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No. 1.

The Abingdonian.



Mi recordias Domini



in aeternum cantab .

CHRISTMAS ♦ NUMBER.

1920.

ONE SHILLING.

Misericordias
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in aeternum
cantabo.

THE ABINGDONIAN.

No. 1. Vol. VI.

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EDITORIAL.

THIS number is not the first for which the new Editor has been responsible. In point of fact it is the twenty-fifth. The previous Editor, who had brought the Magazine successfully through the stress of a difficult period, thought fit in the course of his last Editorial to prophesy nice things of his successor. For this we are timorously grateful, as likewise for the kindly welcome of our Oxford Correspondent. (*Vide* Oxford Letter, *infra*.) But fifteen years have wrought a lot of changes; and while the successor girds on his armour—"arma diu senior desueta"—he has but faint hopes of achieving the

promises of his sponsor, or even of attaining to the humble standard of his earlier days.

Perhaps it is true that an earlier connection with the School provides fuller opportunities for securing O.A. news. If we succeed in this, it will, as Mr. Perks insisted, be mainly through the kindness and energy of O.A.s themselves. In this respect at least we may be hopeful. Indeed, thanks to contributors and correspondents, we do seem to have made a fair beginning, both with O.A. news and literary articles.

But "a School Magazine has to be," says Mr. Perks, "on the one hand a literary nursery." Here we have not

done so well. This number contains but one effort from the pen of an immature author, and though we submit that it is a creditable effort, by itself it is not enough. We expected more, and our predecessor would have been more inspiring. Perhaps we ourselves in former days—"calidus iuventa, Consule—;" but here we are becoming personal.

One thing we will add, and perhaps it may serve as the necessary stimulus. We have been asked by the Editors of "Public School Verse," a volume lately published by Messrs. Heinemann, to notify any aspiring poets among our number that a second volume of the same will be issued shortly. Contributions are invited. They should be sent to The Editors, "Public School Verse," c/o Holywell Press, Oxford, before the 1st of February, 1921. But they should be sent to us as well.—"Pandite nunc Heliconæ, deæ, cantusque movete."

O.T.C.

It is with great regret that we lose Mr. Walker, who has left us after a short stay of two terms. At the same time, we extend a hearty welcome to Mr. Reynolds, his able successor. We have also been very fortunate in securing this term the services of Sergeant Leslie, D.C.M., of the Berkshire Regiment.

Twenty-six members of the Corps attended the O.T.C. Camp at Mytchett Farm, Aldershot, for ten days at the end of July, where we combined a pleasant holiday with much useful training and instruction. The weather left something to be desired, at times, but on the whole we had a very enjoyable time.

This term Army leather equipment has been issued, and the smarter appearance presented on parade is well worth the extra weight.

On November 11th we had a field day in conjunction with the University O.T.C., Bloxham School O.T.C., and the Oratory School O.T.C. The scene of operations was south of Botley, whither we marched in the morning, returning by motor-bus from Oxford in the evening, after an eminently successful day.

Signalling is in full swing, and the recruits, under Sergeant Leslie's able supervision, bid fair to outshine the rest of the Corps.

Promotions:—L'Cpl. E. H. Blacknell to be Lance-Sergeant, Sept. 28th, 1920. L'Cpl. H. V. Stovell to be Lance-Sergeant, Sept. 28th, 1920. Cadet R. B. H. Morland to be Lance-Corporal, Sept. 28th, 1920. Cadet J. E. F. Meadmore to be Lance-Corporal Sept. 28th, 1920, and to be Corporal, Nov. 10th, 1920.

LITERARY, SCIENTIFIC AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

At a preliminary meeting of the Society Mr. J. E. F. Meadmore was elected Hon. Secretary for the coming season, vice Mr. C. M. Humfrey (resigned), and Mr. C. E. H. Dolphin Hon. Treasurer, vice Mr. R. E. Eason (resigned).

At a subsequent meeting many new members were elected to the Society.

On October 23rd, Mr. Blacknell was called upon to propose that in the opinion of this House "Strikes are seldom justifiable."

Mr. Lucas seconded and Mr. Memory opposed the motion.

The following members also spoke:—

Pro.—Messrs. R. L. C. Foottit, C. E. H. Dolphin, Ivan Williams, K. Cleave, H. L. Weaver, J. F. Sinclair, A. J. Newbury, J. D. L. Robinson, A. F. James, R. L. Williams, W. H. Stevens.

Con.—Mr. Beaven.

Neutral.—Messrs. W. M. Grundy and J. Harding.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried by 21 votes to 3.

On the 6th November, Mr. Dolphin was called upon to propose that in the opinion of this House "A Channel Tunnel is highly to be desired." Mr. Ivan Williams seconded and Mr. Foottit opposed the motion.

The following also spoke:—

Pro.—Messrs. W. Memory, H. V. Stovell, J. D. L. Robinson, D. G. Lucas, A. H. K. Stevens, J. E. F. Meadmore.

Con.—Messrs. P. E. Rowlandson and E. H. Blacknell.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried by 13 votes to 10.

On November 13th an impromptu debate was held which caused great amusement to all.

The motions spoken upon were:—

(i.) That in the opinion of this House "It is impossible to judge a sausage by its skin."

(ii.) That in the opinion of this House "One hair on the head is worth two on the brush."

(iii.) That in the opinion of this House "A tooth-brush is the most useful and valuable of all a man's private possessions."

The first of these motions was carried by 12 votes to 8; the second was carried by 11 votes to 10; and the third was lost by 3 votes to 18.

On November 20th Mr. Memory was called upon to propose that in the opinion of this House "Summer Time is not to be desired."

Mr. Stovell seconded and Mr. Rowlandson opposed the motion.

The following members also addressed the House:—

Pro.—Mr. Ross-Barker.

Con.—Messrs. J. Y. Ingham and D. G. Lucas.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried by 11 votes to 9.

On November 27th, Mr. Ingham gave a most interesting and instructive lecture on "Chopin." He was accompanied by Miss Couldrey on the piano. Votes of thanks were proposed to Mr. Ingham and Miss Couldrey and carried unanimously.

For Saturday, December 11th, the Society has been promised a lantern lecture by Mr. F. H. Sikes on the subject of his experiences in Iceland.

This is the second season of the revived Literary, Scientific and Debating Society, and the Society seems to be now firmly on its feet once more. Members have attended debates with great regularity and, though there has sometimes been a lack of speakers, meetings have always been interesting.

FOOTBALL.

