a Novelist?" H. Taylor took us further afield, and compared the writings of Scott with those of Macaulay, chiefly from an historical point of view. The meeting closed after an extract from *Kenilworth* had been read by M. Schofield.

The next meeting was devoted to Mrs. Gaskell and "Cranford." D. Higgs gave an account of the life and charming personality of Mrs. Gaskell. M. Hodgson described the style of "Cranford," and drew a picture of the quaint old-fashioned ways of the dear old ladies who lived in the little old-world village. The third item on the programme was "Scenes from Cranford." The acting of these five scenes was entered into with much zest by certain members of the society, and the enjoyment of those who watched the performance was no less keen.

The subject for the September meeting was "The Life and Works of R. L. Stevenson." This proved an especially attractive meeting, as Stevenson himself presents so many points of interest. M. Hodgson told the story of his life, and managed skilfully to avoid the list of dates and insignificant trifles that so often mar the pages of biography. B. Martland, E. Neild, and P. Newton undertook the weighty task of telling the story of "Treasure Island" as shortly as they could, without leaving out any of its most thrilling incidents. To do this well is an art needing judgment and self-denial, and they should be encouraged to persevere in their efforts on another occasion. N. Anderton and M. Martland gave us the gist of two essays from "Virginius Puerisque." These essays respectively support the conflicting views that youth is wiser than age, and that age has a sounder judgment than youth. M. Kershaw wrote a short account of Stevenson as a novel-writer, and L. Neild drew an interesting account of his life at Vailima, from the collection of letters written by Stevenson while living in that island. The meeting closed with a piano solo by M. Schofield.

The life and works of Charles Kingsley occupied our attention on the occasion of the next meeting. The story of Hereward was well told by A. Haigh, but she found it a very difficult one to condense into a small compass. H. Taylor's account of the history of the time of Hereward enabled us to see how far the author was obliged to depart from fact for the purposes of his story. E. Matley gave in outline Kingsley's life, and D. Higgs read a paper on the work done by Kingsley to improve the conditions of life among the poor. His powers of description were illustrated by extracts read by E. Lees and F. Simpson, while P. Newton and M. Bodden, to show that he could write charming little verses, recited "The old, old song" and "The lost doll." After giving Kingsley's description of the picture of the Doge of Venice, E. Millington was led to tell the picturesque story of the marriage of Venice with the Adriatic. After all the papers had been read, M. Hodgson played a very pretty dreamy piano piece. It would be much appreciated if more girls would show their willingness to perform on these occasions, as music adds a very real pleasure to the meetings.

I must express a hope that members of the Literary Society will not rest content with the knowledge of these authors which they gained from the meetings, or still worse, consign it to the limbo of things forgotten, but will feel inspired to go further and read more of the works of these same writers for themselves.

E.V.E.

* * *

SIXTH FORM DEBATING SOCIETY.—The Debating Society has had some very interesting meetings during the past year. The following motions were brought forward:—That athletics are conducive to beauty. That the life of a prehistoric savage would be infinitely preferable to the life of a civilised human being of to-day. That Napoleon was the greatest general of the nineteenth century. That Protection is better for the Empire than Free Trade.

Besides considering these weighty problems, we have allowed ourselves some relaxation. In the summer we had a very pleasant trip to Miller's Dale. As we walked from Buxton through the dale several of the party were very busy collecting wild flowers for their herbaria, and some had quite a large variety at the end of the day. On December 1st the Society held an At Home, or rather At School, to which they invited the mistresses. Each guest found on her plate a beautifully-printed programme and a charming bunch of violets, the latter, doubtless, an emblem of the H.G.S.D.S. It behoves so small a Society to be modest, and to preserve its sweetness of temper, even when discussing such heartburning topics as the fiscal question.

Our Secretary, M. E. Anderton, left us in July, and we greatly miss the energy and enthusiasm with which, having re-animated our almost totally extinct Society, she nursed it back into vigorous life before resigning it into the hands of her successor, Gladys Millington.

S.H.B.

* * *

TENNIS.—Surely there never was a season so unfavourable to tennis as the summer of 1903! It is discouraging to postpone games and matches continually, but we made gallant efforts in spite of the rain.

On June 22nd a match was played between Forms VI. and V., and was won by Form VI. (6—4, 6—2).

On June 30th we went to Pendleton, taking two couples of players. In the first match Mary Schofield and Marjorie Martland played the first champions of the Pendleton High School, and won an easy victory (6—1, 6—4). The second match was not finished, and the result was therefore a draw. The games were 8—6, 4—6, Oldham leading.

The School Tournament was played in the American fashion, and there were nine competitors. Mary Schofield won the first prize, a tennis racquet, given by Mrs Emmott, and Lillian Neild won the second prize, a set of silver buttons, given by Miss Platt. We are very grateful to the donors for their beautiful gifts, as well as for all the pleasure of contesting for them.

We entered again this year for the 'Tournament of the Lancashire Girls' Schools' Lawn Tennis League. It was held on July 4th at Old Trafford, and the sunshine attracted many visitors. Our champions were again Mary Schofield and Marjorie Martland, and well did they acquit themselves. In the first round we played Bury High School, and came off the field with flying colours. In the second round our opponent was North Manchester, and it was a hard fight. At the end of two sets the sides were exactly equal (3-6, 6-3), and excitement grew keen. Long sets are allowed in the final round only, so when the points of the third set went up to 'deuce,' we were almost too excited to applaud. Sad to relate, the next two points were won by North Manchester, and Oldham retired from the field. But after our five years' unbroken experience of a crushing defeat in the first round, it seemed a great achievement that by only two points we had missed attaining to the semi-finals: and at the end of the day we were able to join heartily in the cheers which greeted Whalley Range, the winners of the Shield.

S.H.B.

* * *

HOCKEY.—In spite of wind and weather the style of play has shown decided improvement this year, and though there is a good deal yet to be learnt, the team shows signs of having rather more knowledge of the game. The forwards have perhaps made the most progress, and if the sun would but consent to smile on their efforts, they would, I feel sure, soon become a really formidable line. At last, too, we have been able to make up the second eleven, or more correctly, nine, as we have only room for this number on our small ground.

We should like to see P. Newton and D. Warhurst taking part in the practice games more often than has been the case up to the present. Since last February we have played seven matches. Of these two were with Pendleton, and both resulted in a draw, while as usual, we defeated Eccles on our own ground and were defeated by them on theirs. At Crompton we suffered a crushing defeat, but we were not very depressed, as it was the first eleven against which we were playing. We were much disappointed that our match with Bolton had to be postponed, but the Bolton team, owing to various mishaps, did not arrive till it was almost too dark to play. We are, however, looking forward very much to seeing them again this term, as we are anxious to try our strength against them.

The event in the annals of the Hockey Club, which caused the greatest excitement this year, was the match between Form IV. and the rest of the Club. Both sides endeavoured to keep the composition of their teams a profound secret, but I believe a good deal of information leaked out before the fateful day. The feeling aroused among the partisans of both sides was intense, and it was indeed a thrilling moment just before the game began, for it was most difficult to tell which side was likely to win. As the game proceeded Form IV. was nearly beside itself with anxiety to keep the advantage which it soon won, while the captain of the other side made desperate efforts to induce her forwards to "rush a goal." The game resulted in one goal being gained by "The World" and three by Form IV. Meanwhile, those members of Form IV. who did not play in the match had been busily helping to make the tea-table as pretty as possible for their guests, and they afterwards waited with much zeal upon both teams. The speeches and cheers that followed the tea added much to the general enjoyment. I must not forget to mention the badges of dark and light blue ribbon so daintily made by D. Millington, for these were the colours worn on this occasion by the Fourth.

D. Higgs is becoming a very useful member of the team, as she is learning to play well either as a half-back or a forward. E. Jessop is still one of the strongest of the forwards, and is generally to be relied upon to take the ball up the field and to pass it hard across the striking circle. She also gains a fair proportion of the goals. M. Hodgson has shown a marked improvement in her play this term. She is swift and very quick in the striking circle, and to this she has added the art of passing hard and charging effectively. D. Millington, though much improved, still needs to acquire a stronger stroke. The backs, to whose names must be added that of E. Jackson, are very reliable, though I must add that on one occasion they lost their heads to such an extent that they succeeded in irretrievably losing the match within the

first ten minutes. In the match with Pendleton F. Simpson showed decided promise, and E. Kershaw made a valuable addition to the team by bringing with her the qualities of quickness, speed, and perseverance. She is distinctly at her best on a large field.

To have won a place in the first eleven is an achievement that a girl is justly proud of, and when to this is added the privilege of wearing one of the new badges, she is indeed to be congratulated. The Club had long wished for some badge that would be peculiar to itself, and after much thought, it was decided that nothing could be prettier or more appropriate than a silver brooch in the shape of a hockey stick and ball. Those in the list below with an asterisk against their names have won their "colours," which in this case means brooches.

The first eleven for last term were as follows:—*Forwards*: *E. Jessop, *M. Kershaw, *D. Higgs, *M. Hodgson, D. Millington; *Halfbacks*: *E. Kershaw, *M. Martland (captain), F. Simpson; *Backs*: *H. Taylor, *L. Neild; *Goal*: *M. Horsfall. E. Jackson, G. Browne, and H. Jackson have also played for the School. E. Jackson and H. Jackson have each won a place in the first eleven this year. The second eleven is as follows:—*Forwards*: D. Jackson, D. Millington, E. Neild; *Halfbacks*: A. Haigh, M. Prosser, P. Newton; *Backs*: M. Varley, G. Browne; *Goal*: C. Mallalieu. E.V.E.

* * *

BASKET BALL.—A year ago the energies of our Basket Ball Club were somewhat cramped by the fact that only two other schools in the neighbourhood played the game. Last September a meeting was held at the Hulme Grammar School at which representatives of various High Schools were present. The rules of the game were discussed and formulated, and a Basket Ball Association was formed. Nine Schools have already joined, of which the majority are quite near enough for us to be able to arrange matches, and we hope that in the future we shall try our strength on more than one team. Up to the present our only outside matches have been with Pendleton. Last season we played two matches with the Pendleton Third Form, in the first of which we were defeated by 14 goals to 12, and in the second won the victory by 2 goals to 0. Last year's Lower Third also played the Pendleton Upper Second Form, and were defeated by 4 goals to 0. During the present season we have had two matches with Pendleton, in both of which we have been successful.

One of the most exciting games was that played between Upper III. and Lower IV. at the beginning of this term. Unfortunately, as usual, it was raining on the day fixed for the match, and the two teams had to resort to the gymnasium. The game was a very close one, and the last few minutes were the most thrilling, for three goals were scored in as many minutes, bringing the total up to five all. The Lower Fourth Form had provided tea, and very pretty they had made the tables look. Speeches wound up the proceedings, and each team most politely asserted how very glad they were they had not defeated the other.

The great event of last term was the presentation of badges to the members of the first team. These badges took the form of silver brooches representing a ball resting in a basket. They are only given to those players who have by good play and constant practice really won a place in the first team, and the present badge-holders are: G. Bateman, T. Fletcher (captain), E. Holt, P. Rye, L. Williams.

During the two seasons the following have played for the School:—*Forwards*: A. Clough, A. Ferguson, E. Hurst, M. Jennings, P. Rye; *Centres*: G. Bateman, G. Browne, T. Chadwick, E. Cowley, M. Higgs, M. Prosser, G. Schofield; *Backs*: E. Dottridge, T. Fletcher, E. Holt, L. Williams.

At the beginning of this term, owing to the bad weather, there was little opportunity for play, but last term, as a rule, the practice games were well attended, the members of the team seldom or never failing. There are, however, still some girls who do not realise that it is quite impossible to learn to play without practising, and this year's Lower Third has not distinguished itself as last year's did. Last season the Lower III. furnished the team with five players; this year there is only one girl who has a place in the team, and we regret to have to record that

the postponement of the Lower Third match with Pendleton last term was not due to the weather alone. During the present term, however, this form has been far more regular in practising, and H. Bowes, M. Lees, and E. Robinson were chosen to play in the match against the Lady-Barn Preparatory School, Withington. The opposing team brought five boy and four girl players, and scored a victory by three goals to one. The team this season is specially strong in its backs; the centres need more practice, and G. Bateman especially must learn to play on her feet. The forwards do not yet equal last year's centre forward (A. Ferguson), and they should use every opportunity of improving their aim; one girl can by herself practise throwing, or perhaps we should say, trying to throw goals. But the team on the whole has done very well, and will, it is to be hoped, continue to merit the praise for combined play bestowed on it at one of the matches last term. The following have this term won badges:—
A. Clough, E. Hurst, M. Jennings, G. Schofield. S.E.S.R.

* * *

THE FIELD CLUB.—In spite of the fact that Oldham is generally thought of as a land of chimneys, having little or no connection with the country, Miss Baguley's suggestions for the organisation of a Field Club were eagerly welcomed by the whole School. Under her energetic direction the Club has flourished during the first year of its life, and, judging by the collections sent in last October, has vindicated the honour of Oldham as a botanical centre.

The chief feature of the Club so far has been the organisation of expeditions into the country round in search of flowers, and on each occasion the cry of "we shall find nothing there" has turned to one of surprise that so much was to be found growing, even in Oldham, that we had never seen before.

The anxious countenances of the Upper School on Tuesday, March 10th, were due to the fact that the first expedition was to take place that afternoon, and already the weather had disappointed us once. Nothing daunted, Forms VI., V., and IV. turned out *en masse*, and this time their faith was rewarded, for the afternoon proved fine and warm. Greenfield was the place selected as conveniently near and already well known to some of the members. There we enjoyed four hours of hard tramping, following the Chew Valley for some distance, with all the excitement of crossing and recrossing the stepping-stones, more or less perilous as the stream was swollen by the late rains. In spite of the fact that it was still early, and that spring in Greenfield is later than in many places, we carried back in triumph twenty-eight specimens in every stage of growth. Surely, too, those members who seemed to find more interest in mountaineering than in botanizing must have acquired some valuable information as to the geography of the diminutive river they followed with such ardour!

A second and longer expedition took place on Saturday, April 25th. Leaving Oldham about 9 a.m., we took the train to Romiley, from which point we were to walk to Marple and Strines. This time we felt a little more sure of what we were looking for, and flowers too were much more plentiful. The numerous boxes and tins were soon filled with specimens of all sorts, and progress for some time through the woods and by the side of the canal was slow. Though not very bright, it was quite warm enough to thoroughly enjoy lunch, sitting under the trees and looking down at the little Etheroe which flowed at the foot of the hill. A long and tiring walk, when we had shrewd suspicions that our guide lost her way, brought us to the hamlet at the top of the hill where we were to have tea. No flowers grew there, but we were quite content to rest and examine the numerous treasures we had already found. Not the least enjoyable part of the day was the walk back to the station in the evening, when flowers and birds alike were reminding us that it was time to say good-bye to "green fields and happy grove."

The Lower School, too, had their expedition, and on Tuesday afternoon, June 24th, made their way to Bluebell Clough at the foot of Hartshead Pike. No less keen than their elders, they eagerly scoured the wood, and succeeded in bringing back a large variety of specimens, which were proudly exhibited the next day. Great indeed was the excitement when a root of four-leaved clover was found from which everyone carried off a leaf, dreaming, who knows what dreams, of the good luck it was to bring.

Only six collections of pressed wild flowers were sent in to compete for the prizes which were awarded at the end of the year. Seniors: Gladys Millington (VI.), 1st prize; Lilian Neild (V.), 2nd prize; Henrietta Taylor (V.). Juniors: Elsie Millington (L. III.), 1st prize; Emma Henthorne (L. III.); Dorothy Neild (II.). Collection of Leaves: Helen Bowes (II.). These all deserve high praise, and it is only to be regretted that, owing apparently to false modesty, the competitors were so few in number. Though the prizes are for the few, all have gained something of lasting value, for if these hours spent in the country have done nothing else, they have taught us to use our eyes in Nature's garden, and have given us some idea of the secrets which she is ready to reveal to those who are willing to listen and to look. H.J.S.

THE DANCE.

At the request of some of the elder girls Miss Clark gave permission for a subscription dance to be held on the evening of Thursday, February 4th, and the Sixth and Fifth Forms were allowed to make the necessary arrangements. They acted as stewards, and were dressed in white with green leaves round their skirts.

