Misericordias Domini

in aeternum cantabo.

THE ABINGDONIAN.

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EDITORIAL.

ALL the big boys are leaving and the School is going to the dogs. It does so annually, and with persistent regularity, at the end of the summer term; but somehow or other it as regularly finds its way back again, none the worse for the visit, well before the autumn term is ended. This year, however, the voice of the croaker is louder than usual in our midst, for we have indeed lost some champions whose places, whether in the classroom or the playground, we can hardly hope to fill at present. Nevertheless we mean to try, being convinced, with all due deference to the departed, that their standard is not inimitable, "committing to hope the uncertainty of success, and trusting to action within the scope of our own discernment."

In Football our loss is very noticeable. Only four old Colours were playing in the first match of this term, and, though there is some promising material coming on and apparently no lack of keenness, the team has by no means got together yet. If we, a mere literary coterie, may venture to give an opinion, we would suggest that a thoughtful study of the game is almost as important as assiduous practice.

Rowing is at present necessarily in abeyance, and we can form no estimate of our prospects, but here too we have

suffered the loss of two members of last term's Four. Perhaps Cricket is the branch of sport in which our prospects for the coming year seem brightest.

But while we, for our part, refuse to admit degeneracy, or to mistake for decadence the present shifting of responsibilities, which is indispensable to a healthy corporate life; while, in fact, we congratulate ourselves that it *is* the big boys who are leaving, and not the little boys, a more solid answer to the pessimists is being furnished by the bricks and mortar, that are making the playground untidier and more interesting every day.

The New Buildings, begun on July 1st, were sufficiently advanced by the end of last term for the laying of the foundation stone on Founder's Day: and an account of this impressive ceremony is given with some detail below. On returning in September we found that, though much had been done, the work was principally below ground, so that less was apparent to the eye of a casual observer. During the last five weeks, however, so great has been the progress that, in the matter of masonry, the ground-floor windows and doors are well-nigh completed, while the walls are nearly high enough to receive the intermediate flooring. It is early yet to pass an opinion on the final artistic effect, but it will not, at least, be through want of commodious buildings, if in future years we fail to hold our own among the Schools of England.

The mention of Rowing above reminds us that we have to thank Mr. W. H. Richardson for supplying us with a list which we promised our readers in our last number, to wit, a list of the generous donors to the Old Boys' Boat Fund.

We are also publishing an abstract of our own accounts for the first two numbers of Vol. III, together with a supplementary account dealing with the cost and sale of the Index to Vol. II. And here we ought to state that the small surplus we had in hand, when we brought Vol. II to a close, was devoted to defraying the cost of the illustration in our last Christmas Number. The present slight deficit in our Magazine accounts is mainly due to the unusual bulk of the two last numbers published; and this again is due to a desire on our part, not only to record all that is of interest, but to record it within a reasonable distance of the date of its occurrence. We should like to make this a permanent principle, but obviously cannot promise to do so, until by a yet further increase in our circulation we are enabled to put a considerable reserve fund to our credit.

To wipe out the deficit in the supplementary account, only time, we hope, is needed. Twice already have we stated in our Editorial effusions that we can still supply back numbers of the Magazine, as well as copies of the index; but fearing lest some of our patriotic supporters have failed to fully grasp our meaning, we would here additionally state that we are selling the back numbers at half the published price, and the index at 6d. a copy: furthermore that we should be pleased to supply copies of Volume II complete, cloth-bound in the

School colours, at the greatly reduced rate of 12s 6d. each, exclusive of the cost of postage. Application should be made to the Secretary, accompanied by a remittance. We hope we are sufficiently explicit.

One further item concerning ourselves, and we have done. We have received a complaint that the crown 4to envelopes, adopted for postage in October 1898, do not, as was hoped, tend to preserve the Magazine en route to its readers, but rather the reverse: and it has been suggested to us that the Magazine would travel better, if we folded it once from top to bottom and posted it in a narrower envelope. If anybody else has any complaint or suggestion to make on this subject, we shall be glad to hear from him; because we should be sorry to continue the use of a large and expensive form of envelope, when a smaller and cheaper one would serve our purpose better.