We have been very unfortunate this term in the number of accidents that have befallen the members of the elevens, particularly the first XI. Woodley, Macfarlane, and Blacknell have all been *hors de combat* and this has necessitated a constant shuffling of the forward line, the result being that the team as a whole has never been properly together, there being a woeful lack of understanding between the half-backs and forwards.

Among the younger boys there is some very promising material. Sinclair has done wonders in goal for the second XI., and for our team under 15. Steele has played some very good games at half-back, while Wright ii. and Ellis have shown that size is not the only requirement for forward play.

We played our first School match against Oxford High School on October 13th, having been beaten a fortnight previously by the Town Thursdays' team in a practice match.

A.S.F.C. v. OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL. In spite of losing the toss we were fortunate, and fate yielded us the victory. We defended the park end first and managed to score 2 goals before the whistle announced half-time. After a

short rest the School pressed their opponents with renewed vigour, bringing the score up to a total of 6 goals to our opponents' nil. The game, however, was not so one-sided as it might seem. Woodley used his head to advantage in the forward line and was responsible for three of our goals.

The team was as follows:—H. V. Stovell (goal); R. B. H. Morland, S. L. Buckle (backs); R. C. W. Waterhouse, G. T. Eason, R. L. C. Foottit (halves); K. Cleave, G. M. G. McFarlane, I. Williams, C. C. Woodley and E. C. Beaven (forwards).

A.S.F.C. v. LEIGHTON PARK SCH.—Played Oct. 20th on the home ground. We started well by winning the toss and defended the tennis court goal. A considerable number of changes had taken place in the team since the previous match, chiefly owing to illness. E. V. Crook and E. H. Smeeth played a good game as substitutes for C. C. Woodley and C. M. G. McFarlane, and G. T. Eason was changed to left half with some advantage. C. E. H. Dolphin replaced E. C. Beaven on the left wing and I. Williams played outside-right in place of K. Cleave, E. C. Beaven filling the former's position as centre. E. H. Blacknell was welcomed into the half line which was thus considerably strengthened, for he was unable to figure in the previous match owing to an injured ankle. The game was a hard one and it was chiefly due to the clever play of the opposing goal-keeper that the final score was nil—nil. S. L. Buckle proved a strong support to the team and played exceedingly well in spite of this being

the first match in which he had played centre-half.

A.S.F.C. v. ABINGDON TOWN RES.—Played on October 23rd on the town ground, the result being 6—4 in the town's favour, in spite of our leading by 4—2 at half-time. G. M. G. McFarlane rejoined the team for this match, but we still missed Woodley, E. V. Crook filling his place. The halves showed great energy and played a hard game, and I. Williams showed considerable dash on the right wing.

A.S.F.C. v. LINCOLN COLLEGE 1st XI.—Played on October 27th on the School ground. This was one of our best games of the season, chiefly for the equality of the teams, and when the whistle heralded the advent of the lemons the score was nil—nil. The School pressed a little more during the second half, and had it not been for the inadequate shooting of our forwards the final score of 1—0 in our favour might have been increased.

A.S.F.C. v. H. A. M. JAMIESON, Esq's XI.—Played on the home ground on October 30th. Final score 3—2 in their favour. This was a good and fairly equal match, and our backs were in good form; so also S. L. Buckle, and the play was hard. The shooting in the forward line showed considerable improvement since the previous match. The team on this occasion was complete with the exception of Woodley.

A.S.F.C. v. MAGDALEN COLL. SCH. Played at Oxford on November 3rd. The School team showed poor form and at half-time the score was 2—1 in our

opponents' favour. We pulled up a little in the second half, however, and in spite of the inability of the team to work together we gained the victory by 3—2. C. C. Woodley being still away, E. C. Beaven played inside-left, G. T. Eason took the centre, and N. A. Carr right-half.

A.S.F.C. v. ABINGDON TOWN.—Played on the Town ground on Nov. 6th. Our opponents on this occasion were undoubtedly a far superior team to our own, especially in the matter of passing, and the School suffered a severe defeat by 7—1. The defence was good, but the forwards lacked weight and seldom found it possible to shoot, though they played hard. E. C. Beaven and C. C. Woodley being absent, K. Cleave played on the right wing, I. Williams in the centre and G. T. Eason inside-left, the last-named scoring our only goal.

A.S.F.C. v. OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL. Played on November 13th at Oxford. Final score 2—1 in the School's favour. G. M. G. McFarlane rejoined us for this match, but C. C. Woodley and E. C. Beaven were still absent. G. M. G. McFarlane played centre-forward and E. V. Crook and E. H. Smeeth replaced those absent. Though often in possession of the ball, the insides failed to use their chances to advantage.

A.S.F.C. v. EXETER COLL., OXFORD. Played on the home ground on Nov. 17th. This was an excellent match. Both teams played with a will, and the game was both fast and hard. The forwards proved to be on their game and the final score was 1—1.

A.S.F.C. *v.* ABINGDON TOWN RES.—Played on the home ground on Nov. 20th. Final score 2—4 in our opponents' favour. B. Lowe, an old boy, captained the opposing team, and the match was a good one and not so uneven as the score would suggest. The forwards played a good game, the outsides centring with some precision.

A.S.F.C. *v.* LINCOLN COLLEGE 1st XI.—Played at Oxford on Nov. 24th. This match took place after rain and the conditions under which the team played were decidedly muddy. The School was pressed most of the game, and when the forwards did get the ball they seemed to be unable to make any headway. G. T. Eason was still away and C. E. H. Dolphin being unable to play was replaced by E. C. Beaven on the left wing, E. V. Crook taking inside left. The match ended in our opponents beating us by 5—0.

A.S.F.C. *v.* MAGDALEN COLL. SCH. Played on the home ground on Nov. 27th. This match is one which is always looked forward to with great enthusiasm by the School, and on this occasion it quite justified expectation. It was a hard game, and moderately fast, and the team played well together. The halves were displaying splendid energy and the forwards showed much more dash and quickness of passing than in previous matches. After 70 minutes stiff play the School realized a victory by 3—1. In this match G. T. Eason and G. M. G. McFarlane were still away, and were certainly missed.

We still have two matches to play, one against Leighton Park School away

and the other against the Old Abingdonians on the home ground. Both of these are extremely popular games and we hope that they will live up to expectation, and prove a couple of our best matches of this season.

A.S.F.C. 2nd XI. *v.* NEW COLL. SCH. 1st XI.—This match was played on the home ground on 6th October. The School attacked strongly and first Crook and then Meadmore scored. At half-time the score stood at 11—0. On changing over New College played up, but only on one occasion looked at all dangerous. The final result was 16—0. The following represented the School: J. F. Sinclair (goal); W. Jamieson, C. S. Morland (backs); R. L. C. Foottit, W. Memory, H. J. Mason (halves); C. E. H. Dolphin (3 goals), E. V. Crook (3 goals), E. H. Smeeth (2 goals), C. C. Woodley (7 goals), J. E. F. Meadmore (1 goal), (forwards).

