

Misericordias
Domini



in aeternum
cantabo.

THE ABINGDONIAN.

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EDITORIAL.

WE have been accused of having inflicted upon our readers in our last number the longest Editorial on record. A brief examination of our archives proves the accusation to be false: nevertheless we have no intention of laying ourselves open again to so grievous a charge.

The chief innovation to record this term is that of Field Days; when our budding generals go forth to Abingdon common, hide in ditches and behind

cover, capture one another or are slain in the attempt; and return somewhat bedraggled but none the worse.

These and the Football Sixes and the Athletic Sports are fully described in other columns and call for no comment here.

We should be very glad to receive some literary contributions for the Abingdonian from present members of the school. We do not pledge ourselves to publish all such, but we would at least give them a very favourable consideration. As it is we have to rely almost entirely upon Old Boys for anything beyond mere school records. We are very grateful to those Old Boys and others who have sent us articles for this number; both to those whose articles appear herein, and to one whose poem we fear would be of too abstruse and metaphysical a nature to be suitable for our pages.

We take this opportunity to repeat that back numbers are on sale for half the published price; and copies of the Index to Vol. III. for 6d. No one has yet applied for a copy of Vol. III. complete, bound in the school colours: perhaps some will be induced to do so on learning that we find we can offer it for the sum of 12s. 3d. instead of 12s. 6d. as stated in our last.

CONCERT.

The School Concert was held in the Gymnasium, on December 19th. It proved once more a great success and the attendance was perhaps even greater than usual. Thanks to the kindness and indefatigable energy of our good friends in the town, the orchestral music was again of a high standard: nor must we forget our debt of gratitude to Miss Hughes for her invaluable services at the piano.

Perhaps the most interesting of the orchestral items was German's "Gipsy Suite," which was very tastefully rendered. The "Bohemian Girl" and the "Mikado" are such old friends to most of us, that selections from them will always evoke happy memories, but at the same time we venture to hope in all humility that next year they will offer us something fresher and more worthy of their ability.

Though Dickinson is beginning to loose the voice that charmed us all a year ago, the choir as a whole is much stronger, and contains in it many who are capable and worthy to succeed him. We would single out Haywood and

Hobday in particular, as being distinctly above the average. The part song in the first half of the programme, Elgar's "Snow," was particularly well rendered, and it is with regret that we notice the indifference accorded by the public in recent years to a form of music that has so many charms all its own.

This year we had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Martell in a fresh light. His song, "When the Gorse is out of Bloom," rendered by Dickinson, is distinctly pretty and worthy of being more generally known. Of the songs he sang, "Glorious Devon" was perhaps the popular favourite, though judgment is difficult where all alike were good.

Of the piano solos it is hard to speak in terms of too great praise. Duncan's rendering of Mendelssohn's very difficult "Rondo Capriccioso" was really wonderful for a boy still at School. We shall miss him much next year. Andrews too, though perhaps not yet so sympathetic, showed considerable powers of execution in a good rendering of Chopin's Valses in A and D flat. The Concert as a whole reflected great credit on the energy and industry of all concerned, and we hope will be followed by an even greater success next year.

The full programme is appended:—

PROGRAMME.

PART I.

1. Overture "The Bohemian Girl" *Balfe.*
The Orchestra.
2. Part Song "The Twilight Star" *Rarnby*
The Choir.
3. Song "The Yeomen of England" *German.*
R. Haywood (and Chorus).
4. Piano Solo { (a) "Valse in A flat" *Chopin.*
{ (b) "Valse in D flat"
P. E. Andrews.

5. Song "When the Gorse is out of Bloom"
E. C. Dickinson. [Martell.
6. Part Song "The Snow"
The Choir. Elgar.
7. Song "Glorious Devon"
E. A. Martell. German.
8. "The Gipsy Suite"
(a) Valse Melancolique.
(b) Minuetto.
(c) Allegro di Bravura.
THE ORCHESTRA.

- PART II.
1. Part Song "The Gardener"
The Choir. Brahms.
2. Piano Solo "Rondo Capriccioso op. 14"
N. Duncan. [Mendelssohn.
3. Duet "My true love hath my heart"
Trebles of the Choir. Marzials.
4. Song { (a) "To Phyllida"
(b) "Spithead"
E. A. Martell. T. del Riego. Martell.
5. Part Song "Breath of the Western Wind"
The Choir. Barnby.
6. Song "Ralph's Ramble to London"
E. C. Dickinson (Arr. Lane Wilson) Old English.
7. Selection "The Mikado"
The Orchestra. Sullivan.

God Save the King.

The Orchestra consisted of:—

1ST VIOLINS:—Mrs. Fairthorne, Mrs. Couldrey,
Mrs. Humfrey.
2ND VIOLINS:—Miss Powell, Miss E. Hughes,
C. O. Wright, S. Cullen, P. E.
Mobbs, J. McG. Mitchell.
VIOLAS:—Alderman Shepherd.
'CELLO:—Miss E. Dixon, Miss A. Hussey-Freke,
Miss Payne.
BASS:—Miss Layng.
CLARINET:—E. J. G. Hartley.
CORNET:—F. Tombs.
TROMBONE:—E. Stopps.
DRUM & CYMBALS:—J. H. Habgood,
W. R. Mortleman.
PIANO:—Miss M. Hughes.

CONDUCTOR:—E. A. Martell.

FOOTBALL.

A.S.F.C. v. DORCHESTER COLLEGE.

This match was played on the School ground on Wednesday, December 12th. We won the toss, and played into the Lodge goal first. The game was fast throughout, but neither side had scored by half-time.

On re-commencing, Dorchester went off with a rush, and very nearly scored. Parker saved some good shots from Edmunds. About ten minutes from the end, Rice got the ball at half-way, and passed out to Smith. Smith ran right along the line and sent in a very hard shot which beat the Dorchester goal-keeper. The School thus won a rough game by one goal to nil. Had W. Leach been playing centre forward for the School, the score would have probably been greater. School team:—F. E. Parker (goal); H. L. Neligan and C. J. Butler (backs); W. J. Read, N. Duncan and R. B. Leach ii. (halves); F. D. Smith, E. H. Harvey, G. C. Rice, L. W. Holland and W. R. Mortleman (forwards).