FOUNDER'S DAY.

If omens deserve any credence, the weather of Tuesday the 30th of July certainly augured well for the success of our Founder's Day,—a day, this year, of more than usual importance. For besides the annual Speech Day and Prize Distribution, it was the day fixed for the Laying of the Foundation Stone of the Additional Buildings.

The commemoration opened, as usual, with Service in S. Helen's Church, sung by the School Choir. The Magnificat was by Martin, and the Anthem the composition of Mr. E. W. Young, who presided at the organ. The Rev. J. M. Clarkson, a former master, read the Lesson; and the Sermon was preached by the Rev. Canon Strange, Vicar of Edgbaston, an Old Abingdonian and son of Dr. Strange, fomerly Headmaster of the School. Canon Strange occupied the pulpit in the unavoidable absence of the new Bishop of Oxford, whose presence we had formerly expected. The Canon's text was I. Cor. XII. 7.

After the Service, the visitors assembled in a large marquee erected in the School grounds, under which the ceremony of Laying the Stone was to take place. As they entered, copies were distributed of the Service for the Laying of the Stone, of the List of Scholarships won at the Universities, and of the Examiners' Reports. These last were on the whole very satisfactory. Mr. T. W. Allen, M.A., Fellow and Lecturer of Queen's College, Oxford, examined the School in Classics, and gave a most encouraging and helpful report; while Mr. A. E. Jolliffe, M.A., Fellow and Lecturer of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, who examined in Mathematics, expressed himself well-pleased with the progress made since last year.

As soon as all the visitors had arrived, a procession started for the marquee from the School, consisting of the Corporation in their robes, walking according to seniority of election, beginning with the junior Councillors and ending with the Aldermen, and preceded by the Junior Sergeant at Mace. Next came the Deputy Mayor, the Town Clerk, and the Vicar of Abingdon, and

following them the Mayor of Abingdon (J. T. Morland, Esq.), who was preceded by the senior Sergeant at Mace. After these came the Governors of the School, Canon Strange and other distinguished visitors, and finally the Rt. Hon. Viscount Dillon with the Headmaster.

The latter, in his opening speech, mentioned the numerous Academical and other honours won during the year by Past and Present Boys of the School. Viscount Dillon then distributed the Prizes, which were awarded as follows:—

FORM PRIZES.—Upper VI., Prize for Classics (given by the Recorder of Abingdon) O. J. Couldrey; Divinity (given by the Vicar of Abingdon) H. Hughes; Lower VI. (given by the Mayor of Abingdon) J. C. Richards; V. (given by Sir W. Anson) P. H. Donkin; Shell (given by Sir W. Anson) J. R. Hewer; IV. (given by Bishop Mitchinson) G. F. Neligan; III. (given by Bishop Mitchinson) N. Duncan; Commercials I. and II. (given by the Deputy Mayor) H. W. Barnett and J. S. James; Juniors I. and II. (given by Mrs. Layng) W. A. Gibbings and H. R. Burge.

MATHEMATICS.—Upper VI., (given by Mr. Herbert Young) H. F. Shepherd; Div. II., E. R. George; Div. III., E. F. Clark; Div. IV., C. H. Langford; Div. V., J. S. James; Div. VI., B. A. Harris; Div. VII., D. L. King.

GREEK.—(Prizes given by the Vicegerent of Pembroke) Div. II., T. F. Bowman; Div. III., P. H. Donkin; Div. IV., J. C. Richards.

GERMAN.—Sen. Div., J. C. Richards; Jun., H. A. Payne.

FRENCH.—Sen. Div., H. F. Shepherd; Div. B., A. B. West; Div. C., L. C. Davis; Div. D., F. H. Edey; Div. E., I. T. Pritchard; Div. F., J. S. James; Div. G., T. M. Layng.

SCIENCE.—Sen. Div., R. N. Turnbull, 1st.; E. F. Clark, 2nd.; Div. II., J. W. Duncan; Div. III., F. H. Edey.

MEREDITH COMPOSITION.—O. J. Couldrey.

DRAWING.—T. G. Lewington.

SOLO SINGING.—Alderman Shepherd's Prize, T. G. Lewington.

PIANOFORTE PLAYING.—Rev. T. T. Blockley's Prize, N. Duncan.

EXTRA PRIZE FOR GENERAL PROFICIENCY.—H. A. Leonard.

The BAT for the best Cricket average was won by P. L. Deacon. The BALL for the best Bowling analysis by T. F. Bowman, and Mr. Richardson's Prize for the best SWIMMER who has learnt this year by I. E. Griffin.

Other Prize Donors, not mentioned above, are the Headmaster, Alderman Harris, Mr. E. H. Bartlett, and the Assistant Masters.

Viscount Dillon, in a speech which deserved our earnest attention, referred to several famous Old Abingdonians, and said he was convinced that like success would attend the School in time to come. He also expressed a hope that a Volunteer Corps would be one of the additions of the near future.

Then followed the Laying of the Foundation Stone. This ceremony was accompanied by a special Service, conducted by the Headmaster, beginning with the hymn, "O GOD, our help in ages past." The Lord's Prayer was then said, followed by two collects which the Headmaster had composed for the occasion. The Mayor then laid the Stone with a silver trowel, declaring it to be "well and truly laid, in the Name of the Holy Trinity, to Whom this School was originally founded by John Roysse." Then followed a special hymn written by Mr. Ross-Barker and set to music by Mr. Young, and, after another collect, the short Service concluded with the Blessing.

The inscription on the Stone, written by the Vicegerent of Pembroke, is as follows:—

CVM PIA MEMORIA
IOANNIS ROYSSE
HVIVSCE SCHOLAE FVNDATORIS
HOC SAXVM POSVIT
IOANNES THORNHILL MORLAND, M.A., I.P.,
ABENDONENSIS OPPIDI PRAEFECTUS
III. KAL. SEXT. ANNO SALVTIS
MDCCCCI.

After the ceremony the Headmaster and Mrs. Layng entertained their guests, of whom upwards of 400 were present, to tea and refreshments beneath the trees beside the School playground, the string band of the 2nd Oxfordshire Light Infantry being in attendance.

OLD ABINGDONIAN CLUB. ANNUAL DINNER.

This gathering was held in connection with the celebration of Founder's Day on Tuesday, July 30th, and was marked by a new departure. Hitherto, when occurring at Abingdon, the dinner has taken place at one of the hotels; this year, however, it was decided to utilize the Council Chamber. It is a room eminently adapted to the purpose, and its use assisted considerably towards a very enjoyable evening, the dinner being voted the most successful of the series.

As this year is a somewhat important one in the history of the School, it was expected that a larger number than usual would attend the dinner; nor was the hope a false one, for when the President of the Club, B. Challenor, Esq., took the chair there were about forty present, including the Headmaster, the Rev. H. T. Maitland, Vicar of Abingdon, J. T. Morland, Esq., Mayor of Abingdon, the Rev. Canon Strange, Messrs. E. H. Bartlett, Herbert Young, E. L. Shepherd and A. H. Simpson.

After the "Loyal Toast" had been duly honoured, the President called upon the company to drink "Success to the School," to which the Headmaster suitably responded, alluding to the fact that since the last dinner the new building scheme had been started well on its way. Canon Strange, in a few well-chosen remarks, then introduced the toast of "The Governors"; and the Mayor who is also Vice-Chairman of the governing body, replied. Mr. Morland, continuing, proposed the health of "The President of the Club," which was cordially received, Mr. Challenor's acknowledgment bringing the official speech-making to an end. The party did not break up, however, until some time later.

The arrangements were carried out by a dinner committee consisting of H. S. Challenor, F. J. Morland, F. O. Townsend and the Hon. Secretary.

EXAMINATIONS.

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE BOARD:
HIGHER CERTIFICATE.

Passed { H. F. Shepherd. / A. O. C. Pryce. / H. Hughes.

OXFORD SENIOR LOCALS.

Passed { J. C. Richards, with 3rd Class Honours. / T. F. Bowman, with an exemption from Responsions. / C. B. Good. / F. L. England.

Oxford Junior Locals.

H. W. Barnett passed with 2nd Class Honours.

The following also passed :—

A. A. Brown.	P. C. Miller.
E. F. Clark.	A. B. West.
L. C. Davies.	J. R. Hewer.
J. W. Duncan.	E. A. R. Nicholl.
E. R. George	G. S. Saxby.
P. R. Hatton.	

ROMAN BRITAIN.

A striking instance of the sound work carried out by the Romans is to be found in their roads. Stretching from end to end of the country, these have remained as the main arteries of our system up to the present day, and in many cases the actual Roman foundations underlie the modern macadamized highways.

A short description of one of these will serve as an illustration of all, for, as in other instances, a common model seems to have been followed throughout the whole Empire. The Fosse-way, which we will thus describe, is particularly serviceable for our purpose, since the whole of its length is to this day open as a right-of-way, while many miles are in use as main roads in different counties. Beginning at Lincoln, it runs through Newark to Leicester, thence straight across the Midland Counties to Cirencester and Bath; then through Somersetshire to the old county town (now a mere village) of Ilchester, and continues for a few miles to Petherton Bridge, at which point it ceases. The most generally accepted theory of the reason for this sudden termination is that the Romans probably utilized the general line of a Celtic trackway, and that from this point the latter was left undisturbed, the Roman roadway never having been completed. But the existing portion is typical. Straight forward it runs, without angles or bends, making for its point with an unflinching directness which has been said to be emblematic of the national character of its designers. No matter how steep the ascent, nor how difficult the subsoil, still the line was preserved, even when a slight deviation would have enormously lessened the gradient or a more propitious foundation have been secured. There is one, and we believe only one, exception to this rule in this country. The road from London to Bath makes straight for Silbury Hill, in Wiltshire, and then curves round its base; and this curious exception is of great value, witnessing to the immense veneration in which Silbury and its neighbouring Druidical settlement must have been held, sceptical as were the Romans at that date concerning even their own religion and its gods.

These roads were constructed with extraordinary skill and care, and sections which have been opened in numerous parts of the country show the same general plan in every case, the only difference being due to local variations of material. After removing the loose earth on the surface, a solid foundation was secured in accordance with the natural conditions on the spot. Then two or three courses of flat stones were laid

down, usually in mortar; then followed a layer of coarse rubble concrete and on this one of a finer concrete. Finally a smooth surface of exactly fitted paving stones formed the surface over which the traffic passed. The paved portion of the road was about sixteen feet wide, had a more or less convex surface, varying according to the local conditions, and was divided from unpaved side-walks by raised stone causeways. Milestones were probably planted throughout the length of the roads, and from the few which have survived it is evident that these were enriched with carvings and inscriptions. When these feats of engineering skill are compared with the too often miserably inadequate surfaces of to-day, we are tempted to exclaim that the cast-iron system of uniformity which appears in so much of the Roman work might well be imitated by us, provided that we, too, had such powerfully practical minds for initiation and direction at the central starting-point.

W.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "ABINGDONIAN."