The hall was brilliantly lighted, and on entering it the first person whom I saw was Madge Mellodew, who was dressed as a Doctor of Literature. She had on a red cap and gown, and it had a very pretty effect. Later in the evening she gave us a literature lesson. Next I saw Bertha Martland and Alice Haigh, who were dressed as gipsies; they had red skirts, white blouses and boleros, which were covered with sequins, as were also their pretty little caps. Daisy Millington was dressed as Music, and when you looked at her you wanted to ask her to play and sing the song which was written on her dress. I saw Molly Hodgson in the distance, and wondered what she was dressed as, when suddenly I remembered that Spanish dancers were so attired. Near her stood Phyllis Newton, prettily dressed as a French fisher girl. Dorothy Mellodew came as a flower girl with a great basket of flowers, which she had to put down when she wanted to dance. Both ancient and modern life seemed to be represented. Seated on the opposite side of the room were Dorothy Neild and Molly Prosser, dressed as Germans, and Ethel Neild in what seemed to be the early Victorian style of dress. Even the fairy stories were not left out, for there stood José Wild, Gladys Wilkinson, and Dolly Wilde, dressed as Red Riding Hoods, and you wanted to ask them where the wolf and the grandmother were. There, too, were the fairy godmother, the prince, and the two wicked sisters of Cinderella fame. I was talking to Alice Dellow when someone glided past me, and suddenly I recognised Miss Ellis, who was dressed as a Chinese lady. I might have mistaken her for a Japanese, but she had no chrysanthemums in her hair, and I concluded that she must be Chinese. Her disguise was a very good one, and several people at first failed to identify the visitor from the Celestial Empire who sailed into the room with her great Chinese umbrella during the first waltz; the black painted eyebrows, and the almond blossom wreath in her hair put the finishing touch to her very effective costume. The Sixth Form room was converted into a conservatory, and was tastefully decorated with plants and flowers of various kinds.

About half-past eight we all went to supper in the recreation room, in which were two tables covered with all kinds of cakes. Afterwards a vote of thanks to the Sixth Form was moved and seconded, and after many murmurs of "Speech, speech," Mary Schofield came forward to speak, but she was so modest that she did not say more than ten words; these, however, were gratefully accepted. There were about fifteen dances, including several waltzes, three lancers, a barn dance and a Highland schottische. We finished with Sir Roger de Coverley, and I was very glad it came last, for there is so much jumping in it that it is quite tiring.

Great praise is due to the pianist, Miss Gwen. Millington, who played exceedingly well. At the end of the evening, as we were all going home, everybody seemed to be saying how much she had enjoyed herself, and how sorry she was that it was over.

HARRIET JACKSON, Upper IV.

ECHOES FROM THE FORM-ROOMS.

“It will discourse most excellent music.”—SHAKESPEARE.

A few moments of surprise in Form III. while blank paper was given out, a few conjectures as to what it might portend, and then the request—“Write down your ideas on Music.” Ideas? The Form heaved one vast sigh, astonishment was on every face; for the first few minutes nothing would come, many declared they had not got any “ideas” at all. However, after a little more racking of brains, ideas began to flow, and several very creditable papers were produced.

The Lower Third also responded to the same request, and being more youthful and probably knowing less of the subject than Upper III., they had less diffidence in giving their opinions. One of the most noticeable points in glancing over the sixty or more papers is the wonderful improvement in the standard of taste as compared with that of ten or twenty years ago. Then the favourite pieces would have been “The Maiden’s Prayer,” “The Battle of Prague,” or Showers of Pearls, Diamonds, or other precious stones. Now Mendelssohn’s “Songs without Words” have the foremost place, but Beethoven, Wagner, Mozart, Schubert, and Schumann are all admired.

Two papers in Form III. call for special notice, as illustrative of two different standpoints from which the subject may be regarded. One girl (eleven years old) treats it from the emotional point of view, and realises the truth of the saying of our old English composer Byrd, “Music loosens a heart that care has bound.” She says:—“Music is an exceedingly soothing and sometimes stirring element. When troubled or distressed it soothes and comforts if it is soft, and it stirs soldiers to battle. Vocal music is especially beautiful; it gives you new ideas, and makes you think of higher things than we have in this world. Some composers make music which cheers us and makes us happy and joyous—for example, Weber’s ‘Merry May.’ There are also others which are full of grandeur, such as Wagner’s ‘March from Tannhäuser,’ and the same composer makes one feel very sad by ‘Elizabeth’s Prayer’ from the same opera. Grand and solemn compositions always sound best on the organ. On this instrument you can make music much more impressive than on a piano, which is more adapted for light airs. If of a good quality, music and singing at schools are exceedingly useful, for they teach us the ways of different composers, and give one a musical education.”

Fourteen years old takes the more practical side of the question:—“I like instrumental music the best, and I am especially fond of Mendelssohn’s ‘Songs Without Words.’ Music comes in very useful as you grow older; you may by hard work be a teacher of music, or you can play at concerts or accompany violinists, or if you are a violinist you can play duets. It is very interesting to go to concerts and notice good players, and learn all you can from them; then if you like a piece very much you have heard, keep a note of it until you are equal to learning it yourself. It is useful to be able to play from memory, especially if you were asked out to tea and did not happen to take any music with you.”

In the Lower Third, the following from a child of ten proved the best paper:—“I am very fond of music. I think the violin is lovely, it is such a soft, sweet sound. On the violin I think a sweet song or lullaby is nice. On the piano any piece is really nice: a fast piece is the nicest, I think. I like to hear a lady singing high up, but not so much low down. A lively song sung by a lady, gentleman, or girl is very nice. I think it is nice for every girl to learn singing or some instrument. My favourites, I think, are the violin, piano, or singing. If you have nothing to do it is very nice to amuse yourself by playing the piano or singing songs. If you cannot play nicely the family get rather tired of hearing you practise, but when you can play nicely I think it is reward enough.”

Only two girls did not care for music, though several confessed to a distaste for practising. Among the various opinions on the use of music, some of the following will be of interest:—“The use of singing is to train your voice to be sweet, and to be able to change high notes to low ones.” (Would-be baritones, please note!)

