

Misericordias
Domini



in aeternum
cantabo.

THE ABINGDONIAN.

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SCHOOL NOTES.

The following are the results of the Summer Examinations :—

Oxford Higher School Certificate, in Group I (Classics), A. F. James and J. F. Sinclair, James being awarded distinction in Greek ; in Group III (Mathematics), R. L. C. Foottit.

Oxford School Certificate (Senior Locals), First Class Honours, Div. I, C. R. Wright ; Second Class Honours, Div. I, K. T. Wood ; Div. II., W. G. Hancock and C. C. Woodley ; Passed, D. M. Brown, B. W. L. Buckland, J. H. S. Dodwell, C. Ellis, J. S. Fox, J. K. Leon, T. R. Pollard, G. W. Salisbury, S. W. D. Shallard, K. C. Smith, W. J. Smith, W. E. Steele, W. H. Stevens, R. Taylor, N. P. Wiggins, A. J. Williams and N. C. Wood. Distinctions were gained by K. T. Wood in History, and by C. R. Wright in Latin and in Greek.

Our numbers this term are 156, of whom 79 are day-boys and 77 boarders.

G. S. Sturrock is Captain of the School, and the other Prefects are K. T. Wood, J. F. Sinclair, A. F. James, C. C. Woodley, W. E. Steele and R. Taylor.

J. F. Sinclair is Captain of Football, and W. G. Hancock Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

The post of Librarian is held by A. F. James.

Football Colours have been awarded to G. S. Sturrock, J. S. Fox, W. E. Steele, H. W. D. Charleton, R. Taylor and R. W. Snell.

The "Abingdonian" Committee is constituted as follows :—Mr. Ross Barker (Editor), G. S. