

Misericordias

Domini



in aeternum
cantabo.

THE ABINGDONIAN.

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EDITORIAL.

This term has been a short one and we have no phenomenal achievements to record. The all-pervading microbe has taken some toll of our activities, though in this respect we have fared no worse than the generality of schools, and better, we fancy, than many. However, a goodly percentage of the boys has been afflicted, and three members of the Staff have been rendered temporarily, though not severely, *hors de combat*. For this cause, among sundry others, the L.S. and D. Society has been for this session in abeyance, while the O.T.C. has confined its activities to useful but habitual routine work. Football has been confined to the juniors, and a brief account of their doings is given elsewhere. The seniors, on the other hand, have devoted themselves to hockey,—a new departure, which, we hope, is to take its place permanently upon our spring term programme. Rowing has been hindered, but never quite prevented, by the microbe alluded to above. Our record under this head, though by no means brilliant in itself, contains nevertheless the germ of encouragement and considerable promise for

the future. There remain the athletic meetings, which have not yet been held at the time of writing and these, we trust, will find us with a clean bill of health, and provide some excellent performances.

It would appear, then, that in the record of school achievement this term has been uneventful. We wish it had been equally so in other respects as well, for it is with no ordinary feelings of regret and sympathy that we chronicle the death of Mrs. Grundy. Her serious illness of December, 1920, had given great cause for anxiety; but she seemed so much better in the summer, and so like her cheerful and active self again, that we thought her well on the way to a complete recovery. So, however, it was not to be, for the autumn brought a renewal of the trouble, to which she succumbed in the early hours of Saturday morning, the 25th of February.

We shall miss her in many departments of our life. Her kindness was unfailing and her interest warm and practical, and we can ill afford to lose the high example of her brave and unselfish nature. By our sense of our own loss we can estimate in some measure the sorrow of those who

were nearer to her, and we trust that our Headmaster and his sisters and her other relations and friends will accept these weak words as the expression of our very real sympathy.

THE ANNUAL CONCERT.

This was given in the gymnasium, as usual, on Thursday evening, the 15th of December. The approach of the Annual School Concert in the Christmas term is always welcome. Its coming marks the beginning of the end of term; and secondly the concert itself seems to find favour amongst those inside and outside the school who love music, and who sympathise with the movement to build up true musical knowledge and appreciation. If our Annual Concerts help in such a movement, then they are something better than a mere "function," and their continued popularity is assured.

The success of this concert was due completely to the untiring efforts of Miss Peach, who is to be again congratulated on the excellence of that part of the programme for which she was entirely responsible.

The school is grateful also to the ladies who, with Miss Peach at the piano, together constituted the orchestra, namely, to Mrs. Fairthorne and Mrs. Humfrey, violins, and to Mrs. Scott with the 'cello.

Where all was so well received, it is not necessary to single out for especial mention any particular songster or songsters. Suffice it to say that the audience was a large one—indeed it was difficult to find places for some of the later arrivals—and seemed greatly to appreciate the musical fare provided.

Below is the programme:—

PART I.

1. Trio .. "Sonata" .. *Handel.*
THE ORCHESTRA.
2. Carol "Welcome Yule" *Hubert Parry.*
THE SCHOOL.
3. Song "In Summertime on Bredon"
MR. REYNOLDS. *Graham Peel.*
4. Two Part Song "Aubade" *John Ireland.*
FIRST AND SECOND TREBLES.
5. Song "Little Michael John O'Shea"
MR. BEVIR. *Sterndale Bennett.*
6. Song and Obligato *Thurlo w Lawrence.*
"By the Waters of Minnetonka"
MISS SHELDON PEACH & MRS. HUMFREY.
7. Madrigal "Brightly Dawns our Wedding Day"
Sullivan.

TAYLOR, WOOD I., ISBISTER, SNELL, SHALLARD I.,
RELLE, CARR, WILLIAMS I. AND MR. INGHAM.

PART II.

1. Three Dances "Tom Jones" *Edward German.*
THE ORCHESTRA.
2. Part Song "The Miller's Wooing"
THE SCHOOL. *Eaton Fanning.*
3. Song "The Mistress of the Master"
MR. BEVIR. *Lyall Phillips.*
4. Part Song "Strange Adventure" *Sullivan.*
TAYLOR, WOOD I., ISBISTER, SNELL, SHALLARD I.,
RELLE, CARR, WILLIAMS I. AND MR. INGHAM.
5. Song "The Blackbird's Song" *Cyril Scott.*
MISS SHELDON PEACH.
6. Part Song "Rolling Down to Rio"
THE SCHOOL. *Edward German.*
7. Song "The Pretty Creature" *Old English*
MR. REYNOLDS. [Melody.]
8. Carol "In the Fields with their Flocks abiding"
John Farmer.

THE SCHOOL AND ORCHESTRA.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

FOLK SONGS.

There is one comforting thought when some particularly nauseous ballad has fallen like an epidemic upon us, namely that the affliction, having run its course, will no doubt leave us. Not long ago almost every other person one met was proclaiming (to an appropriately soapy tune) that his vocation in life was to be "*For ever Blowing Bubbles.*" No doubt the mistake of treating as a career what should have been a mere pastime was soon found out, for the bubble-blowers are rapidly diminishing in numbers; they have, however, diverted their energies into other channels, and are now exhorting us to "*Keep on Humming,*" their fount of inspiration, we are told, being a mythical creature named "*Margie.*" The futility of this crusade and the limitations of a butter substitute as an inspirational source will soon be discovered of course.

It is a pleasant contrast to hear an unsophisticated tune which through its intrinsic merits has survived centuries of repetition, and still makes its appeal through its sincerity of character. Such tunes we have in our heritage of folk-songs. Their very history is a guarantee of their value. Their survival is not due to their having been jotted down on paper by their composer, but to a handing on, by word of mouth, down unknown generations.