PAST v. PRESENT. This annual match was played in the School ground on December 20th. The Old Boys were not so strongly represented as usual but the School had a full team out. Both goals had narrow escapes in the first five minutes, the School taking some time to settle down. About half-way through the first half Smith ran down the wing and Harvey scored from his pass. At the other end N. B. Challenor nearly scored for the Old Boys. This was all the

scoring before half-time. Soon after Holland scored a simple goal. The play now was very fast and N. B. Challenor scored for the Old Boys. Leach then made a clever run and scored another for the School, whilst Mortleman sent in a very hot shot that was only just saved. The Old Boys played up hard towards the finish and Edey scored a second goal for them, the final score being: School, three; Old Boys, two.

Duncan played a splendid game at centre-half for the School, his great pace often saving his side. Leach ii. and Neligan also played very well and all the forwards were good. It was a fast game throughout and the School thoroughly deserved their fine win.

PAST. G. S. Saxby (goal); E. F. Berry and H. E. Mallam (backs); E. J. T. Phillips, T. F. Bowman and H. Winship (halves); B. Challenor, W. N. Hobbs, N. B. Challenor, F. H. Edey and A. S. B. Payne (forwards).

PRESENT. F. E. Parker (goal); H. L. Neligan and C. J. Butler (backs); R. B. Leach ii., N. Duncan (Capt.) and W. J. Read (halves); F. D. Smith, E. H. Harvey, W. Leach, L. W. Holland and W. R. Mortleman (forwards).

Referee :—H. H. Gibson, Esq.

A.S.F.C. 2nd XI. v. MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL 2nd XI. This match was played on the School ground which was in very bad condition, on Saturday, December 15th. Soon after the start Habgood opened the scoring for us with a good shot. Both sides were considerably handicap-

ped owing to the state of the ground. Accordingly there was more sitting down than standing up. Rice scored a goal just before half-time, so we led then by 2 goals to 0. Two more goals were added in the second half both by Edgington. The feature of the game was the fine goalkeeping of Johnston. He played very well throughout, and displayed the utmost coolness when charged. School team: T. Johnston (goal); E. G. Cutter and F. W. Holmden (backs); L. G. Drewe, J. C. Enoch and R. J. Goodman (halves); C. C. Painter, H. G. Aldworth, G. C. Rice, J. H. Habgood and C. W. Edgington (forwards).

THE SIXES.

The 'Sixes' were started in the last week of January. On the whole, they were more successful than in previous years, as the competition was much keener. In the Senior Sixes, Duncan, W. Leach and Harvey tied for first place. Harvey beat Duncan by 2 goals to 1, after extra time had been played, but Leach beat Harvey in the final by 3 goals to 1.

The Senior Sixes were as follows:—

N. Duncan (Capt.), E. G. Cutter, T. Johnston, G. C. Rice, H. A. N. Medd and J. McG. Mitchell.

C. J. Butler (Capt.), W. J. Read, F. Read, O. B. Challenor, E. H. King and C. C. Painter.

H. L. Neligan (Capt.), J. C. Enoch, J. H. Habgood, R. M. Cory, K. L. Stevens and A. L. Edwards.

W. Leach (Capt.), L. W. Holland, F. W. Holmden, R. B. Leach iii., F. B. Graham and G. A. Willis.

E. H. Harvey (Capt.), L. G. Drewe, E. B. W. Chappelow, H. G. Aldworth, D. M. Johnston and F. B. Parker.

W. R. Mortleman (Capt.), F. E. Parker, R. B. Leach ii., C. W. Edgington, E. V. Dyke and H. A. Mills.

The competition in the Junior Sixes was very keen. Chanter was first with 10 points; Greatbatch was next with 9, while Faulkner got 8. The first three Sixes were very much stronger than the rest.

The Junior Sixes were as follows:—

J. E. E. R. Chanter (Capt.), E. F. Harvey, E. C. Dickinson, W. H. Enoch, C. E. Perrin and P. W. East.

R. E. Greatbatch (Capt.), S. Leach, R. Haywood, F. W. Lupton, N. L. Ball and W. J. Cantell.

B. L. Kaye (Capt.), H. T. Habgood, A. E. Trinder, A. G. Ellison, F. E. Spokes and C. W. E. Hoare.

L. W. Kaye (Capt.), A. W. Collingbourne, N. J. Faulkner, F. H. Abbott, A. Fawdry and A. G. Shepherd.

H. M. Taylor (Capt.), G. F. S. Mann, J. G. Shepherd, H. R. Hobday, W. J. Lightfoot and E. H. Mann.

F. W. Faulkner (Capt.), L. O. Burge, E. G. Tame, H. W. B. Burkett, C. M. Nowill and O. E. Cullen.

F. A. Bennett (Capt.), J. H. Wakefield, H. A. L. Donkin, W. R. Gilbert, W. N. Hooke and K. V. King.

List of Matches and their results.

DATE.	OPPONENTS.	GROUND	GOALS.	
			F	A
W Sep. 26	Dorchester College	.. Away	2	2
S Oct. 6	Bloxham School	.. Home	3	0
W „ 10	Wallingford	.. Home	0	5
S „ 13	Leighton Park School	.. Away	0	1
W „ 17	Oxford High School	.. Home	1	5
S „ 20	Pembroke College, Oxford	Home	5	4
W „ 24	Exeter College, Oxford	.. Home	5	1
S „ 27	Oxford High School	.. Away	3	3
W „ 31	Mansfield College, Oxford	Away	2	5
W Nov 14	Leighton Park School	.. Home	2	0
S „ 17	Bloxham School	.. Away	2	2
W „ 21	N. B. Challenor's XI	.. Home	—	—
W „ 28	Mansfield College, Oxford	Home	4	1
M Dec 3	Magdalen College School	Home	5	3
W „ 5	Wallingford	.. Away	1	5
W „ 12	Dorchester College	.. Home	1	0
S „ 15	Magdalen College School	Away	—	—
Th „ 20	Old Abingdonians	.. Home	3	2
			30	39

2nd XI.

