

Misericordias Domini

in aeternum cantabo.



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EDITORIAL.

IT is with much regret that we announce the loss this term of Mr. Prowde, who, on account of his health, has had to leave all School work for a time. He was for many years President of the Editorial Committee, and in that, as well as in many other capacities, will be greatly missed. We hope his strength will soon be recovered, so that he may return to active work again. We cordially welcome Mr. T.

R. Mills, who has taken his place on the Committee.

It may not be out of place here to make an appeal to the boys for greater support in increasing the circulation of the Magazine. As will be seen elsewhere, in the Abstract of Accounts, we have a considerable deficit on the last number. Unless more copies are sold each time, the Magazine cannot be a success, and we would earnestly appeal for greater support in this respect.

Our thanks are due to the Donors of Prizes for the School Sports, and to many kind friends for the support which they accorded the Stewards.

We have also to thank Messrs. Aldwinckle and Matcham, and the Committee of the Abingdon Cricket and Football Club for various articles lent by them for the Sports.

In numbers this term, we are glad to be able to report a continued increase

“SCHOOL WITHOUT SPORT.”

Is it possible to imagine a profitable School life without the common luxury of Sport? Although many careers at School are spent in the diligent study of subjects not altogether to the taste of the young mind, yet we may say that in nine cases out of ten the boy who takes the keenest interest in the Sports Field will eventually make the better man. It is well known how many a young life has been completely changed for the better through the powerful influence of Sport. There is not the slightest doubt as to those who lead the happiest lives at a public School; for what can surely be the benefits reaped, both morally and physically, from the continual perusal of ancient classics, without an intermingling of some form of Sport? We only need to look at the leading men of the day to see in how many instances they were in their younger days very loath to spend time over a knotty problem, but at the mere mention of a game of cricket or football very rarely was there any lack of enthusiasm shown. In every School of any importance, there are invariably a certain proportion who are not too well endowed with the faculty of thinking, but then if they be keen sportsmen how much is often overlooked of their deficiency in school routine. Besides this all must know the intense enjoyment experienced when one leaves a close schoolroom to take part in an out-door pastime, and if the game be entered upon with sufficient vigour it is positively astonishing how quickly the dullest spirits will be enlivened. We

cannot therefore too strongly urge young boys especially, to make use of every possible opportunity they may have of joining in any kind of healthful recreation. Even if the benefits are not immediately shewn, yet in later years they are bound to be felt. Let us add one more point in favour of the Schoolboy as a sportsman, and that is, if he looks after his body physically, it will come naturally to him to act always in a straight and honourable way morally; for none are true sportsmen who do not shew in every one of their actions a manly and straightforward disposition.

V. E. C.

REVIEW OF FOOTBALL SEASON 1896-7.

The football season of this year has been a very successful one. The team is bigger and heavier than last year and has shown really good form. Sixteen matches had been arranged, and out of these fifteen were played, 9 were won, 5 lost and 1 drawn. Of the 15 matches only 6 were School matches, which is rather a pity, since the School would have probably been able to hold their own with most of the neighbouring Schools. The nine matches won were against:—Oxford High School (13-0); Thame School (twice, scores 12-0 and 4-1); Reading School (away, score 2-1); Mr. S. C. Hebard's XI; Old Abingdonians (5-3); Factory F. C. (twice, scores 6-0 and 5-2). Those lost were against the Cygnets, Abingdon (twice), Reading School (home, score 2-7), and an Abingdon XI. captained by F. H. Pryce, Esq.; and one drawn game was

played against the Cygnets. The balance of goals is considerably in our favour, viz., 77 for the School and 39 against.

As to the individual play, Brown has made a good custodian throughout the season, and against the Old Abingdonians was especially brilliant. McCreery and Montgomery made a good pair of backs; after the departure of the latter, Greenwood took his place and played a grand game against Reading School. The halves all worked hard and fed the front rank well. Insley and Eagle made a good right wing and by the end of the season had got well together. Greenwood and Aldwinckle formed the left wing till the former dropped back, when W. Austin was tried in the remaining matches. Deacon has been a very useful centre and has done a good deal of scoring.

