

THE

Oldham Quilmerian.



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The Oldham Hulmeian.

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No. 10.

Editorial.

THIS may seem to be rather late in the day to be issuing a magazine that is usually published in December. The examinations and other unavoidable occurrences engaged the time of those concerned, and not only caused the late appearance of this magazine, but also of the Natural History Society's Exhibition. We hope, however, that the magazine has not suffered in quality from the delay.

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Since the publication of our last issue the School has lost Mr. Wight through his appointment as Senior Science Master at Middlesbrough Grammar School. Mr. Potter, B.A. Oxon, Ph.D. Heidelberg, fills his place on the staff; and is already highly esteemed by the boys.

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We congratulate the School Societies on their progress and success during the winter, especially the Debating Society, which through its energetic Secretary has done exceptionally good work. The Natural History Society has been fortunate, through the enterprise of the Headmaster, to secure a lecture from Mr. Bruce, the Secretary of the British Aeronautic Club. A full account will be found elsewhere.

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The Library is in a flourishing condition. A large number of books have been presented to it. We hear that the Committee are about to increase the number of magazines on the table.

An innovation has been introduced to the School by the Headmaster, and now organised games of Handball are played in the Gymnasium each noon interval, and have been a great success.

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A feature of this issue is the reappearance of the correspondence column, which we hope will be popular.

School Notes.

THE new boys this term are R. S. Haigh, R. J. A. Hudson, D. H. Siddall, P. Howarth, E. Fitton, D. H. Buckley, H. Hodgkinson, J. H. Wilde, J. I. Brierley, E. B. Jackson.

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There is an increase in numbers as compared with the corresponding term last year.

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The School Concert is on Thursday, March 21st, and all Old Boys are cordially invited.

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Term ends on Wednesday, 27th March. Next term will commence on Tuesday, 9th April, and end on Friday, 2nd August.

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We thank the Old Boys for their donations to the School Library, and for their interest in our school life in other directions. A strong and healthy Old Boys' Association must have a considerable influence for good in the development of the full life of the School: not less its service to those who thus preserve the connection with their old school. We hope that all old boys will join as soon as they are eligible.

Debating Society Notes.

THE Session commenced on November 12th. The attendance has been good, and the debates have been well sustained. The Headmaster gave the opening paper, taking as his subject, "The Choice of a Profession." After an interesting paper, a vote of thanks was proposed by Hassall, and seconded by Hall.

On November 19th the subject, "That Women Should have the Franchise," was discussed by a large number of members. In opening the debate, Booth declared that women had every right to vote. They were certainly as capable as men, and indeed, women's franchise had succeeded in New Zealand and elsewhere. In opposing the motion, Smith said that, both physically and mentally, women were incapable of properly using the franchise; their judgment would be prejudiced and unreasoning. Women's suffrage had been found a failure when tried. A keen debate followed, in which Mr. Ellison, Kempsey (H.), Hassall, Bardsley, Greaves, Hall, Stopford, and Robertson took part. The motion was lost by 16 votes to 12.

On November 26th the motion, "That Games are Detrimental to Study," was well contested. In bringing forward the subject, Dawson pointed out that study is impossible when the body is overheated. Craving for games destroyed inclination to study, and made concentration impossible. Indoor games made one crafty, and not studious. Hassall, who opposed, declared that in order to study a healthy mind was essential. "*Mens sana in corpore sano.*" To obtain this games *must* be played. Indoor games developed the mind, and caused an inclination to study. In the debate which followed Taylor, Smith, Parker, Greaves, Young, Hall, Tonge, Robertson, and Buckley took part. The motion was lost by 14 votes to 11.

On December 3rd a debate on the subject, "That the Political and Commercial Methods of America are Unworthy of a Great Nation," was well contested. In opening the subject, Hall declared that in commerce America was notorious for dishonesty. Child labour, trusts, and other money-getting things were still a disgrace to it. All political fighting was done by bribery and corruption. In opposing, Greaves urged that America was not as bad as it was painted. Hard-working men had more opportunities there than anywhere else. Talent was recognised and honoured, and America's business methods were only decried by the unsuccessful. In politics the right man (*e.g.*, Roosevelt and Hughes) conquered those who bribed.

