

THE

Oldham Quilmerian.



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The Oldham Hulmeian.

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DECEMBER, 1912.

No. 21

School Notes.

We have had a large number of new boys since the summer, and the School now numbers 157 boys.

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Last July we returned to the custom of holding Speech Day at the end of the Summer Term.

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The Headmaster's report recorded many successes obtained by Old Boys, and we congratulate them most heartily.

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Three Old Boys went up to Cambridge this October. This is a gratifying fact, and we wish them every success.

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The Dance was well attended by Old Boys and others. We regret to say, however, that there are still many who have not joined the Old Boys' Association.

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We congratulate Mr. Helm on his appointment as Headmaster of the Hyde School of Art, and wish him all success.

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The Art Work is now in the hands of Mr. T. A. Watson. Owing to the larger number of boys in School, the staff has been increased by the addition of Mr. W. H. Hall (Old Hulmeian), B.A., of Keble College, Oxford.

Speech Day.

SPEECH Day was held on July 27th, when a large gathering of scholars, parents, and friends was present to witness the distribution of prizes. On the platform were the Rev. Canon Rountree (Chairman), Lord Emmott, Mrs. Councillor Lees, Mrs. J. E. Newton, Mr. John Hirst, Mr. James Hardman, Mr. G. W. Needham, J.P., and the Headmaster. After the singing of the School hymn the senior members of the School entertained the visitors with selections from "A Midsummer Night's Dream." W. E. Harding, F. Whittaker, J. Kershaw, J. Swales, C. Eatough, S. Fletcher, J. A. Bunting, and A. Park took part. Lord Emmott then distributed the prizes. Speeches were made and the proceedings terminated with selections from "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme," given by J. Clynes, G. Ross, H. Roseblade, G. T. Lees, J. A. Schofield, and J. B. Gartside. Glees were given at intervals by the Middle School.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, welcomed Lord Emmott, and also expressed his regret that Mr. Booth, the vice-chairman of the governors, who took a great interest in the School, was not present. He said that probably prize distributions would very soon be dispensed with since it was now the fashion to decry examinations, and some educational experts were supporting this fashion with as much vigour as they had previously advocated examinations as a test of boys' abilities. He himself believed in examinations since the results showed to a great extent which of the boys could apply the knowledge they possessed. Knowledge which could not be applied was of very little use.

The HEADMASTER, on behalf of the School, congratulated Lord Emmott on his elevation to the Peerage. The report was very favourable and showed that much good work had been done.

LORD EMMOTT firstly apologised for the absence of Lady Emmott, who regretted that she had not been able to accompany him. He expressed great satisfaction with the report, especially the improvement of the handwriting of the School. The report of the Oxford and Cambridge Examination Board was very pleasing, as were also the numerous successes of our old boys at the various Universities. He spoke of the increasing number of subjects which required to be studied, and said that no one could be learned in them all, and therefore an education in which method was taught was the best. Looking back 35 years to his own schooldays he wondered whether the boys present, after 35 years' experience of the world outside school, would see improvement or deterioration. He hoped they would see a great improvement. He thought they would find great increases in public expenditure in many directions, social or otherwise. He said that he did not know whether we should have peace or war, and he spoke of the enormous expense, which would increase, of keeping up armaments sufficient to maintain peace. He then said that he was a great advocate of healthy games for boys and that he agreed with the headmaster in emphasising their importance. Boys ought to play well and work well, and occupy their leisure with some literary hobby. Worldly success was not all-important, for a good digestion and interesting work were necessary for a happy life. He concluded with advice concerning the duties of boys as citizens of a mighty empire.

G.R.

The Plays.

THIS year the English Play consisted of selections from "A Midsummer Night's Dream," in which the following characters appeared:—

Theseus, Duke of AthensW. E. Harding
 Egeus, Father to HermiaF. Whittaker

Lysander	} In love with {	.....	J. Kershaw
Demetrius		} Hermia {	.....	J. Swales
Hermia, in love with Lysander			.....	C. Eatough
Helena, in love with Demetrius		.....	S. Fletcher
Oberon, King of the Fairies		.....	J. A. Bunting
Puck, or Robin Goodfellow		.....	A. Park

The scenes chosen for representation were, first of all, the opening scenes before the Duke of Athens in his palace. The fortunes of the lovers and their adventures in the wood were afterwards depicted. As performed on Speech Day the scenes given were those which contained the main plot of the play. The portrayal of the amusing mistakes made by Puck in his endeavour to cause Demetrius to fall in love with Helena, and the way in which these errors were rectified was sufficient to occupy almost all the time allotted for the play, and so the ludicrous actions of Bottom and his company had to be omitted.