DEAR SIR,

I have read with interest in the April No. of the "Abingdonian" a communication by "W" on the Roman Wall, and while entirely agreeing with the writer in the nature and extent of the lines of fortifications included under this title, I wish to point out that the authorship of their construction has been much disputed, and although the balance of opinion is in favour of the view that the wall was begun about A.D. 119, in which year Hadrian arrived in Britain, and that it was completed after his departure, probably in about two years by Aulus Nepos, legate and pro-praetor, yet there are others who attribute the earthwork or "vallum" to Julius Agricola and Hadrian, and the stone wall wholly to Severus, and some again who affirm that the latter did not build, but merely repaired it. The "mortar" of which "W" speaks should hardly I think, bear that name, since the core of the wall consists of excessively hard concrete, poured in in a liquid state. The "fortified camps" or stations, (*castra stativa*) according to the "*Notitia Dignitatum et Administrationum, &c.,*" a sort of Roman Army list of the 5th century, appear to have been 23 in number, and the ancient sites and designations of 12 of the chief of these having been accurately ascertained, it may be useful to mention them and also to state the parishes or localities in which they stand, beginning at the mouth of the Tyne, and going westwards:—1. *Segedunum* (Wallsend); 2. *Pons Ælii* (Newcastle-on-Tyne); 3. *Condercum* (Benwell); 4. *Vindobala* (Rudchester, near Wylam-on-Tyne); 5. *Hunnum* (Halton Chesters, near Corbridge); 6. *Cilurnum* (Chesters, near Hexham); 7. *Procolitia* (Carraburgh, near Hexham); 8. *Borcovicus* (Housesteads, in Thorngrafton, Haltwhistle); 9. *Vindolana* (Chesterholm, at Wall Town, Haltwhistle); 10. *Æsica* (Great Chesters, also at Wall Town); 11. *Magna* (Carvoran, at Thirlwall, Haltwhistle); and 12. *Amboglanna* (Birdoswald). This last is in Cumberland, but the remaining 6 stations up to Bowness, which is assumed to have been the site of *Tunnocelum*, have not as yet been determined with any certainty. I may also add that during recent years the wall and its locality have been carefully excavated and examined at various points under the auspices of the Northumbrian Excavation Committee and the Cumb. and Westm. Antiq. Soc. by several local archæologists. In 1895 an examination of the northern ditch and vallum to the west of *Amboglanna* resulted in the very remarkable discovery of a *murus caespiticius* or wall of turves or sods, laid with the green sides downwards, and proof was also obtained that the "Maiden Way," which intersected the wall at the 12th station, was "indubitably a Roman work." In 1896 remains of apartments near the East gateway of *Cilirnum* were examined, and in 1897 extensive excavations carried on outside and to the south of *Æsica* disclosed an almost complete set of Baths, in length, so far as explored, about 90 feet. In 1899, the work was continued at *Borcovicus*, with interesting results, and is still in progress.

I am,

Faithfully yours,

WM. H. RICHARDSON.

FOOTBALL.

A.S.F.C. *v.* Abingdon Town. This match took place on the Town ground on September 28th, with the result that the School was beaten by 6-0. The match, usually one of the hardest on the School card, was really too early in the term to allow the School to have yet attained that degree of combination, without which they cannot hope to stand up to a team that is so much superior in weight. With only four old colours playing the School was hopelessly outclassed, and the match was very uninteresting save for a few rare dashes by Deacon, who twice had hard luck in not scoring. The Town goals were scored by Randall (2), Lay, Faulkner, Clarke and Dix. The School team was:—Goal, J. H. E. Morland, Esq.; Backs, S. Ingrams, Esq. and R. W. Sells; Halves, H. A. Payne, H. F. Shepherd and H. E. Armstrong, Esq.; Forwards, E. J. P. Ross-Barker, Esq., L. S. Mathias, T. F. Bowman, W. N. Hobbs and G. S. Deacon.