FOOTBALL.

Abingdon School v. Old Abingdonians. This match was played on the School ground on Saturday, December the 19th. The "Old Boys" were a strong XI. captained by A. W. Morland, our last year's "skipper." The School won the toss and kicked into the drive goal. The opening exchanges were of an even character, both sides pressing a great deal. The Past were the first to score through a scrum in front of goal, Morland putting the ball through. Then the School pressed for some time, but though some good shots were put in by our forwards, Baker in goal saved brilliantly, and nothing was scored. At length however from a good centre by

Eagle, which Shepherd misjudged, Deacon shot our first goal. After the kick off, the School forwards settled down to some good combination and soon scored again, Aldwinckle doing the needful with a nice shot. After this the School continued to press till Eagle passed to Deacon, who ran down by himself and scored our third goal. Half-time arrived with the score 3-1 in favour of the Present. After the interval some good play was witnessed on both sides among the forwards, and presently a corner fell to the School, Trafford put in a beautiful one and Greenwood shot, but Baker fisted out, and Insley, running in, headed through. After this the School right wing was conspicuous for pretty combination, and from a good centre by Eagle, Deacon obtained a fifth goal for the Present. The Past, roused by this reverse, made strenuous efforts to score and their left wing did some tricky work which resulted in a goal being added by Lay. Thus encouraged, they continued to press until another point was obtained from a free kick for "hands" in front of goal. Nothing further was scored and a splendid game ended in a win for the Present by 5-3.

For the Present, Brown was splendid in goal, he saved shot after shot which looked certain to score. The backs were in good form, Montgomery being a trifle the better, defending well throughout. The halves all worked hard and the forwards showed better combination than they have done before.

For the Past, Baker played a grand

game in goal and Shopland was in good form at back. All their halves played well, Shepherd being prominent. Their forwards were not so well together as their opponents and missed several chances of scoring.

Teams :—Present — S. W. Brown (goal) ; J. W. Montgomery, A. T. J. McCreery (backs) ; S. Trafford, H. E. Johnson, B. Challenor (half-backs) ; W. Eagle, E. Insley (right wing) ; P. L. Deacon, captain (centre) ; S. Greenwood, J. Aldwinckle (left wing). Past—F. J. S. Baker (goal) ; R. Shopland, A. M. Shepherd (backs) ; G. Brown, N. P. Shepherd, W. R. Powell (half-backs) ; W. R. Noble, F. H. Pryce (right wing) ; A. W. Morland, captain (centre) ; H. G. Lovett, W. Lay (left wing). Referee—H. C. Orpwood.

Abingdon School *v.* Abingdon, played on the School ground on February 10th. The School were severely handicapped through the absence of Mr. W. M. Wilson and H. E. Johnson. The School displayed good form at first, keeping their opponents busily employed in preventing them from scoring. They soon began to tire and Abingdon scored their first point through Legge heading through. This was soon followed by a second by Faulkner, which was all the scoring in the first half, Abingdon thus leading by 2-0 at the interval. In the second half, Mr. Orpwood who was hurt in the first half had to go in goal, but the School now made determined efforts to score but met with no success. The Abingdon left wing brought the ball time after time into the School quarters,

from one of which rushes Winship scored, which was soon afterwards repeated by the same player. The School played up but their efforts were unavailing, whilst Abingdon scored their fifth and last goal through Pape.

Teams—Abingdon School—S. W. Brown (goal) ; A. T. J. McCreery, J. S. C. Greenwood (backs) ; S. Trafford, Mr. H. C. Orpwood, B. Challenor (half-backs) ; W. Eagle, E. E. Insley (right wing) ; Mr. C. M. Robinson (centre) ; P. L. Deacon (captain), Y. J. Aldwinckle (left wing). Abingdon—F. J. S. Baker (goal) ; H. E. Deane, C. E. Forrest, (backs) ; E. W. Judd, A. W. Morland, G. Winship (half-backs) ; Williams, Pape (right wing) ; W. Legge (centre) ; A. Faulkner, A. M. Shepherd (left wing).

Abingdon School *v.* Reading Grammar School, was played at Abingdon on Feb. 13th. The School were without H. E. Johnson. The visitors who were the heavier team were compelled to act on the defensive to prevent the School, who were playing very well, from scoring. In spite of all their efforts the School were the first to score, Insley getting the first goal. This roused the visitors who equalised through Mousley, who obtained a goal with a swift and good shot. The School now played hard to obtain the lead, which they soon did, the ball being rushed through. Nevertheless Reading now pressed and scored, again making the scores level (2-2). The School now began to tire, the result being that Reading began to play up harder and put on two more goals before half-time, when they led by 4-2. The

School after the re-start played up better and succeeded in taking the ball down to the Reading goal, but their efforts to score met with no success. The visitors however soon got the upper hand and increasing their lead by 3 more goals won by 7-2. Mousley (3), Corry, Hanley, Turner and Wickham scored for Reading. Teams—Reading School—F. W. Parfitt (goal); W. G. Mousley, L. E. Todd (backs); V. Cliff, F. H. Hanley, H. A. Turner (half-backs); H. E. Hewitt, P. L. Mousley, captain (right wing); H. B. Corry (centre); J. A. Wickham, W. Hatt (left wing). Abingdon School—S. W. Brown (goal); A. T. J. McCreery, J. S. C. Greenwood (backs); S. Trafford, B. Chaffenor, A. P. Ward (half-backs); W. Eagle, E. E. Insley (right wing); P. L. Deacon, captain (centre); W. M. Austin, Y. J. Aldwinckle (left wing).

On the same day Abingdon School 2nd. XI. journeyed to Reading to play their 2nd. XI. A very good game resulted, although their team was by far the heavier of the two. At half-time the score was level (1-1) A. Austin scoring for Abingdon. After the interval Reading obtained 3 more goals, thus winning by 4-1. Abingdon School 2nd. XI.—H. F. Witty, captain (goal); L. A. Challenor, B. Shopland (backs); W. F. Eagle, V. Cock, N. C. Drewe (half-backs); R. F. Challenor, L. F. Gale (right wing); H. Thatcher (centre); A. Austin, H. S. Baker (left wing).

Abingdon School v. Reading School, played at Reading on Feb. 27th. The visitors playing with the sun at their

backs started off well and showing good combination made several attempts to score. Reading soon retaliated, but Witty prevented any scoring by saving admirably. The School right now relieved and Eagle sent in a long shot which the goal-keeper rushed out to meet and missed. Encouraged by this the forwards played up and showed combination. At last Aldwinckle, after a smart piece of play, sent in a long shot which scored, just under the bar, thus making the School two goals ahead. Reading now tried desperately to lessen their opponents' lead, but without avail, their shots being rather wide, although they had quite the best of the game. Half-time arrived with the score unaltered. Reading with the sun behind them soon began to press, but owing to lack of combination and the excellent defence of the visitors' backs and goal-keeper, were unable to score. The visitors also tried to increase, Insley being conspicuous for some smart play, but their efforts were made rather by individual play than by any combination between the forwards. Reading again attempted to score, but hands at critical moments helped the visitors. At length from a free kick close to goal Reading scored, the ball going off one of the backs through the goal. They now tried desperately to get level, but without avail, and time arrived with the score 2-1, leaving the School winners of a very fast and hard game. For the School Greenwood, Witty, McCreery and Insley were in good form, especially the former. Teams—Abingdon School—H.

F. Witty (goal); J. S. C. Greenwood, A. T. J. McCreery (backs); S. Trafford, V. Cock, B. Challenor (half-backs); W. J. Eagle, E. E. Insley (right wing); P. L. Deacon (centre); W. M. Austin, Y. J. Aldwinckle (left wing). Reading School—F. J. Fuller (goal); W. G. Mousley, L. E. Todd (backs); V. Cliff, F. H. Hanley, H. A. Turner (half-backs); H. E. Hewitt, P. L. Mousley, captain (right wing); H. B. Corry (centre); J. A. Wickham, W. Hatt (left wing).

Abingdon School 2nd. XI. v. Reading School 2nd. XI., played at Abingdon on Feb. 27th. Reading, who were by far the heavier team, soon after the commencement of play began to press, and scored first through Wickham, whilst further points were soon added by Todd, Wickham and Colvin. The School now tried to reduce their opponents' lead and during the second-half Thatcher scored from a corner. They soon tired however and Reading were enabled to increase their score by three more goals through Wickham, Colvin and Hatt, and won by 7 to 1. Teams—Abingdon 2nd. XI.—S. W. Brown (goal); L. A. Challenor, W. F. Eagle (backs); H. Drayton, P. Aldwinckle, A. M. Austin (half-backs); R. F. Challenor, L. F. Gale (right wing); C. Lodge (centre); H. Thatcher, H. S. Baker (left wing). Reading School 2nd. XI.—G. F. Corry (goal); A. H. Bateman, F. Poulton (backs); C. F. Silver, L. S. Howse, A. C. Philipps (half-backs); M. W. Hanley, A. L. Todd, W. E. Wickham, R. S. Colvin and C. Hatt (forwards).

Abingdon School v. Abingdon Clothing

Factory. This match was played on the School ground on Saturday, the 20th of February. The School were without the services of Mr. Wilson and Johnson, but this did not prevent them winning, although by a smaller margin than before. The School began to attack their opponents' goal but for a long time could not score, Clarke in goal saving brilliantly. At last a goal was scored off one of the Factory backs who in trying to clear put the ball through. Soon after, a combined run by our forwards brought the ball up to the Factory goal, when Deacon passed to Insley, who notched a second point with a good shot. Then the Factory forwards broke away and Clarke scored for them after a good piece of work. After half-time the School started in good style and Deacon scored. Some good work by Insley on the right resulted in a good centre from him being converted by Deacon. This roused the Factory who played up well and scored a second goal. Then play continued in midfield for a long time until, just before time, Deacon ran through and scored our fifth goal. Thus the School were left winners, after a good game, by 5-2. School Team—S. W. Brown (goal); C. M. Robinson, Esq., A. T. J. McCreery (backs); S. Trafford, H. C. Orpwood, Esq., B. Challenor (half-backs); W. Eagle, E. Insley (right wing); P. L. Deacon (centre); S. Greenwood, J. Aldwinckle (left wing).

SIXES.

This year the sixes contained no less than 72 entries, so that 12 sixes competed. The draw was much more even in

character than in former years, and produced some very good games. The following composed the 12 sixes:—

Deacon's VI. Shopland, McCreery ii, Staniland, Chivers, Payne iii.

Challenor's VI. Challenor iv, Drewe, Townsend i, Townsend ii, Taylor iii.

Brown's VI. Taylor i, Cannon, Caudwell, Hewer, King i.

Greenwood's VI. Thatcher, Deacon ii, Mortleman, Sparkes, Festing.

McCreery's VI. Austin ii, Saxby, Aubertin, Glanville, Webb.

Insley's VI. Cock, Davey, Pritchard, West i, Bradfield i.

Eagle's VI. Aldwinckle ii, Symonds, Rice, Chesterman, Graham ii.

Trafford's VI. Eagle ii, Payne ii, Martin, Fruin, Graham i.

Aldwinckle's VI. Gale, Foresheiw i, Roberts, Tate, Iles i.

Ward's VI. Baker ii, Foresheiw ii, Montgomery, Bradfield ii, Monk.

Witty's VI. Challenor iii, Drayton, Downer, Russell, King i.

Austin's VI. Iles ii, Winship, Challenor ii, Couldrey, Harris.

In the first round, the following was the draw, Eagle *v.* Trafford, McCreery *v.* Witty, Challenor *v.* Aldwinckle, Greenwood *v.* Deacon. Byes, Insley, Brown, Ward, Austin.

The first of these games, that between Eagle and Trafford, produced a good game, in which Eagle finally won by 4-2. McCreery beat Witty by 2-1 and Aldwinckle was successful in beating Challenor by 5-2. Greenwood's six had the misfortune to lose their captain, who on the morning of the day in which the

first round was played, put his arm out so badly that he was quite unable to play. Challenor was drawn as his substitute, but lost to Deacon by 11-4.