Harding was well adapted to the part of Theseus, being the possessor of a strong voice. His part was too small, however, to admit of real criticism. This last remark also applies to Whittaker as Egeus. Lysander was taken well by J. Kershaw, but he spoke hardly loud enough. J. Swales, however, was very successful in the part of Demetrius, although he was rather too boisterous. Hermia was well-acted by C. Eatough, but he did not enter into the spirit of the play to the same extent as Fletcher, who took Helena. Bunting made a good Oberon but was inclined to stiffness. He seemed to take the character in too serious a light. Park also as Puck was hardly lively enough, although he knew his part very well. Very little fault, however, could be found with the play as a whole. The acting was good and the play had been well arranged. The spectators were very interested, but they seemed to be better pleased with something more amusing.

The French Play was reserved until after the Distribution of Prizes. Selections from "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme"

were arranged by Mr. Edwards, and were given by J. Clynes (*Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*), G. Ross (*Maître de Philosophie*), H. Roseblade (*Maître de Musique*), G. T. Lees (*Maître d'Armes*), J. A. Schofield (*Maître à Danser*), and J. B. Gartside (*Laquais*).

The curtain was drawn just as M. Jourdain (*Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*) was finishing a fencing lesson with the fencing master, which was witnessed by the music master and the dancing master. The two latter quarrel with the fencing master about the merits of their respective professions, and go out quarrelling. The master of philosophy then enters and begins to teach M. Jourdain, who wishes to write a letter which is neither poetry nor prose. He is amazed to hear that he has been speaking prose for forty years without knowing it. The letter, which is to a rich lady, having been satisfactorily composed, the master goes out but is recalled by M. Jourdain because the other masters have renewed their argument. In attempting to calm them he praises his own profession to the detriment of theirs, and after a few insults they make a joint attack upon him and drive him out.

The play was very well received by the audience, and caused much amusement, especially the last quarrel, which was very realistic, as anyone who took part in it knows. The only fault that the visitors seemed to notice was its shortness, and they did not realize when the curtain was drawn that the play was over.

Clynes, as M. Jourdain, was very good. He entered into the spirit of the character. He did not speak sufficiently loud, but what visitors could not hear they could infer from his actions. Lees was a good fencing master, but was rather stiff in his action. As a music master Roseblade was good, but his talents were best displayed in the quarrel at the conclusion. The dancing master was also very good. Gartside, as lackey, waited upon his master well without uttering a word of protest.

G.R.

The Debating Society.

THE Society opened the Session with an Impromptu Debate. F. Whittaker took the chair. The first motion was that "Education should not be enforced upon humanity." S. Stott in proposing, objected to learning a great deal of Latin in one week, and strongly supported the motion. Ogden had much pleasure in opposing the motion, and after a short debate the motion was carried by 25 votes to 5.

Gartside then proposed that "Football captains have always been effeminate." He said that all the five football captains he had seen at school had been effeminate. J. Stott opposed the motion and said that he did not think that the motion applied to our present football captain. The motion was carried by 18 votes to 14.

The last motion was that "German is to be preferred to Latin." Forster proposed the motion and said that from what his friends who did German had told him he strongly supported the motion. Watkinson then said that Latin was absolutely necessary to the Englishman German, owing to its connection with sausages, was odious to him. The motion was carried by 19 votes to 12.

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On November 18th, 1912, Watkinson proposed that "The new method of spelling ought to be generally adopted." He said that the easiest language to spell was one in which each symbol represented one sound. English was at first like this, but owing to the number of nations which came to England at various times the language was greatly modified. The new system would introduce no new letters, nor would the books in the old spelling have to be destroyed, since a knowledge of that could be acquired for the purpose of reading these books. J. L. Bradbury opposed the motion, and although admitting the present system was bad, he saw that there would

be an immense difficulty in introducing the new system. New letters would be required and a re-arrangement of the alphabet also. The derivations of words would be lost sight of. Business men would find it difficult to use the new spelling. Wallace, Harding, Stott, Ross, Cheetham, Chadderton, Park, Cleverley, Gartside, Fletcher, Lee, Noble, Barratt, and Mr. Forder spoke, several speaking twice. The motion was carried by 30 votes to 5.