The history of the development of music is, perhaps, more interesting than that of any other art. In all probability its beginnings are as old as those of any other, and yet, as we understand it to-day, it is among the most modern. For whereas sculpture and literature rose to a height of excellence in the best Greek age that has perhaps never been surpassed, music was still *harmonia*, that is "melody," an ordered musical sentence sung by one voice, or voices in unison. The art of combining different melodies and the use of chords—the modern counterpoint and harmony—are developments of the last thousand years.

The aspiring musical composer has nowadays a wonderfully large canvas and well-assorted palette to work with. In competent hands really great results are achieved, but the opportunities for the impostor are at the same time enlarged. With so much variety of tone colour and combination to hand, you have only to learn the tricks of the trade to be able to pour out compositions which easily deceive the indiscriminating. Unfortunately, too, there seems to be an inordinately large number of people who have gained a superficial acquaintance with the manipulation of the piano keyboard, but who are otherwise devoid of any training in musicianship, ready to clang out the latest atrocity as it comes along. We sympathise with the sensitive lady who observed "*Ne pas jouer du piano, c'est un talent aussi rare que charmant.*" It is sad to think that the most wonderful of musical instruments should daily be the vehicle for the abuse of true music, especially in the providing of accompaniment to cheap and tawdry songs.

It is well, then, in the interest of sincerity in art, to point out that the foundation of music is still melodic; that for a highly polyphonic work to be of sterling merit its various parts must pass the melodic test. So we come back once more to the simple tune as the medium for the highest artistry.

The credit is due to our present-day enthusiasts for having collected and committed to notation, a great mass of our national songs which have been handed down from early times by the lips of countless singers. These songs are usually simple in their sentiments; songs of love, working lilt which were sung to accompany the plough or the spinning-wheel, songs of the sea, songs for children and humorous songs. The words of some of them are often crude. This is scarcely surprising in view of the fact that it is the tune which 'catches'; and in the process of handing on the words have often got mutilated, the countless

versions of "*I'll Sing You One, O*" being a well-known case in point. But the tunes are delightful; simple and fresh, smacking of the open air and the soil; some plaintive or doleful without being treacly; others breezy and jolly with a lively rhythm. In some cases, particularly in the Hebridean songs, the true dramatic fire flashes forth. In fact one can find almost all the devices of melody and rhythm used with telling effect and cunning.

Some tunes are found, at the present time, to be confined to particular localities, and the character of the folk music of the different parts of our land makes an interesting study. A large number of the tunes on the other hand are found pretty well throughout the country, often appearing in different versions. The similarity between the melodies of "*No John*," "*The Keys of Heaven*" and "*William Taylor*," will be at once apparent to those who are familiar with these airs.

The more we investigate and understand these tunes, the more do we become aware of the wealth of our musical inheritance. Our early forefathers had only one musical mould into which to pour their love, their joys and their sorrows—namely unaccompanied melody. It is perhaps not so surprising, then, that a high standard was reached, and the natural process of the survival of the fittest has presented us to-day with a priceless heritage from the past. The names of those who are responsible for these tunes will never be known, but we can honour them by trying to keep our music pure and sincere like theirs.

"Let us now praise famous men and our fathers that begat us

Such as found out musical tunes

All these were honoured in their generation, and were the glory of their times."

J. Y. I.

ROWING.

The fixture list was similar to that of 1921:—Sutton Courtenay Lodge, two crews; Magdalen College School, two crews, and the O.A.s

N. A. Carr, last year's bow and the only old colour available, was placed at 2. The other places were filled by I. Williams, 'bow,' R. L. C. Footitt, 3, who occupied the same seats in the Second Four of 1921, while 'Stroke's' position devolved upon H. D. Stiles, whose previous experience had been limited to the Tub Four. The early stages of practice, though favoured by wind and weather, were somewhat hampered by illness, and a bare fortnight was all that could be

given to the task of settling down the crew and instilling the desired uniformity. During the later stages of training much rough wind and water were encountered, and these conditions only served to emphasize the raggedness and lack of real watermanship. The most prominent weakness in the racing was their inability to get a good 'start,' and this proved a serious handicap in the first two races. The journey by river to and from Oxford helped considerably in getting both Fours to work as crews, but the First Four always found it difficult to keep their boat steady, and consequently never acquired a firm drive coupled with clean blade work.

To make a Second Four entirely new material had to be found. After several tentative experiments the final selection was C. R. Davidge 'stroke,' J. S. Fox 3, J. F. Sinclair 2, with C. Ellis, last year's 1st Cox, at bow. Though lacking in beef and avoirdupois this crew, by dint of perseverance and a willing spirit, made good progress and would in time prove a formidable combination. As an example of pluck and endurance, their work is highly commendable, deserving more success than they actually gained.

Both Coxes were new to the art of managing a Four, and in spite of a certain deafness, peculiar to all members of this tribe, they acquitted themselves with credit, displaying wonderful callousness to the remarks of Coach in his fiercest outbursts.

Coach's thanks are due to the various members of the Tub Four Crew for the efficient manner in which they fulfilled their rather unenviable duties, and for their care of his personal safety under trying conditions. He hopes to see some of them in a lighter boat next year.

THE RACES.

ABINGDON SCHOOL *v.* SUTTON COURTENAY LODGE.—Rowed at 11 a.m. on Culham Reach on February 28th, from the Cut to the White Bridge. There was a strong cross wind with choppy water, which did not favour fast times.

The Second Four rowed first. By winning the toss they had a slight advantage in whatever shelter was afforded by the Berkshire shore. The start was not good, and Sutton soon drew away, maintaining the lead of about a length at the Big Tree. From this point Sutton steadily increased the distance and finally passed the post three lengths ahead. Time 4mins. 2-5th secs.