A.S.F.C. 2nd XI. *v.* OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL 2nd XI.—This game was played on the Oxford ground on Wednesday, 13th October. Immediately after the kick-off Dolphin put in an excellent centre. The goal-keeper caught it, but Smeeth robbed him and scored. At half-time the score was 1—0. After the interval Crook scored twice and Newbury once, and the final result was 5—0 in our favour. The team was the same as against New College School except that S. F. Wiggins replaced Foottit and A. J. Newbury replaced Woodley.

A.S.F.C. 2nd XI. *v.* LEIGHTON PARK SCHOOL 2nd XI.—This match was played at Reading on Wednesday, 20th Oct. Owing to several changes the team did not play well together. In the first

half Cleave, from outside-right, scored two goals, but at half-time Leighton Park were ahead. After the interval Foottit scored and the final result was 3—6 against the School. The team was as follows :—J. F. Sinclair (goal); C. S. Morland, R. C. Waterhouse (backs); R. L. C. Foottit, N. A. Carr, J. D. L. Robinson (halves); S. F. Wiggins, C. Ellis, A. J. Newbury, J. E. F. Meadmore, K. Cleave (forwards).

A.S.F.C. 2nd XI. *v.* MAGDALEN COLL. SCHOOL 2nd XI.—This match was played on the home ground on Wednesday, 3rd November. The School played well, but the shooting was rather weak. Cleave was not quite at home in his new position of right back, but did his best. The game was keenly contested and finally the School won by 2—1. The team was as follows :—J. F. Sinclair (goal); C. S. Morland, K. Cleave (backs); R. L. C. Foottit, R. C. Waterhouse, J. D. L. Robinson (halves); S. F. Wiggins, E. V. Crook, E. H. Smeeth, A. J. Newbury, J. E. F. Meadmore (forwards).

A.S.F.C. 2nd XI. *v.* OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL 2nd XI.—This match was played at home on Saturday, 13th November. The School lost the toss and kicked off against sun and wind. Soon the visitors were successful and the School was one goal down. A little later Robinson was injured and had to leave the field. The outlook seemed black, but Sinclair, as usual, made many excellent saves. Then Cleave scored and at half-time the School was still on equal terms. After the interval things changed and Ellis scored. Both teams played well, the School trying to increase their lead and the visitors

to draw level. The final score was 2—1 in our favour. The team was as follows: J. F. Sinclair (goal); W. G. Sherratt, W. Memory (backs); R. L. C. Foottit, R. C. W. Waterhouse, J. D. L. Robinson (halves); S. F. Wiggins, C. Ellis, A. J. Newbury, K. Cleave, J. E. F. Meadmore (forwards).

A.S.F.C. 2nd XI. *v.* MAGDALEN COLL. SCHOOL 2nd XI.—This match was played on the Magdalen College School ground at Oxford on Saturday, November 27th. The School lost the toss, but commenced the game by pressing hard, with the result that a goal was soon scored by Crook. When half-time arrived, however, the score had been equalised. The School began the second half well, Crook scoring again within the first five minutes. Another goal, scored by Newbury, considerably strengthened the position of the School. Before the end of the game another goal was scored against the School, and the game finished with the score at 3—2 in our favour. The team was the same as against Oxford High School, save that E. V. Crook replaced J. E. F. Meadmore.

A.S.F.C. under 15 XI. *v.* OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL under 15 XI.—This match was played on the Oxford ground on November 10th. At the commencement the School forwards seemed lost and the High School forwards soon scored. Taylor equalised, and at half-time the score stood 1—1. Soon after, the High School scored twice, but Ellis rushed through and scored, and Crook repeated this performance. Ellis then scored for the School from a corner, and the School were left victors by 4—3. Of the for-

wards Ellis and Crook played well, while Steele was the best of the halves. The team was: J. F. Sinclair (goal); C. R. Davidge and H. S. Bartlett (backs); T. F. T. Morland, A. W. Miles, W. E. Steele (halves); G. S. Sturrock, C. Ellis, E. V. Crook, R. Taylor, C. R. Wright (forwards).

A.S.F.C. under 15 XI. v. NEW COLL. SCHOOL under 15 XI.—This match was played away on November 20th. Our forwards did most of the attacking, but did not manage to score. The field was very muddy and this made shooting difficult; and the match resulted in a goalless draw. Wright played best of the forwards and Davidge was useful at full-back.

R. C. W. Waterhouse played in place of A. W. Miles and S. F. Wiggins in place of H. S. Bartlett; otherwise the team was the same as that which met Oxford High School.

A.S.F.C. under 15 XI. v. OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL under 15 XI.—This match was played on the home ground on Nov. 24th. The field was in a very slippery condition. Ellis started off by scoring for the School, but in reply to this the High School scored four times. This score remained unaltered till after half-time; Ellis then scored again for the School. Of the forwards Ellis, Steele and Sturrock played well, and Davidge was good at back.

The team was the same as before except that H. D. Shallard played instead of T. F. T. Morland and R. G. Spencer instead of E. V. Crook.

CHARACTERS.

H. V. STOVELL (Goal) Captain, Colours 1918-19-20.—Has been a tower of strength in goal. Is quick of eye and hand and saves cleverly. As a captain has proved himself both keen and capable and always cheerful in adversity.

R. B. H. MORLAND (Left back), Colours 1919-20.—Has played exceedingly well. Possesses a strong kick with his left foot, and is very sure of his man. Has improved in speed this season, and was greatly missed when he left at half-term.

C. S. MORLAND (Left back).—Has followed in his brother's footsteps with great success. Must learn to combine with his other back. Has worked hard and promises well for next year's team.

W. J. M. JAMIESON (Right back).—Has played very hard. Possesses a fairly good kick, though he is liable to be rather erratic. Shows considerable promise.

G. T. EASON (Left half). Colours 1920.—Has played a splendid game, although somewhat handicapped in his position as he possesses a kick essentially right-footed. Can control the ball with great skill, but should feed his forwards more.

N. A. CARR (Left half).—Has made a hard-working substitute, taking G. T. Eason's place, owing to the latter's frequent absence. He sticks to his man well, but must learn to keep the ball better under control.

S. L. BUCKLE (Centre-half) Colours 1919-20.—Has filled his position with great credit, and it is mainly due to him

that we have been so successful this season. Possesses a strong kick, can manage the ball perfectly, and tackles well. Should draw his man oftener before kicking to his forwards.