A.S.F.C. *v.* Magdalen College School. Played at Oxford on October 12th. A very close and enjoyable game, which resulted in a win for Magdalen by 3-2. The School experienced very hard luck in not scoring during the first half, at the end of which Magdalen was leading by 3-0. After the interval Deacon considerably improved the forward line by moving himself from outside left to the centre. In the second half the character of the game entirely changed, and a perfect bombardment of the Magdalen goal ensued. However, although Deacon scored twice, the School failed to obtain the equalizing point before the whistle blew, though strenuous efforts were made to do so. The School team was as follows:—Goal, H. S. Mathias; Backs, A. O. C. Pryce and R. W. Sells; Halves, C. B. Montgomery, A. W. L. Graham, C. S. Louth; Forwards, G. S. Deacon, W. N. Hobbs, L. S. Mathias, T. F. Bowman and E. F. Daw.

A.S.F.C. *v.* Queen's College, Oxford. Queen's brought a strong team to Abingdon on October 19th, and won an exciting game by 6-4. Considerable changes had been made in the School forward line with very beneficial results. Queen's quickly notched a goal, but the School quickly retorted with two in rapid succession. At half-time the score stood at 3-2 in favour of Queen's. On resuming play Queen's scored a fourth and though the School played hard the game eventually ended in favour of the visitors. The School goals were scored by Mr. Ingrams (2), Mr. Ross-Barker and Miller. The following is the School team:—Goal, J. H. E. Morland, Esq.; Backs, A. O. C. Pryce and R. W. Sells; Halves, C. P. B. Montgomery, E. J. P. Ross-Barker, Esq. and H. E. Armstrong, Esq.; Forwards, G. S. Deacon, P. C. Miller, S. Ingrams, Esq., T. F. Bowman and L. S. Mathias.

A.S.F.C. *v.* Leighton Park School. On Wednesday, October 23rd, the School journeyed to Leighton to find a very heavy team awaiting them. From the beginning the School was entirely outclassed, and practically never had a look in. At half-time the score stood at 2-0

in favour of Leighton, the second goal being from a splendid shot by the centre-half. In the second half the School went entirely to pieces and Leighton won a very one-sided game by 6-0. The School team was as follows:—Goal, V. Bayley; Backs, A. O. C. Pryce and R. W. Sells; Halves, C. P. B. Montgomery, J. W. Duncan and A. W. L. Graham; Forwards, W. N. Hobbs, P. C. Miller, G. S. Deacon, T. F. Bowman and L. S. Mathias.

The second eleven, up to the present, have played one match only. This took place on the School ground, on October 2nd, our opponents being Oxford High School. At first play was fairly even, but towards the end the home team had most of the play and eventually won by six goals to one. The goals were scored by Hobbs (4), Miller and England. Team:—Goal, A. A. Brown; Backs, F. C. B. Keitley, R. G. Rice; Halves, C. S. Louth, A. W. L. Graham, C. P. B. Montgomery; Forwards, F. H. Edey, F. L. England, P. C. Miller, W. N. Hobbs, J. W. Duncan.

FOOTBALL MATCHES.

FIRST XI.

DATE	OPPONENTS.	GROUND.
Sept. 28	Abingdon Town ..	Away
Oct. 12	Magdalen College School ..	Away
,, 19	Queen's College, Oxford ..	Home
,, 23	Leighton Park School ..	Away
Nov. 6	Wallingford ..	Home
,, 9	All Saints' School, Bloxham	Home
,, 13	Mansfield College, Oxford ..	Away
,, 16	St. Catherine's, Oxford ..	Home
,, 18	S. W. Brown's Keble Col. XI.	Home
,, 20	Leighton Park School ..	Home
,, 27	Mansfield College, Oxford ..	Home
,, 30	Pembroke College, Oxford ..	Home
Dec. 4	Wallingford ..	Away
,, 7	Magdalen College School ..	Home
,, 11	Abingdon Town ..	Home
,, 14	All Saints' School, Bloxham	Away
,, 18	Old Abingdonians ..	Home

SECOND XI.

Oct. 2	Oxford High School ..	Home
Nov. 9	All Saints' School, Bloxham	Away
,, 27	Oxford High School ..	Away
Dec. 7	Magdalen College School ..	Away
,, 14	All Saints' School, Bloxham	Home

THIRD XI.