S Oct. 6	Bloxham School 2nd XI.	Away	3	2
S „ 13	Leighton Pk. Sch. 2nd XI	Home	5	0
S „ 27	Oxford High Schl. 2nd XI	Home	7	1
W Nov. 14	Leighton Pk. Sch. 2nd XI	Away	2	2
S „ 17	Bloxham School 2nd XI	Home	3	2
W „ 21	New College School ..	Away	3	3
M Dec 3	Magdalen Coll. School 2nd XI.	Away	3	1
S „ 8	Oxford High Sch. 2nd XI	Away	3	1
S „ 15	Magdalen Coll. School 2nd XI	Home	4	0
			33	12

3rd XI.

S Oct. 13	Christ Church Choir Schl.	Away	2	2
S Nov. 24	Christ Church Choir Schl.	Home	9	1
			11	3

SHOOTING.

We have this term gone through the Trained Volunteers' course, upon targets reduced to scale, with very good results. We have eight marksmen out of about sixty who have been exercised, and only three third-class shots. The Junior forms have done very well: the Fourth has supplied one boy who has justified his inclusion in the School eight with

good scores in matches. Of these we have had three, and as we go to press we hear that another has been arranged with the Wootton Rifle Club. The scores were as follows :

SCHOOL v. MASTERS.

SCHOOL.			
R. J. Weaving	..	34, 35,	32-101
C. J. Butler	..	28, 25,	34-87
M. G. Weaving	..	24, 27,	32-83
J. H. Habgood	..	24, 24,	28-76
H. Meredith	..	30, 16,	28-74
O. B. Cha'lenor	..	26, 24,	17-67
			498

MASTERS.			
H. H. Gibson	..	32, 33,	33-98
S. H. Baker	..	31, 28,	33-92
W. A. Rudd	..	23, 30,	30-83
J. H. E. Morland	..	25, 28,	26-79
W. R. C. Adcock	..	29, 24,	21-74
E. A. Martell	..	21, 28,	23-72
			498

The Masters won by 10 points.

A.S. v. Abingdon R.C. (A team.)

A.S.		A.R.C.	
R. J. Weaving	31	G. Tame	32
M. G. Weaving	29	J. Burridge	30
H. Meredith	27	W. H. Hooke	29
H. T. Habgood	27	A. G. Leach	28
C. J. Butler	24	W. Legge	28
J. H. Habgood	24	J. L. West	26
G. H. G. Shepherd	23	W. Holifield	24
F. W. Holmden	19	F. Wicks	24
204		221	

The Abingdon R.C. won by 17 points.

A.S. v. Trent College, Derbyshire.

A.S.		TRENT.	
R. J. Weaving	35	Goodall i.	31
M. G. Weaving	34	Reynard	31
L. G. Drewe	32	Pilleul i.	30
C. W. Edgington	30	Nicholson	28
H. T. Habgood	30	Page	28
J. H. Habgood	28	Howell	27
E. H. King	28	Maxwell	26
E. V. Dyke	24	Lunn i.	24
241		225	

Abingdon won by 16 points.

In the Form Sixes the following were the scores :

Sixth	..	416
Fifth	..	430
Remove	..	417
Shell	..	298
Fourth	..	311
III. & II.	..	224

The School has now been divided for shooting and drill purposes into four sections, each with its own N.C.Os., and there is to be a competition between sections in drill and shooting. The shooting points will be given upon the class-firing, not upon the performance of a team, so that a section holding the best shots will not win if its "tail" is weak. This has been so arranged to prevent the constant securing of the range by members of teams, to the exclusion of the juniors, as too often happens where the team is the only thing that counts. After all, the juniors of to-day are the boys from whom the school eight will be chosen two or three years hence, so that it is well that they should not be neglected.

Two field-days have been held this term, and have been well attended. The first was merely a small skirmish on the Common, to teach people to take cover, but the second was a far more elaborate affair. The general idea was that an enemy's scouts, represented by the special section, had captured a quantity of stores in Abingdon, and had taken some away to the Butts: the remainder was being carted to Marcham when a party of the Abingdon force, under Colour-Sergeant N. Duncan decided to attack. A neat ruse was to capture the enemy's carts, and exchange men for the stores; but unfortunately one of the defending scouts saw the exchange, and half the men were put out of action. The other half must be remembered. Presently an attack upon the right flank developed, and was repulsed with great

slaughter on both sides: but suddenly an attacking party under Sergeant C. J. Butler appeared in the rear, only fifty yards away, and the Butts had fallen. Then the defending force saw why they ought to have remembered that other half, as Kipling says. The defending force were well posted by Sergeants H. L. Neligan and D. M. Johnston, and the attackers were well led: and both sides showed that they had taken to heart the lessons in taking cover and fire control afforded by the previous field day.

Our best thanks are due to Mr. Martell for so kindly acting as Chief Umpire upon both occasions.

GYMNASTIC DISPLAY.

Considering that the Gymnasium is still a new departure in the school we are amply justified in congratulating Mr. Wright and his well-trained pupils upon the successful display they gave last term on Tuesday, December 18th.

A large assembly was gathered to witness the scene, and punctually as the clock struck twelve the eight members of the first squad entered and following Mr. Wright's lead went through many intricate exercises upon the horizontal bar, the parallel bar, the vaulting horse, and the rings. Though of course all the performers did not attain to the same level of success and skill, yet they all deserve praise for the perseverance and pluck of their attempts.

At the end of the performance Mr. Rudd and Mr. Martell who had been

appointed judges withdrew for a short time to consider their verdict and on re-entering awarded the palm to W. J. Read, an award which had been expected and was fully endorsed by the applause of the spectators.

It is hoped that at the end of next term there will be a display upon a more ambitious scale, and that a medal will be awarded to the most proficient gymnast.

AN ASSYRIOLOGICAL DISCOVERY.

A brick recently unearthed upon the common has been partially deciphered by our Assyrian expert as follows:—

1. Now it came to pass
2. That Cháh-lêh the mighty, the
hurler of thunders
3. The thundering húrdh-lêhr
4. Led out his forces..... to Shúton-
thèk-omâhn
5.and Khríp.. on their
tûhmîhs.....
6. And Pêhli-Khàn also, the chief of
the Grîh-Kâhs
7.Pèhmîh...and Jón-nêh...
8. Said.....dêh-fêhndit.....
9. But Johs-èph the mighty, the
chief of the Uppádâwm
10. Mounted his chariot.....
11.hahphou-tavakh-shêhn
12. And...hadtha-monfeîhn-lêh
13. Udáth-awtîht.....chîh-ruz

ax.