The First Four lost the toss and were given the Oxfordshire station. Our start was distinctly weak, but in spite of this Sutton's advantage in the first minute was barely half a length.

Abingdon, however, failed to keep up the pressure, and were fully four lengths behind Sutton at the finishing post. Time 3mins. 43secs.

ABINGDON SCHOOL *v.* MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL.—Rowed at Oxford on the morning of March 4th, from Weir's Bridge to Salter's Boat House. The conditions were somewhat strenuous as regards length of course, considering the strength of the stream and a head wind.

The First Four.—We lost the toss and consequently had the worst of the bend and the stronger stream along the Barges. After a poor start we managed to hold our own, and gradually pulled ahead along the Green Bank, but were unable to keep this advantage for long. When opposite the Varsity Boat House we fell behind, and Magdalen steadily increased their lead all the way along the Barges, being two lengths ahead at the finishing post. Time 7mins. 48secs.

The School rowed much better than in the previous race, keeping their form throughout and setting up a very creditable performance.

The Second Four.—Abingdon won the toss and chose the Berkshire station. Once more we lost ground at the start, but kept steadily plugging away until after The Gut, where we fell to about three or four lengths behind. At this point Magdalen's extra weight told, and they finished up five lengths ahead in 8mins. 25secs.

Our light crew rowed very steadily and their performance is worthy of all praise, being thoroughly game to the end.

ABINGDON SCHOOL FIRST FOUR *v.* OLD ABINGDONIANS.—Rowed on Culham Reach on March 8th. A strong stream, a cross wind and ripply water favoured the Berkshire station, which fell to the school by the spin of the coin. The School made no impression at the start, but settling down in the first minute and rowing really well they had gained two full lengths by half way. This advantage they had increased to seven lengths when they passed the finishing point in the good time of 4mins. 40 2-5th secs.

The O.A. Crew consisted of R. E. Eason (stroke), C. V. Davidge (3), E. O. Hills (2), L. F. Crossland (bow), H. T. Haynes (Cox).

In each race the School First Four, consisting of Stiles, Foottit, Carr, Williams and Brown (Cox); remained unchanged, and the same may be said of the Second Four, which was composed of Davidge, Fox, Sinclair, Ellis, and H. D. Shallard (Cox).

ROWING CHARACTERS.

First Crew.

I. Williams (Bow), 9st. 7½lbs. Colours 1922. Much improved since last year. Still rather slow with his hands and consequently late. Works well and uses body and legs. Rows better than he paddles.

N. A. Carr (2), 11st. 7½lbs. Colours 1921-22. Has rather a clumsy finish and often fails to raise his hands over the stretcher. Inclined to pull with his arms. Puts out power, but not always in the correct way. Rowed well in the races.

R. L. C. Foottit (3), 11st. 10½lbs. Colours 1922. Should make a really good oar. Gets very hurried and rushes. Rows too deep, but works very well. Has improved since 1921.

H. S. D. Stiles (stroke), 9st. 9½lbs. Colours 1922. A very creditable season considering his lack of experience in this position. Must learn to row long and keep better control of his oar. Rowed very well against the O.A.s.

D. M. Brown (Cox), 5st. 9½lbs. Colours 1922. Will make a good Cox in time. Has as yet much to learn, e.g. to keep nearer the Coach, to manage a boat in a wind, and husband the energy of his crew. Is resourceful and keeps a good watch on the crew.

Second Crew.

C. Ellis (Bow), 8st. 1¾lbs. A nice oar, if he will learn not to lie back too far. Has done very well and puts in plenty of work.

J. F. Sinclair (2), 8st. 8½lbs. A much improved oar with a good style. Has rowed with great pluck and will be useful later on.

J. S. Fox (3), 9st. 0½lb. Rather disappointing, but a good worker. Must learn to grasp his oar properly, and sit up at the finish. Rows hard and keeps cheerful.

C. R. Davidge (Stroke), 9st. 0½lb. Very promising. Has quite an idea of what is wanted from a stroke. Must swing straight and not rush forward. Rowed well against Magdalen.

H. D. Shallard (Cox), 6st. 2½lbs. Steers well and keeps his crew going. Has learnt a good deal, but must try not to be too monotonous. Uses his voice well.

ATHLETIC MEETING.

PAST V. PRESENT.

The meeting between the School and the O.A. Club was held on Saturday, March 18th. Great interest was shown by all in the Relay Race which was instituted this year instead of the Cricket Ball. On the whole the School had it all its own way and won by 8 to 1 events.

The results were as follows:—

1.—100 YARDS.

1. I. Williams, A.S.A.C.
 2. N. A. Carr, A.S.A.C. Time: 11 3-5th secs.
- Other competitors were:—H. A. L. Donkin, O.A.C. and S. L. Buckle, O.A.C.

2.—LONG JUMP.

1. N. A. Carr, A.S.A.C.
 2. I. Williams, A.S.A.C.
- Distance: 19 ft. 1½ ins.
- Other competitors:—H. A. L. Donkin, O.A.C. and R. E. Eason, O.A.C.

3.—HIGH JUMP.

1. R. L. C. Foottit, A.S.A.C.
 2. N. A. Carr, A.S.A.C.
- Height: 5 ft. 0½ ins.
- Other Competitors:—H. A. L. Donkin, O.A.C. and S. L. Buckle, O.A.C.

- 4.—RELAY RACE (2 laps, each competitor half-lap)
 Winning Team:—N. A. Carr, I. Williams, R. C. W. Waterhouse and K. Cleave, A.S.A.C.
 O.A. Team:—A. L. Edwards, S. L. Buckle, R. E. Eason and H. A. L. Donkin, O.A.C.

