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THE ABINGDONIAN.

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EDITORIAL.

As our readers will have noticed, a change is made with this number in the style of our publication. It will be found on comparison that the average of words to the page in this and in former issues respectively works out at a ratio of about thirteen to eight: not that the pages are appreciably larger: but the lines are somewhat longer and there are more of them to the column, a certain amount of margin being sacrificed. It is proposed as nearly as possible to equate the three annual numbers, allowing about ten pages to each in the new style, equivalent to sixteen and a quarter in the old.

This change—the least possible consistent with our purpose, and perhaps not otherwise desirable in itself—has been made for the sake of economy. Our first object has been to reduce our charges to members of the O.A. Club, and indeed the grant which we receive from the Governors is conditional, actually, upon some such concession being made. In addition to this, and in spite of it, we hope under the new conditions to secure a small annual balance, to be kept as

a reserve fund, or employed from time to time to provide pictorial supplements.

Our new charges, then, to members of the O.A. Club are—sixpence for a single copy, ten shillings for a seven-year subscription, or a guinea for fifteen years; while, in the case of those who have already paid subscriptions, the balance standing to their credit will double its purchasing value. For those who do not belong to the O.A. Club the terms will remain as before, to wit, one shilling per copy, or a pound for a seven-year subscription. But it is hoped that the reduced terms to members of the Club may serve as an inducement to more O.A.s to join it, and more especially to those who will be living at a distance from Abingdon, and may therefore derive less benefit from the other advantages of membership.

Finally we would appeal to all O.A.s to favour us with news of themselves, or news of one another; and if any are minded to “handle the pen of the writer,” they may rest very sure that we shall welcome their contributions.

FOOTBALL.

A.S.F.C. v. Leighton Park School, played on December 4th, at Reading. This match, although one of the last of the season, showed up the inability of the School team to work in unison. It was not, however, entirely due to the poor play of the School that our opponents won by 5 goals to nil, for the conditions under which the match was played were far from pleasant. A strong hurricane was blowing mercilessly and straight down the field, and even Stovell's goal-kicks failed in many cases to get beyond the penalty area. The team was as usual incomplete, as K. Cleave and R. L. C. Foottit were playing as substitutes. The School was represented as follows: H. V. Stovell (goal); W. M. Jamieson and K. Cleave (backs); E. H. Blacknell, S. L. Buckle and R.L.C. Foottit (halves); J. E. F. Meadmore, E. H. Smeeth, I. Williams, E. C. Beaven and C. E. H. Dolphin (forwards).

A.S.F.C. v. Old Abingdonians, played on the School ground on December 11th. This match, the last of the season, might have been favoured with more pleasant weather, for it was played in a fine drizzle on a partially snow-covered field. Our opponents were a distinctly superior team, but the School should have been able to put up a better resistance. It was chiefly due to the efforts of S. L. Buckle that the final score was no worse than 8 goals to 1 against us, a very poor result with which to close the season. The teams were as follows:

Old Abingdonians.—W. Lupton (goal); R. E. Eason and A. L. Edwards (backs); F. B. Glenny, J. Knowles and F. H. Edey (halves); E. R. Barber, L. C. George, I. S. R. Miles, C. M. Humfrey and J. Morland (forwards).

A.S.F.C.—H. V. Stovell (goal); W. M. Jamieson and C. S. Morland (backs); G. T. Eason, S. L. Buckle and R. L. C. Foottit (halves); J. E. F. Meadmore, C. C. Woodley, I. Williams, E. C. Beaven and C.E.H. Dolphin (forwards).

During the present term the Football has been worked on a new system. Each "Side" has provided three Elevens and five "Sixes," two of which latter are Seniors and the rest Juniors. Each Eleven plays each corresponding Eleven three times, and each Senior Six plays each other Senior Six of the two remaining "Sides" twice. Each Junior Six plays each Six of the other "Sides" once only.

This system has been considerably encroached upon by the demand for rowers, which has caused a fair amount of substitute play. There has been considerably more keenness shown this year, however, than usual.

Owing to the fact that the finals of this "Side" football are continuing rather late in the term, the results must be left over for our next number.

ROWING.

REVIEW OF THE SEASON.

1921 has proved itself to be quite a record year in the annals of Abingdon School rowing. No rain, snow, ice, flood or sickness to mar the continuity of the progressive stages of training; all worked as smoothly as could be wished, contributing in no small degree to the unexpected and successful result of four victories out of a possible five. The First Crew must be congratulated on its unbroken record of wins, especially in view of the formidable reputation of the members of the Old Boys' crew. Outside appreciation, as sincere as it was expert, made even Coach's ears tingle with pleasure.

The fixture list was arranged as follows:—Sutton Courtenay Lodge, two crews, on Feb. 24th; the O.A.s on Feb. 26th; Magdalen College School, two crews, on March 5th; all on 'home' waters in Culham Reach, from the Cut to the White Bridge.

Tubbing operations began on Jan. 17th and were carried on for about ten days to provide possible material. With Newbury as the only old Colour, the task of filling up the list was none too easy; but Eason, Buckle and Carr, all of whom rowed in a "four" last year, were conspicuous as showing promise, and by their perseverance and keenness have thoroughly deserved their colours. A period of three weeks was allotted for full training. Progress was at first somewhat slow, but good stages of paddling settled them down as a crew. No serious effort at hard work was attempted till the final week, when all showed vast improvement in form, making the boat move at quite a fast pace. In two of the races they did the course in the very good time of 3 mins. 29 secs., while in the race against the O.A.s a stiff head wind increased the time to 3 mins. 51 secs.

In forming a Second Crew there was nothing but very raw material to select from. A distinct 'find' was made in R. L. Williams, an oar of great promise, who was placed at 'stroke,' with Meadmore 3, Cleave 2, and I. Williams bow.