NATURAL HISTORY II.

THE CUCKOO.

1. The Cooker.

The Cooker comes in Aple and makes its nest and laies its eags And when the Cockower grows up it gets ruff And it tans the oughter birds out of their nests. The Cooker is fermiller all over England. Most people say it is laysy and a very ougly bird and it has a hoal in its back now the cooker layes its eggs in a nother birds nest and so when the bird comes out of its eag it nock enither in its way out so the eag brakes when it falles on the ground and kills the bird. Sometimes tow cuckowers are put in the same nest so then comes a grate fite between the tow birds they keepe on for tow or free days and at last one gets the other out. The cooker sometimes maks the eag diffrent colers so as to deceive the other bird of the nest he puts it in and the bird haches the cooker and is responsiball to look after it The bird in charge of the nest has to do nothing but bringing food for this greeday cooker.

2. The Cuckoo.

The Cuckoo is a very funny bird. At present it is in Africa or on its way to England. It arives here about the middle of April and leaves about the middle of July. The cuckoo lays its eggs on the ground and carries them to another bird's nest cheffy the hedge-sparrow's, if it lays its egge in a hedge sprraw's nest it generalry comes blue, it is the same with all other birds eggs. The little sprraw has a great gob to try to get rid of the cuckoos egge. The

Cuckoo is very lazy it is glad to lay its egge and when it is laid it does not care about it it simply picks it up in its Beek and paces it in a birds nest. The birds do not like the cuckoo because it ruins their family. It lays it egge on the ground and then takes it into the nest it is going to put it in. Most small birds don't notice it, because it is a small egge itself. When it comes out of the egge it is *very* ugly it has no feathers on its back and a little hollow there which is supposed to be for pushing the other little birds out, however it does push them out as soon as it can Some people say it kills its step mother and step father but I don't believe it. The old country folk like the Cuckoo because they say there is warm weather coming again, they often say a piece of poetry—

The Cuckoo comes in April

Sings a song in May

Plays a tune in the middle of June

And then it flies away

The cuckoo goes to Africa during the winter and comes hear in April, it comes on April the seventeenth, that is a great day for them.

3. The Cockoo.

The Cockoo is a foreign and can only say one word and that cockoo. It lays its eggs on the ground and then takes the egg to another birds-nest. The father goes to see if the pecular nest is allright and then pretends to be a hawk or some other birds that will eat the little bird that is on the nest. The Mrs. Cockoo comes along and puts her egg into the little birds nest. Some-

times the birds do not notice the eggs. Sometimes the cockoo lays a blue egge and sometimes a speckeld one so it puts whatever egg it is in a nest that is like it. All day long it is asking for food and when it is brought it sticks its ugly great beak up in the air so that the little bird has to clime on its back and put it in its mouth. When danger is coming and the bird cries its worning crie it only screams for food, so the cockoo is rather tiresome to bring up and its parents get rather tired of bringing it its meals, but some kinds of birds show the utmost disgoust if they see a cockoos egge in there nest and won't hache them out.

ii & iii.

SILENUS IN SOUTH BERKS.

Another splendid bloom was falling from its place in that flowery chain of early July weeks that is the coronal of the year, when with the fruits of orchard, garden and field ripening all around, the imagination rests content in the cere of the time that gives a meaning to the promise of spring and the regrets of autumn. These sentiments occurred to me as I drew near to the elmy village where I lodged, after a long afternoon's ramble through the delightful land. The half-moon, that had long hung like a mass of lucid ivory in the eastern haze, by this time shone well aglow through ever-changing frames of leaf. Home-going hay-makers trolled a chorus from the direction of the village, the voices came over the fields idealized and delicate, with a faint Theocritan suggestion.

All the air was redolent with the sense of Nature's power, and of the exquisite luxury amid which, in her more prodigal humours, she laps and rears us.

My meditations were interrupted by a clear-cut salutation, and I recognized standing under a bedge of alder, Sir Sadler Bung, landowner and magistrate, shewing even in the twilight a figure very spick and neat, and greaved in shining leather. I answered his 'Good evening, Mr. Primrose,' rather self-consciously, for I was trespassing on his ground.

We walked together towards the village and the luminous west. "I think I know," thought I, "where you came from, Sir Sadler; you have been spying upon poor honest rabbit-poachers on Brierash common." But my spoken remarks were not so glib, for I had not many topics in common with our village suzerain. We discussed the weather and the crops. The great July weather, jewel-clear and gorgeous, the splendours of evening, dawn and noon were all too inadequately treated with a couple of common adjectives: the lading of the quiet orchard-closes, and those myriad stalks of delicate pale ivory, with slender bases yet keeping the stain of the June green, were likewise weighed and accounted from the purely business standpoint. Then we continued our walk in silence.

For a time I occupied myself framing visionary conversational openings, mere probationers, destined never to see fresh air. In the presence of the man of the world I am as a rule a little unsure of my touch, a little anxious, and the pre-

occupation is usually enough to impede the free play of my other faculties.

But to-night there was that in the air which overpowered the effect of shyness. The sound of the songs I had heard still rose from among the village elms, from some group, I calculated, upon the green. Scattered shouts and laughter answered from other points. Man had caught the mood of Nature's midsummer revelry, and in spite of the baronet and his atmosphere of the matter-of-fact, the summer twilight was again touched for me with a grace of classic reminiscence. The night seemed permeated by a sense of life so intense as to be almost like physical intoxication. I seemed to stand in the presence of the eternal realities of our human circumstance, walking in the twentieth century with all the sense of freshness and reverence one might feel in visiting the harvest fields of Boaz, or one of those old Greek vintage-festivals such as the fire-god worked on Achilles' shield.

So infatuated was I by these feelings that I felt impelled to take Sir Sadler by the arm and communicate them to him. A slight incident deterred me from the indiscretion. In a certain green lane a rustic passed us quite drunk, carrying a long scythe on which the golden moonlight slid up and down as it swung: an apparition which only deepened for me the sense of that old and barbarous and human mood that seemed to possess the night. But Sir Sadler, contemptuous before at those distant revels, seemed properly disgusted at this nearer manifestation. When

another followed as drunk as the first, and made a grotesque attempt at a salutation, Sir Sadler looked very adamant indeed. He said, he wondered what the dence possessed the country-side to-night. Perhaps he felt himself the effect of the strange weather-magic on which I have remarked.