“I like music because it makes us feel nice and bright, and all that is about us,” says one. Another:—“Because when friends come to tea you can make them merry with music

and songs ;” and another : “ Because it makes our parents very proud if their children can play or sing when visitors come to tea.”

“ I do not care for any kind of music but the piano. I do not care for singing, because when one or two persons sing together they usually go so high or so low that they either shriek or lose their voice, then it seems to me to be such a waste of time to sit for an hour to listen to people singing.” (A most practical young person !)

“ Music is very useful because of dancing,—it would not be easy to dance without music.”

“ You can get *scollar ships* by learning music.”

“ Music is very easy when you have learnt it a few weeks.”

“ School singing is very nice, because children stand a chance of learning much they would otherwise know very little about.”

With regard to instruments, we learn that “ The violin is difficult to learn, having only four *wires* ; the piano is the simplest instrument, having a separate block of wood for each note.”

“ The church organ has a much nicer and sweeter tone than that of the piano or any other instrument *worked by machinery*.”

The organ is nice if played properly, but it is used for sacred songs and solos.” (Which are evidently *not* properly played.)

On the choice of music :—

“ I like classical music the best, because it sounds better than pantomime music ; you can play classical music at concerts, and you could not play pantomime music—you could, but it would not sound so nice.”

“ Some of Mendelssohn’s Songs Without Words are so beautiful, so full of soul, that it is hard when listening to them to keep your soul from overflowing.”

“ *Shewman* was a German, and all his music is written in German fingering, and I am not so fond of playing it, because it has German fingering. I would rather have English, but I rather like the music.” (Evidently a Protectionist in matters musical !)

Here is news to most of our readers :—

“ There is a man—*Paderooskey*—and he is one of the greatest *violinists* there is in the world.”

We are also told that “ Clara Butt’s voice seems to come from her *soul*.” Could the writer have meant *sole* ?

One small writer says :—“ I like a song the Upper III. sang, called “ Forth to the Meadows,” written by Schubert, but I don’t like people who sing and shut their teeth and keep the sound inside ; you should open your teeth and your mouth.” (Most excellent advice.)

One girl touches the true keynote of the matter when she says that “ Music helps us to be more educated, and to love the beautiful.”

Yes, as the poet Longfellow says :—

“ Music is the Prophet’s Art ;
Among the gifts that God has sent,
One of the most magnificent.”

A.M.M.

THE OLD GIRLS’ ASSOCIATION.

Two meetings of the Association have been held during the year. The summer meeting took place on Thursday, July 2nd, 1903. All the interest centred in the cricket, which, unfortunately, was brought to an abrupt end by the rain. A prize offered for tennis failed to arouse any enthusiasm in that game ; only one member came equipped for the play. Accordingly, the prize had to be reserved for a future occasion.

The last meeting was held on Wednesday, December 2nd. Scenes from "Our Mutual Friend" were acted by the following members:—

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|
| Bella | L. Johnson | Mr. Wilfer | V. Shaw |
| Lavvy | Effie Shaw | George Sampson | B. Holt |
| Mrs. Wilfer | I. Rye | John Rokesmith | E. Johnson |

Lilian Johnson undertook all responsibility as stage manager, and with marked success. Esther Stott read a very interesting paper on mountain climbing in Switzerland. The Old Girls' Association continues to flourish, its numbers are maintained, and the members show a self-reliance in the management of their affairs which augurs well for the future of the Society. The rest of the evening was passed in dancing and in viewing the exhibition of curios, as well as the garments and toys contributed for the Hulme Charity, which this year were numerous. They have been distributed in Hulme, and those of us who see anything of work among the poor can well imagine the joy of the children on receiving dolls, dolls' houses, or soldiers, as well as the gratitude of the mothers to those who have helped to protect themselves and their little ones from the winter cold and damp by gifts of warm clothing. "Are you 'appy?" a little ragged boy at a teaparty suddenly asked me, as he was enjoying a substantial mince-pie. He evidently was very happy, and it is happiness to us to know that we have brought a little pleasure and comfort into lives less bright than our own. F.E.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Lady Margaret Hall,

Oxford, Nov., 1903.

My Dear Girls,—As it is always so much easier to tell what a place is like from a photograph than from a description, Miss Clark has asked me to get some photographs of the Hall, and those I am sending will, I think, give you a good idea of at least the exterior. I hope before long to be able to get some of the students' rooms, dining halls, and library.

The chief topic of interest here, as elsewhere, during the summer term and during that portion of this term which has already passed, has been the rain. We not only experience the discomfort of getting regularly wet through, but we have the additional disadvantage of not being able to take walks or any exercise, for Oxford is at such times surrounded by a waste of waters, and during the last week Lady Margaret Hall has been almost unique in having a hockey field fit to use. We have some compensations though, for it is difficult to imagine anything more lovely than the wide stretches of water, out of which the far-famed towers of Oxford seem to rise, when they can be seen in the brief glimpses of sunshine.

Neither the Rhodes scholars, several of whom are now in residence, nor the new Chancellor, who was only elected, with much ringing of bells (bells are always ringing for some special occasion here), last Saturday week, have made any alteration in the aspect of the University. But a considerable alteration in the aspect of the work has been effected by the recent Education regulations, and for anyone who is hoping to teach, College life here is no longer the final stage in her education. Another year has to be added, so that, either here or at one of the many other training centres scattered all over England, the would-be teacher may learn how to teach.

Lady Margaret Hall was distinguished in the summer by one of her students gaining the first "First Class" in Theology ever obtained by a woman at Oxford, or, I believe, at Cambridge. We also had a First Class in Science, the first which has fallen to the lot of the Hall, though not of course the first in Oxford, as Somerville has a list which contains about half-a-dozen names.

One of the chief delights of Oxford life is the opportunities presented for increasing our knowledge in directions which do not lead to the Schools or examinations. For example, Mr. Stuckey Coles, the Head of the Pusey House in Oxford, is very kindly giving a course of

lectures on "Christian Doctrine" to any women students who care to attend. It is an unrivalled opportunity of obtaining definite knowledge on this subject. There are also usually during the term lectures which are most interesting on Shakespeare or some of his creations by the Professor of Poetry, and these, as well as lectures on Dante, are always well attended. To most people, too, the musical facilities are attractive, for the choirs of Magdalen and New Colleges are well known, and are supplemented by concerts and lectures on every variety of music.

I hope, however, the delights of Oxford, which grow with time, will not be known to you only from my letters, but that you will yourselves come up to experience them.

Yours very sincerely,

NELLIE NEILD.

* * *

Somerville College, Oxford,

3rd December, 1903.

To the Editor of the Hulme Victorian.

Dear Madam,—I have one consolation in the midst of my distress at being so late in writing, and that is that I can give you the result of the Lady Margaret match, which has just been played this afternoon. It is consoling too to think that Miss Neild, who wrote I know a long time ago, cannot possibly have given you this piece of news. The match was most stirring and exciting, and kept one warm in spite of an easterly gale and six inches of mud to stand in (with apologies to the L.M.H. field, which is after all a good deal better than ours). We ought to have won, being so much better, but somehow we did not, and it ended in a draw, as it did once last year. Interesting as this is, it is only inter-collegiate news, and all Somerville stands before me still to be grappled with. I think that if I had written on this topic this time last year, after having been up a term, I should have found it considerably easier. One does know so much about everything when one first comes up, and persists in boring everyone else with the knowledge too, but as it is, I think I will spare both you and myself, and just hope that you may be interested in one or two things that have been happening with us lately.

This term in the High Court of Parliament (sitting every other Tuesday, from 9-30 to 11), we have dealt with the momentous questions of the War Commission, the Abolition of the Game Laws, and a new Income Tax. We would have done our best for Fiscal Reform, too, if we had not been so sadly lacking in Protectionists. The Liberals have been having things rather much their own way lately, but as both parties much prefer being in opposition, I expect they will resign after the first meeting next term. Meanwhile, they are indulging in a new Prime Minister and a new Cabinet (we do occasionally improve on the old-fashioned Westminster system), so no doubt startling things will happen in the spring. To go a step higher, while I am talking of Courts, our Council are very kindly presenting the College with a new library, which is now being built, and is to be officially opened at the Easter vacation. It will hold thirty thousand books altogether, and as we have only eight thousand at present, the "pious benefactors" of the future will have plenty of scope. We cannot complain of the lack of benefactors just at present however, as we have been endowed with a Fellowship during the last year, and our first History Fellow is now in residence. There is nothing definite to say about the river, except that it has been overflowing most of the term, to the detriment of boating. Perhaps in the future we shall have inter-college boat races, and an Eights' week, and an Oxford and Cambridge race of our own. We have already got as far as having our own barge down among "the barges" for the races, and are very proud of it, as it is so far quite unique. For a second Oxford letter I am afraid this is becoming unconscionably long, so I shall end it, hoping that I shall have the privilege of writing to you again some time.

Yours sincerely,

ALICE SERGEANT.

* * *

Royal Holloway College,
 Englefield Green, S.O., Surrey,
 January 25th, 1904.

Dear Girls,—Miss Clark has asked me to tell you something about our life at College. First of all I should like you to know in what a beautiful place we live. I am afraid some of you still connect Holloway only with a certain not particularly beautiful district of London. As a matter of fact, the nearest milestone informs us that we are 20 miles from Hyde Park Corner, so that we are quite undisturbed by the city's roar. Indeed, it is difficult to believe that one half-hour's journey will bring us to the great Metropolis. The country around is beautiful. We are quite close to the river, and from the look-out, a little hill about ten minutes' walk from the gates, can look over to Runnymede and Magna Carta island, and on a clear day can discern the towers of Windsor in the distance. Few of us are content, however, with such a view of the castle, and on a fine afternoon many groups may be seen wandering through the great park admiring the deer, or translating the inscription on the Copper Horse, a legend which even "science people" find no difficulty in reading.

Another delightful walk is through the Pine Woods. Although it is a favourite walk at any time, I cannot imagine anything more beautiful than the wealth of colouring to be seen in autumn, ranging from delicate green or deep olive, to the bright gold and russet of the beeches and oaks. There are many pretty walks in the college grounds, and a spare ten minutes between lectures is often spent in a walk round the college.

I will not attempt a description of the building itself. You will gather some idea of its appearance from the pictures Miss Clark has to show you, and you cannot any further realise the beauty of the place without coming yourselves, as I hope many of you will one day. It is said that every visitor to the college remarks to the Principal that he feels as though he were living in the "Princess." There is certainly much that lends to the idea, but I fear a visit to either of the hockey grounds would quickly dispel the illusion. It is difficult to imagine Melissa as a half-back or centre forward, and one cannot believe that Lady Psyche would have waxed so enthusiastic over the Newnham match or the corridor games as when she "fulminated out her scorn of laws salique." Hockey certainly holds its own in the winter, but in the summer term swimming and boating are close rivals to tennis and cricket. It is the ambition of every student to be a river captain, to qualify for which position she must not only do her lengths but thoroughly understand the management of a boat. But it is the indoor life, with its social meetings and gatherings and its independence which makes life at college so very different from school. Each student has two rooms, one on each side of a long corridor. My bedroom looks out on to the Founder's Quadrangle, while from my study window I have a splendid view of the grounds, with peeps of landscape between the trees. One of our chief privileges consists in the absolute possession of two rooms, which can be adorned with one's own pictures and ornaments, and rendered cosy by pretty chairs, and cheerful by the ticking of a little time-piece and a bright fire. Most of our mornings are given to attending lectures. During the rest of our work hours we study in our own room or in the library. / Although the greater part of our time is spent in work, no little importance is attached to various other almost as interesting occupations. Our study tables, which in the morning groan under the weight of ponderous tomes, are later in the day spread with less intellectual fare. An interesting college regulation states that "Afternoon tea may be taken in the student's own rooms." Next to cocoas, teas are the favourite form of hospitality. On entering a study about five minutes to four you might see an agitated student, just in from hockey, hastily cutting up cake or arranging a dainty tea service, keeping the while an anxious eye on the kettle, which eagerly seizes the first opportunity to boil over. She then hastily flies to the common room to seize her roll and await the arrival of the milk and sugar. Probably on her return her guests have arrived, for we are very punctual, and generally arrive with our rolls immediately after the last stroke of four. Three-quarters of an hour soon pass in tea and chat, until one of the party, after a covert glance at the clock, remarks in a hasty undertone "It is college hours," or perhaps, if the talking waxes loud, a knock at the door is followed by the appearance of one's neighbour with the same remark.