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The following week G. Ross proposed that "Women ought to have the vote at general elections." He said that although he did not support the militant suffragettes he believed in their cause. He did not acknowledge the equality of sexes, but thought that women who paid the same taxes as men ought to have the same privileges. Women had the vote in Australia and New Zealand, so why should they not have it in England? A. Park, who opposed, said that what suffragettes wanted was to be recognised as equal to men. He said that women would also become ministers if they had the vote, and so the country would become demoralized. The country would become emotional, and women would forsake their homes and take up political careers. Chadderton, Harding, Mr. Hall, Cleverley Lees, and Gartside spoke in a short debate, and the motion was defeated by 31 votes to 5.

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The second Impromptu Debate was held on December 2nd. Harding proposed that "The School should provide a lake for boating." He said that if this lake was provided and stocked with fish it would be open for swimming, fishing, and boating. Barrett in opposing said that the lake would take the interest of boys from football and cricket. The motion was carried by 20 votes to 14.

The next motion was that "Prefects should be allowed to set lines." Billington proposed the motion, but objected to the fifth form having to do lines for prefects. Coleman said

that boys who had lines to do neglected homework. This motion was defeated by 30 votes to 4.

A motion that "Cats should have licenses" was proposed by Watkinson, who said that cats created great disturbances at night and prevented sleep. York opposed the motion, which was carried by a great majority.

G. R.

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Back to the Land.

"Back to the land," hear the people's loud cry!
 "Back to the land," let us go ere we die!
 Our children so feeble, their mothers so wan,
 Let us lead from this pitiful pomp dear to man.

We sigh for the country, its flowers and its trees;
 We sigh for the meadow and soft cooling breeze;
 Our hearts long for forest and wild mountain brake;
 And the temples of Mammon we now will forsake.

No longer in slumdom our children we'll rear,
 No longer dread Hunger's gaunt form shall they fear;
 Their lots shall be happy, their lives one long May;
 They'll play in the meadow and frolic in hay.

Then let us now haste to the ploughs and the scythes.
 No longer as serfs will we pay unjust tithes,
 But under the clear sky a gay life we'll lead,
 From hardship and sorrow, and slavery freed.

G.T.L.

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Cricket, 1912.

LAST season was a very successful one for the First XI. A notable feature was the increase of interest in the game towards the end of the season. We have had more fixtures this year, which is gratifying to those who take

as big an interest in Cricket as in Football. The members of the XI. have put in a considerable amount of practice at the nets, which accounts for the improvement shown as the season went on. The First XI. have played 10 matches—Won 4, lost 5, drawn 1. The result of the matches are given in detail.

Although there has been no nominal 2nd XI. the interest among the Juniors has been almost abnormal. Mr. Edwards is responsible for this, as he arranged several Form matches with Form teas. These were enjoyed by all who took part in them, the excitement of the Juniors spreading to the Seniors.

The House matches also produced several good games, including a tie between Platt and Assheton 1st XI.'s. The question who was going to win the Cricket Shield was quite open for a considerable part of the season. However Assheton House won it rather easily, although the margin of points exaggerates their success. Result: Assheton House 51 points; Platt House 17 points; Lees House 16 points.

FORM MATCHES.

Form	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
IV.	3	2	1	0	6
III. A	3	2	1	0	6
III. B	3	2	1	0	6
II. & I.	3	0	3	0	0

The chief scorers were: Hynes 32, Halliwell 32, Barratt 24, Shaw S. 24, Billington 28, Mills H. T. 23, and Hudson 21.

In Bowling, Carrington took 30 wickets, Hall 24, Billington 19, Whitehead 13, and Barratt 12.

1st XI. v. STAND G.S.—The First XI. started their season very well by dismissing Stand Grammar School for 17 runs and winning by 26 runs. Played at Oldham on May 8th.

1st XI.—C. Gill c R, b E. Allen 0, A. W. Midgley b Deane 2, H. Roseblade run out 23. G. Halliwell run out 4,

F. C. Pollard c Mills b Deane 1, A. E. Scawthorn c and b Allen o, W. H. Roebuck c Calvert b Allen 9, F. Whittaker b Allen 1, J. Kershaw b Calvert 2, J. A. Schofield not out o, W. E. Harding b Calvert o, Extras 1. Total 43.

STAND scored 17.

Midgley took five wickets for 7 runs.

Pollard took five wickets for 9 runs.

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1st XI. v. MANCHESTER G.S. 2nd XI.—Played at Manchester on May 11th.

1st XI.—H. Roseblade c Balforth b Hampson o, F. C. Pollard b Hampson 2, A. W. Midgley c Rhodes b Page 36, J. A. Bunting b Page 1, G. Halliwell b Hampson 1, W. H. Roebuck b Hampson o, J. A. Schofield b Hampson 3, C. Gill c Bradshaw b Hampson o, A. E. Scawthorn b Page 4, F. Whittaker b Hampson o, J. Swales not out o, Extras 3. Total 50.