Half a mile from the village the path crossed the high-road. As we stepped across the stile another dark figure stood beneath the hedge, this one as sober as one could wish. The village policeman touched his helmet.

He begged Sir Sadler's pardon, but there was a tramp asleep under that rick across the brook, looking a roughish customer, should he lock him up?

"Yes, constable, do so at once" said Sir Sadler with alacrity. "I am determined to put a stop to this sort of thing," and then to my disgust "What do you say, Primrose? Mr. Primrose and I will walk across with you and have a look at him," added this inimitable guardian of the peace.

I was obliged to go, but with little relish, as I am of slight physique and constitutionally timid, and not likely to be of much use in tussles with sturdy vagabonds. We stepped upon soft dark turf again, turning southward, and passed a brook into another meadow all pale and scented from its late shearing, with two large ricks in the farthest corner. Thither we stepped quietly across, where the low moon just touched the eastern face of one with silver and shadow. A loud and heavy breathing arose from the tumbled hay, the sound

suggesting to me enormous animal power. The constable muttered 'drunk,' stooped down towards the dark mass, and there was a click of handcuffs, the constable being a deft man of his hands.

Then his official exhortation to his captive to come along with him and make no fuss had the effect of dragging up what appeared to be a Herculean gipsy into the moonlight.

So huge was he that the constable, daunted for the moment, held back his hand. The fellow, nowise seeming to resent or to be very surprised at his rough awakening, looked at us with a grimace of comic mystification as he stretched himself in his handcuffs. Head bowed, eyes and eyebrows raised, it was a strange broad face of a satyr that we beheld, as the stranger said, in a voice perfectly well-bred, somewhat thick, but of a strength and richness such as I have rarely heard;

"Well, gentlemen, you have spoiled a fine sleep, but I congratulate you. What is it to be?"

The note of distinction altogether surprised us, the constable looked at Sir Sadler, but Sir Sadler made no sign. Then the constable laid hold rather delicately of the stranger's sleeve and said "You must come along with me."

Our vagabond looked lazily surprised, and again in his surprise there was a certain air of the comic. He merely said "Your good luck makes you tyrannous, sirs," and took a step in the direction vaguely indicated by the constable.

The mere dialogue hardly conveys the

uncertainty, the hint of cross-purposes, the hesitation in the several players as to their parts, which characterized the odd interview throughout. It was certainly not altogether a typical criminal arrest; nor did I feel particularly like a prisoner's escort as we now took the path towards the village, which, crossing another field, led through a gate into a belt of orchards on the immediate outskirts of the houses. A group of tall elms overshadowed the orchard entrance, forming a sort of barbican to the huge castle of foliage into which our little township was built. At the elms our captive stopped and leaned heavily on the high gate, and facing us with a complacent dignity, remarked, "Surely, gentlemen, this is far enough."

We were all so bewildered and to a certain extent dominated by his manner that this behaviour hardly appeared strange. I think we had all forgotten the ostensible purport of our little drama. There was a low radiance of moonlight in the shadow of the elms which enabled us to see the details of the stranger's figure distinctly. He loomed up against the silvered orchard-trees beyond, as strange a shape as ever was met on midsummer night. More than six and a half feet high he must have been, with huge round shoulders and full chest over a lordly paunch, with great swollen features maned like a lion's, and a goodly sprout of beard, not long, but monstrously thick. The ends of the forearms shewing at the manacled wrists betokened enormous power. The satyr-face crowned all, broad and flat, with

wide nostrils and great slant eyes that shone strangely as they blinked at us. And for all his uncouth and outlandish aspect, he exhaled an odour of unmistakable English ale.

Suddenly he began to harangue us as though preaching a sermon. "The old hymns and tales do not please as they used to, gentlemen, and you live in an age very different from most of those which have gone before. Your Science, too, and your Scriptures have given you strange perversions of most of the old themes. However, I see you are gentlemen and scholars, being familiar with the dear old methods" (here he held up his gyved wrists mock-piteously) "although I cannot congratulate you on this latest substitute for the daisy chain, smacking too much of this utilitarian time of yours—there is a tale I can give you which I couldn't tell the rascality yonder, not wholly unlike the old hymns in theme, yet capable of engaging your modern interests as well. I must apologize for the use of mere prose. One must concede somewhat to the taste of the age, you know."

Sir Sadler was now convinced, he told me afterwards, that it was only by humouring the lunatic and enticing him forward step by step that we could succeed in getting him safely caged. That may have been his point of view, but certainly there seemed to me to be little difference in the charmed and dazed attention with which we all three hung on the burly stranger's rhetoric. In my own feelings certain qualms of common sense and common fear stirred

at the apparent wild incoherence of his words; but, as the deep sweet voice continued, the interpretation of them dawned upon me with startling force. Since then I have been through many phases of incredulity, and many explanations and rational disproofs have suggested themselves to me or been suggested by others. But at the time I certainly believed beyond a doubt in the truth of the purport of those strange words, and that it was old Silenus himself that we had caught and were dragging to gaol. In that burly, tattered, gipsy figure with the cultured voice and the strange charm of words I recognized, there in the twentieth century midsummer night, a manifestation of the old Greek daemon of classic story, the friend and satellite of the mystical Bacchus, the wine-soaked leader of the satyr choirs, the very divinity whom the shepherds in Virgil trussed unawares with wildflowers when they wished to hear his wonderful lays about the gods, and the mysteries of Life and Death, and of the Generation of the World. Then I saw the meaning of the villagers' songs, and the drunken rustics, and the overmastering press of life that seemed to dominate the night. All this had scarcely dawned on me when in a low even voice he had commenced his hymn.

"As the nineteenth century drew to a close, gentlemen, Apollo looked with envy from his sun-car on the pace of the life of men; on the railways, liners, electric-trams, air-ships, motor-cars, telescopes, telegraphs and cables, with which as with a new system of nerves

and organs the old brute Earth had been clothed and vitalized. He began to fear that, if this astonishing rate of progress continued, at length time and the sun's self should be hard put to it to keep rank with the speed of Earth. The wide use of motor-cars especially excited his envy, and at last he came before the Father of gods and men and complained: saying that it was not meet that the children of men should thus have practically a motor-car each, whereas he himself, that managed the lighting of the world, must be content with a chariot and horses. So the cloud-gatherer gave his gracious leave, and that night when his journey was done Apollo left his car in the west and came, leaning on the perfumed twilight, over the inland sea to the Liparcan isles, where Hephaestus' forges are. A bargain was struck between these two divinities, and forthwith the Cyclopes were all set to work, and nine whole days Sicilian mariners wondered at the activity of those mighty fires. And thus the work was done.