Footitt was eventually placed at '3,' owing to Meadmore's retirement under doctor's orders. They took some time to get accustomed to the Blue Four; but after some slight alterations had been made to the riggers, the crew seemed more comfortable and were able to work together. As with the First Crew, their improvement was most marked in the later stages; and between their defeat at the hands of Sutton Courtenay Lodge on Feb. 24th and their race against Magdalen College School on March 5th the progress was astonishing. They seemed to realize what 'rowing' was and how to do it; and their time of 3 mins. 39 secs. was a very creditable performance.

Throughout the practice the crews were accompanied by a promising Tub Four, consisting of Stiles (stroke), C. S. Morland (3), Robinson (2), Saxby or Sturrock (bow). Some of these will doubtless be called upon to do greater things in years to come, for which the rôle of 'spare' men in 1921 is a fitting apprenticeship.

We welcome and appreciate very warmly the interest taken in our efforts by the O.A. rowing enthusiasts at Pembroke College and by the stroke of the Trinity Toggler. Will they please not forget us next year?

THE RACES.

Abingdon School 2nd Four *v.* Sutton Courtenay Lodge 2nd Four.—This race took place on Feb. 24th, on Culham Reach, being rowed down stream, contrary to the usual arrangement. The School gained on their opponents through a somewhat superior start, but failed to retain their advantage. At the half-way tree our opponents led by about a length, and by the end of the course this lead was doubled. The failure of the School may be attributed to the fact that the crew lost most of its form after rowing about a third of the course. The crew rowed in the "Blue Four," and consisted of the following: Stroke, R. L. Williams; 3, R. L. C. Footitt; 2, K. Cleave; bow, I. Williams; cox, A. H. K. Stevens. Time: 3 mins. 41 secs.

Abingdon School 1st Four *v.* Sutton Courtenay Lodge 1st Four.—This race, also, was rowed on Feb. 24th, immediately after the 2nd Fours. It was rowed up-stream. The School made a poor start and thus found themselves half-a-length behind their opponents when about a quarter of the course had been covered. By this time, however, the School had settled down, and began to gain steadily, realizing a victory by about two and a half lengths at the com-

pletion of the course. The School Four rowed in the "John Roysse," with the School Boating flag flying in the bows. The crew consisted of: Stroke, G. T. Eason; 3, A. J. Newbury; 2, S. L. Buckle; bow, N. A. Carr; cox, C. Ellis. The time for the race was exceptionally good, being 3 mins. 29 secs., though it must be confessed the breeze was in a favourable quarter.

Abingdon School 1st Four *v.* Old Abingdonians.—This race was rowed on Feb. 26th, on Culham Reach, under somewhat unfavourable conditions. The river had risen a little and what wind there was blew down stream. The School won the toss and chose the Berkshire side. At the start the School again lost about half-a-length, but succeeded in drawing level by the time the "Big Tree" was reached. From this point they began to "go up," and finished the race one and a half lengths in front of their opponents. They rowed in the "John Roysse," with the School flag again at the bows. The crew was the same as that for the Sutton Courtenay Lodge race, but the time was not so good, being 3 mins. 51 secs.

The O.A. Crew consisted of R. E. Eason (stroke), C. V. Davidge (3), E. O. Hills (2), J. Knowles (bow).

A. H. K. Stevens coxed for the Old Boys.

Abingdon School 2nd Four *v.* Magdalen College School 2nd Four.—This race was rowed on Culham Reach on Saturday, March 5th. The School got well away from the mark, being about a length ahead at the half-way tree. They were rowing in much better style than in the race with Sutton Courtenay, and kept well together. Magdalen spurted near the end and managed to gain on the School, but only succeeded in reducing the School's lead to two and a half lengths at the winning post. The crew, the same as in the previous 2nd Four race, rowed in the "Blue Four," flying a flag kindly made by Miss Grundy for the occasion. The time for the course was 3 mins. 39 secs.

Abingdon School 1st Four *v.* Magdalen College School 1st Four.—This race took place on Culham Reach on Saturday, March 5th, after the 2nd Four had rowed. The weather conditions were not at all favourable for racing, there being a stiff breeze blowing up stream, which made the water somewhat 'choppy.' Both boats got a good start, and up to the half-way tree they kept level. From this point, however, the School began to gain on the visitors, and after a fine spurt at the end finished the course

two lengths ahead. The race was rowed in the "John Roysse," with the School flag at the bows, the crew being the same as in the previous races. The time taken was a record for the season, 3 mins. 28 secs.

ROWING CHARACTERS.

FIRST CREW.

N. A. Carr (Bow), 10 st. 13½ lbs. Colours 1921.—Has rather a cramped position of the shoulders at the finish and does not quite know how to control his oar yet, but has much improved since the beginning of the season, making more use of his legs. Rowed well in the races.

S. L. Buckle (2), 10 st. 0½ lbs. Colours 1921. Works hard, making good use of his legs, but rows too deep and has an awkward finish, failing to get his hands away neatly. Must learn to sit up.

A. J. Newbury (3), 11 st. 10 lbs. Colours 1920—21.—A very hard and efficient 'three.' Backs 'stroke' up very well. Rows rather deep and is a trifle slow in the recovery. Has much improved since last year, making full use of his weight. A good captain.

G. T. Eason (Stroke), 10 st. 12 lbs. Colours 1921.—Has quite a nice style, and with more experience will make a good stroke. Needs to make more use of his feet and stretcher, applying even pressure with both legs. Leads his crew well, but must not hurry forward over the stretcher.

C. Ellis (Cox), 6 st. 10½ lbs. Colours 1920—21.—Steers well and has gained much valuable experience since last year. Cheers along his crew well, making good use of his voice. Must avoid taking unnecessary risks. Is now beginning to put on too much weight.

SECOND CREW.

I. Williams (Bow), 9 st. 2¼ lbs. Very painstaking and neat, but is slow with his hands, a fault which makes him rather late. Much improved in swing and driving power.