MANCHESTER scored 119.

Midgley took five wickets for 36 runs.

Bunting took three wickets for 30 runs.

Result: Manchester won by 69 runs.

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1st XI. v. STOCKPORT G.S.—Played at Stockport on May 18th.

1st XI.—C. Gill c Walsh b Thornton 5, H. Roseblade b Thornton 10, A. W. Midgley b Richardson 2, F. C. Pollard b Richardson o, G. Halliwell b Richardson 16, J. A. Bunting c Atkinson b Richardson 1, W. H. Roebuck not out 4, J. A. Schofield c Lester b Richardson o, A. E. Scawthorn b Thornton o, F. Whittaker b Thornton o, J. Swales b Richardson 1, Extras 7. Total 46.

STOCKPORT scored 41.

Midgley took six wickets for 22 runs.

Bunting took three wickets for 12 runs.

Result: 1st XI. won by 5 runs.

1st XI. v. MANCHESTER G.S. 2nd XI.—Played at Oldham on June 12th.

1st XI.—C. Gill c Graham b Hampson 14, H. Roseblade b Hankinson 15, A. W. Midgley b Hampson 12, C. Pollard b Hampson 0, J. A. Bunting st Mawson b Hankinson 0, W. H. Roebuck b Hankinson 16, J. A. Schofield b Hankinson 0, J. H. Clynes b Hankinson 1, A. E. Scawthorn b Hampson 2, F. Whittaker not out 0, J. Swales b Hampson 0, Extras 4. Total 64.

MANCHESTER scored 66 for three wickets.

Bunting took two wickets for 19 runs.

Result: Manchester won by seven wickets.

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1st XI. v. WARRINGTON G.S.—Played at Oldham on June 22nd.

1st XI.—H. Roseblade run out 0, A. W. Midgley c Skinner b Skelton 34, F. C. Pollard b Woodcock 0, G. Halliwell b Hayes 0, W. H. Roebuck c Whitlow b Woodcock 5, J. A. Bunting c Skinner b Hayes 0, A. E. Scawthorn b Skelton 28, J. B. Gartside b Woodcock 3, J. Kershaw c and b Woodcock 2, F. Whittaker b Skelton 0, J. Swales not out 0, Extras 1. Total 73.

WARRINGTON scored 55.

Midgley took three wickets for 22 runs.

Bunting took three wickets for 10 runs.

Scawthorn took two wickets for 11 runs.

Result: 1st XI. won by 18 runs.

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1st XI. v. STAND G.S.—Played at Oldham on June 26th.

1st XI.—A. W. Midgley c Deane by Allen 0, H. Roseblade b Allen 1, J. A. Bunting b Calvert 26, A. E. Scawthorn b Calvert 3, W. Billington b Calvert 4, G. T. Lees b Allen 7, G. Halliwell b Allen 0, F. C. Pollard b Allen 0, J. Swales b Allen 2, J. Kershaw b Allen 0, F. Whittaker not out 1, Extras 0. Total 44.

STAND scored 106, of which Allen and Bradshaw scored 102.

Midgley took four wickets for 31 runs.

Scawthorn took five wickets for 13 runs.

Result: Stand won by 62 runs.

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1st XI. v. STOCKPORT G.S.—Played at Oldham on June 29th.

1st XI.—H. Roseblade b Richardson 11, G. T. Lees c Bennett b Richardson 1, A. W. Midgley not out 68, J. A. Bunting b Thornton 6, G. Halliwell b Thornton 9, A. E. Scawthorn b Thornton 0, F. C. Pollard b Lester 0, W. Billington c Gregory b Thornton 2, J. Swales c and b Thornton 2, F. Whittaker not out 7, J. Kershaw did not bat, Extras 4. Total (for eight wickets) *110. *Innings declared closed.

STOCKPORT scored 90 for five wickets.

Midgley took two wickets for 34 runs.

Bunting took three wickets for 20 runs.

Result: Draw.

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1st XI. v. Mr. COCKELL'S XI.—Played at Oldham on July 6th.

1st XI.—C. Gill st Bradbury b Cockell 5, H. Roseblade c Bradbury b Smyth 8, A. W. Midgley c Bradbury b Smyth 2, J. A. Bunting b Cockell 10, G. T. Lees c Stott b Cockell 2, G. Halliwell c F. Halliwell b Cockell 21, A. E. Scawthorn c D. Mellor, b Stott 0, F. C. Pollard not out 14, W. Billington st Bradbury b Cockell 10, F. Whittaker b Hutchinson 1, J. Swales st Bradbury b Cockell 2, Extras 5. Total 80.