Time: 1 min. 21 2-5th secs.

5.—HURDLES.

1. N. A. Carr, A.S.A.C.
 2. R. L. C. Foottit, A.S.A.C.
- Time: 18 1-5th secs.
- Other competitors:—S. L. Buckle, O.A.C. and R. E. Eason, O.A.C.

6.—HALF-MILE.

1. C. E. H. Dolphin, A.S.A.C.
 2. A. J. Newbury, O.A.C.
- Time: 2 mins. 13 secs.
- Other competitors:—R. C. W. Waterhouse, A.S.A.C. and A. L. Edwards, O.A.C.

7.—QUARTER MILE.

1. I. Williams, A.S.A.C.
 2. H. A. L. Donkin, O.A.C. Time: 58 secs.
- Other competitors:—R. C. W. Waterhouse, A.S.A.C. and S. L. Buckle, O.A.C.

8.—PUTTING THE WEIGHT.

1. H. V. Stone, O.A.C.
 2. R. L. C. Foottit, A.S.A.C.
- Distance: 28 ft. 5 ins.
- Other competitors:—N. A. Carr, A.S.A.C. and R. A. Eason, O.A.C.

9.—MILE RACE.

1. C. E. H. Dolphin, A.S.A.C.
 2. A. J. Newbury, O.A.C.
- Time: 4 mins. 50 1-5th secs.
- C. E. H. Dolphin beat his own time in the School Sports by 3-5th secs., thus establishing another record.

PAST v. PRESENT ATH

In 1905 and again in 1911 we gave results of the contests against the Old and including, the latter date. It is noteworthy that five of the records have been made of the war until the Sports were revived in 1920.

	LONG JUMP.	100 YARDS.	PUTTING THE WEIGHT.	aHALF-MILE.	bHIGH.
1911	*W. Leach, O.A. 22ft. 2in.	G. H. G. Shepherd O.A. 10 2-5secs.	*G. H. G. Shepherd O.A. 35ft. 5in.	H. A. L. Donkin, 2 min. 15 secs.	W. Leach O.A. 5ft. 1in.
1912	G. H. G. Shepherd, O.A. 20ft. 1in.	G. H. G. Shepherd, O.A. 10 2-5th secs.	G. H. G. Shepherd, O.A. 32ft. 4in.	H. A. L. Donkin, 2min. 12 2-5th sc.	R. G. Rice O.A. 5ft. 1in.
1913	H. A. L. Donkin, 19ft. 2½in.	*R. G. Rice, O.A. 10 1-5th secs.	R. G. Rice, O.A. 31ft. 9in.	H. A. L. Donkin, 2min. 17 2-5th sc.	R. G. Rice O.A. 4ft. 1in.
1914	G. C. Rice, O.A. 18ft. 10in.	R. G. Rice, O.A. 10 2-5th secs.	R. G. Rice, O.A.	H. A. L. Donkin, 2min. 23secs.	F. W. L. 4ft. 1in.
1920	H. A. L. Donkin, O.A. 18ft. 5in.	H. A. L. Donkin, O.A. 11 secs.	H. V. Stone, O.A. 28ft. 9in.	A. J. Newbury, 2 min. 20secs.	H. A. L. O.A. 4ft. 1in.
1921	J. W. Morland, O.A. 17ft. 6½in.	E. R. Barber, O.A. 11 secs.	H. V. Stone, O.A. 29ft. 10in.	A. J. Newbury, 2min. 14secs.	†E. R. Barber O.A. †I. W. Morland 4ft. 1in.

* Record.
† Tie.

aRecord 2min. 9 4-5th secs., B. Challenor, O.A. 1906
cRecord 55secs., B. Challenor, O.A. 1901.

ATHLETIC SPORTS RECORDS.

boys, and think it may be of interest once more to tabulate the performances since, during the six years that make up this period, there being no contest from the beginning

	cQUARTER-MILE.	THROWING THE CRICKET BALL.	dHURDLES.	MILE.	
	O. B. Challenor, O.A. 57 secs.	F. Parker. 97yds. 2ft. 8in.	R. G. Rice, O.A. 17 1-5th secs.	W. H. Enoch, 4min. 56 3-5th secs.	Past . . 6 School 3
	R. G. Rice, O.A. 55 secs.	R. F. Baker, O.A. 94yds. 9½in.	R. G. Rice, O.A. 17 2-5th secs.	*W. H. Enoch, 4min. 53 3-5th secs.	Past . . 7 School 2
	R. G. Rice, O.A. 60 secs.	*F. Parker, O.A. 101yds. 1ft. 4in.	R. G. Rice, O.A. 18 secs.	H. A. L. Donkin, 4min. 59 4-5th secs.	Past . . 6 School 3
l,	R. G. Rice, O.A. 60 secs.	D. Napper, O.A. 92yds.	G. C. Rice, O.A. 17 3-5th secs.	H. A. L. Donkin, 5min. 9secs.	Past . . 6 School 3
n,	E. R. Barber, 58 3-5th secs.	S. L. Buckle, 83yds. 2ft.	E. H. Blacknell,	E. H. Blacknell, 5min. 24 secs.	Past . . 4 School 5
,	E. R. Barber, O.A. 56 3-5th secs.	H. V. Stone. O.A. 85yds. 2ft.	S. L. Buckle, 19 1-5th secs.	C. E. H. Dolphin, 5min. 1 4-5th secs.	Past . . 5½ School 3½

δRecord 5ft. 4½in., R. G. Rice, O.A. 1907.

dRecord, 16 1-5th secs., H. J. A. Payne, O.A. 1904.

FOOTBALL.