An interesting debate took place, in which Hassall, Smith, Stopford, Buckley, Booth, and Robertson took part. The motion was carried by the Chairman's casting vote, the votes being 8 for and against.

On December 10th the subject, "That the End Justifies the Means," was contested. Stopford, in opening the debate, maintained that a good end in most cases did far more good than the means did harm. Surely, he urged, it was better that a man stole a loaf than that his family should starve. He gave several well-chosen instances to prove his contention. The motion was opposed by T. G. Taylor, who pointed out how society would become disorganised and anarchy reign supreme if this motion was universally accepted. How, asked the speaker, were we to judge the harm done. It was far better to leave evil strictly alone.

The subject was evidently too abstruse for the members, as only Hassall, Smith, Greaves, and Parker carried on the discussion. The motion was lost by 6 votes for and 11 against.

On December 17th a debate on the subject, "That the Russian Revolutionists are Justified in their Actions," was held. Tonge, who opened the debate, maintained that the Revolutionists were perfectly justified. In the past they had been ill-treated and kept in slavery, and now they were doing,

by the only means in their power, what they could do to ameliorate their lot. Robertson, who opposed the motion, said that bloodshed was never justified, and no one could defend the hot-tempered actions of maniacs. The French Revolution, with all its horrors, was a terrible example of such mob-rule as now threatened Russia.

A lively discussion now took place, in which Dawson, Smith, Hassall, Underwood, Buckley (H.), Jones, Taylor (T. G.), Parker, and Greaves joined. The motion was carried, amid excitement, by 10 votes to 9.

The average attendance has been just over 20, while the average duration of speeches has advanced from about one-half to two minutes. Members who speak often are becoming quite confident, and frequently speak without any notes. The malady affecting the vocal organs is evidently on the decline, for at one debate every member present but one made some kind of speech, four speaking for the first time.

We look forward to our Annual Tea on March 11th, when we expect to encounter the Old Boys in debate.

It has been suggested that the members of the Society have a Picnic some time this coming summer.

H. H.

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Experiences of a Novice.

I AM a member of a Debating Society, a member whose whole experience in speaking has been gained in six months of very irregular weekly meetings of the society to which I belong.

At the first meeting which I attended I simply sat and listened, in order to gain some idea of the method of procedure in the society. The second time I took notes and endeavoured to put together a speech of some sort. At last, after half an hour's steady thinking, I succeeded in collecting enough matter to make up a speech.

But now came the difficulty—I had to get up and deliver it. Well, I can't describe my feelings; everyone round me urged me to say something; I myself wished to speak, but had not sufficient confidence (call it "cheek," if you like) to get up and do so. My legs trembled; but at length I got up. After the usual preliminaries, I began to lay before the society the points which I had jotted down on a slip of paper. But I hardly knew what I said; my voice sounded to me as though it belonged to someone else a long way off, and my head spun round. At last it was over, and I sat down with a feeling of the greatest relief, and gladly made room for the next speaker.

However, that was only the first. The next time I succeeded in getting together a better set of notes, and required no urging to make me get up. I had none of the feelings which I experienced on the previous occasion, the words came easily, and I got through my little speech creditably. For the following meeting I prepared some points beforehand, and, with my usual luck, was unable to attend.

Then the day drew near for me to play my part as one of the principal speakers, but it came unexpectedly. As I was preparing to go home one day, behold, who should come along but the secretary of the society, with the unwelcome news that it had been decided that my debate should take place the following day.

That night I sat up late "stewing" away at my paper. The day arrived, when, happening to pass the notice board, I had the curiosity to look at the announcement. Pinned to the board was a paper bearing this word, under the notice of my debate, "Postponed!" Just my luck. I haven't read that paper to the society yet.

However, I am getting on. Only the other day I rose without having thought of anything to say, and on seating myself, amid roars of laughter, I was asked for which side I spoke, and was congratulated on making a speech which could not possibly offend either party.

H. B.

Football Notes.