F. H. Cockell took six wickets for 24 runs.

N. Smyth took two wickets for 19 runs.

MR. COCKELL'S XI.—H. Bradbury c and b Midgley 7, C. Hutchinson b Midgley 5, E. S. Stott c Roseblade b Bunting 0, R. E. Taylor b Midgley 2, N. Smyth c and b Midgley 0, D. H. Mellor b Midgley 0, F. H. Cockell c and b Midgley

23, F. Stott b Midgley 4, L. F. Potter c Roseblade b Bunting 9, J. A. Schofield not out 0, F. Halliwell c Gill b Midgley 8, Extras 4. Total 62.

Midgley took 8 wickets for 19 runs.

Bunting took 2 wickets for 37 runs.

Result: 1st XI. won by 18 runs.

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1st XI. v. MASTERS' XI.—Played at School.

1st XI.—Gill run out 20, Roseblade b Edwards 28, G. Halliwell b Edwards 3, Pollard b Warhurst 9, Billington b Warhurst 4, Roebuck b Edwards 1, Schofield b Warhurst 0, Scawthorn b Warhurst 2, Whittaker lbw b Edwards 4, F. Halliwell st Bradbury b Cockell 11, Carrington not out 9, Extras 7. Total 89.

Mr. Edwards took 4 wickets for 25 runs.

Mr. Warhurst took 4 wickets for 49 runs.

The Masters' XI. made 123 (Mr. Edwards 52), winning by 34 runs.

Schofield took 4 wickets for 21 runs.

Roebuck took 3 wickets for 0 runs.

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BATTING AVERAGES.

Name.	No. of Innings.	Times Not Out.	Highest Innings.	Total Runs.	Average.
Midgley	10	1	68*	159	17.66
Roseblade	11	0	28	107	9.7
Bunting	9	0	26	75	8.33
Scawthorn	11	2	28	63	7.00
Roebuck	6	1	16	35	7.00
Gill	8	0	20	46	5.75
Halliwell G	10	0	21	56	5.60
Billington	6	0	10	31	5.17
Pollard	11	1	14*	29	2.90
Whittaker	11	3	7*	14	1.75
Schofield	7	1	7	10	1.66

BOWLING AVERAGES.

Name.	Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wickets.	Average.
Midgley	97.2	17	267	44	6.07
Scawthorn	40	7	93	13	7.15
Bunting	71.4	17	205	19	10.79
Pollard	35	8	133	7	19.00
Roebuck	7.5	5	9	4	2.25
Schofield	5	1	21	4	5.25
Halliwell	17	3	55	3	18.33

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CRITIQUE.

A. W. MIDGLEY (capt.) is the best all-round cricketer we have had for a considerable number of years. Batting left-handed he knows how to hit loose balls, and his defence is quite sound. A very good left-hand bowler of medium pace, and breaking in from the leg. His fielding is also good.

H. ROSEBLADE improved in batting in every match, and at the end of the season was a very good batsman. Is quite a useful bowler, but his services were not used as much as they might have been. An excellent deep-field, his catching being very safe.

J. A. BUNTING obtained his colours for bowling, but he was worth his place for batting before the end of the season. Bowls a good length. A careful bat with a good defence.

A. E. SCAWTHORN has proved himself a very useful member of the team. His batting is rather erratic, but he has made some good scores. Bowls fairly fast, and sends in a slower ball which breaks from the off. A good "field."

G. HALLIWELL is a fair bat, but lacks patience. Bowls a good length, and is a good "catch."

C. GILL has kept wicket, and although not very successful as a "stumper," he knows how to prevent byes. His batting improved enormously towards the end of the season.

C. POLLARD has a very good style, and always looks like getting a good many runs. Fortune does not seem to favour him very much. He bowls a good length and breaks considerably from the off.

F. WHITTAKER is a painstaking batsman and a plucky "field."

J. A. SCHOFIELD has improved in batting and is quite a good bowler. His ground fielding and throwing-in are good.

W. ROEBUCK. A "slogger." A good bowler, who might have been put on to bowl more frequently than he was. A good "field."

W. BILLINGTON had an idea that he was a "slogger," but changed his mind as time went on. Has a good defence. A very neat "field."

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Natural History Society.