Just before the hour fixed for sunrise on the first day of the first year of the new century, all heaven was congregated in the court-yard of Apollo's Eastern palace to criticize the cosmic engine. It stood instinct with life, and breathing a rattle of thunders, a very castle of adamant and gold, wrought all over with representations of celestial history from the lame god's chisel. Right at the prow, for use when the great main solar globe has been quenched in the Western ocean, three crystals of

extinguished stars were set for lamps.

When the hour struck, and the doors of the Orient yard flew open, and the great machine started on its way, forth with an unexpected speed it bounded, leaving far behind the floating groups of Hours and Graces that are wont to hang, like a living harbour, above the morning outgoing of the Sun. How shall I convey to you, gentlemen, who have known only the black and dusty and evil-smelling road-cars of earth, the first radiant passage of Apollo's vehicle? What a scattering there was of the Ram, and the Bull, and the other glittering creatures of the Zodiac! What veils of aureoan cloud rose behind his wheels from the roads of ether, while far in his wake ambrosial perfumes hung, some of which the morning breezes bore down to earth, and mortals caught them faintly in Indian vales.

Since then the ray-maned Arthon champs in his Hesperian stables. But Apollo, confident in his new car, has ceased to envy the enterprize of mortals and their go-ahead policies. The methods of the twentieth century no longer give offence in heaven. Gentlemen, you have heard my tale.'

How he made an end, and bowed, and loosening easily his gyves passed away into the night, it were a bathos to relate at length. We three went home silently and as if in a dream: and it was not until the following days that explanations, and excuses, and conjectures began to suggest themselves

O.J.C.

LITERARY, SCIENTIFIC AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

The Society met in the Pembroke Room at 4.45 on Friday, December 14th; with the Vice-President in the chair.

E. B. W. Chappelow seconded by W. R. Mortleman proposed:—That in the opinion of this House, Dancing is the best pastime.

E. H. Harvey opposed the motion. The following also Spoke:—

Pro:—R. J. Weaving, M. G. Weaving, R. M. Cory, F. W. Holmden, L. W. Holland.

Con:—H. H. Gibson, Esq., S. H. Baker, Esq., N. Duncan, D. M. Johnston, F. B. Graham, J. A. Cobb, T. Johnston.

The motion was lost by 7 votes to 14.

The Society met in the Pembroke Room at 4 p.m., on Thursday, January 24th, with the Vice-President in the chair.

D. M. Johnston seconded by T. Johnston proposed the following motion:—

That in the opinion of this House, the existing powers of the House of Lords are inconsistent with the democratic spirit of the British constitution, and should therefore be curtailed.

H. L. Neligan opposed the motion.

The following members also spoke:—

Pro:—H. H. Gibson, Esq., W. R. Mortleman.

Con:—H. Meredith, F. B. Graham, P. E. Andrews.

The motion was carried by 9 votes to 8.

The Society met in the Pembroke Room at 4 p.m., on Thursday, January 31st, with the Vice-President in the chair.

C. J. Butler, seconded by H. Meredith, proposed the following motion:—

That in the opinion of this House, a Channel Tunnel is desirable, and should be built at public expense.

P. E. Andrews opposed the motion.

The following members also spoke:—

Pro:—H. H. Gibson, Esq. R. A. R. Townsend, E. H. Harvey, G. F. S. Mann.

Con:—The Rev. R. F. Ashwin, N. Duncan, J. McG. Mitchell, G. H. G. Shepherd, D. M. Johnston, W. R. Mortleman.

The motion was lost by 8 votes to 10.

The Society met in the Pembroke Room at 4 p.m., on Thursday, February 7th, with the Vice-President in the chair.

R. M. Cory, seconded by N. Duncan, proposed the following motion:—

“That this House approves of a system of female suffrage.”

W. R. Mortleman opposed the motion.

The following members also spoke:—

Pro:—W. R. C. Adcock, Esq., R. E. Greatbatch, G. C. Rice, L. W. Kaye.

Con:—The Rev. R. F. Ashwin, H. H. Gibson, Esq., C. J. Butler, D. M. Johnston, P. E. Andrews, F. W. Holmden, G. F. S. Mann.

The motion was lost by 6 votes to 10.

The Society met in the Pembroke Room at 4 p.m., on Thursday, February 14th, with the Vice-President in the chair.

S. H. Baker, Esq. was then called upon to propose the following motion:—

“That in the opinion of this House, Honesty is the best Policy.”

W. R. C. Adcock, Esq. was called upon to oppose the motion.

The following members also spoke:—

H. H. Gibson, Esq., E. A. Martell, Esq., J. A. Cobb, R. M. Cory, D. M. Johnston, C. J. Butler, J. McG. Mitchell, F. B. Graham, F. W. Holmden, P. E. Andrews, E. H. Harvey.

H. L. Neligan was then called upon to propose:—

“That Ill Weeds grow apace.”

R. J. Weaving was called upon to oppose the motion.

The following also spoke:—

E. A. Martell, Esq., W. R. C. Adcock, Esq., N. Duncan, D. M. Johnston, P. E. Andrews, H. Meredith, G. H. G. Shepherd, R. A. R. Townsend, F. A. Bennett, R. E. Greatbatch, H. A. N. Medd, G. C. Rice, T. Johnston, L. W. Kaye.

The Society met in the Pembroke Room on Feb. 21st, with the Vice-President in the Chair.

E. B. W. Chappelow read a paper entitled:—

“Muhammadan Egypt until the fall of the Ayyubids.”

The Essayist began his paper with a brief sketch of the conquest of Egypt by Am'r (641). He then went on to describe the rule of Ibn-tulun and his successors. Then, with a cursory glance at the state of Egypt under the Ikhshids, he described the rule of the

Fatimids under the Khalifa el-Mo'izz and his successors el-'Aziz and el-Hakim. He then brought us to the period of the Crusades, and described the pitiful condition of Egypt, the prey now of Shirkuh, the general of Noured-din of Damascus, now of Amalric King of Jerusalem. He then gave us a short account of the life of Yusuf—Salah-ed-din, and ended his paper by describing the gradual fall of the Ayyubid Empire, under his successors.