Very often meetings are held during the tea hour. On Monday there is first year sharp practice. I am afraid I know very little about that, since I have Practical Physics on that afternoon. On Tuesday, in the Christmas term, there is Lambeth tea in 99 West, a famous room for smaller meetings. Some twenty students, after hastily disposing of their rolls, make Christmas presents in the shape of ties or blotters for the Lambeth factory girls. Besides the smaller clubs, such as the Dickens, Browning, Art, History, and Science Discussion, there are the great College Societies, which are the most interesting of all. Political is held three times a term. The House is divided into Liberals and Conservatives, each member representing a constituency. There is a Speaker and a Cabinet. Last term we had most exciting discussions on the Fiscal Policy, and after finally settling the question at the last meeting, it seemed most strange on going down at Christmas, to find the outside world still undecided on the subject. We have one arrangement which might profitably be employed in other discussions. At intervals of five minutes during each speech the Speaker rings a little bell, and the energetic orator must subside until vigorous clapping assures her that she may proceed. The big debate, as it is called, which is held in the Picture Gallery, is rendered doubly delightful, since it is followed by a dance. There is usually dancing in the Museum on Saturday evening, but it is only on debate night that the lights, which usually vanish at half-past ten, are allowed to remain until eleven.

Certainly one of the most exciting bands is the fire brigade. There are two brigades, the lower brigade, to which all first years must belong, and the upper brigade, consisting of volunteers from the superior years. There is ordinary fire drill once a week: that is not particularly eventful. It is to night alarms we strongly object. To be roused in the dead of night, at least about 11 p.m. from dreams of Greek Particles, or even less exciting things, by a shrill whistle along the corridor, and a voice "Alarm, East III., 169" is the reverse of soothing. Instinctively we spring out of bed, don a heavy coat and skirt, and repair with all speed to the burning room. The drill proceeds quickly and quietly, and after calling over and dispatching the messengers to rouse the unalarmed ones, the captain dismisses us, and in less than five minutes the college is again wrapped in profound slumbers.

The lights are out long ago, and my candle is burning low; I must save a little in case of a night alarm, and so hastily subscribe myself,

Yours affectionately,

M. E. ANDERTON.

FESTIVALS IN ELIZABETH'S REIGN.

In the reign of Elizabeth all classes, from the Queen herself to the labourers and peasants, were fond of sports and merry-making. The nobles amused themselves by hunting, hawking, riding, or playing at tennis, and all outdoor sports which were useful in war or pleasant in peace. Indoors they played at chess, cards, or backgammon, and from the highest to the lowest all, except the Puritans, were fond of music and dancing. The ladies learnt more drawing and painting after the Reformation than before, when the priests did all the illuminating; they also kept pets, and several hours of the day were always devoted to useful work. The richer people also went to the theatres, which were open in London under the Royal licence, and players often formed part of the nobleman's household. The lower classes practised archery and wrestling, with many other sports needing skill or strength, such as leaping, running, or throwing, besides the cruel bear, bull, or ape baiting, cock and dog fighting, which were encouraged at the taverns, then places of general resort. The people also had their special amusements, their "Lord of Misrule," their Plough Monday dances, their May games, their Morris dances at Whitsuntide, their Church ales, and their Wakes. The "Lord of Misrule" began his reign on All Hallows' Eve, and continued it till Twelfth Night; he was chosen by the heads of the parish, and appointed his own bodyguard. Though appointed on All Hallows' Eve his opening day was always on a Sunday, when he headed a noisy set wearing scarfs and flowers, with their dresses decorated in various ways, and some of them wearing bells, which jingled as they went along. This company, with a great deal of noise, went to the Church,

and after service, feasting, dancing, and all sorts of merriment were carried on in the churchyard, and "Misrule" prevailed. The Plough Monday games were very like those carried on under the direction of the "Lord of Misrule." The merry-makers dressed in various costumes, danced before the farmhouses, and collected money which they spent at the ale-house at night. The May games were dances round a tall pole decorated with garlands, and the Morris dance was a peculiar dance derived from the Moors in Spain. The Church ales had a practical purpose. Before Whitsuntide the Church Wardens brewed a large quantity of ale, which they sold to the pleasure-seekers on the holiday, and the profits were applied to the repair of the church. The Wakes were held in each parish on the day appropriated to the saint to whom the church was dedicated. It was a time of general hospitality, and everyone invited all his friends and relations to come. All these merry-makings were of a public character; anyone who chose might take part in them. The festivals of Harvest Home and the bringing in of the Yule Log were more exclusive. They were held at the expense of the farmer or master of the mansion, and only his friends and dependents were invited. Harvest Home is a very old festivity. When the last sheaves were brought in, a day was devoted to amusements after the work of the harvest. There were games preceding a feast for the mowers and reapers with their families and a few of the master's friends. The festivities of Christmas began a fortnight in advance with the singing of carols and the bringing in of the Yule Log on Christmas Eve. Every room in the house was first decorated with holly and mistletoe; all the family gathered together in the evening, ropes were fixed to the log, which was dragged across the floor of the hall, and being laid on the andirons was lighted with a piece of the last year's Yule log. This was followed by dancing and a substantial supper. On New Year's Eve there was also a merry-making in the family to see the old year out and the new year in. All these pastimes earned for our country the name of "Merry England."