ON Tuesday, October 22nd, a general meeting of the Society was called for the purpose of electing fresh members for the committee in place of those who had left. Harding was elected general secretary, Whittaker and Bunting were elected for the Microscopic section, Fletcher and Swallow for the Photographic, Stott and Wallace for the Meteorological, and Pollard and Lees for the Field.

The nights for the meetings of the Field and Microscopic sections were fixed for Tuesdays, those of the Meteorological section for Thursdays, and those of the Photographic for Fridays.

The Natural History Society has, all things considered, done very well during the portion of this session already gone by. At first, truly, it seemed to sadly miss the faces (and hands) of those of the senior members who had left, but things soon settled down, and the work of the session commenced with wonderful punctuality. No difficulty was felt with regard

to finding a volunteer to read the first paper of the session, and thanks are due to Bunting for coming forward so promptly. Indeed during the very first week the secretary had no difficulty whatever in obtaining promises for several papers in both the "Field and Microscopic" and the "Photographic" sections.

The meeting of the "Field and Microscopic" sections of the Society, held on Tuesday afternoons, have, considering the rival attractions of handball matches in the gymnasium, been, on the whole, very well attended, and good papers were read at each meeting, with the exception of two evenings which were utilised by Mr. Pym for exhibiting Microscopic life. It may be mentioned in passing that one of these two meetings was exceedingly short, owing to Mr. Pym's specimens having unfortunately departed this life at the eleventh hour (or somewhere thereabouts).

The Photographic meetings have been held every alternate Friday, when good papers have been read. This section of the Natural History Society would welcome the presence of more members, for there must be more than seven or eight boys in the School who take sufficient interest in photography to be able to appreciate and enjoy the papers read. If there are not, then there ought to be. But of all the sections the greatest progress has been made in the "Meteorological," which does not sound as attractive as it really is. Up to now this section has consisted on an average of four or five members, but this session the number has leaped up to eleven or twelve, which looks exceedingly promising. This section holds a short meeting after school each Thursday, when the actual weather conditions and the forecasts (two very similar things now) are reviewed, and the causes of the various weather changes discussed. In conclusion, it is believed that many members stop away from the meetings of the Society merely because they are labouring under the strange and wholly unaccountable delusion that what goes on during them is intolerably dry. All that can be done with

such incredulous beings is to quote popular advertisements and say: "Give it a trial." Why not?

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THE METEOROLOGICAL SECTION.

This section has been fairly active for the last two terms, and the School in general seems to be taking more than usual interest in the weather forecasts issued daily by the members.

The average air and ground minimum temperatures for each month for the last three years, along with the total rainfall and number of night frosts, have been calculated and entered in a book so as to form useful references.

We are pleased to welcome Harding, Kershaw, Eatough, Ogden, Hasty, Lee, and Noble as new readers. S. H. S.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC NOTES.

The Photographic Society has held two meetings during the year, both of which were fairly well attended. At the first meeting Flecher read a paper entitled "The Camera as an Aid to Nature Study." A vote of thanks was proposed by Harding and seconded by Swallow. Some photographs taken by one of the members were handed round and criticised. At the second meeting a paper on "P. O. P. Printing in the Dark Days" was read by Swallow. Harding proposed a vote of thanks to Swallow, which was seconded by Fletcher. Dr. Potter said that he would like to see more photos. in the School album by the end of the year, and announced that his prize for the best set of photos. taken by a member of the society would again be offered under the same conditions as before. S. F.

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FIELD AND MICROSCOPIC SECTIONS.

October 29th—Bunting read a capital paper on "Caterpillars," going through the whole life of the insect, following it through its various stages.

November 5th—A. Park read an interesting paper on "Ants," pointing out their wonderful intelligence. He illustrated his paper with profuse examples

November 18th—Gartside read an instructive paper on "Wonderful Insects," mentioning the rock made of Caddis worms in France, the boring worms, and luminous insects.

November 25th—Mr. Pym exhibited some of the lowliest forms of animal and vegetable life, showing that they were composed of only one cell made of a jelly-like substance called protoplasm.

December 10th—Vickars read an excellent paper on "Beavers." He pointed out their immense engineering capacities, and explained their bodily construction, among other things.

W. E. H.



Sympathy.

Amongst the virtues by mankind possess'd,
 True human sympathy must take a place ;
 Made manifest in cheerful, smiling face,
 It brings to those who share it, comfort, rest.

Let sympathetic heart then be the guest
 To visit those who in the earthly race
 Are being left behind, so fast the pace,
 As all unable to survive the test.