E. H. BLACKNELL (Right half) Colours 1919-20.—Is very fast, and does not give his opponents much time to play with the ball, but his tackling is rather weak. Shows considerable judgment when throwing in. Works hard and uses his weight to the best advantage.

C. E. H. DOLPHIN (Outside-left). Can centre with his left foot with accuracy. When in possession of the ball, should learn to dribble farther and centre later. At present he is rather slow.

C. C. WOODLEY (Inside-left).—Has had a very unfortunate season, being away most of the time. Uses his head to great advantage. His footwork is neat and he shapes well for next year's team.

E. V. CROOK (Inside-left).—Is rather handicapped by being small and light, but makes up for this by showing considerable pluck and dash. Has played well throughout the season.

E. C. BEAVEN (Centre-forward). Colours 1920.—Has led the forward line with considerable energy, and uses his head well. Should shoot from a distance and not try to dribble too near. Has done good work on many occasions.

G. M. G. McFARLANE (Inside-right). Makes a skilful forward, though he is liable to play too much with the ball in front of goal. Should shoot oftener.

E. H. SMEETH (Inside-right).—A very keen player. Should pass more and should practice shooting. Has worked hard throughout the season.

I. WILLIAMS (Outside-right). Colours 1920.—Takes the ball down the wing well and centres at the right time, but is rather slow. On the few occasions he has played in the centre this dallying has been more marked. Should learn to shoot.

RECOLLECTIONS.

I am assured that my recollections of life as a boarder at the School sixty years ago would be interesting to present readers of the "Abingdonian," and so at the request of the Editor I am writing them to the best of my very limited ability.

I entered at Midsummer 1860 and left in December 1864, so that the whole of my time was spent in the Old School buildings by the Council Chamber. The Head-Master was the Rev. W. A. Strange, D.D.; Tesdale Usher, the Rev. E. T. H. Harper, M.A. (familiarily known as "Duck"); 3rd Master (Mathematics), the Rev. W. Mills, M.A. (a Cambridge man); and 4th Master, Mr. W. Laycock. There were altogether about 70 scholars including some 25 boarders, and the boys on the "Bennett" foundation who wore mortar-boards and gowns. Previous to the adoption of these I believe they had a uniform much like that worn at the Bluecoat School.

School life in those days was carried on on totally different lines to those now followed. We boarders, except when we

were in bed, were never free from the presence of a Master, and our sole living room was the schoolroom in which we lived and moved and had our being from morning till night, except for the intervals when we could play in the school yard, or were out for our daily walk along the Causeway and back. For the latter we had to walk two and two, with the Master on duty in the rear, until we got past the Nag's Head on the bridge, when we were allowed to break, and the more energetic played impromptu games or ran the whole length of the Causeway and waited there for the rest to come up. Then we returned as we came and reformed at the bridge. On half-holidays we went a longer distance, to Culham Railway station, Bagley Wood, or Radley. In summer we had a field alongside the river and close to Rye Farm, where cricket of a sort was played; but there was no organized game. Our playground was the yard by the school house: we had fives against the wall of the Council Chamber, rounders (with care to avoid the windows of the Doctor's house, which occupied one side of the yard), leap-frog or jumping. Bathing was a treat which did not often occur; we were taken (of course by a Master) to a place some distance above the lock, just where the cut to Culham Bridge (long disused) begins.

Instead of "terms" as now, we had "Quarters"—January to Easter, Easter to Midsr., Midsr. to Michaelmas, Michaelmas to Christmas.

Holidays were about a week at Easter, a month at Midsummer and the same at

Christmas; the Michaelmas break was almost nominal. School hours were in winter 9 till 12, and 1.30 to 4; in summer 7 till 8, 10 till 12.30, and 2 till 4. Saturday was a half-holiday. Both winter and summer 'Prep.' in the evening from 6 till 8; then supper and to bed at 8.30. Sixth form were allowed to sit up till 9. Meals were served in the dining hall adjoining the school room, and on wet half-holidays we were allowed to sit in there, reading or playing chess or draughts. There were four or five dormitories, I am not clear which; but I remember four were called Upper and Lower 3rd and Upper and Lower Fifth. Why these numerals were given I never knew. An Abingdon friend of mine (who was not at the School) told me he had seen the dormitories after the old buildings were vacated, and they were in his opinion not fit for dog kennels.

Sunday was very strictly observed: we came down to prayers at 8.30, I think, and after breakfast were allowed to stroll about in the yard till church time, when we went to St. Helen's, walking, as the Ordinance directs, "two and two, soberly and discreetly, with their books in their hands." We sat in a gallery, which at that time filled the second aisle from the N. end of the church: the 1st aisle from the N. was cut off from the rest of the building and had in it a staircase leading to the gallery. We boys sat in the extreme W. corner on wooden forms rising behind each other and known as "the Stocks." The Master had a seat so placed that he could see the lot of us. In the evening,

church again, and if it was raining we went to St. Nicholas opposite the School gate. Sunday afternoon the Vth and VIth Forms went to the Doctor's study and did Greek Testament, the Doctor giving explanations and comments, which we had to take down. I have still one of these note-books by me somewhere.

Speech Day took place before the Midsummer holidays. The speeches were delivered and the prizes distributed in the schoolroom, which was cleared of desks for the occasion. Speeches were delivered from the Eagle (now in the Chapel) which stood in the schoolroom and had steps behind it, on the top platform of which one stood. The mayor came in state and sat in the Doctor's seat (which was wide enough to hold three) and the mace was placed in an iron clasp provided for it; which clasp I was told, when I went to the School, was to confine a boy's wrist in whilst he was being birched. Sometimes the Master of Pembroke came over: at that time he was Dr. Jeune, one of three heads at Oxford who were known as "the World, the Flesh and the Devil." Dr. Jeune was the Devil.

The Tercentenary of the School occurred in 1863. I cannot remember any great celebrations, but we all went in procession to the Albert Memorial, which was unveiled, and I was greatly impressed with the singing of the Choir of St. George's Chapel at Windsor, who came down for the occasion. There was service afterwards at St. Helen's, and the preacher took the School motto for his text, as Dr. Dutton did this year.

I hope that present boys who read these recollections will not think that the school life of those days was an awful time: it was not. It simply is that times have completely changed and customs with them. In my young days discipline was much stricter both in home life and at school, and I am not sure that the change which has taken place, and which no doubt to a great extent has been justified, has not been carried too far. Scholarship was what we thought most of: now it is he who is the best bat, or great at 'footer' who is the swell. O.A.