Nov. 13	Christ Church School ..	Home
,, 30	Christ Church School ..	Away

OLD BOYS' BOAT COMMITTEE.

List of Donors to the New Boat Fund, Midsummer, 1901.

* Abbott, Rev. W. M.
Amicus
* Badcock, B., L.R.C.P.
§ Birch, W. Clarkson, Esq., Colet Court, S.W.
* Challenor, Bromley, sen.
* Challenor, Bromley, jun.
* Challenor, Wm.
* Clayton, P. J.
* Collins, Rev. J. Ferdinando
* Dowson, H. M.
* Drayton, H. U.
* Goddard, Rev. Wm. Ward
* Griffin, Col. Robert Durie
* Griffith, Jno., F.R.C.S.
Grose, Rev. T. H., Queen's Coll., Oxon
* Haslewood, Rev. Dr. F. G.
* Hayward, Ven. H. G.
* Hyde, Thos.
† Layng, Rev. Thos., School House
* Lysaght, F. Percy
* Morland, A. W.
Morrell, G. H. Esq., M.P.
* Portal, W. R.
* Pryce, F. H.
* Reeves, J. B.
* Richardson, Wll. H.
* Richardson, Walter W.
* Robinson, F. J.
* Robinson, W. E., M.R.C.S.
* Rowland, Rev. W. C.
§ Roylands-Smith, T., Esq.
* Sells, Archie J.
* Shepherd, E. F.
* Strange, Lawrence W.
† Summers, Rev. Edgar
* Talbot, Ralph
* Taylor, Wellington
* Thorn, A. R.
* Thorn, F. E.
* Thorn, P. A. N.
* Tomkins, Rev. H. G.
* Tomkins, Jno. sen.
* Townsend, F. O.
* Townsend, Jas., Honiton School
* Veysey, J. Waldegrave
* Wadham, Hugh D.
Wilson, Bernard, Esq., Sedbergh School
§ Wilson, W. M., Esq., Hanley School

* Old Abingdonians.
† Head Masters.
§ Former Assistant Masters.

Wll. H. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

SCHOOL NOTES.

The following sad announcement of the death of an O.A. we copy from the St. James' Gazette of August 30th :—

Mr. John Griffith, F.R.C.S., of Harley Street, a young surgeon, but one who had already made a name in ophthalmic surgery, has died at Acton, at the early age of thirty-five. Mr. Griffith had contributed a large number of papers to the Ophthalmic Society's "Transactions," the "Ophthalmic Review," and the "Medical Times."

The School has also lost a kind friend in the person of Alderman Townsend, who died on October 15th at the age of 77. He was a member of the Governing Body during his four years of Mayoralty, and always entered into the interests of the School with the fullest sympathy and generosity.

The Rev. R. W. de la Hey has been appointed Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop of Newcastle and Vice-Principal of the Bishop's Hostel at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The Rev. H. C. Orpwood sailed in August on board the Aurania to take up his duties in South Africa as Chaplain to His Majesty's Forces at the Front.

Mr. W. S. Airy, who has been since he left us a master at Denstone College, was lately ordained deacon by the Bishop of Lichfield.

We congratulate W. Cottrell on his Second Class in the first year examination at Durham University, and upon gaining an additional Exhibition of £30 a year.

O. J. Couldrey and C. B. Good have gone to Oxford, to Pembroke College and Brasenose College respectively. P. L. Deacon has gone to Jesus College, Cambridge. W. M. Austin is at Lichfield Theological College, and R. N. Turnbull at Owen's College, Manchester.

We are glad to note that P. L. Deacon was playing outside-right in the Cambridge Freshmen's Match, and also in the Varsity Trial Match on October 22nd.

We have to thank the Rev. F. K. Clarke, O.A. (1846-1850) for the gift to the Library of a copy of an old school-book, published in 1622 for the use of Abingdon School.