One touch of sympathy to those in need
 Of help, gives pleasure, and dispels dull care ;
 The doer of a loving, kindly deed
 Is striving his most precious gifts to share ;
 And whom he cheers may by his help succeed,
 And with fresh courage learn to do and dare.

S. F.



Cambridge Letter.

To the Editor of the Hulmeian.

Dear Sir,

In a weak moment I undertook to write a detailed account of the various doings of the School's members of the

'Varsity. In the hurry of work and exercise it is indeed a tax on my inventive powers to describe the doings of our O. H. Colony. However, everything considered, I think my report will be considered a fairly satisfactory one. As regards our present members :—F.K. (King's) both on the field and in the labs. leads the way. I understand that he is a strong candidate for a shooting "blue" in addition to his crosse "blue." All good luck to him.—S.S.H. (King's) has decided to work this term. Present members of School please note.—J.S. (St. John's) has given up the idea of "rowing" as being physically too strenuous, but is applying himself (at last) to books.—J.K. (Trinity) has not been seen about very much, may we conclude that he is working hard? Q.E.D.—C.I.C.G. (King's) was last seen surrounded by bones and skulls, although he still takes an active part in football.

Wishing the School every success,

Yours truly,

CANTAB.



Old Boys' Notes.

THE 11th annual general meeting was held in the School on 16th December, the president, A. G. Pickford, Esq., being in the chair, when the new members elected to the council were Messrs. W. H. Hall, C. Atkins, and E. E. Mellor.

It was resolved that Messrs. B. W. Lees and W. E. W. Millington be elected hon. vice-presidents in recognition of past services rendered to the association.

Mr. B. W. Lees was the founder of the association in 1902, and became its first secretary, which position he held with great credit until his removal from Oldham compelled him to relinquish his official connection with the association.

Mr. W. E. W. Millington was one of the chief workers during the inception of the association, and became the secre-

tary of the Debating Society. He was also a member of the first committee, and later was elected hon. treasurer, but had to resign owing to leaving the town.

It was decided that the soir ee be held early in the winter of next year.

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The Old Boys' Association held their annual dance on December 13th, and despite the fact that many who had been present in past years were absent owing to the date clashing with that of the officers' ball, about 150 joined the revels. A most enjoyable evening was spent and an excellent supper indulged in. Mr. and Mrs. Pickford did the honours, and the stewards are to be congratulated on their excellent arrangements. We are pleased to state that the accounts show a small profit.

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ANNUAL REPORT.

It is gratifying to report that greater interest is taken in the association by the members than formerly, and the number of new members is also very satisfactory.

On the 12th December, 1911, the eleventh annual dinner was held at the Caf e Monico, when a re-union of old boys enjoyed a very pleasant evening. The toast of the School was proposed by Mr. H. Kempsey and responded to by the Headmaster. The association was very ably proposed by the guest of the evening, Mr J. G. Greenhalgh, an old master, whom everyone was pleased to see amongst us once more. Mr. C. H. Lee replied for the association.

During the year the council decided to hold a soir ee, which took place in the School on the 16th February, and proved to be the most successful social function which has taken place under the auspices of our association. The number present was about 350. An account appeared in the last issue of the Magazine.

The picnic this year was on Saturday, 22nd June, when a small party left Oldham for Whalley Abbey. On our arrival

there waggonettes awaited the party, and a drive of 22 miles was taken through the Ribble Valley, the following places of interest being passed : Mitton, a halt being made here to view the interior of the old church ; Stonyhurst College was the next place of interest, where the party availed themselves of the privilege of walking through the grounds. After tea, which was provided at Whalley, a short stroll round the village was taken, when many bits of old architecture were much admired and snapshots taken by our members possessing cameras, that will bring back memories of a summer afternoon well spent. We should like to impress all our members that these picnics are arranged for their pleasure, and it is hoped that a much larger number will be present on the next occasion.



Life.

WITH the recent discussion on *life* it may not seem out of place to say something on this subject. What is life ? How many times has this question been asked, and with all our researches how much further have we got ? We certainly know more than we did, but each additional fact gained increases the the boundary of the unknown. It is only the ignorant who think they know, the wise know they do not.

However, what we have gained has helped us a great deal in our knowledge of food stuffs and the nature of diseases, but this does not give us life. The old theology said life must come from life ; and this brings in the supernatural.

The chemist is now able to produce the same combination of substances of which man is composed, but life is absent. We cannot bridge the chasm from the inorganic to the organic. The soul that moves the body is not there. This is not a definition ; you cannot define life any more than you can define electricity ; you can only see its consequences.