THE PIG MARKET AT DINAN.

Under the walls of that stately chateau, which once echoed with the sounds of revelry in the days of Duchess Anne, there arise each Thursday morning sounds of a very different character, for this—the most beautiful corner of beautiful Dinan—is consecrated to the squealing of innumerable swine.

The dread word "*cochon*," with which the tyro in French generally manages to address his cabby, may, at any rate, be uttered here with impunity.

For from an early hour, long before the day is aired at all, the *cochons* and their attendants begin to muster—pigs in harness, pigs in pokes, and none in clover, so far as I could judge from the cavalier way in which they were treated.

Some little pigs come to market in the glory of a covered cart—these are the very aristocrats of pigdom—and others have to content themselves with taking, as the French say, "*La voiture de St. Crépin*."

But, in whatever way they come, all arrive squealing with wonderful unanimity, and a day spent in their savoury neighbourhood is fraught with dangerous hazard, because for some inexplicable reason the porcine mind views the human legs as the open door to freedom.

In spite of this, the owners and likely buyers stalk among them fearlessly, appraising their worth and occasionally testing their potentialities for bacon by a judicious prod, and when, after much chaffering, a bargain has been struck, the three parties concerned betake themselves to the weighing machine, "hurrying slowly," so far as the principal actor is concerned.

Anyhow, after Ulysses-like wanderings, they reach a pair of scales, strong enough, one would think, to weigh a hippopotamus. To one end of the beam is affixed a miniature cattle-truck, and to the other a pan, capable of holding such weights as one is accustomed to see strong men toying with on the stage.

I watched for some time, with great amusement, the struggles of the weighing party to coax one refractory old hog into this affair. The favourite way of lifting a pig, which is by taking hold of its foreleg and tail, was not in this case practicable, and it must have been fully twenty minutes before its avoirdupois was reckoned up.

Although, as I have just said, a pig's tail is usually looked upon as its handle, one girl performed a *tour de force* by lifting up a porker and using it as a whip for the chastisement of its brothers and sisters.

Those gifted with a squeamish nose had perhaps better view the promised land, flowing with sausages and bacon, from the Pishah of the castle battlements, but anyone to whom Jerusalem or Fontarabia has presented no terrors may walk at pleasure and with pleasure among these ungainly pachyderms, and, when he has had his fill of squeaks and shouts and smells, he may seek as a welcome antidote the fragrant beauties of the flower market, which is in the immediate neighbourhood.

Z.Y.X.

AUTUMN.

All hail to thee, oh Autumn! Hail once more!
 Come thou, the greatest painter of the year,
 Come with thy palette, paint the landscape o'er;
 At thy command let all the winds appear.
 They, rustling through the trees, the leaves shake down,
 Making a gorgeous carpet on the ground
 Of Autumn's colours, scarlet, yellow, brown—
 I hear them dropping sadly all around.
 And Autumn, gipsy-dressed, has fair blue skies,
 And golden sunshine flit'ring through the trees;
 The painted landscape, gaily-coloured, lies
 Before the eye, disturbed by Autumn's breeze.
 Scatter the leaves! Come with thy greater winds

And make the trees all bare. Hark how
they moan!

Autumn is dying, and the farmer binds
His sheaves of yellow corn for harvest
home.

As everything on Earth must change
and pass,

So Autumn, with her beauty, fades
away.

The trees are bare, the fallen leaves, the
grass,

Are sodden, wet with rain, no longer
gay.

The north wind moans, foretelling
Winter cold,

For Autumn now is dying, leaving but
A memory of scarlet leaves and gold,
A scent of lavender and corn new cut.

A.F.J.

BALI THE FELICIDE.

We were talking about dogs. I owned a fine Poligar which had taken to mauling goats, with the appalling result that every kid and goat in the neighbourhood which died or was taken ill would be brought to me in a more or less fragmentary state, and blood-money demanded. I asked the Quiet Man whether he knew of any way of curing, not the goats indeed, nor the mendacity of my pastoral neighbours, but the hound; whose character no doubt gave colour to these charges, though he certainly was not guilty in respect of them all.

The Quiet Man seemed to know a great deal about dogs and horses. In fact he knew a great deal about many things. He had been 'in the telegraphs,' as we say in the Indies: in other words,

his days had been devoted to the delicate and laborious business of extending and repairing the nervous system of his mother Earth in the form of telegraph-lines, an occupation which brought him into the wildest places, and assured him a number of the queerest adventures.

'No,' he answered, in reply to my question about the goat-killer. 'Once a dog develops these atavistic symptoms, it is very difficult, almost impossible to reclaim him.' I had a dog myself which was cured, thoroughly cured, of a very similar habit; but that was under exceptional circumstances. Curiously enough he too was a Poligar of sorts.'

'Did he kill goats?'

'No, not goats, cats. He had a perfect passion for killing cats. Felicide I used to call it, in a vain attempt to bring him to a proper sense of the enormity of his predilection. He would set about exterminating the feline population of a station almost systematically. He made me quite unpopular in the centres of comparative civilization in which my professional duties all too seldom allowed me to repose. In other respects he was a dutiful dog and a good fellow, and I was very fond of him. He was not a pure Poligar," continued the Quiet Man, with the unnecessary circumstantiality of your true dog-lover; "I think there must have been a streak of the Briton in him somewhere, for he had the glossy coat, the loose skin and wrinkled forehead of the blood-hound. He was powerful, fast, friendly, and obedient; matchless in a bobbery pack, and in fact a model hound of his kind, except that he slew the cats of enemies and friends alike."

"But you cured him, you say."

"I didn't cure him; at least I didn't myself initiate, though I certainly took a useful hand later in the conduct of the very delicate, not to say dangerous operation, by which his cure was ultimately effected."

"Sounds instructive," I said, "as well as interesting. Do tell me about it."

"It was this way," he replied. "I was riding along a road in the Indragiri Hills. You know the kind of road they have there; never visible for more than forty yards at a time, jungle-tangle towering over you on the one hand and falling away from you on the other, and over and between the trees and the lower slope rainbow-coloured visions as it were of all the mountain-Paradises of the Hindus hanging in the clouds."

"I know the kind of thing," I said.

"Yes. Well, the road at this point happened to be level and soft, and I was indulging in a canter. My servants were following somewhere behind with my baggage in a bullock-cart. Bali (that was the name of the dog) was loping along about thirty yards in front. I was blissfully studying the series of beatific visions between the branches on my left, when the pony suddenly gave a swerve towards the precipice which nearly carried us both into the other world for good and all. I looked up into the jungle on my right, but I could see nothing to account for her behaviour. The trees, the creepers and the ferns were all very outlandish and exuberant, no doubt, but not especially so at that particular point. I cantered on for per-

haps forty yards with an uneasy feeling, which suddenly gathered itself into a perception that my little canter was accompanied. I looked sharply round to see a magnificent leopard galloping alongside us with a preoccupied air, as if he were afraid of being late for an important engagement. Had it been the devil himself I could not have gotten a greater shock.