K. Cleave (2), 9 st. 12 lbs.—A hard worker, but gets flurried. Rows deep and is inclined to rush forward. Wants to be lighter with his hands and follow stroke's movements. Has pluck and determination.

R. L. C. Foottit (3), 11 st. 4 lbs.—Came into the boat late, but has done very creditably. Has a style of his own and is rather clumsy. Rows his hands over and too high, but with more experience will be a useful oar. Must learn to work together with 'stroke.'

R. L. Williams (Stroke), 9 st. 7½ lbs.—The best oar in the boat. Has developed into a good 'stroke,' with a neat style. Applies his work well and swings steadily, with a good idea of rhythm. Keeps his crew going and rows himself out.

A. H. Stevens (Cox), 6 st. 5¼ lbs. Has much to learn yet about the art of 'coxing.' Steers well, but lacks initiative. Too monotonous in his remarks. Can handle a boat well, but fails to inspire his crew, and gets muddled.

O.T.C.

There is not a great deal to be chronicled about the Corps in the mid-Term.

First of all we have to congratulate Corporals Meadmore and R. B. Morland on being awarded Certificate "A." The examination was held in November last, and these two candidates appear to be the first to qualify from this contingent. R. B. Morland will shortly be commissioned in the Territorial Force to the 4th Bn. London Regt.

At the end of last term we lost the assistance of Sgts. Blacknell and Stovell, and to fill vacancies the following promotions have been made:

Corporal Meadmore to be Sergeant.

Cadets Dolphin and Memory to be Corporals.

Cadets I. Williams, Newbury, Eason and Jamieson to be Lance-Corporals (without pay and allowances).

The Contingent strength at present is one officer and 59 Cadets.

Shooting was begun this term in order to relieve the pressure of work during the summer term, and also to give the C.O. time occasionally to indulge in the delights of punting and other river attractions. The Brewery range being no longer available, we have been allowed to use the Abingdon Territorials' range in the Foundry. For this we desire to thank the Officer commanding the Abingdon Company of the 4th Bn. Royal Berkshire Regt.

It is hoped that the standard attained will be higher than that of last year, and so far the results are promising. A few of the recruits seem to be "natural" shots, whilst some being naturally tender-hearted avoid damaging the target in any possible way. To the latter we say "A little more of the offensive spirit!"

The annual Camp will be held from July 26—Aug. 4, at a centre yet to be decided on. As far as can be seen, more than 30 Cadets will be eligible to attend.

Training in camp is vital for the proper understanding of elementary military duties, and an earnest appeal is made here to all members of the Corps who are eligible, to go to camp this summer and round off the year's training. Camp means fresh air, fun, hard work, that something new is learned and that a young citizen after it is worthier of his calling as such.

Lastly, in all Corps work keep ever these words in mind: "Remember 1914."

THE FIELD DAY.

On Saint Taffy's Day we went to war. War was declared at 1 p.m. Peace was signed at 2.5 p.m. on the same Saint's Day, and we men of Abingdon still have to encounter our enemy.

Last term we had an excellent day at Cumnor, when various gallant sections captured cavalry, almost bagged pheasants, were surrounded, fought their way out again—and all this without blanks or "bottles, water."

But this time the contingent was even better equipped, and consequently more martial. Owing to soothing words spoken to a certain high official, 60 water-bottles were delivered from Didcot in a two-horsed Red Cross Ambulance in time for "Der Tag." Ten rounds of blank apiece were issued.

Then training to Wheatley, near Shotover Hill, we fortified our courage with pork-pies, apples and water, in the goodly company of the men of Radley and Reading, Bloxham and Birmingham, and Wantage, along with renegade gunners and cavalry of Oxford University.

With the men of Reading we were in support at the beginning, it being purposed that we should eventually do a "leap-frog" attack.

An hour after operations began we were ordered to advance, and had advanced 20 yards with rifles still at the slope (why so it is not known), when the cease-fire was sounded.

For us the day meant neither death nor glory—nor pheasants, and our spirits only began to revive on the march home from Radley in the evening, to the sound of the most unmartial, "raggy" strains that ever disturbed a quiet country-side.

Memorabilia:—

A Lance-Corporal was observed "telling off" a Private. Good! Do it again!

Signaller R— was observed observing himself in a heliograph mirror. The helio is now sitting up and taking notice.

ATHLETIC SPORTS.

The School Sports were held on Saturday, March 12th. The weather might have been better, but at the same time it might have been worse. It had rained quite a lot in the morning, but it cleared up in time for the opening events; indeed the sun even condescended to come out, more or less, though the wind remained rather cold. Quite a large number of spectators was present, and they appeared to enjoy the afternoon's programme. Great interest was taken in the competition for the Challenge Cup between the three "sides," Red, Green and Blue, and especially in the Relay races, which were the last events on the programme. Owing to the ravages of the chicken-pox, sundry would-be competitors were at the last moment unable to compete, and this necessitated changes in the teams chosen for the Relay races; but otherwise the programme went through without a hitch.

The Mile races had been run on Monday, March 7th, on the School field, as usual. The Steeplechases were run on the Common, as in former years, but at an earlier date than usual, namely, February 16th, and this innovation was rewarded with perfect weather.

Prizes were awarded for all events, and these were kindly distributed by Mrs. Frank Morland at the conclusion of the meeting.

The Sports Committee this year was as follows:—Chairman, W. A. Rudd, Esq.; *Ex-Officio*, C. E. H. Dolphin, *Elected*, I. Williams, N. A. Carr, S. L. Buckle, C. C. Woodley, H. D. Shallard, E. G. Langford.

PROGRAMME.

Long Jump (open).—Challenge Cup presented by A. Stockton, Esq., O.A. Prizes presented by T. Skurray, Esq.

1.—N. A. Carr. 2.—R. L. C. Footitt.
Dist.—17 ft. 7½ in.

Long Jump (under 15).—Prize presented by W. R. Portal, Esq., O.A.