In the second round, Insley just beat Brown, after a capital game, by 5-4, and Austin vanquished Ward by 5-2. Deacon managed to beat Aldwinckle by 5-4 and Eagle beat McCreery by 4-1.

The semi-final round produced two good games, in which Deacon disposed of Eagle by 11-8, after a fast and exciting game, whilst Insley proved victorious over Austin by 6-3.

The final was played on Monday, March 15th, when Insley and Deacon met. Insley had the bigger team, but nevertheless a good game was witnessed and for a long time it was thought that the game would be drawn at one all, but just before time Insley obtained the deciding goal, and the better team gained a popular victory by 2-1. The winners were represented by Insley (captain), Cock, Davey, Pritchard, Bradfield i, West i.

CHARACTERS OF THE XI.

S. W. Brown. A reliable goalkeeper when he keeps his head, and a safe kick. Should learn to fist out more when hard pressed.

J. W. Montgomery. A good back, but lacks pace. Tackles and clears well, but should use his weight more.

A. T. J. McCreery. A good kick but rather erratic, an energetic back. Defends well, but should get back quicker after the ball has passed him.

S. Trafford. A hardworking half. Feeds his wing well and backs up, kicks very good corners. Should be useful next year.

H. E. Johnson. An invaluable centre-half. Has come on greatly since last year. Tackles his men well and feeds his forwards neatly. Has been incapacitated for the latter part of the season.

B. Challenor. Left half. Works hard throughout and has plenty of pace. Feeds his wing accurately, but should learn to kick corners better and keep his place more.

W. Eagle. A promising outside right who centres and shoots well. Fairly fast. Plays well with the inside man and shows pretty combination.

E. Insley. Inside right. A very useful and hard working forward with plenty of dash. Passes and shoots well, and plays well with the outside man. Has a lot of pace and has scored frequently.

P. L. Deacon. Centre-forward. Keeps the line of forwards well together and shoots hard. Has scored very frequently. Dribbles well, but perhaps a little too much. Makes a bad Captain owing to slackness.

S. Greenwood. During the first part of the season played forward. A very unselfish and useful player who passes well and is a good shot at goal. Also played back and is a sure and hard kick. Tackles well and should make a really good back.

J. Aldwinckle. Outside left. Centres

and shoots well, but is very slow. Might make more use of his weight.

The following have also played :—

H. F. Witty. A very safe goal keeper with plenty of reach. Keeps his head well when needed. Fists out hard and kicks out well. Has been perhaps rather overlooked.

A. P. Ward. Played right-half. Kicks much too hard for a half, but tackles well and works hard.

W. M. Austin. Played inside-left. An uncertain shot. Plays up well but cannot combine.

V. Cock. Centre-half. Tackles well but cannot get the ball away. Plays a useful rather than a brilliant game.

PAPER CHASE.

We obtained a second half-holiday this term because the Governors at their meeting made their usual request to the Headmaster to grant one. A paper chase was arranged for the older boys, who numbered about twenty. The two hares were B. Challenor and E. E. Insley, who had ten minutes start of the rest, and they started at 2.20 p.m. The course taken by the hares was over the fields at the back of Shippon village, where two or three false tracks were laid, and through Green Lane in a direct line for Black Horse, coming down into the Sandy Lane just in front of Cothill. From here the hares followed the road through the village, and then coming again into the open country steered to the left, eventually finding themselves at the foot of Foxcombe

Hill. Here Challenor and Insley intended to go a little slower, but on looking round they saw two or three hounds in close pursuit. They then ran up the hill and turned to the right, down the hill again over a ploughed field, which brought them out at the back of Sunningwell, and then keeping to the road reached the School without being caught, after a very fast and interesting run. Appended are the times of the hares and a few of the hounds.

B. Challenor in at	3.45
E. E. Insley „	3.45
A. P. Ward „	3.49
W. Austin „	3.53
V. Cock „	3.53

STRANGE CREATURES.