ATHLETIC SPORTS.

The weather on the day of our sports was very disappointing after the fine weather of the previous fortnight, and in consequence the attendance of visitors was of the smallest. It rained most of the time and the ground was made very treacherous for jumpers in indiarubber shoes.

The performance that out-classed all others was the excellent “put” of W. R. Mortleman who although barely sixteen put the weight to the distance of 32 feet 7½ inches, a record for our School sports. Next to Mortleman's performance came that of N. Duncan who in jumping the length of 20 feet 2¼ inches came within ¼in. of the previous best for the school.

There were some very good performances by the junior boys. D. Napper in jumping 4ft. 6½in. in the High Jump under 14 set up a record. B. L. Kaye ran well in the 220 yards under 13. L. O. Burge and E. H. King ran well in the junior hurdles, the former taking

the flights very neatly indeed for a boy of thirteen. Below is an account of the results.

LONG JUMP (open).

(Prizes presented by G. W. Shepherd, Esq., O.A., and H. H. Gibson, Esq.,) 1.—N. Duncan. 2.—G. H. G. Shepherd. Distance 20ft. 2½ in. Both jumped well, Shepherd reaching 18ft. 11¼ in.

LONG JUMP (under 15).

(Prizes presented by A. K. Loyd, Esq., K.C., and Shell Form). 1.—E. V. Dyke. —C. C. Painter. Distance 15ft. 2½ in.

PUTTING THE WEIGHT (Open).

(Prizes presented by J. T. Morland, Esq., and W. A. Rudd, Esq). 1.—W. R. Mortleman. 2.—G. H. G. Shepherd. Distance 32 ft. 7½ in. Both put very well, Shepherd's best effort being a foot behind Mortleman's and in itself a record.

HIGH JUMP (under 12).

(Prizes presented by The Right Rev. the Master of Pembroke College, Oxford, and V.I. Form). 1.—H. A. L. Donkin. 2.—R. N. Goodyear Height 3 ft. 6¾ in.

HIGH JUMP (open).

(Prizes Presented by W. Pierpoint, Esq., and J. F. Downing, Esq). 1.—W. Leach. G. H. G. Shepherd and N. Duncan. Height 4ft. 10 in. In spite of repeated efforts no discrimination could be made between these competitors, and so they tied for the first place. Leach jumped excellently for his size and with very good style.

HIGH JUMP (under 14).

(Prizes presented by Rev. R. F. Ashwin, and Remove Form). 1.—D. Napper. 2.—E. F. Harvey. Height 4 ft. 6½ in. This event fell an easy victory to Napper.

HUNDRED YARDS (under 12).

(Prizes presented by W. R. C. Adcock, Esq., and E. M. Challenor, Esq., O.A). 1.—C. W. E. Hoare. 2.—H. V. Campbell. Time 14 2-5th secs.

HUNDRED YARDS (under 14).

(Prizes presented by J. T. Harris, Esq., O.A., and W. Legge, Esq). 1.—D. Napper. 2.—B. L. Kaye. Time 12 secs. Won easily.

HUNDRED YARDS (under 16).

(Prizes presented by W. R. Portal, Esq., O.A., and V. Form). 1.—G. C. Rice. 2.—J. A. Cobb. Time 12 secs. Rice won easily while Cobb was hard pressed by Read ii.

HUNDRED YARDS (open).

(Challenge Cup presented by Mrs. Price, prizes presented by Mrs. Layng, and M. T. Tatham, Esq). 1.—N. Duncan 2.—C. J. Butler. Time 10 3-5ths secs. Duncan won fairly easily; his time was not as good as it was last year.

QUARTER MILE HANDICAP (open).

(Prizes presented by the Ladies of Abingdon). 1.—E. H. Harvey. 2.—C. J. Butler. 3.—F. W. Holmden. Time 60 secs. Harvey, with 15 yards start, went away very well and quickly overtook the rest, but Butler pressed him very hard up the straight.

220 YARDS HANDICAP (under 13).

(Prizes presented by J. F. Downing, Esq., and R. F. Bennett, Esq.) 1.—R. N. Goodyear. 2.—B. L. Kaye. Time 30 2-5ths secs. Goodyear had 20 yards start and was very closely pressed by Kaye.

HURDLE RACE (under 15).

(Prizes presented by E. M. Challenor, Esq., O.A., and IV. Form). 1.—E. H. King. 2.—L. O. Burge. Time 23 secs. King and Burge were very close to each other.

HURDLE RACE (open).

(Prizes presented by J. E. A. Cottrell, Esq., O.A., Mayor of Abingdon, and H. W. Weaving Esq.). 1.—N. Duncan. 2.—G. H. G. Shepherd. Time 18 1-5th secs. Duncan's time for his heat was 17 1-5th secs.

CHOIR RACE (300 Yards Handicap).

(Prizes presented by E. A. Martell, Esq., and E. L. Shepherd, Esq.) 1.—E. C. Dickinson. 2.—H. V. Campbell. Time 38 4-5ths secs. Dickinson with a start of 30 yards won fairly easily, Campbell had 50 yards start. Rice, running from scratch, ran pluckily but was much too heavily handicapped to have the slightest chance of winning.

THROWING THE CRICKET BALL (Open).

(Prizes presented by Rev. T. Layng and B. Challenor, Esq., O.A.) 1.—N. Duncan. 2.—W. Leach. Distance 81 yards. This event proved a great surprise, as D. Napper, who is under 14 and who threw over 91 yards in the limits, was expected to win easily, but he only took third place.

HALF MILE HANDICAP (Open).

(Prizes presented by J. H. E. Morland, Esq., O.A., Player Isaac, Esq., and J. S. Nowill, Esq.) 1.—J. E. E. R. Chanter. 2.—H. A. Mills. 3.—E. H. Harvey. Time 2min. 20 secs. Chanter with a start of 85 yards won easily, while Mills was a good distance from Harvey.

OLD ABINGDONIANS' RACE (100 yards).