1.—C. Ellis. 2.—J. S. Fox.
Dist.—14 ft. 6 in.

High Jump (open).—Prizes presented by the Headmaster and W. T. Morland, Esq., O.A.

1.—N. A. Carr. 2.—I. Williams.
Height.—5 ft. 2 in.

This constitutes a record for these Sports. Williams was only an inch behind the winner.

High Jump (under 15).—Prize presented by W. Legge, Esq.

1.—C. Ellis. 2.—S. W. D. Shallard.
Height.—4 ft. 0 in.

Hurdles (open).—Prizes presented by Sir G. Dashwood, Bart., and M. T. Tatham, Esq.

1.—N. A. Carr. 2.—S. L. Buckle.

Time.—19 secs.

Hurdles (under 16).—Prize presented by H. S. Challenor, Esq., O.A.

1.—C. C. Woodley. 2.—C. Ellis.

Time.—21 secs.

Hundred Yards (under 12).—Prize presented by General J. T. Wigan, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. M.P.

1.—W.H.W. Lucas. 2.—A.W.R. Foxwell.

Time.—15 2-5th secs.

Hundred Yards (under 15).—Prize presented by Miss Sandys.

1.—A. W. Miles. 2.—C. Ellis.

Time.—13 secs.

Hundred Yards (open).—Challenge Cup presented by Mrs. Price. Prizes presented by H. G. W. d'Almaine, Esq., O.A.

1.—N. A. Carr. 2.—I. Williams.

Time.—11 1-5th secs.

220 Yards Handicap (under 13).—Prize presented by R. W. Langford, Esq., Mayor of Abingdon.

1.—E. G. Langford (16 yds.).

2.—K. L. Aldridge (scratch) and R. E. Broadbent (15 yds.) (equal).

Time.—32 2-5th secs.

Quarter Mile (under 15).—Prizes presented by the Ladies of Abingdon.

1.—C. Ellis. 2.—G. W. Salisbury.

Time.—70 1-5th secs.

Quarter Mile (open).—Challenge Cup presented by W. Pierpoint, Esq. Prizes presented by the Ladies of Abingdon.

1.—I. Williams. 2.—A. J. Newbury.

Time.—59 2-5th secs.

Throwing the Cricket Ball (open).—Prize presented by E. J. P. Ross-Barker, Esq.

1.—S. L. Buckle. 2.—E. H. Smeeth.

Distance.—78 yards, 10 in.

Half-Mile Handicap.—Prizes presented by H. P. Simpson, Esq., O.A., and J. G. T. West, Esq., O.A.

1.—R. C. W. Waterhouse (50 yds.).

2.—C. Stacey (140 yds.).

3.—A. J. Newbury (scratch).

Time.—2 min. 17 4-5th secs.

Putting the Weight (16 lbs.) (open).—Prize presented by J. T. Morland, Esq.

1.—N. A. Carr. 2.—R. L. C. Foottit.

Distance.—25 ft. 9 in.

Relay Race (open). (Four laps: half a lap to each competitor).

1.—Blue. A. J. Newbury, C. E. H. Dolphin, S. F. Wiggins, E. C. Beaven, C. R. Davidge, G. T. Eason, C. C. Woodley, I. Williams.

2.—Green. R. L. C. Foottit, C. S. Morland, R. C. Saxby, C. Ellis, D. Jenkins, S. L. Buckle, G. M. G. McFarlane, N. A. Carr.

Time.—3 mins. 5 1-5th secs.

Relay Race (Junior). (same distance as the open race).

1.—Green. K. L. Aldridge, C. Stacey, J. H. S. Dodwell, W. J. Smith, R. Taylor, J. S. Fox, R. W. Snell, T. A. Wiggins.

2.—Red. A. W. Miles, S. W. D. Shallard, J. E. Ballard-Neal, T. R. Pollard, H. J. K. Genders, C. E. Lowe, J. H. Hooke, C. F. Fisher.

Time.—3 mins. 35 secs.

One Mile Race (open).—Challenge Cup presented by Mrs. Burkett. Prizes presented by W. E. S. Carr, Esq.

1.—A. J. Newbury. 2.—C. E. H. Dolphin.

3.—I. Williams.

Time.—5 mins. 4 secs.

One Mile Race (under 15).—Prizes presented by E. M. Challenor, Esq., O.A., and J. H. E. Morland, Esq., O.A.

1.—C. Ellis. 2.—A. W. Miles.

3.—K. L. Aldridge.

Time.—5 mins. 32 secs.

Steeplechase (open).—Prizes presented by F. H. Sikes, Esq., and W. A. Rudd, Esq.

1.—A. J. Newbury. 2.—C. E. H. Dolphin.

3.—K. Cleave.

Time.—11 mins. 40 secs.

Steeplechase (under 14).—Prizes presented by H. Donkin, Esq., and Mrs. Donkin.

1.—A. W. Miles. 2.—C. R. Wright.

3.—C. Stacey.

Time.—4 mins. 48 4-5th secs.

The "Side" Challenge Cup (presented by the Ladies of Abingdon) was won by Green with 194 points, Blue being second with 128.

The "Heber Clarke" Challenge Cup was won by N. A. Carr with 50 points, A. J. Newbury being second with 34.

LITERARY, SCIENTIFIC & DEBATING SOCIETY.

The Society met in the Pembroke Room at 7 p.m., on Saturday, 15th January, with Mr. Ingham in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and passed.

Mr. Meadmore was then called upon to pro-

pose that "in the opinion of this House the construction of battleships at the present time is highly inadvisable." Mr. R. L. Williams opposed and Mr. Dolphin seconded the motion. Mr. Mason seconded the opposition.

The following members also addressed the House:—*Pro.*—Messrs. J. Y. Ingham, J. D. L. Robinson and W. H. Stevens.

Con.—Mr. Ivan Williams.

Neutral.—Mr. Rowlandson.