Wild and indistinct as the stories undoubtedly are of the host of fabulous creatures surrounding the myths and legends of the ancients, there is hardly a creature which has been invented without some more or less potent reason. The explorations which naturalists of late years have made in the New World have brought to light creatures, embedded in the earth's crust, far more like the monsters of the ancients than has as yet been dreamed of by scientists. Indeed, things which were a century ago passed over by savants as ridiculous and unworthy of notice, are now being gravely considered. It is strange that our forefathers should have seen such creatures which we can never set eyes on ourselves. It is thought that the gigantic animals

mentioned by old writers are often only larger specimens of the ordinary species, as in the case of the "Kraken," which, according to writers of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, was a gigantic cuttlefish of the Northern seas, many times larger than a whale! Accounts of this creature are doubtless much exaggerated, yet there are many reasons to believe that such creatures are sometimes, though very rarely, produced. Captain Cook, during his memorable voyages, discovered several large specimens, one of which was over six feet long. Compared with other specimens this is somewhat small, although no authenticated account is extant of such a large animal as the fabled "Kraken." In the Church of St. Thomas at St. Malo there is a picture of some mariners in a vessel, armed with hatchets, endeavouring to free themselves from the grasp of a huge Cephalopod which has encircled its arms round the vessel. The history of this picture is interesting. It is said that about 1552, one Dens, a northern navigator, was sailing in the North Sea when a mighty cuttlefish rose from the deep and attacked the vessel. The terrified mariners leapt into the sea, but some of the braver ones hacked at the creature with axes until it again sank into the sea. In gratitude Dens ordered a picture of the event to be painted, and placed it in the chapel of his patron Saint. Roman writers often mention the great animal. Pliny says that one was taken off Cadiz thirty feet in length and weighing 700 lbs. Bishop Pontoppidan says that specimens have been

seen nearly a mile in circumference !

Another creature travellers often report that they have seen, is the sea-serpent. In this case too, accounts have been exaggerated, yet it is a subject which scientists cannot pass over in silence. Sea-snakes in the tropics are not uncommon, and there may be large specimens existing. And yet the subject is always met by much ridicule.

Besides these, there is another kind of fabulous monster, to which there are no creatures similar existing. First and foremost amongst these is the dragon. The dragon of the ancient times, which Aelian speaks of as having been met by Alexander in India, was a creature of huge size and strength, possessing no legs, but adorned, to use Milton's words, with

—“brazen eyes

And hairy mane terrific,”

and possessing such strength as to be able to strangle an elephant with ease. This creature is probably only an unusually large serpent. The Dragon of the Middle Ages was of a different kind. It was supposed to possess feet and wings, and to breathe fire from its throat. Nearly every ancient town of note had its dragon, to be conquered by some champion. Most likely this is an exaggerated account of the crocodiles of the Nile, which the crusaders brought from the East. Then there is the Griffin. This animal, so familiar in armorial bearings, bears no resemblance to any animal, and it is difficult to say what is its origin. It is described as

being about the size of a lion, with the body of that animal, the wings and head being like those of an eagle. The Wyvern too, familiar as it is, is of doubtful origin. As most people know, it is a kind of two-legged dragon ; accounts differ as to the details. Of the Cockatrice or Basilisk, the king of the serpents, more can be said. All have heard of the Basilisk, advancing with head erect and fiery eye, blasting the herbs with his breath and killing every creature with his glance. Crowned with the diadem as he is, the largest serpents glide away at his approach, and own him their king. Two things alone can withstand the dreaded king ; the one is the cock, his reputed parent, the other the weasel. No sooner does he hear the “lively din” of the cock than he dies ; and the weasel is said to be almost proof of his bites, and that when bitten, he retires to eat a few herbs, and then again returns to the combat. Such is the account the ancients give us of the creature, some adding wings and legs. It is probably only a report brought from India by the Macedonians of the dreaded Naja snake, which when disturbed advances with its head erect, and an almost imperceptible motion of the body, and then indeed he is truly a magnificent sight. On the back of his head are markings more like a pair of spectacles than a diadem, but this is probably the reptile meant by the ancients. As to mane, the head of an enraged Naja is expanded so as to look exceedingly like one, while its eyes are very bright. The blasting of the

herbs is of course only added to make the reptile more terrible.