Oct. 10th. STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—Home. As this was the first time we had met Stockport, we were rather anxious to measure our strength with them. Buckley was absent from the forward line, his place being taken by Greaves. Being our first match, much need for improvement was shown, though fair promise of a combined team was given. Throughout the team the passes were too short, and the forwards failed to properly combine. Once over, Greaves ought to have scored, but missed the opportunity, and, in spite of several "close shaves," we could not score. Our defence, however, was equal to theirs, and neither side scored. Result : 0—0.

Oct. 24th. STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—Away. At their request, we played Stockport again this term. We were unused to the kind of ground, and were again without Buckley. Much work was done in all parts of the field, though the ball was mostly on the wing (and beyond). The forwards and halves still lacked the spirit of combination, the former playing somewhat raggedly. At half time we were losing by 4—0, having played against the wind, sun, and slope of the ground. In the second half the play fell off somewhat, but Smith scored by a long shot, helped through by one of their men. Soon after, at the finish of a determined rush, Ashton scored a good goal, making the score 2—4. In spite of the energy of the backs, and Burton's commendable work in goal, two more goals were added to our opponent's score, when time was called, making the score 2—6. Scorers : Smith 1, Ashton 1.

Nov. 7. BURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—Away. Rather better combination was shown in this match, though the right wing was lamentably weak. As in previous matches with Bury, we were completely outplayed, their centre proving too much for us. In the first half Kempsey, our goal, was beaten by several very soft shots, and they scored 6 goals. We rather

missed Burton at back, and in the second half they added 4 more, though Kempsey stood very well the bombardment they poured against our goals. Several times we all but scored, the left wing playing very well, and once over, Ashton put the ball through. After a somewhat runaway game, time was called, the score being 1—10. Scorer: Ashton.

Nov. 21. MANCHESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL 2ND XI.—Home. Though the ground was not in a condition favourable to very fast play, yet better combination than had hitherto been shown was exhibited. The play was fairly even, the halves and backs getting through a great deal of work, and the forwards playing well together. They scored the first goal, but Bardsley brought us up to them with a good shot. Soon after Taylor scored, and the score stood at 2—1 till half time. Our opponent^s scored again, and for some time it seemed as though we were only going to draw, but just before time Hughes (J.) put the ball through. The School were materially aided in this match by the display of enthusiasm on the part of the spectators, and it is partly due to them that we were left victors by 3—2. Scorers: Taylor 1, Bardsley 1, Hughes 1.

Nov. 24th. WARRINGTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—Home. Owing to an accident Warrington did not arrive till late, and the length of play had to be curtailed. Early in the first half Bardsley scored with a beautiful shot, but it proved to be the last. The good combination of the Warrington forwards procured for them 5 goals before the end of play, though darkness came upon us soon after half time. After a very pleasant game time was called, the score standing at 1—5. Scorer: Bardsley.

Dec. 1st. BOLTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—Away. We were without Buckley and Ashton, and Robertson was on the injured list. Our play was, we regret to say, inferior, the backs being unable to restrain the opposing forwards, and the forwards failing to penetrate their defence, though valiant attempts were made. Taylor, considering his lack of weight, again made a good show on the left wing, though pitted against

great difficulties. Five goals were scored each half by Bolton, and after a rather slack game we retired, losing by 0—10.

Dec. 8th. WEST'S TEAM.—Home. Most of the field was under water, and what was not was not dry. We had the services of Mr. Ellison, but their team was too strong, and before half time they had scored 4 goals. Though everyone did his best, we were unable to score, owing, probably, to Bagot's fine display in goal. Several exciting battles took place in front of our goals, which we defended doggedly, Booth in goal doing very well, but several times sheer weight told, and 4 more goals were added to their score. After a great deal of hard work we obtained a goal, scoring from the left wing. We feel sure that never were the new baths so appreciated, for there were very few who were not caked with mud from head to heel. Result: 1—8.

The reason for our lack of success during the past term undoubtedly lies in the want of combination. This is prevalent throughout the team. In the forward line, and, in fact, in every part of the team, it is necessary that each man should instinctively know where his comrade is, and that he should recognise that he is a factor of a combined body which for the moment has its action regulated by his movements. If a forward gets the ball, let him take it as far down as possible and pass. Let him, however, keep his place, dribbling straight-forward, and never, on any occasion, let him run with the ball to his neighbour. This and passing too far forward have been a notable defect of the forward line.