On being put to the vote the motion was lost by six votes to four.

Mr. Ivan Williams proposed that debates should start more punctually and Mr. Rowlandson seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

The Society met in the Pembroke Room at 6.50 p.m., on Saturday, 22nd January, with the Vice-President in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and passed.

Mr. Ingham then asked the Hon. Secretary whether he had made any effort towards furthering the punctuality of debates, and received an answer in the affirmative.

He then desired to know the duties of the Honorary Treasurer, and on being informed, he asked for a statement of accounts. The Hon. Treasurer enlightened him on the subject.

The House then proceeded to elect new members. Messrs. L. W. Herschell, C. E. Lowe, A. W. Miles and R. G. Spencer were proposed, seconded and elected.

Mr. Harding was then called upon to propose that "in the opinion of this House the Cinema is not a boon and a blessing to man." Mr. Robinson opposed and Mr. Weaver seconded the motion. Mr. Lucas seconded the opposition.

The following members also addressed the House:—*Pro.*—Messrs. J. F. Sinclair, H. D. Stiles, R. L. Williams, H. J. Mason and J. E. F. Meadmore.

Con.—Mr. P. E. Rowlandson.

Neutral.—Messrs. W. H. Stevens, C. E. H. Dolphin, J. Y. Ingham and E. J. P. Ross-Barker.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried by 5 votes to 3.

During the debate every member present spoke and Messrs. D. G. Lucas, J. Y. Ingham and J. Harding rose to explain themselves. Mr. Weaver attempted to speak twice.

The Society met in the Pembroke Room at 6.45 p.m., on Saturday, 29th January, with the Vice-President in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and passed and the House then proceeded to an impromptu debate.

Mr. Memory was called upon to propose that "in the opinion of this House too many pictures spoil the wall." Mr. Herschell opposed and Mr. Lucas seconded the motion. Mr. Lowe seconded the opposition.

The following members also addressed the House:—*Pro.*—Mr. Spencer.

Con.—Messrs. J. D. L. Robinson, A. F. James, H. L. Weaver and J. Harding.

Neutral.—Mr. Foottit.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried by 13 votes to 6.

Mr. Ivan Williams was then called upon to propose that "in the opinion of this House it is preferable to lose a back stud rather than a front one." Mr. Newbury opposed and Mr. Spencer seconded the motion. Mr. Stiles seconded the opposition.

The following members also addressed the House:—*Pro.*—Messrs. W. Memory, D. G. Lucas, C. E. Lowe, L. W. Herschell, A. W. Miles and W. M. Jamieson.

Con.—Messrs. J. Harding, R. L. C. Foottit and J. E. F. Meadmore.

Neutral.—Messrs. P. E. Rowlandson and W. H. Stevens.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried by 11 votes to 3.

The Society met in the Pembroke Room at 6.45 p.m., on Saturday, 5th February, with the President in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and passed. The Rules were then read for the benefit of new members and an amendment to Rule XIII. was proposed. This was to the effect that the rule in question should read in future, "that every member pay a subscription of not more than 6d. per session."

Mr. Foottit was then called upon to propose that "in the opinion of this House Julius Cæsar was as great a military genius as Napoleon." Mr. James seconded and Mr. Lowe opposed the motion. Mr. Herschell seconded the opposition.

The following members also addressed the House:—*Pro.*—Messrs. J. F. Sinclair, C. E. H. Dolphin and W. M. Grundy.

Con.—Mr. D. G. Lucas.

On the motion being put to the vote, nine votes were recorded on each side, and the Chairman gave his casting vote in favour of the motion; which was thus carried by ten votes to nine.

Mr. Footitt then proposed that the next meeting of the Society should be held a fortnight later instead of the usual week later. Mr. Dolphin seconded the motion. On being put to the vote the motion was lost by nine votes to ten.

The Society met in the Pembroke Room at 6.45 p.m., on Saturday, 12th February, with the President in the chair.

The Honorary Secretary being absent, the Honorary Treasurer took his place. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and passed.

Mr. Grundy brought forward his amendment to Rule XIII., which was seconded by Mr. Dolphin and carried unanimously.

Mr. Rowlandson was then called upon to propose that "in the opinion of this House a Monarchy is preferable to a Republic." Mr. Harding seconded and Mr. Footitt opposed the motion. Mr. James seconded the opposition.

The following members also addressed the House:—*Pro.*—Messrs. W. M. Grundy and D. G. Lucas.

Con.—Mr. C. E. Lowe.

Neutral.—Messrs. H. L. Weaver, A. W. Miles and J. Y. Ingham.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried by eight votes to four.

Attention being called to Rule XI., Mr. Ingham suggested an amendment to the effect that members be required to speak once in every four meetings of the Society in each session.

The Society met in the Strange Room at 6.45 p.m., on Saturday, 19th February, with the President in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and passed.

Mr. Ross-Barker then gave a most interesting and instructive lecture on the West Indies, illustrated by lantern-slides of his own making.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Ross-Barker was proposed by Mr. Grundy and carried unanimously.

The Society met in the Strange Room at 6.45 p.m., on Saturday, 26th February, with the President in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and passed.

Mr. Dolphin then gave a most interesting and instructive lantern-lecture on Astronomy.

Votes of thanks to Mr. Dolphin for his great trouble in preparing the lecture, and to Mr. Ingham and Mr. W. H. Stevens for working

the lantern, were proposed by Mr. Grundy and carried unanimously.

Mr. Harding then proposed that there should be no meeting of the Society on the following Saturday. Mr. Sinclair seconded the motion; which was then carried.

ANNUAL CONCERT.

On December 14th the annual School Concert was held in the Gymnasium—very tastefully decorated with lanterns for the occasion—when a very fair gathering of friends of the School enjoyed a carefully arranged programme of music.