The 'sixes' this term have been confined to boys under 14; the older boys have had quite a successful two months of hockey. As before, the 'sixes' were between the three sides—Green, Red and Blue—each side providing three 'sixes.' Five points have been given for a win and two for a draw, in addition to one point for each goal scored.

The Greens came out on top with 269 points, the Reds next with 187 points; and the Blues last with 27 points.

The winning six, from Green 'side,' scored 95 points. It consisted of the following:—

K. L. Aldridge (Capt.), S. R. Hunt, F. M. Cole, W. A. Smallbone, C. G. Lay, H. R. Wigley.

HOCKEY—AN IMPRESSION.

Towards the end of last term it was decided that the Senior non-rowing boys should experiment with hockey in the Easter Term. Great joy was displayed by certain of us, whose football is of the order which calls forth derisive jeers from the spectators. Hockey, it seemed, was quite different. One was provided with a suitably shaped stick with which to propel a white cricket-ball along the ground. Could anything be simpler? We took no notice of the initiated who talked darkly of 'back-sticks,' or 'turning on the ball,' and made great play with other phrases of an equally unintelligible nature.

Our eyes were opened, however, when we came to play this simple (?) game. The novice finds much to exasperate him. If he be a 'winger' of promise (as he himself fondly imagines), he is somewhat disconcerted to find that all his best runs up the wing are executed either off the field of play or without the ball, which displays an unflattering reluctance to accompany him in his meteoric career. Later on he discovers that greater control of the stick (and so of the ball), is obtained by keeping the right hand at least twelve inches lower down the handle than the left. This will help him to avoid that spectacular but ineffectual whirling of the stick round the head when 'addressing' the ball, a performance invariably accompanied by a chorus of 'Sticks!' from all players who are in dangerous proximity. Incidentally it might interest some of our more ardent enthusiasts to learn that the proper place to practise golf-strokes is not in the middle of a hockey field during the progress of a game.

When playing 'back' it should be remembered that the stick cannot be relied upon invariably

to stop the ball, which is frequently travelling at high speed from the stick of a justly wrathful opponent, whose shins are suffering severely from the onslaught of a highly enthusiastic novice. The ball may be stopped by any part of the person or apparel of the player. Experience, however, will quickly teach him that it is a mistake to use his face for this purpose. It is more general to employ the feet or hands. But when one is learning the game the feet never seem to be available, while the hands are busily employed (very often too busily employed) wielding the stick.

The trials of playing on a muddy field are not inconsiderable. The ball speedily assumes the shape and colour of a lump of mud and the harassed back begins to imagine himself the victim of hallucinations as he sees his opponent take a hit at a ball which immediately proceeds to travel off in several directions at the same time. Indeed, there is a popular story told, to the effect that a certain wily forward, having put his opponents off the scent, as it were, by hitting a piece of mud in one direction, sneaked stealthily through the defence in another direction, and scored a goal with the greatest of ease.

One cannot hope to build up a good hockey team in a single term; but thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of all who have played, a good start has been made, and we can look forward with confidence to our second season.

J. B. E. A.

ATHLETIC SPORTS.

SCHOOL.

The School Sports were held on Wednesday, March 15th. The weather was rather cold and cheerless and a fairly strong wind helped to make the time for the hundred poorer than usual. Not so many spectators came as in the previous year, probably owing to the sports being held on a Wednesday and not on a Saturday as previously, but they all seemed to enjoy the programme provided. 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. Luckily there was little illness in the School this year to prevent boys from competing, and none were forced to scratch at the last moment, as they were last year owing to the chicken-pox.

The Mile races had been run on Monday, March 11th, on the School field as usual. C. E.

H. Dolphin set up an excellent School record of 4 mins. 50 4-5th secs.

The steeplechases were run on the Common, as in former years, but at an earlier date than usual, namely, February 23rd.

First and second prizes were awarded for all events, and these were kindly distributed by Lady Norman 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, I. Williams, and P. E. Rowlandson. *Elected*, N. A. Carr, K. Cleave, C. C. Woodley, C. Stacey, W. D. Shallard, R. A. Broadbent.

PROGRAMME.

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

1.—N. A. Carr. 2.—I. Williams.

Dist.—19 ft. 6 ins.

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

1.—H. D. Shallard. 2.—R. W. Snell.

Dist.—14 ft. 10 ins.

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

1.—N. A. Carr. 2.—R. L. C. Foottit.

Height.—5 ft. 0½ ins.

High Jump (under 15).—Prizes presented by Sir George Dashwood, Bart. and Lady Norman.

1.—R. W. Snell. 2.—J. E. Ballard.

Height.—4 ft. 3½ ins.

Hurdles (open).—Prizes presented by A. T. Loyd, Esq., M.P., O.B.E. and A.W. Morland, Esq., O.A.

1.—N. A. Carr. 2.—R. L. C. Foottit.

Time.—18 secs.

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

1.—A. W. Miles. 2.—C. Ellis.

Time.—19 secs.

Hundred Yards (under 12).—Prizes presented by M. T. Tatham, Esq.

1.—E. M. Holbrook. 2.—N. J. Banes.

Time.—14 secs.

Hundred Yards (under 15).—Prizes presented by H. T. Clarke, Esq.

1.—J. S. Fox. 2.—K. L. Aldridge.

Time.—13 1-5th secs.

Hundred Yards (open).—Challenge Cup presented by Mrs. Price. Prizes presented by H. G. W. d'Almaine, Esq., O.A., and J. G. T. West, Esq., O.A.

1.—I. Williams. 2.—N. A. Carr.

Time.—11 4-5th secs.

220 Yards Handicap (under 13).—Prizes presented by R. W. Langford, Esq.

1.—L. P. Mosdell. 2.—R. C. Ellis.

Time.—33 secs.

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

1.—J. S. Fox. 2.—K. A. Lay.

Time.—67 secs.