The halves need to learn how to feed the forwards, and, whilst watching the man, to help one another. The tackling is fairly good, but the ball is delivered too soon in many cases, full advantage not being taken of clear runs.

The full backs and goal must learn to kick the ball immediately and correctly when it is "on the go," and before the opposing forwards are on them. Good judgment of long, dropping shots and kicks is necessary, and power to "roost" the ball must be cultivated. Dawson, for instance, though playing uniformly well, must practice effective clearing.

We are pleased to find that the matches with stronger teams than ourselves, and the consequent losses, are having a beneficial effect on the members of the team, for now a commendable spirit of fighting against difficulties is being engendered. Early in the term some slight despondency was felt. This must not be. Everyone knows the hopelessness of a losing game, and must learn to bear up against it. Whilst on the field play and work hard, and if a win is not fated, accept the loss pleasantly, satisfied with having done your best.

W. S.

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Natural History Society Notes.

THE Society has been making quiet but steady progress during the last twelve months. Through the efforts of the Headmaster and Mr. Pym, we have been affiliated to the Selborne Society as a junior branch. As a result of this we receive a monthly copy of "Nature Notes," a most interesting companion to students of nature.

February 12th was the Society's great day, for then the Annual Tea was held. The keenest interest had been demonstrated as soon as the date of the tea had been made public, and humble entreaties for admittance to the Society had been made to the Committee, and, when accompanied by the necessary fee, were favourably considered. During the period from the close of School to the time for tea the Gymnasium was filled with an eagerly expectant crowd, and many were the longing glances cast towards the room apportioned off for the tea. At last the tea was announced. A hush fell upon the Society. One could well appreciate the tremendous efforts which were being made to curb the animal passions, in order to present a respectable appearance. The tables were soon filled, "and then the fun began." The seniors rushed frantically to and fro, making a supreme effort to keep the plates well supplied, but, had it not been for the supervision and personal help of Mrs. Pickford and Mrs. Ellison, we fear they would have succumbed to the mighty task before them. As it was their capabilities were taxed to the utmost.

Gradually the rows of shining cheeks and laughing eyes gave evidence of the coming of the end. Refusals of tempting cakes became prevalent, but, from the longing, far-away look and the sigh which invariably accompanied it, it was evident that anything but refusal was an impossibility. It was then that Smith, alluding to the unvarying kindness of the ladies, called for a display of the appreciation of it, which was so generally acknowledged. The heartiness of the response showed the measure of the appreciation.

After a very necessary rest, the Society proceeded to the Physics Laboratory, where Dr. Potter had prepared a series of experiments in natural science. The apparatus looked fairly formidable, and (we merely speculate) was perhaps calculated to inspire mystery and awe. Suffice it to say, however, that there was no need to be warned not to touch. Soon Dr. Potter ascended the platform, and the lights were turned out. Then, in a sure, steady way, he went to work with a single light on the experimenting table, reflected in a half circle of curious, eager faces, the scene reminding one of an ancient Egyptian or Greek priest about to disclose some of the hidden secrets and mysteries. The experiments were eminently successful and interesting in the extreme, the audience appreciating them to the fullest extent. By common consent, Dr. Potter was accorded a hearty clap for the trouble he had taken in preparing such a fascinating demonstration.

A short interval elapsed, when the Society took seats in the Hall, and, after singing the School hymn, prepared to listen to a lecture on "Balloons, Flying Machines, and Airships." This was delivered by Mr. Bruce, the inventor of the Bruce war balloon, and was so interesting that another column has been devoted to it.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Bruce was proposed by Mr. Pym, and after three cheers had been called for by Smith, and responded to by the Society with characteristic vigour, the meeting dissolved.

Thus ended a day which will live long in the memories of all members of the Natural History Society. W. S.

Our Lecture on Airships.

LAST Shrove Tuesday will be remembered for other things than pancakes; the Natural History Society's tea ministered to our bodily welfare, and a lecture on "Balloons and Airships" gave an intellectual treat.

Mr. Bruce, the Secretary of the British Aeronautical Society, and inventor of the Bruce war balloon and of several patents connected with aeronautics, gave a lecture on "Balloons and Airships."