"He went past us in a flash. Curiously enough, the pony, who had evidently nosed him earlier as he lay in the wood, now took no notice of him whatever. Indeed he went by so softly and swiftly that she may not have noticed him before he was past, and I began to pull her up. I saw at once that Bali was the leopard's objective. You know how fond a leopard is of a dog for his dinner. Bali was a powerful hound and full of pluck, and though he was not likely to be able to counter the onslaught of a full-grown leopard, I hated to see him taken unawares. I shouted frantically to the unconscious Bali, but he had barely time to turn his head before the leopard had him by the neck, and down they went together, feline and felicide, and for once the felicide was the under-dog.

"My first impulse was to put the pony at the pair and to try to drive the leopard off, but I had only a riding-whip in my hand, and it did not take me long to realize that I should stand a very good chance of getting both myself and my little charger poisonously clawed without even saving the dog. My rifle was behind with the luggage. Of course the bullock-cart was not in sight. I swung

the pony round and galloped along that winding mountain-road as I have never galloped before or since.

At the first bend there was no sign of the cart, nor again at the second; but as I rounded the third, which was a sharp rock, the pony nearly leaped upon the horns of the brave little bullock, who was plugging along at a fine trot.

My rifle was on the top of the luggage, but it seemed an age before my servant got it out and I was able to load it. The whole business was rather like riding in a fancy race at a gymkhana, though the resemblance did not strike me at the time. Grasping the double-barrelled vengeance I got away again at last, and pounded back along the road to the spot where we had left poor Bali and the leopard.

"They were still there, both of them, crouching on the road, absolutely motionless, the leopard uppermost. He still had Bali by the neck, and was apparently holding him down by sheer weight and slowly doing my poor dog to death by suffocation.

I threw myself off at the bend of the road, less than forty yards away, and ran forward another ten yards; too near, perhaps, but I was frantic with hurry and rage. I dropped behind a stump and drew a bead on the spotted hide just behind the shoulder. It sounds like an easy shot, but I found it difficult enough to take a steady aim, I can tell you, after the shock of our surprise and the excitement of the ride, and drawn as I was between anger and anxiety, between the desire to shoot quick and the fear of hitting the dog.

I pulled the trigger at last, and the leopard toppled over sideways as dead as you could wish. Poor old Bali staggered to his feet almost at once, and looked about him in a pitifully bewildered way. He had four curious punctures in his neck, but they soon healed up. The leopard's teeth just missed both the jugular and the windpipe!

Whether our good Bali had the generalizing faculty sufficiently developed to be able to regard the great forest feline as the ordained avenger (or nearly so) of all the poor little tame pussies he had slain, or whether he simply lost his nerve, I cannot say; but he certainly gave up the practice of felicide from that day forward. He was entirely cured of his one vice. The pity of it was that most of his dogly virtues went by the board at the same time, for poor Bali was never of much use for anything at all after his terrible experience. Complicated thing, character, isn't it?—even the character of a dog?

O.J.C.

AD ALBUM.

(Pueri cuiusdam in Albo inscriptum).

Vae tibi, fusca Liber Albe nomen

Fronte mentito variisque chartis;

Vae coloratis nitido tabellis

Versiculisque.

Mene desuetos iterare cursus,

Me senem et te iam magis albicantem,

Cogis? et Musae specimen tacentis,

Improbe, poscis?

Vae, miser, servos pete iuniores:

Ad tuum sed ne dominum reversus

Tristis insontem videare quaestu

Fallere inani,

Dic inexpertae per iniqua vitae
Fortis incedat placidoque semper
Pectore, et nomen mercatur ipse
Rectius Album.

R.B.

OXFORD LETTER.

Dear Mr. Editor.

We are working! Cruel Nemesis has at length swooped down upon us and gone for ever are the care-free days of Bacchanalian revelry. By night nought is heard but the ceaseless rustle of our pens, whilst lean and haggard do we by day snatch each precious word as it falls from our tutor's lips.

Yet "hence loathed Melancholy" and let us welcome E. O. Hills to our bosom. He has already displayed much activity. As a Bridge player he has no equal. We have heard that he intends to summer among the Esquimaux or dig coal at Spitzbergen: a worthy enterprise, but why this slight upon 'leafy L'?

Another turn of the Kaleidoscope and we welcome R. E. Eason, an All Souls' Reader. We understand that he reads very nicely. He has rowed against B.N.C. in a victorious four and we have it that later he sang very nicely.

Ah me, Falernian, what inspiration! E. C. Dickinson is still producing verse.

For the rest there is much that we could tell, but space and the Proctors forbid. May we first extend a very cordial welcome to yourself, Sir, as our new Editor, and second wish you and your readers a very happy Xmas.

We are, dear Sir,

Yours, O.A.

OBITUARY.

Killed in Ireland in the Macroom Sinn Fein outrage on 28th November, Philip Noel Graham, aged 32.

[P. N. Graham was the fifth son of Mr. & Mrs. T. E. Graham, of Abingdon, and followed his elder brothers as a pupil at the School in January, 1898, remaining here until Easter, 1906. At school he distinguished himself as an athlete, and more especially as a long-distance runner, winning the "Heber Clarke" Challenge Cup in his last term and securing the Mile for the school in the O.A. Sports Meeting. In his last season, 1905, he captained the School at Cricket. He showed considerable proficiency as a batsman, making several large scores, and among them a not-out century on the Home ground against Leighton Park School. In June, 1907, he sailed for Canada with his brothers J. G. and A. W. L. In August, 1914, on the out break of the War, he joined the Army and rose to the rank of Captain in the Northumberland Fusiliers. In this capacity he saw service in France, where he was wounded. On receiving his discharge he joined the R.I.C., and it was as a Cadet in this body that he met his death. He was buried on 4th December with full military honours in the Cemetery at Abingdon, the preliminary part of the Service taking place in St. Michael's Church. In the unavoidable absence of the Headmaster the School was represented at the funeral by Mr. Rudd].

O.A. CLUB.

The following are the Club officials for the ensuing year:—

President:—H. P. Simpson.

Hon. Sec.:—J. Knowles.

Committee:—G. W. Shepherd, A.W.

Morland, J. Townsend, G. H. G.

Shepherd, B. J. Bury, J. N. Sanders.