We could not write on wonderful creatures without a word of the Phœnix. This bird was the king of all birds, and he taught them how to build nests, as the legend says. Every five hundred years he repaired to Egypt, and when he felt himself growing old, built himself a pyre, and out of the flames arose a young Phœnix in all the lustre of youth.

"When the bird of wonder dies, the maiden Phœnix,
Her ashes new create another heir."—*Shakespeare*.

It is hard to say what is the origin of the Phœnix. Swarms of other monsters follow on, of which there is not room to speak here. We have dealt only with the most important. Untrue and often ridiculous as they may seem, they help to enhance and beautify legend and song, and let us regard them as creatures of the poet's imagination rather than the offspring of the ignorance of a darkened age.

O. J. C.

A FABLE.

Once on a time, 'tis long ago,
Ere yet mankind was known;
Birds held archaic parliaments,
And ruled the airy zone.

Here came the crested cockatoo,
And peacock, all aflame;
The heron and the popinjay,
With birds of lesser name.

On topmost boughs of spreading trees,
The long debate begun;
Nor oft had ceased when length'ning shades
Declared the setting sun.

To guide the senatorial crowd
The owl was preferred:
For was he not beyond the rest
A wise and silent bird?

* * * * *

A flock of chattering daws, all bent
To make their thievings law,
Disdained the rules of argument,
Nor held the owl in awe.

Whereon such impudence to quell
'Twas speedily agreed,
That none henceforth should raise a hole
Save as the owl decreed.

Years passed—the owl was no more:
And Jove, to save a fray,
Sent his royal bird, whom well he knew
None dared to disobey.

Hard was the fate that then befel
The feathered parliament;
Henceforth the eagle made the laws,
'Twas theirs but to assent.

MORAL.

Hence learn, ye senators, that they
Who liberty abuse
Are certain in the bitter end
That liberty to lose.

WM. H. RICHARDSON.

SCHOOL CONCERT.

A School Concert was held on Friday evening, December 18th, 1896, in the School-room, when, in spite of the inclement weather, a fair number of the parents and friends of the boys responded to the Headmaster's invitation. The programme was a miscellaneous one, and was well rendered throughout. The first half of the programme was opened by a pianoforte duet by W. B. Collingwood and Mr. C. M. Robinson, which was well received. A further instrumental piece was given in the second half, in the shape of a pianoforte solo

by W. B. Collingwood—Paderewski's "Minuet." This was well rendered and gave great satisfaction. Mr. Lasseter received a hearty and well-merited encore for "It was a dream," and responded with a spirited performance of "The Midshipmite." Mr. Orpwood gave a most pleasing rendering of "Nita Gitana," and being loudly encored responded with the last verse. Mr. Robinson was heard to advantage in "Thy Sentinel am I," and "The Gladiator," sung with fine voice and good taste, and being recalled for the latter sang "The Longshoreman." Further songs were contributed by R. H. Foreshow, H. L. Harris and H. Hughes, which were nicely rendered, the two first being encored. H. L. Harris and H. Hughes also sang Mendelssohn's duet "Greeting." Two quartettes were tastefully executed by Harris, Hughes, Messrs. Lasseter and Robinson, "Night, Lovely Night," (Bergen) and Barnby's ever welcome "Sweet and Low." The choir had been carefully trained by Mr. Robinson, and they sang with precision and expression the part-songs down on the programme. We think we may safely say that the concert was altogether a highly creditable one, consisting as it did of items entirely by the boys and Masters. Appended is the programme:—

PART I.

- PIANOFORTE DUET *Diabelli.*
W. B. COLLINGWOOD & C. M. ROBINSON.
SOLO "It was a Dream." .. *Lassen.*
W. J. G. LASSETER.
PART SONG "A Summer Ramble." .. *Oxenford.*
SONG "Nita Gitana." .. *E. Newton.*
H. C. ORPWOOD.