It is always difficult to introduce novelty into such an institution as a School Concert, which possesses a long line of ancestors that have fully explored and used most of the legitimate combinations and permutations of programme items. Nevertheless there was no lack of freshness and vigour in this year's production, and we were particularly pleased to welcome two new soloists. Miss Peach, to whom the success of the whole evening is due, gave pleasing and individual renderings of some modern English songs. In the first half of the programme, as an encore to John Ireland's best known song "Sea Fever," we had "If there were dreams to sell," by the same composer. Both these were, deservedly, most enthusiastically received. In the second half of the programme we had songs by Landon Ronald and Mrs. Batten. Mr. Reynolds is clearly a most useful addition to our school band of musicians, judging from the songs by Stanford and Quilter that he gave us. Mr. Bevir's singing is so well-known and appreciated that one need say no more than that he was at his best.

To the Orchestra, who so ungrudgingly give their services each year, our best thanks are due. Though their numbers were small they gave us some thoroughly enjoyable chamber music—ranging from Bach to Percy Grainger! It would be difficult to say which of these two widely separated composers was the more enjoyable.

The chorus singing was creditably performed and the trebles gave their two songs with a very pleasing balance of light tone.

The complete programme was as follows:—

Part I.

1. "Handel in the Strand"—Clog Dance.

Percy Grainger.

The Orchestra.

2. Carol—"Yule." *A. J. Caldicott.*
The School.
3. Song—"Three for Jack." *Squire.*
Mr. Bevir.
4. Song—"Sea Fever." *John Ireland.*
Miss Sheldon Peach.
5. Songs—*a.* "Where go the Poats." *MacDonald*
b. "Woodland Voices." *A. Richards*
Trebles.
6. Song—"The Old Superb." *Stanford.*
Mr. Reynolds.
7. Part Song—"The Goslings." *F. Bridge*
Davidge, Taylor, Snell, Ellis, Newbury,
Carr, Eason, and Mr. Ingham.

Part II.

1. "Merrymakers' Dance." *Edward German*
The Orchestra.
2. Part Song—"Drake's Drum." *E. D. Rendall*
The School.
3. Song—"Down in the Forest." *L. Ronald*
Miss Sheldon Peach.
4. "Concerto in D Minor." *Bach*
Mrs. Fairthorne, Mrs. Humfrey,
Miss Couldrey.
5. Part Song—"As Torrents in Summer." *Elgar*
The Choir.
6. Song—"Simon." *Douglas Grant*
Mr. Bevir.
7. Part Song—"Jack Frost." *Hatton*
Davidge, Taylor, Snell, Ellis, Newbury,
Carr, Eason, and Mr. Ingham.
8. Carol—"When Christ was born." *Browne*
The School and Orchestra.

"God Save the King."

The Orchestra consisted of:—Violins, Mrs. Fairthorne and Mrs. Humfrey; 'Cello, Mr. G. S. Sims; and Piano, Miss Couldrey.

THE LIBRARY.

During the past two years extensive additions have been made to the old School Library. Many new books have been acquired, and much old and musty lumber has been cleared away. Of the latter there is still too much remaining, but it consists of books gifted to the School in former days and inscribed with the names of the donors. These it is proposed to catalogue, copying the inscriptions in every case; after which these volumes also, or such of them as are no longer of use or value, will be relegated likewise to some joyous Valhalla of the Books.

Of the new acquisitions many have been provided out of the money set aside for this purpose

annually from the "Advanced Course" grant. These, as is to be expected, deal mostly with Classical or Archaeological subjects; but there are works on Modern History too, and works on Modern Science, many of the last being kept in the Strange Room, in a special Science Library.

Then there is the Major Baker Library, loaned to the School, as we have mentioned in a former issue, by the kindness of our late Science Master's family. This consists of nearly five hundred volumes, lodged in a shelf apart, among which are many excellent works on Natural History, Travel and Exploration, and many scientific text-books.

Other books have been added from Mr. H. F. E. Edwardes' library, for he too left his books to the School which he had served. Others have been given quite lately, including Jack Morland's gift of Napier's "Peninsular War," and a valuable selection—one hundred and forty odd volumes—from the library of the late Mr. W. J. Sedgfield. This last includes complete sets of the "Great Writers" series, the "English Men of Letters," and the "English Men of Action" series, and many other standard works in History, Fiction and general literature.

Books may be borrowed by the boys, a register being kept by the School librarian—at present, W. Memory; and to make them still more accessible, the Library has been thrown open as a Reading Room. Silence is enjoined and there are rules to be observed; but—pains and penalties notwithstanding—this latest of our privileges appears to be highly valued.

OXFORD LETTER.

Dear Mr. Editor.

The choicest epithet that can be applied to this term is 'hectic.' Never before, perhaps, in the history of the Club has the combination of Schools, athleticism, theatrical productions and Royal Visits presented such a vista of kaleidoscopic variety.

Of the visit of the Prince of Wales it is not for us to speak here, but, Sir, I may assure you that the O.A.s were not among the least conspicuous in their assurances of loyalty.

To turn to the Toggerys, we must congratulate R. E. Eason on stroking Trinity and on securing a bump. We are in a position to deny utterly and absolutely that he declined to take part in the celebrations that followed. E. O. Hills rowed with length and vigour in the Pembroke boat.

C. V. Davidge is taking Mods. Silence is

golden.

Finally, we must not omit mention of the ever welcome visit of the D'Oyly Carte, a Company dear to the heart of all true O.A.s.

Eheu fugaces!

We have spoken our piece, Sir, and, we fear, but ill; yet a word of indulgence we claim, for it is beyond the poor skill of our pen even to epitomise such a brilliant pageant as has lately passed before us.

May we wish yourself, Sir, and your readers a very pleasant vacation?

We are, dear Mr. Editor, yours,

O.A.

O.A. NOTES.

Congratulations to A. S. B. Payne on the birth of a son on the 14th December, at his home at Frome, Somersetshire.

Likewise to Bromley Challenor on the birth of a daughter on the 12th February at Waysmeet, Abingdon.