A dinner was held in the Lion Hotel on Saturday, 20th June, 1920. Some 40 members were present. Excellent arrangements were made by Mr. Mayhead of The Lion, who provided the assembled company with an epicurean banquet.

In the speeches, brevity and sincerity were the most noteworthy features. The numbers present lead one to hope for an equally definite success next year.

O.A. NOTES.

The Secretary trusts that those who have so kindly supported the "Abingdonian" will continue to do so and will renew their next year's subscription (if due) before the next issue.

H. A. L. Donkin has played for the Casuals.

I. S. R. Miles is now a master at Wellingboro' School, and has played several times for the Corinthians.

In future a General Meeting of the Club will take place after the Football Match and Sports in addition to the usual Summer meeting. There will be no official evening gatherings after these.

O. Comfort has been seen in Oxford. He has been having a hectic time in pipe-line construction in Wales, but appears to be very well satisfied.

J. N. Sanders has commenced to 'eat dinners.'

We note that the Rev. H. Hughes has been up to Oxford recently to take his M.A. degree.

E. H. Mann, who has lately been in England, has paid a visit to his old friends at Abingdon. He tells us that his brother, G. F. S., was married in 1918 to a daughter of General Lewis, of the American Army, and is now living in New York State. E. H. has been living since the war with his father, Dr. G. Mann, in Mexico.

A Tragedy entitled "Algazel," by Willoughby Weaving, has been issued by Elkin Mathews. This is Weaving's first published attempt at dramatic writing, and though not of the popular order, nor likely, perhaps, to "act" well upon the stage, it is powerfully written

and ingeniously conceived. It is a real piece of literature and should appeal especially to those who are interested in the occult and oriental.

We understand that a volume of Verse by O. J. Couldrey is shortly to be published.

The Rev. T. Layng has been engaged this Autumn upon a course of lectures on Old Testament Theology, which he is delivering in Gloucester and Cheltenham.

Very many O.A.s will welcome the appearance of the Life of Major Sydney Harold Baker, written by his father, the late Mr. James Baker. The book, which is called "A Leader of Men," published by John Lane, at The Bodley Head, is profusely illustrated with Major Baker's own photographs and others. The pages which deal with the years spent at Abingdon are not, perhaps, the best part of the book, nor wholly free from inaccuracies; but for all this the story is well told and forms a worthy record of a life well lived. It is good that such a book should have been written, and by one so fully qualified to write it.

Mr. W. R. Adcock writes happily of his work as Headmaster of La Martin-ière College, Calcutta.

We congratulate Mr. M. T. Perks on his good fortune in securing a house in close proximity to his new field of labour at Wakefield.

Captain T. M. Layng, M.C., has been transferred from Waziristan to a Staff appointment in Mesopotamia.

We congratulate C. M. Humfrey on passing the City and Guilds Entrance Examination in Mathematics and Science. He is now at Rugby training as

an Engineer in the works of the British Thomson-Houston Engineering Co.Ltd., where he seems to find life both profitable and pleasant.

H. J. A. Payne has joined a firm of Auctioneers in Stroud, Gloucestershire.

B. L. Kaye is winning a reputation as a Professional Singer.

Norman Hooke has returned to Canada and is living at Ottawa.

MARRIAGES.

BRINSMEAD—HARGREAVES.—On October 28th at Singapore, Max. G. Brinsmead, son of the late Horace G. Brinsmead, to Doris Ella, daughter of the late James A. Hargreaves.

ADAMS—KENNARD.—In November, at Bradford-on-Avon, Victor G. Adams to Dorothy Evelyn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Kennard, of Northleigh.

We learn furthermore, on the eve of going to print, that Capt. W. H. Wood, O.A., was married on 27th October at Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square, but we have not yet heard the name of the fortunate lady; also that he has passed the recent I.C.S. Examination, for which he was sitting a few days before his marriage. Our best congratulations on the double event, and may he get a speedy appointment to a comfortable berth!

We offer our sincerest sympathy to the parents and family of Philip Noel Graham, who fell a victim to Sinn Fein ferocity on 28th November in the ambush at Macroom, co. Cork, Ireland. A brief notice of his career appears elsewhere in our columns.

SCHOOL NOTES.

VALETE.

VI. FORM.

C. M. Humfrey (1911—1920). School Prefect 1917; Head of School 1919; 1st XI. Cricket 1916; Colours 1917; 1st XI. Football 1916; Colours 1917; 1st IV. Rowing 1918; Colours 1918; Sergt.-Major O.T.C. 1919; O.S.L. 1st Class 1919; Hon. Sec. L.S.D.S. 1920.

R. E. Eason (1913—20). School Prefect 1918; 1st XI. Cricket 1917; Colours 1918; Captain 1920; 1st XI. Football 1916; Colours 1917; Captain 1919; 1st IV. Rowing 1918; Colours 1918; Captain 1920; Athletic Colours 1919; O.S.L. 2nd Class 1917; H.S.C. (Classics) 1918—19—20; Meredith Latin Prize 1920; Sergt. O.T.C. 1919; Hon. Treas. L.S.D.S. 1920; Bible Clerkship All Souls 1920.

E. O. Hills (1916—20). School Prefect 1918; Head of the House 1919; O.S.L. 1917; H.S.C.(Classics) 1919; Meredith Greek Prize 1920; Warwickshire County Major Scholarship 1920; Pembroke Scholarship 1920; Corpl. O.T.C. 1919; Cricket 2nd XI. 1916; Captain 1918; 1st XI. 1919; Football 2nd XI. 1918; 1st XI. 1919; Athletic Colours 1920.

R. B. H. Morland (1915—20). School Prefect 1920; 2nd XI. Cricket 1918; 1st XI. 1920; 2nd XI. Football 1916; 1st XI. 1917; Colours 1919; 2nd IV. Rowing 1920; Corpl. O.T.C. 1920; O.J.L. 1918.

J. D. May (1918—20). O.S.L. 3rd Class 1919; 2nd XI. Cricket 1919; Captain 1920; 2nd XI. Football 1919.

S. J. Minkley (1916—20). O. S. L.
1918; S.C. 1920.

V. FORM.

J. H. Farne (1919—20). S.C. 1920.
F. T. A. Smith (1918—20). S.C. 1920.
E. R. Barber (1918—20). 1st XI. Cricket 1919; Colours 1920; 1st XI. Football 1918; Colours 1918; Athletic Colours 1919; Half Rowing Colours 1920.
T. W. Smeeth (1917—20). 2nd XI. Cricket 1919; 2nd XI. Football 1918.
L. A. Lloyd (1917—20). 2nd XI. Cricket 1919; 2nd XI. Football 1919.
G. Aldworth (1916—20).
F. L. Kitto (1916—20).
G. L. Thatcher (1917—20).
E. Harris (1916—20).