The subject of navigating the air, he said, had for long engaged the minds of scientific men. He proposed to show us some of the principles of this science. Dealing with captive balloons, he showed us some models of those used by the British in the late Boer war. An interesting invention of his own was then shown, consisting of a method of rendering a small balloon luminous. This, he said, was used for signalling over obstacles and long distances. The balloon shown was one actually used, and easily illuminated the large Hall, making it easy for us to believe that it was visible for over seven miles.

Flying machines of various patterns, said the lecturer, had been constructed since 1850, but through various reasons had not been very successful. M. Santos Dumot had had as much success as anyone. (Cheers, which increased when he went on to say that he would inflate a model of the latest type.) This model flying machine was about 4 or 5 feet in length, and when set off sailed majestically through the air, trying hard to force its way through the wall. At the second attempt it made its way through one of the arches, amidst loud applause. After that the lecturer kept his audience on the alert for fresh excitement, and was greeted with loud applause when, suddenly releasing several butterflies, those insects, measuring about a foot across and of various colours "rich and strange," fluttered about the Hall.

This ended the lecture, which had been greatly enjoyed by all who had been fortunate enough to be present. A vote of thanks was proposed to Mr. Bruce by Mr. Pym, and seconded by the Headmaster.

Old Boys' Notes.

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION.—REPORT FOR 1905-6.

IT is of interest to again record the continued support of the members and officials of the Association. There are now 73 members, an increase of 1 over last year, there being 7 new members, and 6 have discontinued their support.

The fifth annual dinner proved a great success, as it was held for the first time in the School; for this privilege the hearty thanks of all members are due to the Governors, who so kindly granted the use of the building for the benefit of the Association.

The third annual picnic took place on Saturday, 16th June, to Whaley Bridge and Buxton, and was again favoured by good weather. The outing was thoroughly enjoyed by a good muster of Old Boys.

Old Boys' colours have been selected this year, prices of which are for hat bands 1s. 2d., ties 2s. 3d.

The usual Football and Cricket matches against the School have been played during the year, and the thoughtfulness of the President and Mrs. Pickford in providing refreshments was very much appreciated by the members playing in those matches.

The response to the Headmaster's circular suggesting that Old Boys should subscribe to aid the School Library has been very satisfactory. Each subscriber will have his name placed in a book, and thus secures in this manner a permanent connection with the School.

Intending subscribers are requested to forward their subscriptions to the Headmaster; there is no restriction to amount.

It is with pleasure that we can again place on record our appreciation of the efforts our President, Mr. Pickford, displays for the success of the Association.

Our best thanks are also due to Mr. Pym for his continued support and interest.

The following resolution was unanimously passed at the annual meeting :—“That a hearty vote of thanks be tendered to Mr. R. H. Pardoe for the many services rendered by him to the Association as a Vice-President since its formation, and that the hon. sec. be requested to forward a copy of the resolution to Mr. Pardoe in recognition of the interest and support given by him during the first five years of its existence.”

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Mr. Pardoe was elected an hon. vice-president of the Association.

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The new members of the committee are Messrs. W. W. Brierley, W. Lees, W. E. W. Millington, and J. F. Schofield.

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A proposal was made at the last committee meeting that guests should be invited to the Old Boys' annual dinner. It was decided that the matter should be laid before the members at the next annual meeting for their consideration.

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The business of the annual meeting being over, a concert was held in the Library, and was much enjoyed by all present.

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ANNUAL DINNER.

The fifth annual dinner of the Oldham Hulme Grammar School Old Boys' Association was held at the school on Tuesday evening. There were about thirty members of the Association present, and Mr. A. G. Pickford, M.A., B.Sc. (headmaster), presided. After the usual loyal toast had been duly honoured,

Mr. J. F. Collins proposed the toast of “The School,” and, in the course of his remarks, said that he did not think that the School was receiving the support of the people of Oldham that it ought to receive, considering the size and importance of the town. He pointed out that when the School

was opened in 1895 the number of scholars on the register was 45, in 1896 this number had grown to 121, while in 1906 the number was only 145. He said this was a small number for a town like Oldham, and was due to the apathy of parents, who, instead of rallying round the School in Oldham, sent their children to Manchester and elsewhere. He said that the School had a good governing body, an excellent headmaster, and an efficient staff. The School was doing a good work, and he hoped that it would receive the support it deserved.