If you could produce life it is not to say that you could trace the nature of its power. We talk about evolution, but at the most evolution is not a power, it is only a way of creation.

You cannot explain the universe without power, for power is everywhere. What is life? Again the question is repeated. This life of man who loves, rules, imagines, worships. What do we know? Only the fact that we are. "I think, therefore I am," said Descartes, and we do not dispute him. If life originated from non-living matter, as many think, we must give the credit to non-living matter of founding a knowing, living, and active substance; but the difficulties of imagining the formation of a living unit, by evolution from the non-living, are so great that many other theories have been suggested; but to our knowledge in no living matter has life originated from the non-living. It was either there at first or entered at some stage of operations. You cannot give the algebraical equation of a smile, or the geometrical construction for a sigh. You cannot have a life without a soul; and this introduces the miraculous. Life without soul is machinery only, and not life at all.

Take the names of the men who are best remembered in the history of England:—King Alfred, Wolsey, Cromwell, Nelson, Wesley, Gen. Booth. All these men believed intensely in the supernatural. The soul that is in man refuses to be quenched. From the cave men upwards man has felt himself to be better than the brutes. The poets have given voice to his aspirations, and he sings in the classics of ages—

"It is the mind that makes the man,
And our vigour is in our immortal soul."

J. L. B.



Mining under the Sea.

MUCH ingenuity and spirit is exhibited by the miners of Cornwall and Devonshire in the pursuit of the underground riches. In many instances, too, they have shown a remarkable amount of daring and of perseverance under circumstances of no ordinary difficulty.

The neighbourhood of Penzance was the scene of one

of these, where, towards the close of the 18th century, when the science of engineering was far behind what it is now, a working miner conceived the project of opening a mine on a sandbank covered by the tide at high water. A very rich lode of tin was known to pass under the inlet of the sea, because it could be traced in the land on both sides of the bay, and had long been worked as far as it was exposed on the fall of the tide. The spot fixed upon for the workings was about 700 feet distant from the shore, and here the shaft had to be carried upwards till it reached a level above that of the highest spring tides, as well as downwards into the rock. Here, exposed to the violence of the waves and the constant percolation of the water through the woodwork of the shaft as well as through the fissures of the rock, ore to the value about £70,000 is said to have been raised. An American ship, unfortunately, drove against the works one day in a storm, and this romantically situated mine came to an end. This story is carried down from generation to generation of Penzance miners.

Another mine from which a large quantity of tin as well as copper has been extracted is situated at the extreme point of land overlooking the Atlantic. The entrance to Botallack Mine is about midway between the top of the cliff and the sea, and the underground excavations follow the lodes out seaward to a distance of about 500 feet. Not only do the miners here run the risk of cutting into some fissure which would admit the sea water at a greater rate than the engines would pump it out, which would lead to the mine being irremediably drowned, but the exposed sites of the shaft-heads, with their engines and other works, which are dotted about the face of the cliff, greatly enhances the cost of the works and the labour of the miners.

J. B. G.

The Uses of Shorthand.

FROM the latter end of the sixteenth century, when Dr. Timothy Bright's system was published, down to the middle of the last century, shorthand in England was

known and used only by a few persons. Then it was introduced into newspaper offices, in which direction the use of the "winged art" gradually but surely increased till at the present day it forms an almost indispensable qualification for a reporter. Indeed, one of the chief uses of shorthand is in recording the utterances of speakers at meetings of all descriptions, in debates, sermons, lectures, law proceedings, and at many other public and private functions. As far back as the time of Cicero speeches were to some extent reproduced, and even verbatim reports of the speeches delivered in the Roman Senate are said to have been obtained. But the means used could hardly be termed shorthand, being more like abbreviated longhand, and considerable doubts are expressed as to the reports being verbatim.

But nowadays shorthand has been brought to such perfection that by its means the speeches of the most rapid speakers can be reproduced word for word. Not a little of the popularity of the Press has been gained by the publicity which, through shorthand, it has been able to give to the utterances of public men.

But where shorthand is most useful is in the commercial world. Sir Edwin Watkin is said to be the pioneer of its use in the office. As one of the directors of the Great Western Railway he had a great deal of writing and dictating to do, which was then done in longhand, and it occurred to him that he might save a considerable amount of time by dictating to a shorthand writer. His experiment was successful.

What the locomotive has done for travellers, shorthand has accomplished for all those who have occasion to use the pen often. No doubt the business man gets the full pecuniary value out of it, but there are very few spheres in which labour is not lightened by the use of this invaluable art. J. H. K.

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