- DUET "Greeting." .. *Mendelssohn.*
H. L. HARRIS & H. H. HUGHES.
SOLO "Thy Sentinel am I." .. *Michael Watson.*
C. M. ROBINSON.
SOLO "Tatters." *G. Lane.*
R. H. FORESHEW.
PART SONG "Morning Song." .. *H. F. Sharpe.*
PART II.
PART SONG "A Flower Lullaby." .. *E. Harraden.*
SOLO "Such is Fame." .. *G. F. Cobb.*
H. L. HARRIS.
SOLO "The Gladiator." .. *Joseph Adams.*
C. M. ROBINSON.
PIANOFORTE SOLO. "Minuet." *Paderewski.*
W. B. COLLINGWOOD.
SOLO "The Wanderer." *Schubert.*
H. H. HUGHES.
QUARTETTE (a) "Night, Lovely Night." .. *Bergen.*
(b) "Sweet and Low." *Barnby.*
H. L. HARRIS, H. H. HUGHES, W. J. G. LASSETER
AND C. M. ROBINSON.
SOLO "On the Banks of Allan Water." .. *Ballad.*
W. J. G. LASSETER.
PART SONG "The Elfin Ring." .. *Clippindale.*
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

SCHOOL NOTES.

The names of the new boys who have joined the School this term are, B. Shopland, Shell; H. U. Drayton and J. W. G. Mortleman, III. Form; W. C. Roberts, Commercial I.; J. Monk, W. P. Glanville, Commercial II.; B. J. Couldrey, C. P. B. Montgomery, Junior I.; C. C. Caudwell and A. S. Payne, Junior II.

The following boys have left, J. W. Montgomery, G. A. Bradfield.

We have to thank the Governors of the School for the half-holiday which they asked for as usual, after their annual meeting. The half was given on February 23rd.

W. B. Collingwood was elected in February to the School Scholarship at Pembroke College, Oxford. A half-holiday was given in honour of this success on February 16th.

Mr. Wilson has been appointed Headmaster of Hanley School, in Staffordshire, and will leave us at the end of this term to take up his new work. We are all sorry to lose so valued a member of the staff.

The Sixth Form Mastership this term has been held by Mr. T. R. Mills, M.A., late Scholar of Wadham College, Oxford.

We heartily congratulate F. H. Pryce, on his passing the Final Examination of the Incorporated Law Society.

M. G. Hannay, of Charing Cross Hospital, has passed the Second Examination of the Conjoint Medical Board.

G. Brown has been elected Secretary of the Boat Club at Selwyn College, Cambridge.

W. R. Noble has been representing Kent in the inter-county Cross Country Runs.

The Fire Drill has been resumed this term. The boys are divided into two bodies—the "Veterans," those who joined last year (captained by P. L. Deacon), and the "Recruits," (captained by E. E. Insley.)

We record with much regret the death of Professor J. J. Sylvester, F.R.S., D.C.L., Savilian Professor of Geometry in the University of Oxford,

and for many years one of our Governing Body. He was in his eighty-third year. Many readers of the Abingdonian will remember his able and witty speech when he distributed the prizes on Founder's Day a few years ago.

The Bishop of Oxford held a Confirmation Service on Sunday, March 28th, in St. Helen's Church. The following boys were confirmed:—H. E. Johnson, A. H. Davey, V. E. Cock, H. S. Baker, R. F. Challenor, W. J. Eagle, A. F. Eagle, H. H. Hughes, G. J. Graham, A. W. L. Graham.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of the Lily (3), Derbeian, Reading School, Ipswich, Laxtonian, and Sedberghian. We have also to thank the Steward of Christ's Hospital for the January number of "The Blue," containing a life of Dr. Strange.

It is with great regret that we record the death of Henry Vernon McCreery, who died at his home, Shippon Vicarage, on Wednesday, April 7th, aged 12 years and 4 months.

The arrangements for the end of the term are:—

April 3rd, 2 p.m. Athletic Sports on School Ground.

April 7th. Steeplechases (Senior and Junior) on the Abingdon Common.

April 10th, 2.30 p.m. Past v. Present Sports on School Ground.

April 13th. School breaks up for the Easter Holidays.

Owing to lack of space the Abstract of Accounts will appear in the next Number.