(Prize presented by The Rev. F. G. Haslewood, L.L.D., President of the O.A. Club.) 1.—R. G. Rice. Time 11 2-5ths. secs. Rice won easily.

CONSOLATION RACE. (1 lap.)

(Prizes presented by C. A. Pryce, Esq., and Forms II. and III.) For this race the competitors were handicapped according to age. After several changes of position W. N. Hooke took the lead 80 yards from home and won easily. For second place W. J. Read i. and F. Read ii. had a great struggle, but the elder just managed to beat his brother by an inch.

After the last event Mrs. Burkett gave away the prizes from the pavilion. Then the usual cheers followed for Mrs. Burkett, The Rev. and Mrs. Layng, The Ladies of Abingdon and for the Prize Donors, and so ended a very successful afternoon.

STEEPLECHASE (Open).

(Prizes presented by S. H. Baker, Esq., A. E. Preston, Esq., O.A., and J. G. T. West, Esq., O.A.) This event took place on the Abingdon Common, on Wednesday, March 27th. A longer course was set for the runners than

usual. A big field started. O. B. Challenor took the lead at the first with W. R. Mortleman and N. Duncan in close attendance. Challenor however, through taking the jumps badly, failed to maintain his lead and Duncan went to the front with F. B. Graham, O. B. Challenor and L. W. Holland close behind. The rest of the course was merely a race for the second place. Three hundred yards from home Graham made a good effort to overtake Duncan, but, although he substantially decreased the distance between them, he was unable to overhaul him, and finished a very good second with Holland a good third. The fourth place fell to Challenor, who was closely followed by P. E. Andrews, E. H. Harvey and L. W. Kaye, all of whom ran well. Time 12 min. 26 2-5ths. secs.

STEEPLECHASE (Under 14).

(Prizes presented by E. J. Harris, Esq., A. E. Preston, Esq., O.A., and H. P. Simpson, Esq., O.A.) A smaller number than usual entered for this event and a rather uninteresting race ensued, D. Napper winning without an effort. H. V. Campbell was second with C. C. Painter third a long way behind. Time 6 min. 43 sec.

ONE MILE RACE.

(Challenge Cup presented by Mrs. Burkett. Prizes presented by H. Burkett, Esq., H. G. W. d'Almaine, Esq., O.A., and G. Saxby, Esq.) A large number of entries proved the popularity of this race, no fewer than 32 competitors starting on Monday, March 25th. N. Duncan went away at once

with W. R. Mortleman, C. J. Butler, E. H. Harvey and O. B. Challenor very near. These kept together for the first three laps, by which time Mortleman had run himself out. At the end of the fourth lap Butler challenged Duncan and took the lead from him, which he maintained till the beginning of the straight. Here Duncan made a fine effort and left Butler completely behind, reaching home fifteen yards ahead. O. B. Challenor with a good finish took third place close upon Butler. The fourth place fell to F. B. Graham. Time 5 min. 20 1-5th. secs.

"HEBER CLARKE" CHALLENGE CUP.

There was little or no competition for the "Heber Clarke" Cup. N. Duncan went off with nearly everything, winning the Cup with no less than 71 points to his credit. G. H. G. Shepherd and C. J. Butler were equal for second place with 20 points each.

SCHOOL NOTES.

N. Duncan, P. E. Andrews, and R. V. Weaving have matriculated at London University.

H. Hughes, O.A., has been elected to the Organ Exhibition at Pembroke College, Oxford.

H. L. Neligan has been elected to the Abingdon Scholarship at Pembroke College, Oxford.

A. O. C. Pryce, O.A., has passed the final examination of the incorporated Law Society.

Mr. A. M. C. Nicholl and Mr. E. A. Martell have taken their M. A. Degree at Cambridge.

At an examination held at Durban of officers of all arms of the service, wherein only 13 out of 50 candidates were successful, Lieut. H. A. A. d'Almaine, O.A., passed in all subjects and will gain a commission. Lieut. d'Almaine was in active service during the Boer War and in command of two guns during the recent rebellion.

H. J. A. Payne and L. F. Gale (O.A.s) were among the representatives of Berks and Bucks Juniors in their match with Middlesex Juniors.

H. Hughes (Pembroke) and T. S. Wilding (Lincoln) rowed in the Torpids at Oxford, and B. M. Challenor was Reserve man for the Worcester College Boat.

We congratulate the Town Football Club upon winning the Berks and Bucks Junior Cup, and notice with pleasure that six Old Boys were included in their winning team.

R. G. Rice, O.A., has been playing Football for London Hospital.

H. W. Weaving, O.A., has been coxswain to the winning Robinson Four at Pembroke College, Oxford, for the second time.

The Editor will be pleased if any reader possessing a spare copy of the Abingdonian, Vol. II. No. 18, would return it either in exchange for some other back number or for a payment of 3d.

The Rev. T. Eland, M.A., Vicar of New Brentford, has been appointed Rector of Perivale, West Ealing.

Mr. E. J. P. Ross-Barker has been appointed Sixth Form Master at Reading School.

S. B. King sailed for Canada on February 13th.

The passages selected this year for the Meredith Composition Prizes are both from How and Leigh's History of Rome: viz. for Latin pp. 492-4, for Greek pp. 222-3.

Our best thanks are due to—

Mrs. Price of Eastbourne for the gift of a silver Challenge Cup, for the 100 yds. race; to the Rev. F. K. Clarke, O.A., for a gift of books to the Library; to Mr. A. T. More, B. Sc., for an old print of Abingdon School; and to Mr. H. Burkett for an ostrich egg which has been placed in the Museum.

C. J. Butler has been elected Captain of Boats; and rowing began on Mar. 1st.

Still another Museum case, designed by Mr. Wright, is shortly to be erected in the top corridor to hold butterflies and moths and eggs.

In February last the Abingdon Musical Union gave a rendering of 'Judas Maccabæus' in the Corn Exchange. The Boarders and many of the Day Boys availed themselves of the opportunity to go, and much appreciated the concert.

As Easter fell early this year, before the term was over, we had a longer exeat than usual, viz. from mid-day on Thursday, March 28th, till the evening of Monday, April 1st. But to make up for time thus lost we shall have to do without an exeat next term.

The Past v Present athletic meeting is fixed for April 10th. Term ends on April 13th. Next term begins on May 7th, boarders returning on the previous day.