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

1.—I. Williams. 2.—C. E. H. Dolphin.

Time.—57 2-5th secs.

Throwing the Cricket Ball (open).—Prizes presented by A. E. Preston, Esq., O.A.

1.—R. C. W. Waterhouse. 2.—N. A. Carr.

Dist.—68 yards 2 ft. 8 ins.

Half Mile Handicap.—Prizes presented by W. E. S. Carr, Esq., H. Donkin, Esq., and Mrs. Donkin.

1.—C. R. Davidge. 2.—C. E. H. Dolphin.

3.—N. V. Pearson.

Time.—2 mins. 15 secs.

Putting the Weight (16 lbs.) (open).—Prizes presented by J. T. Morland, Esq., and C. A. Pryce, Esq.

1.—R. L. C. Foottit. 2.—N. A. Carr.

Dist.—27 ft. 7 ins.

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

1.—Blue. I. Williams, C. E. H. Dolphin, C. C. Woodley, K. Cleave, C. R. Davidge, L. W. Herschell, G. W. Salisbury, W. E. Legge.

2.—Green. R. L. C. Foottit, N. A. Carr, W. Memory, G. M. G. McFarlane, C. Ellis, J. F. Sinclair, P. G. A. Kennington, I. T. Leon.

Time.—3 mins. 1 1-5th secs.

Relay Race (under 15). (Same distance as Senior relay).

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

2.—Blue. W. G. Hancock, J. K. Leon, E. M. Holbrook, A. W. R. Foxwell, K. C. Smith, W. H. W. Lucas, N. C. Wood, E. G. Langford.

Time.—3 mins. 23 3-5th secs.

One Mile Race (open).—Challenge Cup presented by Mrs. Burkett. Prizes presented by H. A. L. Donkin, Esq., O.A., and W. E. S. Carr, Esq.

1.—C. E. H. Dolphin. 2.—I. Williams.

3.—C. Ellis.

Time.—4 mins. 50 4-5th secs. (School record time).

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

1.—J. E. Ballard. 2.—C. Stacey.

3.—K. L. Aldridge.

Time.—5 mins. 43 secs.

Steeplechase (open)—Prizes presented by J. F. Downing, Esq., and E. J. P. Ross Barker, Esq.

1.—C. E. H. Dolphin. 2.—I. Williams.

3.—C. Ellis. Time.—10 mins. 25 secs.

Steeplechase (under 14.)—Prizes presented by H. P. Simpson, Esq., O.A. and W. A. Rudd, Esq.

1.—K. L. Aldridge. 2.—C. Stacey.

3.—T. R. Pollard.

Time.—4 mins. 45 4-5th secs.

The "Side" Challenge Cup (presented by the Ladies of Abingdon) was again won by Green, with 180 points, Blue being second with 126 points.

The "Heber Clarke" Challenge Cup was won for the second time by N. A. Carr with 42 points, I. Williams being second with 36 points, and C. E. H. Dolphin third with 34 points.

THE SHRINE OF ST. EDMUND OF ABINGDON.

The pilgrims started at the feast of the Assumption, the one from the great city, the other from the little birthplace of St. Edmund, met on board the steam packet, and lay that night in their berth, with a good conscience and a stout stomach, the airs being light and the sea not troublous. Déjeuner on the train, and then Paris. When St. Edmund was a student at Paris, St. Lazare was a leper-house without the walls. Having changed their money into French paper, they sped very cheaply (as pilgrims should) across on an auto 'bus from St. Lazare to the Gare de Lyon, and boarded a slow train, which made stops innumerable down to St. Florentin, where they lay that night in a great content. In the morning an early rise and a great walk of eleven kilometres to Pontigny by an undeviating road amply shaded (the sun was very fierce) over the wooded ridge and down to the valley of the Serein.

Pontigny is a lonely and isolated hamlet, with a nominal railway service, yet it was not always away from the nerve-centres of western history.

Here Becket found a refuge in exile, and here received the monastic habit; and found in this district, that is at Sens, the architect to rebuild (after Becket's death) Canterbury in the new pointed style. Here Stephen Langton found a refuge a few years before he achieved the Magna Charta.

Here too came a third archbishop of Canterbury, Edmund of Abingdon, leader of the national party against King and Pope, broken in the struggle and seeking rest and peace at the last. So he wandered in the forests, seeing visions and dreaming dreams, as he had seen and dreamt in his boyhood at Abingdon.

The summer heat drove him from Pontigny to Soisy and he promised to return for the feast of St. Edmund the King (November 20th, his birthday). He kept his promise, for death found him on the sixteenth of November, and he returned in death for the feast, to be buried at his wish in the crypt of the church of Pontigny, to which he left an annual pension of ten marks in affectionate recognition of hospitality received. A few years after the popular clamour in England and France and the influence of St. Louis forced the hostile pope to canonize him. His remains were translated in the presence of St. Louis and Queen Blanche to their present position, behind and above the high altar. St. Edmund's sto'e is preserved in the sacristy at Sens along with Becket's vestments.

The life of St. Edmund has often been treated, but a description of the church of Pontigny may be new to the readers, if any, of this article.

The abbey was founded in 1114, and according to the Gallia Christiana "the holy life of the monks of Pontigny scattered its fragrance over the whole earth, seduced by which there came to Pontigny from all quarters persons remarkable for the grace of their conversation, of high descent, of great learning and worth." The church was built in its present form in 1150 and completed in a few years.

To quote Fergusson's handbook of architecture: "Externally it displays an almost barn-like simplicity, having no towers or pinnacles—plain undivided windows, and no ornament of any sort. The same simplicity reigns in the interior, but the varied form, and play of light and shade, here relieve it to a sufficient extent, and make it altogether, if not one of the most charming examples of its age, at least one of the most instructive, as showing how much effect can be obtained with the smallest possible amount of ornament. In obedience to the rules of the Cistercian order, it had neither towers nor painted glass, which last circumstance perhaps adds to its beauty, as we now see it, for the windows, being small, admit just light enough for effect, without the painful glare that streams through the large mullioned windows of the cathedral of Auxerre."