Mr. Pickford, in replying, said that it was now almost 300 years since the first Oldham Grammar School was founded, and recalled that in 1867 the Commission appointed to inquire into and report upon the state of grammar schools in the country reported that the Grammar School in Oldham was in a deplorable condition. Since that time things had changed, and we now had a splendid building well equipped in every respect. He trusted that the School would prosper and merit the toast.

Mr. R. Pym proposed the toast of "The Association," and briefly referred to the good which the Association could do for the town. The Association had amongst its members some who would in the future take upon themselves the government of the town. Let it be their duty to turn out whatever might be bad, and bring in all the good they could.

Mr. J. Robinson, in replying on behalf of the Association, urged the members to endeavour to make the Association a greater success, and to impress upon other "old boys" the advantages which were to be obtained by joining the Association.

During the evening an excellent programme, arranged by Mr. H. Mitton, was given by several members of the Association, with Mr. J. Robson as humorist. A pleasant evening terminated with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and "God Save the King."

Life Story of a Pheasant.

A CONVERSATION between an old cock pheasant and a young pheasant, which was overheard by a pair of sharp ears of an intruder into bird life.

The first thing I can remember is looking out from under the soft warm feathers of my mother's breast. The day was a warm sunny one in May, and seemed to me to be an ideal one for first seeing the world. At first I was frightened and surprised at everything; even if a leaf was blown in front of me I was afraid. I strolled from the nest with my brothers and sisters, behind my mother, with our bright eyes looking out for any little insect or bit of food. Every day our mother took us down to a small stream to drink, and while we drank she sat on a bank and kept watch. At night my mother chose some nice warm place to roost, and we curled ourselves up underneath her wings.

When I was about six days old, whilst playing with my brothers and sisters in some long grass, we got away from our mother, who was dozing on a bank close to. Quite suddenly I heard a noise above me; I squatted under a dockleaf at once, but one of my sisters, who was rather weak, was snapped up by the hawk, for it was that which had startled me. After this my mother kept us close by her side, and never lost sight of us, and the moment we heard her call we squatted and were almost invisible. A few days after I began to grow my first feathers, and had a stumpy little tail about two inches long.

It was about this time when I had an encounter with a fox. I was running in front of my mother with a sister of mine down a lane, when suddenly a fox jumped out at us; he snapped up my sister, but I squatted by a stone before he had time to catch me. Mother started off along the ground as if she had a broken wing, but the fox, who was a cunning one, knew that that was only to draw him from us, so he searched for us. Whilst eagerly nosing under stones and grass the fox was startled by a gunshot, and on feeling the shot hit him he

darted away as fast as possible, carrying one of my sisters with him. The keeper who had fired the shot came up and found me and two others of my family, and took us to the "rearing field." I now lost sight of my mother for some time, and was put with other birds under the care of a hen, who cared for us very well. We were fed four times a day on food consisting chiefly of boiled rice and hard-boiled egg, which we greedily gobbled up.

As we grew stronger our food was changed, and we were fed only three times a day. When about six weeks old we were taken from the field to the covert and fed there. How we did enjoy ourselves racing about through the low bushes, and when tired sunning ourselves on a dry sandy bank in the wood. One day I was very much startled by the hen cackling loudly, and on going to see what the matter was, I found a weasel dragging the dead body of one of my sisters towards a hole. The noise brought the keeper, who on seeing the weasel shot it with his gun.

At the beginning of September I began to don my final winter's coat. How proud I felt when fully moulted as I gazed into a stream at the bottom of the wood. With September came the harvest and the stubble land. What feeds I had then ; nothing to do but eat and sleep all day long.