Also to P. J. Clayton on the birth of a daughter at Stapleton, Gerrard's Cross, on the 11th March.

Another piece of good news is the marriage of Wheeler Bate-Preston, which took place at Eldoret, British East Africa, on the 18th December. His bride, whom he first met on the S.S. "Taroba," sailing from Durban to East Africa, was a Miss Dorothy Hartley, from the Orange Free State. We wish them all happiness in their new home at "Whitefield," Londiani, Kenya Colony, where Bate-Preston is engaged upon Flax Farming.

W. H. Wood, who, as we mentioned in our last issue, was married on the 27th October, was placed 24th on the Colonial list after the Civil Service Examination in the Autumn. He has received an appointment in the Malay Peninsula, whither he is now proceeding.

Basil M. Challenor has given up his curacy at Guiseley, near Leeds, and has been enjoying a well-earned rest at home before proceeding to Australia, to help in the work of the Bush Brotherhood in the diocese of North Queensland.

We have lately had a visit from H. L. Neligan, who is now a D.I. in the R.I.C., and stationed in Dublin, where he seems to find life more exciting than pleasant.

In the region of literature the School has just cause to be proud of her alumni. Oswald Couldrey's book of verse is entitled "Thames and Godavery." It was published shortly before Christmas by B. H. Blackwell, Oxford. For

the benefit of the uninstructed we should state that the Godavery is an Indian river, on whose banks the author has spent ten useful years of his life in the world-wide cause of Education. The poems in this volume, which are mostly short lyrical pieces, have a direct human interest, definite and tangible. They were written, as the title implies, some in England, at Abingdon and Oxford, and some in India. To most readers perhaps the former section will make the stronger appeal; but those who know the glory and wonder of a tropical land will, we think, be inclined to prefer the latter. Couldrey possesses, as we know, the Artist's eye, with the Scholar's fastidiousness of diction; and it is to this combination that he owes his descriptive skill. But it needs more than skill to make a poet; and perhaps it is rather the note of strong affection—love of home, love of beauty, love of his surroundings, animate or inanimate, Indian or English,—that gives its most vital quality to Couldrey's indubitable poetry.

We are happy to state that Willoughby Weaving's fame increases. He was the subject of a special article in a recent number of the *Bookman*, and his tragedy, "Algazel," has been well received by the reviewers, the *Times Literary Supplement* devoting a whole column to a discussion of its merits.

We were glad to welcome Mr. Layng again at the beginning of this term. He was in Oxford in the middle of January, attending the Council meeting of the Life and Liberty Movement at Lady Margaret Hall, and found time to pay a brief visit to Abingdon when the meeting was over.

Congratulations to R. E. Eason on his being selected to stroke the Trinity First Toggler; likewise to E. O. Hills on securing a place in the Pembroke Toggler.

E. H. Blacknell has passed the first examination of the Institute of Actuaries, and F. T. A. Smith has passed the London University Matriculation Exam.

T. F. T. Morland, who left us at Christmas, has joined the Training Ship "Worcester," (Thames Nautical Training College), where he seems to be having a good time.

We regret to have to add, at this late date, yet another name to our long list of victims of the War. Archibald Dunn, Lance-Corporal in the 2nd Battalion of the Leinster Regiment, was killed at Hazebrouck by shell fire on the night of June 14th, 1918. Dunn came to the School in September, 1900, as a boarder at

Teale House, and he was with us for a short time only.

The news of E. H. Mann's death, at the early age of 24, will have come as a shock to his many friends in England. As we mentioned in our last number, he was, with his mother, on a visit to Abingdon as recently as last September. He had seen some hard service in the War, during which he took the rank of Lieutenant in the 2nd Artists' Rifles. On returning to Mexico, where his father is resident, he was seized with a bad attack of malarial fever, as the result of which he died on the 5th December at the Royal Hotel, Tampico. He came to the School House as a little boy in May 1906, and remained with us for over three years.

From another part of the world comes the sad news of W. R. Noble's death at the age of 42. This occurred at Hong Kong on the 18th January, as the result of typhoid fever. Noble joined the School as a boarder in May 1893, and left in July 1895. Both as a school-boy and afterwards he won reputation as a runner. In '97 and '98 he represented first Kent and then Surrey in inter-county cross-country runs, and in the latter year he ran for the South London Harriers against Cambridge University, finishing fifth, and against Oxford University, finishing second and in advance of all the University runners. Later he went out to the East Indies. He was married at Calcutta in 1907, and settled as a tea-planter in Assam.

To a much older generation belonged the Rev. F. K. Clarke, whose death occurred last December at the beginning of his ninetieth year, and within a month of his diamond wedding day. From Roysse's School he went to Cambridge, as a Scholar of Clare College, where he graduated third Senior Optime in 1855, taking Holy Orders in 1856. For ten years he was Headmaster of King Edward's School, Stafford, and subsequently held in succession the livings of St. Chad's, Stafford, Orcheston St. Mary, Wiltshire, and Little Malvern. He was, according to the obituary notice in the *Guardian*, "a mathematician of no mean attainment: he was also a botanist and geologist, and a skilled craftsman in wood-work." In this connection it is interesting to note that he did not forget his Alma Mater; for it was he who carved the copy of the School Arms which now hangs in the Library above the mantelpiece, and presented it to the School in 1903. Furthermore, "he copied many books in Braille for the National Library for the Blind, continuing this work to nearly

the end of his life."

A yet older Old Boy passed away last term in the person of Mr. Edward Ormond, of Wantage. He was in his ninety-third year and died on the 29th October. He had practised as a solicitor until within two years of his death, handicapped at the last by blindness, but still sticking to his work. He was a J.P. for the County, and represented Wantage on the County Council. His brother, the Rev. John Ormond, who died before him, was also a boy at the School, and gained the Pembroke Scholarship at Oxford.