MARGARET HIGGS, Upper IV.

PRACTICAL SCIENCE.

On Saturday, March 5th, 1904, a party of nine left Oldham to go over the laboratories of Messrs. Flatters & Garnett, of Deansgate, at 16 and 18, Church Road, Longsight.

We were all well aware that in these laboratories were made many of the beautiful lantern slides which had been shown to us by Miss Bott in her lantern lectures on India, but we were not at all certain whether we should be able to see the production of such slides, nor did we quite know what we should be shown.

Nos. 16 and 18, Church Road were found quite easily on leaving the Levenshulme cars, and they appeared to be two private houses. On entering, we were received by Mr. Flatters, who had very kindly offered to take us over the buildings. We were first shown into a room which was used as an office, and which had many shelves in it filled with boxes of lantern slides. We were told that we could take down any boxes we liked, and we all availed ourselves of this opportunity, and found most beautiful and interesting slides in every box we opened. We were able to see the wonderful collection illustrating the work of Haeckel on Infusoria, besides slides of ferns, flowers, etc.

We were then taken to a room below, where sections of rocks were being cut for microscopical work. This was done by one man, with the help of a machine worked by a small gas engine. By means of a quickly revolving thin steel plate a section of rock was cut off, having a thickness of about a tenth of an inch, and we were interested to hear that the rock which was being cut at that moment was a piece of coal from Oldham. The section of rock thus obtained had then to be fastened to a piece of glass, by means of Canada balsam, and, when firmly fixed, ground down still thinner by being held against a rapidly revolving metal plate, on which was spread some fine grinding powder. The rock section in time becomes almost transparent, and it is then remounted permanently in Canada balsam, with a glass coverslip over it.

We then went upstairs to a room in which two girls were at work mounting lantern slides, and we were shown the cabinets containing finished microscopical slides. There were slides illustrating both botanical and animal histology, all of them being most beautifully stained and

mounted. As we all should not have been able to see the beauties of the slides at the same time, Mr. Flatters showed us a number of photographs of botanical sections, which had been taken through the microscope, and which one of his assistants had painted. They were really most marvellous, and showed what thin sections of material must have been cut, and what fine work was possible.

In the next room we found the girl who had painted these beautiful photographs at work on a lantern slide of the malarial mosquito, which she was colouring very delicately.

Next came the section cutting. First we saw the material, which was imbedded in paraffin wax, cut with a razor by hand, and then by means of a microtome. Mr. Flatters told us about the different liquids through which the sections passed before being permanently mounted, and he also explained how it was possible to get sections of such structures as flower buds (which are composed of many separate parts) without allowing the section to fall to pieces. The shelves of the rooms through which we passed were full of bottles containing material ready for cutting, and we saw many curious animal as well as vegetable things stored up in spirits.

We were much interested in the next, which was a dark room, containing the apparatus for making micro-photographs. A microscope was arranged in a horizontal position, and the tube of it was inserted, without the eyepiece, into a camera bellows, about three feet long. The light from an incandescent burner passed through a condensing lens, and was then transmitted through the microscopic slide. By looking at the ground glass at the further end of the bellows we could see the enlarged microscopical object.

While we were examining this apparatus, and also the enlarging apparatus in the same room, Mr. Flatters told us a little about his work and the growth of his business. We learnt to our surprise that he began work in a signal box on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, but that he had been obliged to give it up through ill-health. He always had been interested in plant life, and he used to delight in studying the flowers on the railway banks and in fields whenever he had time to get away from his work. On being obliged to leave the railway he became a lamplighter, and all the time he taught himself, read hard, and tried photographic experiments with whatever apparatus he could obtain. He told us that his first half-plate camera, which we should see in a moment still in use, was bought with the money obtained by cleaning windows for the Co-operative Society. After a time he went to Jersey to do microscopical work for a firm there, and then he returned to Manchester to set up business in a very small way for himself. He prepared microscope slides and lantern slides at first at the rate of a few only in a month, but the numbers gradually went on increasing until last year he sent out over 25,324 lantern slides alone, and this year he expected to make twenty thousand microscopical slides also. He now has nine assistants to help him in his work.

All this naturally interested us immensely, and we went on to the next room feeling a still greater admiration for everything we saw and for the originator of the whole business.

The next work to see was the production of negatives from illustrations sent from Bombay to be made into lantern slides. The picture was placed on a simple copying stand, and was photographed on to a quarter plate by means of Mr. Flatters' original camera. The room in which this work was done had a good glass light in the roof, for it was at the top of the house. A dark room led out of this, and here we were allowed to see the exposure and development of a lantern slide. A most excellent result was obtained with apparently no difficulty, and those of us present who attempt photography on our own account wished that we could be as certain of a perfect result as were Mr. Flatters' assistants. One lantern plate was over-exposed and then reduced for our benefit so that we could see how poor slides could be improved.

Mr. Flatters was most kind in giving us information on all points, and we left the laboratories, after spending an hour and a half in them, with a feeling of great admiration for everything we had seen, having very much enjoyed our visit.

P.M.B.