Every morning we were fed in the covert with dry corn, but one morning, late in November, I was surprised to find no corn at the place ; men were walking round the fields outside driving in birds who had wandered out in the morning. About an hour after our usual feeding time a number of men entered the wood at one end with sticks, beating each bush, and frightening the pheasants in front of them. Occasionally a shot was fired as a bird left the covert. We were all driven to one end of the covert. Men with guns stood all round, and as a bird flew it was shot. At last, driven by the beaters and dogs, we were all forced to fly ; forty or fifty got up around me, and as we passed over the guns many fell. I flew to some dead fern, and waited there till next day. After that I had no more adventures until

spring, when I had many fights with other cocks for wives, but I always came off conqueror. I have five wives and about fifty little chicks, as none of my wives' nests have been robbed. And now I must go away and look for some breakfast as I am very hungry.



Correspondence Column.

To the Editor of the Oldham Hulmeian.

DEAR SIR,—Boys are often inclined to hold to their opinions in a rather narrow and conservative manner. In the realm of sport especially is this to be seen. At present most boys declare that there are no games to compare with football and cricket. But turn to those who are now old boys. No doubt they once believed as we believe, yet how many after leaving school take to tennis as a summer, and lacrosse as a winter, pastime. Why? The need of suitable companions seems to us the most reasonable explanation. Most of us have heard, at one time or another, the story of the origin of lacrosse in Canada, and that it is a modification of the national game of the North American Indians. The one game in which these braves delighted must have been in keeping with their daring lives.

There must be something great in the game, or why have Englishmen who have made Canada their home forsaken cricket and football, and given themselves wholly to the Indian pastime? In spite of great opposition, the game got a foothold in England, and has since rapidly increased in popularity, and in some parts, notably in the south of Manchester, has almost entirely superseded football. A large number of the schools around Manchester have taken up the game, with good results. When first the question of lacrosse was introduced to this School there was great opposition to it, for two reasons: first, that the game was dangerous; and second, that the introduction of it would injure the football. The first can easily be disposed of by considering the extreme rarity of serious accidents, and the entire absence of fatal

accidents. The introduction of lacrosse might weaken the football team, but the injury would be very slight, as the boys who would take up the game have, to a great extent, little interest in football. One great advantage of the game is the fact that the ball travels so rapidly all over the field that certain players are not neglected and others overworked.

Lacrosse demands pluck not less than football; and stamina, skill, and unselfishness in a much greater degree. Football can shew nothing to compare with the combination of a team of lacrosse experts.

To be appreciated the game must be seen. In the spring the Canadian champions are to visit this country, and will play a few matches in and around Manchester. We all love sport, and those who wish to see something even more exciting than Rugby would do well to see this wonderful combination. All that we have said will then be voted as under-estimating the value of lacrosse, which is, unfortunately, all too little known hereabouts.

Yours,

T. P. R.

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F. K.

To the Editor of the Oldham Hulmeian.

DEAR SIR,—A small number of boys in the School have lately been advocating the introduction of lacrosse in place of football as the School game in winter. To judge by the voting in the Games Committee they do not seem likely to persuade the School to take their view; but, at the same time, I should like to place before you some few of the arguments on the other side, and to shew you that it is not a mere question of clinging to old customs and traditions.

Practice, however, is not an unimportant point in relation to this matter, for it touches us on the vital question of providing matches with other schools, which at any rate lend zest to our school games: now very few schools that we should care to play against make lacrosse their school game. Some schools it is true have a lacrosse team *in addition to* football, but to play such a team is not to play the School: some private schools

also have taken it up, for class reasons which do not appeal to a public school boy, and also because they cannot distinguish themselves otherwise. It is contended that to learn lacrosse at school is necessary for those who wish to play afterwards, but we need only look at the Werneth and Oldham clubs to see that those who have learned to play football at school are able to make their mark at lacrosse afterwards. To learn to "play the game," to play unselfishly, to place the success of the whole team first, to obey the captain, these are the important things.

If a boy drops games for a few years and then takes up lacrosse, of course he will be stiff, but that is another matter.

Of course, it might be contended that lacrosse might be introduced in addition to the football, but apart from the fact that we have no space to spare on the field, no one with any knowledge of the difficulties in making up a team with all the School to choose from, would suggest the idea of having two games in a school of this size. It is unfortunately only too apparent from another page that we have not yet enough power to supply one game, although our football has done better this term, thanks partly to the efforts of those very boys who would like to introduce lacrosse, and who would not be playing football if lacrosse were introduced.