A Cistercian statute of 1154 says "Let there be no stone towers for bells; nor yet wooden ones of inordinate height, such as to disgrace the simplicity of our Order." And so there are just two little stone turrets, one at the south west angle of the church, the other at the north east angle of the north transept.

The church is a fine example of the early use of the pointed arch in Burgundy, but the style is Cistercian rather than local Burgundian. It belongs to the period of transition and the round arch is used in the windows of the aisles. The flying buttresses of the chevet and north side of the nave are simple: the south side of the nave and the transepts have none. The transepts are of less height than the uniform roof of nave and choir and the east end is apsidal. At the west end is a good instance of the Cistercian narthex or porch, a low building of moderate proportions with a lean-to roof, unlike the enormous ante-church or narthex so frequent in Burgundy. Inside the porch are two modern inscriptions:—

i. "Je désire que mons corps repose dans l'église de Pontigny." Saint Edmé mourant.

ii. "Pontigny est le port de l'exilé, son jardin, son asyle. C'est là qu'il retrouve la paix et le repos." Etienne Langton.

There is a clerestory but no triforium. The vaulting is quadripartite divided by transverse arches; the vaulting of nave and choir and choir aisle is ribbed, but in the side aisles of the nave there are groined vaults, that is, without ribs, in the style of the XIth century. The vaulting shafts engaged in the piers of the nave descend below the capitals but do not descend to the ground: the chevet is carried on cylindrical columns. The procession path sweeps round behind the high altar and shrine, and is encompassed by twenty-four chapels: there are no side chapels in the nave. The woodwork and fine iron grilles of the choir date from the early eighteenth century, as does the present canopy of the shrine. The gilt shrine, dating in its present form perhaps from the sixteenth century, is placed behind and above the high altar and can be seen far down the church. It is approached from the procession path by a little double staircase which enabled the pilgrim to pass by the glass back of the reliquary.

On the north side of the church are the remains of the cloister, and at right angles to the west end is a block of abbey buildings of the XIIth century, remodelled in the eighteenth century. On the south side is one of the many American cemeteries dating from the recent war, the twentieth century

soldier sleeping near the great champion of English liberties of an earlier age.

From the church to the inn—sufficient to enable the pilgrims to put from them (in Homeric phrase) their desire for meat and drink, and there they bought many picture-cards of the great church.

Then in the great heat they walked back; and St. Edmund's hand was with them, for two black thunderstorms came up from the right hand and from the left, but he kept open the line of road until at the station of St. Florentin-Vergigny they struck the hotel 'bus and rode in shelter through heavy rain to the hotel. That evening they performed a discreet and decent degustation of the ancient ruby of the region in honour of St. Edmund, and on the morrow passed on to see other and maybe greater churches, but none of the same intimate interest to Abingdonians.

J. T.

O.A. NOTES.

News of Old Boys is always welcome for inclusion in this column. Even the mention of their whereabouts may prove of interest to some of their old schoolfellows.—EDITOR.

MARRIAGE.

CARTER-ASHBY.—On 18th February at St. Luke's, Hampstead, Arthur Gerring Carter, formerly of Newport, Isle-of-Wight, now of Edenbridge, to Mabel, younger daughter of Mrs. George W. Ashby, Edenbridge; Kent.

Mr. H. G. W. d'Almaine, the Town Clerk of Abingdon, has been elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. We recorded last summer the award of a like distinction to Mr. A. E. Preston, and the School may well be proud to count two such prominent antiquarians in the number of its *olim alumni*.

We have heard lately from E. F. Shepherd, whose address is Rottingdean School, near Brighton. He took over the control of this school last autumn, as co-Headmaster with Mr. H. C. Draper.

Another O.A. Schoolmaster on his own account is H. W. Weaving, the poet, who started a preparatory school at Killylea, co. Armagh, Ireland, a little over a year ago.

To both the above-mentioned O.A.s we wish success in their undertakings.

We have had a letter, too, from the Rev. C. P. B. Montgomery, who is settled now at Tadworth in Surrey.

His brother J. E., he tells us, is still a master at

Felsted. He has been having trouble with his health, but is now, after an operation in December, practically all right again.

Jack Murray, we learn from the same source, has returned to Canada and is living at Vernon, B.C. In the war he joined the R.A.S.C. and saw service at Gallipoli and in Egypt, ending up as a Colonel (brevet) and being three times mentioned in despatches.

His brother J.W., who is a solicitor at Barrow-in-Furness, was in Nigeria during most of the war in the W.A.F.F.

Both the above are married and have families.

R. E. Eason has been rowing regularly in the Oxford University Second Eight. At first he occupied the stroke thwart, but for the greater part of the season he has been at two.

C. V. Davidge is captain of the boats this year at Pembroke College, Oxford.

Apropos of rowing, we have been reminded that Eason is not the first O.A. to stroke an Oxford Trial Eight. A like distinction was achieved by W. E. Robinson as long ago as 1889. Those were indeed the palmy days of Abingdonian rowing, as may be inferred from a perusal of the early numbers of this Magazine, and more especially from an article on "Old Abingdonians on the River," which appeared in the Summer Number of 1891. Here we find that there were no less than five O.A.s among the competitors at Henley that summer, of whom two, J. W. Veysey and A. B. Morland, were six and cox respectively in the Pembroke College Eight, which competed for the Thames and Ladies' cups, while the other three represented the London Rowing Club. Of the latter, W. E. Robinson aforesaid rowed two in their Grand Challenge Eight and stroked their second Four for the Wyfold cup, and the brothers Thorn competed for the Silver Goblets. Other O.A. oarsmen of this period, who rowed for their Colleges at Oxford, were W. A. Cory of Queen's, E. F. Shepherd of St. Catherine's B.C., C. Hallett of Oriel, H. G. Rice of Pembroke, and C. H. Payne of Merton, while at a somewhat earlier period we find H. M. Digby stroking the St. John's College Eight, and F. P. Lysaght in the Exeter College boat, which was Head of the River and won the Grand Challenge Cup at Henley. To quote the concluding words of the article referred to, "This is a record decidedly creditable to so small a school. May it always be equalled or surpassed in years to come."