II. FORM.

K. N. Halliday (1919—20).
R. Sharpe (1920).

SALVETE.

V. Form.—L. W. Herschell.

Remove.—J. S. Fox, P. G. A. Kennington, W. G. Hancock, K. C. Smith, C. C. Woodley.

III. Form.—N. V. Pearson, C. Stacey, S. R. Hunt, O. T. Gammage, W. A. Smallbone, J. G. Brewerton, B. A. Clarke, J. E. Ballard-Neale, M. G. Candy, C. F. Fisher.

II. Form.—H. T. Howard, W. F. Smith, E. M. Holbrook, R. Sowdon, J. A. Howard, J. H. Harris, A. M. Greenwood, R. F. Bride.

Miss Couldrey has relinquished the task of training the School Choir, and her place has been taken by Miss Shel-

don Peach. Miss Peach has made a name for herself in Abingdon by reviving the local Choral Society, of which the Headmaster is Vice-President. We offer her a very hearty welcome. At the same time we are glad not to lose sight of Miss Couldrey, who still gives Piano-forte lessons at the School.

Mr. Perks' place on the Staff has been filled this term by Mr. F. H. Sikes, M.A., late Scholar of Pembroke Coll., Cambridge. Mr. Sikes brings with him a wide experience both as a schoolmaster and a traveller, as well as considerable skill as an artist and much practical knowledge of Natural History. We have already profited greatly by his teaching and kindly interest in our welfare and progress.

Mr. Walker's place has been ably filled by Mr. J. W. Reynolds, M.A., late Scholar of Keble College, Oxford who has taken up the onerous duties of O.C., O.T.C., in addition to the burden of class-room teaching.

Sergt. Leslie, D.C.M., of the Berkshire Regiment, has been appointed Sergeant-Instructor to the Corps.

E. H. Blacknell is Head of the School and Head of the House, and the other prefects are H. V. Stovell, R. B. H. Morland (who left at half-term), J. E. F. Meadmore, W. Memory, I. Williams, W. J. M. Jamieson, R. L. C. Footitt, A. J. Newbury, and E. C. Beaven. W. Memory is Librarian.

The Football Captain this season is H. V. Stovell, with E. H. Blacknell as Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

The "Abingdonian" Committee consists of Mr. Ross-Barker (Editor), E. H. Blacknell, H. V. Stovell, W. Memory, J. E. F. Meadmore, W. J. M. Jamieson, A. J. Newbury, and C. E. H. Dolphin.

The following gained certificates in the examinations last July:— *Higher Certificate*—R. E. Eason. *School Certificates*—C. E. H. Dolphin, J. H. Farne, A. F. James, J. D. May, S. J. Minkley, P. E. Rowlandson, F. T. A. Smith.

The bat for the best batting average last term was won by H. V. Stovell with an average of 25. The ball for the best bowling average went to C. E. H. Dolphin, whose average was 11:024.

Football Colours have been awarded to I. Williams, E. C. Beaven, and G. T. Eason.

The following boys were confirmed by the Bishop of Oxford at St. Helen's Church on Sunday afternoon, 5th Dec. C. R. Davidge, C. Ellis, J. Harding, L. W. Herschell, A. J. Newbury, R. G. Spencer, R. C. W. Waterhouse, R. J. Witham.

There are thirty-five boys learning dancing this term, and the classes are held on Thursday evenings. To the later classes ladies have been invited, and this has added greatly both to the value and to the enjoyment of the instruction given by M. Gaultier.

Instruction in Boxing is given on Wednesday and Friday evenings. 11 boys are learning the noble art. The Instructor is Sergt.-Major Collins, the Sergeant-Instructor of Radley College

O.T.C. He has won distinction as a boxer, holding for three years the Middle Weight Championship of the Army and Navy.

A framed portrait of the late Lieut. B. S. Marshall, M.C., has been presented to the School by his father.

We have to thank Mr. W. W. Richardson, O.A., for his gift of three interesting photographs. These are (i.) a picture of the old School Room (Roissey's Room) in 1860; (ii.) a School group taken in 1865; and (iii.) another School group taken in 1867. To the groups Mr. Richardson has added name-charts, which greatly enhance their interest and value.

Another gift for which we record our gratitude is a copy of the Prologue—a topical poem of considerable merit—composed and recited by Mr. Deazeley for the Abingdon School Theatricals of 1881. This has been sent by the Rev. G. H. Smales, O.A., who was a boy at the School at the above date, when Mr. Deazeley was one of the masters. We wish that more O.A.s of an earlier generation would follow the example of Mr. Smales and Mr. Richardson, and send us other interesting mementoes of the past.

On the 12th and 13th of October the Classical VIth were allowed to visit Oxford to witness performances of the "Trojan Women" and "Medea" of Euripides. These performances were given in the Town Hall, the heroine's part in each play being taken by Miss Penelope Wheeler. They were given in English, the version used being that of Professor Gilbert Murray.

On Friday, 29th October, the School attended a Variety Entertainment in the Corn Exchange, arranged by Mrs. Bailie on behalf of the Parish Hall and other deserving objects. Several professional artistes were engaged, and an excellent programme was very much appreciated.

The School is much indebted to Mr. Claude Rippon, of Springfields, Abingdon, who is classifying and re-arranging our collection of butterflies and moths. We are indeed fortunate in securing the services of so capable an entomologist, and those boys who are helping Mr. Rippon in his work should be very grateful for the privilege of learning from a master of his subject.

A link with the past has been severed by the death of the Rev. W. R. Baker, which occurred at Hagbourne Vicarage on 9th November, at the age of 74. Mr. Baker had been Vicar of Hagbourne for 42 years, and for many years, while his sons were educated here, he took a

keen and constant interest in the doings of the School. O.A.s of that period will remember him as a frequent spectator at Cricket and Football Matches and a welcome visitor at most School functions.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following contemporaries : *Bloxhamist*, *Chigwellian*, *Laxtonian* and *Monktonian*.

A Concert will be given in the Gymnasium by members of the School Choir, with much valuable help from outside, on Tuesday evening, 14th December.

The usual rag Concert, for which we are indebted to the labours of many artistes, and more particularly to those of Mr. Ingham and Miss Grundy, will take place on Thursday evening, the 16th.

Boarders depart for the holidays on 17th December and return to School on 10th January.

ABINGDONIAN ACCOUNTS.

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O.A. Club ...	...	3	16	0			
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