Look again at the combination required for a football team. At lacrosse a few good players in a team may run the game, whilst the other members are doing little; whereas in a well-arranged football side every player has his place and his work to do, and in this Association football has a decided advantage over Rugby.

No, Sir! Although we readily admit that lacrosse is not quite like tennis, a game for middle-aged people; still it has not the valuable properties of football; and we shall not be drawn by its novelty from those games which have been developed by centuries of schoolboy ancestors, and which have made our England what it is to-day.

Yours, &c.,

DEMOCRAT.

Library Notes.

DURING the last year the Library has improved in many ways. Mrs. Emmott has kindly presented a "Cosy Corner," an armchair, and a small table, which are greatly appreciated; Mr. Pickford has given us a picture—"The Battle of Trafalgar," and for these gifts we most warmly thank the donors.

The Old Boys have nobly responded to an appeal made by the Headmaster for subscriptions to aid the School Library. We heartily thank them for the support they have given. The subscribers—up to the time of writing—are:—

	£	s.	d.
F. Pickford	1	1	0
C. H. Pickford	1	1	0
E. Stevenson	1	1	0
J. H. Jackson	1	1	0
T. Taylor	1	1	0
R. Barlow	10	6	
T. W. Middleton	10	6	
F. J. S. Whitmore	10	6	
W. Hibbert	10	0	
H. Jackson	10	0	
H. Stott	7	6	
F. Kershaw	7	6	
H. Mitton	7	6	
F. Collins	7	6	
F. Worthington	5	0	
G. B. Taylor	5	0	
V. Mallalieu	5	0	
H. R. and S. Rowbotham	5	0	
F. J. Richmond	5	0	
F. W. Fletcher	5	0	
E. Owen	2	6	
F. Hardman	2	6	
Total	£11	1	6

The total sum subscribed is £11 1s. 6d. With this money the Library Committee have bought many new volumes. In the covers of these books it is proposed to insert a Book-plate, designed by Mr. Helm, on which will be written the subscriber's name.

The Library Committee also thought it fit to increase the number of magazines and the general literature on the Library table. To this end there are now the following magazines supplied :—“C. B. Fry's,” “Punch,” “The Athenæum”—and also the “Manchester Guardian.”

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BOOKS RECENTLY ADDED TO THE LIBRARY.

Life of Gladstone	Morley
Rasselas	Dr. Johnson
Lavengro	Borrow
Romola	Eliot
Adam Bede	”
Mill on the Floss.....	”
Lorna Doone	Blackmore
Tower of London	Ainsworth
Lancashire Witches.....	”
Tales	Poe
Voyage of H.M.S. Beagle	Darwin
Opium Eater.....	De Quincey
With Nature and a Camera	Kearton
Wild Nature's Ways	”
Forty-one Years in India	Roberts
Gulliver's Travels	Swift
Barry Lyndon.....	Thackeray
Adventures of Philip	”
Vanity Fair	”
Monte Christo	Dumas
Kidnapped	Stevenson
Treasure Island	”
Old Jack	Kingston

Life of Tamati	Lovett
Amateur Cracksman	Hornung
Mysterious Mr. Sabin	Oppenheim
Yellow Crayon	”
Phroso	Anthony Hope
She	Rider Haggard
King Solomon's Mines	”
Jess	”
Kronstadt	Pemberton
Barrack Room Ballads	Kipling
Golden Butterfly	Besant and Rice
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes	Conan Doyle
Memoirs	”
Exploits of Brigadier Gerard.....	”

Some of the above books were, of course, only renewals of volumes which had become worn out in our service. In addition to the above, we have completed the “Fireside” edition of Dickens, so that now we have two complete sets of the works of that author. We completed our second set of Sir Walter Scott's works some time ago.

W.H.H.



Magazines Received.

The Editors beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following:—“The Savilian,” “The Whitgiftian,” “The Boltonian,” “The Leodiensian,” “Hulme Victorian,” “Middlesbrough High School Magazine,” “Warringtonian,” “Sheffield Royal Grammar School Magazine,” “Bury G.S. Magazine.”