SCHOOL NOTES.

DEATHS.

GRUNDY.—On 25th February, at the School House, Abingdon, Margaret Grundy, widow of the Rev. W. Grundy (formerly Headmaster of Malvern College), aged 59 years.

We have made mention of this sad event in another column. It remains only to add that the funeral took place at Malvern, where Mrs. Grundy was interred beside her husband. Wreaths were sent among others, in token of very sincere affection and respect, from the boys of the School, the members of the School Staff, and the servants employed at the House.

HARRIS.—On 9th January, after a long illness, Edward John Harris, of 15, Park Crescent, Abingdon.

Alderman Harris was a Governor of the School from 1898 to 1912. Both as Governor and friend he took a very keen and practical interest in our welfare, and it was a serious loss to the school when he was compelled by ill-health to relinquish his activities.

Valete.

VI. E. H. Smeeth (1918-21). 1st XI. Cricket, 1920. Colours, 1920. 1st XI. Football, 1921. School Prefect, 1921. O.S.L., 1921.

VI. D. G. Lucas (1917-21). O.S.L., 1st Class, 1921. Senior Bennett Scholarship, 1918. Black-nall scholarship, 1921.

VI. E. V. Crook (1917-21). 1st XI. Football, 1921. Colours, 1921. O.S.L., 1921. Berkshire County Scholarship, 1917.

Remove. J. B. Pilbrow (1921).

Salvete.

III. R. Wareham-Smith, H. R. Wigley, J. C. R. Gardner, S. W. R. Royse, P. L. T. Robins.

II. J. H. Taylor, N. S. Wigley, I. H. Cooper.

We were informed too late for inclusion in our last issue that Mr. R. W. Langford, last year's Mayor, was appointed in December by the Mayor and Corporation of Abingdon as one of their representatives on the Governing Body of the School.

Another member of our governing body, Mr. T. Skurray, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Berks C.C., has been elected an Alderman of the County.

We extend a hearty welcome to Miss M. M. Harris, who has this term relieved Miss M. K. Grundy in the onerous task of Matron in the School House.

We are glad to note that Miss Couldrey is recovering satisfactorily from her serious indisposition. We trust that, when time allows, she will still help us now and then with our School music.

A letter has been received from Mr. A. E. P. Sloman, who was a master at the school during the autumn term of 1913, but left us at the end of it to take up work at Athens. He writes from Corfu (the Corcyra of our Grecian History books), where he is employed upon the novel task of training a Greek police force. "Materially life is very pleasant," he says. "We look over to the mountains of Epirus. The island produces all it wants except bread: the fruit is heavenly, especially the oranges. There are about four million olive trees in the island, and you can get 'beakers full of the warm South,' for eighty lepta a litre, which, with the drachma at 65, works out at about three-pence. There were two metropolitan policemen here till quite lately, who drew up the lectures on their special subjects. These were translated into Greek, and delivered by Gendarmerie officers. There are 180 cadets here for a six months' course. They learn Penal Code, Criminal Procedure, Scientific Police, etc." It certainly sounds an attractive existence in spite of the budding police force.

Not a few of our readers will learn with regret that Mrs. Snell has been compelled by advancing age, and after more than thirty years of loyal service, to relinquish her duties as charwoman at the School House. We miss her cheery presence and interest in our doings. It is pleasant, however, to know that she is feeling all the better for her rest, and is comfortably settled in one of the Christ's Hospital Almshouses.

We offer most hearty congratulations to J. Harding on winning the Pembroke Scholarship for Classics, and we wish him success in his Varsity career.

Rowing Colours have been awarded to I. Williams, R. L. C. Foottit, H. S. D. Stiles and D. M. Brown (Cox).

An innovation of this term is the introduction of Hockey. Practice games have been played among the senior boys, and on Saturday, 25th February, under the captaincy of Mr. Alston, a match was played at Boar's Hill against the Boar's Hill Hockey Club, resulting in a win for the School by six goals to nil. Besides Mr. Alston the following played for the School:—Memory, Dolphin, Rowlandson, Harding, McFarlane, James, Wright ii., Miles, Taylor iii. and Steele: while Shallard i. played for the Boar's Hill team as substitute.

On the 28th February the School enjoyed a whole holiday in honour of Princess Mary's wedding. In the morning, as recorded elsewhere in this issue, the annual races against Sutton Courtenay Lodge were rowed on Culham reach. In the afternoon, after an early lunch, the boarders and many day boys visited Oxford, some on bicycles and some in brakes, to witness the Torpid Races.

The last two periods of morning school were remitted likewise on Saturday, 4th March. This was to enable the School to witness the races against Magdalen College School, which were rowed on the Varsity course at Oxford between 12 and 1 o'clock.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following contemporaries:—*Aluredian*, *Chigwellian*, *Lartonian*, *Leightonian*, *Monktonian*, *O.H.S. Magazine*.

This term ends on Thursday, 23rd March, when the usual Rag Concert will take place in the evening. Next term begins on Tuesday, 24th April, boarders returning on the previous day.