We have, finally, to record the death of Mr. W. J. Sedgefield, which occurred in Abingdon on 26th December, in his eighty-second year. Of late years he had lived a secluded life; but when, not long ago, the Old Grammar School Room (the "Roysse" Room) was restored and decorated, it was he who gave the stained glass windows whereon the names of prominent Old Abingdonians are recorded. In his younger days he had been an enthusiastic Volunteer Officer, and likewise an expert boxer and sculler. He was, by profession, a solicitor, and for about 50 years was Registrar of the County Court and Clerk to the Borough Justices.

SCHOOL NOTES.

Valete.

Blacknell, E. H. (1917—20).—School Prefect 1919. Head of the House 1920. Head Prefect 1920. O.S.L. 2nd Class Honours 1918. O.S.L. 1st Class Honours 1919. 2nd Eleven Football 1918. First Eleven Football 1919. Colours 1919. 2nd Eleven Cricket 1920. 1st Four Rowing 1920. Colours 1920. Corpl. O.T.C. 1919. L.-Sergt. 1920. School Librarian 1920. Athletic Colours 1920.

Morland, T. F. T. (1915—20).—Berkshire Senior Scholarship, 1920. O.S.L. 1919.

Vb. Stovell, H. V. (1918-20).—School Prefect 1919. First Eleven Football 1918. Colours 1918. Captain 1920. First Eleven Cricket 1918. Colours 1918. Corpl. O.T.C. 1919. L.-Sergt. 1920. 2nd Four Rowing 1919. Athletic Colours 1919.

Vb. Castle, E. C. (1918—20).

Vb. Sherratt, W. G. (1918—20).

Vb. Randell, E. A. (1917—20).

Remove. Dawson, G. L. (1919—20).

II. Bride, R. F. (1920).

Salvete.

Remove. H. S. Tickle, J. H. S. Dodwell, W. M. Isbister.

III. A. W. R. Foxwell, W. E. Legge.

II. R. E. Broadbent, G. H. Husband, W. H. W. Lucas.

We desire to offer our congratulations to Mrs. Grundy on her recovery from her recent serious operation.

C. E. H. Dolphin has been made a School Prefect.

The "Abingdonian" Committee is now composed as follows:—Mr. Ross-Barker (Editor), J. E. F. Meadmore, W. Memory, W. J. M. Jamieson, A. J. Newbury, C. E. H. Dolphin, I. Williams, R. L. C. Foottit.

A brief article on the School Library will be found elsewhere in our columns. We should like here to offer our very sincere thanks to Miss Sedgfield for her thoughtful and valuable gift of so many of her late brother's books. They will prove of the utmost service to us, and she may be sure that her kindness is very highly appreciated.

Our thanks are due to Jack Morland also for his handsome gift of the six volumes of Napier's "Peninsula War."

Likewise we are indebted to Mr. J. B. Reeves, O.A., for some interesting records of the past. These are (i.) a "Sports" Card for 1881, which includes among the open events a Pole Jump, a Tripod Race, and a One Mile Walking Race (handicap); also a 150 Yards handicap race and a handicap Quarter Mile and Half Mile. At this meeting the Challenge Cup fell to H. M. Cross, who won all the flat races, running the Handicaps from scratch; also the Hurdles and both the Jumps, with a second in the Pole Jump. (ii.) A Football Fixture Card (1881) with names of players in the teams; and it may be news to some of our readers that in those days the School played Rugby Football, though there appears to have been a "Soccer" team as well, playing in the Easter Term. (iii.) A programme of the Christmas entertainment, with the *Abingdon Herald's* account thereof, this being the entertainment mentioned in our last School Notes, for which Mr. Deazeley wrote the prologue.

Documents of this sort, of which there are already several in one of our Museum cases, are always of historical interest, and further such gifts will be very welcome. It is proposed to collect them in an album or portfolio and place them in the Library, where they will be more readily accessible for inspection.

We mentioned last term the help that Mr. Rippon had given us in the arrangement of our butterflies and moths. This term Mr. Sikes has

been rendering a similar service in regard to our collection of birds' eggs. We are very grateful to both these gentlemen.

On the last Saturday night of last term Mr. Sikes gave us an admirable lecture on Iceland, illustrated by some very fine lantern-slides of his own making. This lecture, to which visitors from outside were admitted, was given in the Gymnasium, and took the place of evening preparation.

Boxing Instruction has been continued this term under Sergt.-Major Collins.

On Tuesday, 8th February, instead of afternoon work, the School paid a visit to the Stert Street Cinema, where a special exhibition was given of "Fifty thousand miles with the Prince of Wales." This film proved most instructive as well as entertaining, and we all enjoyed the change from our normal routine.

On Wednesday evening, 16th February, the elder boarders were privileged to witness a Morality Play, entitled "Lusty Juventus," together with scenes from "Macbeth," given in the Roysse Room by a talented London company, yept the Chelsea Mummers.

We are grateful to Mr. Crossland for again conducting a School party over the Abingdon Gas Works.

We have received from the Royal National Life-Boat Institution a copy of their publication, "The Story of the Life-Boat; 1789—1920." This has been placed in the Library. It is an admirably illustrated booklet, full of live interest and inspiring anecdote. It makes a stirring appeal to all "sons of the Island Race."

Another appeal we have had from the League of Red Cross Societies, engaged now in relieving distress in the war-stricken areas of Europe. The League is designed to co-ordinate effort, and so to prevent the waste both of energy and money. It appeals for funds to help in this sadly needed work.

Condolences to those who, at the end of a blameless term, have been smitten by the demon of chicken-pox! and yet deeper condolences to those who have to nurse them!

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of *The Chigwellian*, *The Leightonian*, *The Liverpool College Magazine*, and *The Monktonian*.

The O.A. Sports are fixed for the 19th of this month. The Rag Concert will be on the 22nd, and boarders go home on the 23rd. Next term begins on the 26th April, boarders returning on the previous day.