Under the will of the late Capt. G. E. A. Ross, the British Museum has recently acquired some Bibles possessing interesting personal associations. One of these belonged to Dr. Samuel Johnson, to whom it was given by the Rev. George Strahan (O.A.), an account of whom and of his intimate friendship with Dr. Johnson is continued through several numbers of Vol. II of the "Abingdonian."

We have much pleasure in stating that C. R. Powell, who at the end of last term was so dangerously ill in South Africa, is now well on the way to recovery.

The Bishop of Oxford will hold a Confirmation in St. Helen's Church on Sunday, Dec. 1st.

The new Board of Secondary Education is to inspect the School on Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 11th and 12th.

The County Council of Berkshire have nominated Mr. A. K. Loyd, K.C., M.P. and Mr. A. F. Blandy as their representatives on the Governing Body of the School.

Mr. H. G. Belcher, M.A., of Exeter College, Oxford, and late Classical Master at the Oxford High School, is taking temporary work here in the afternoons throughout the rest of this term.

A Concert will be given in the School-room at the end of the term, at which Sterndale Bennett's "May Queen" will be rendered by the School Choir and an Orchestra under the guidance of Mr. Young.

The Headmaster has arranged for the boys in the upper forms to attend a course of University Extension Lectures on the British Navy. These are being delivered on alternate Monday evenings in the Town Hall by Mr. W. K. Stride, of Oxford.

Mr. Wood is again holding dancing classes this term for boys in the School.

At a Masters' Meeting held on Oct. 8th G. S. Deacon and F. L. England were elected School Prefects.

The "Abingdonian" Committee this term is as follows:—Mr. Ross-Barker, (Chairman), A. O. C. Pryce, (Secretary), H. F. Shepherd, H. Hughes, F. L. England, T. F. Bowman, and C. P. B. Montgomery.

G. S. Deacon has been elected Football Captain and H. Hughes Captain of the Boats.

A half-holiday has been granted this term in honour of Cottrell's success at Durham.

The "Form Pairs" (pair-oared races between the different forms) were won last term by the Lower VIth, their representatives being C. B. Good (bow), T. F. Bowman (stroke), J. W. Duncan being the cox.

Among minor improvements to the School precincts is the substitution of a new and well-made gravel path, close under the southern wall of the Headmaster's garden, for the old mud-walk leading into the Park Road from the western end of the Cricket-field.

The half-term exeat is fixed for Nov. 2nd. Term ends on Dec. 19th.

The following boys have joined the School this term:—School House, A. F. C. Davey, W. N. Hobbs, R. Louth, H. S. Mathias, L. S. Mathias, R. B. Slade; Tesdale House:—L. A. Cazalet; Day Boys:—T. Aldworth, H. Meredith, R. R. Parker.

The following have left:—Upper VI., A. M. Austin, O. J. Couldrey, P. L. Deacon; Lower VI., C. B. Good; Fifth, W. E. Jarman, R. N. Turnbull; Shell, B. Abbott, J. R. Hewer, G. S. Saxby; Fourth, I. T. Pritchard; Third, B. A. Harris; Commercial I., P. E. Mobbs; Commercial II., A. R. Betteridge, C. F. Lay; Juniors, D. O. Harris.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the Bloxhamist and the Leightonian.

ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS FUND.

SEVENTH SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged ..	3,355	13	4
The Recorder of Abingdon	3	3	0
Mrs. Aubertin	2	2	0
*Mr. R. Badcock	2	2	0
Mr. J. Chivers	2	2	0
*Mr. C. H. Payne (India)	2	2	0
Mr. J. Hooke, sen.	1	1	0
Mr. W. H. Trafford	1	1	0
*Mr. W. C. S. Trafford	1	1	0
Mr. J. C. Richards	1	0	0
	£3,371	7	4

**Old Abingdonians.*

Subscriptions towards the above Fund should be sent to the Rev. T. Layng, M.A., at the School, Abingdon, who will duly acknowledge the same.

ABINGDONIAN BALANCE SHEET.

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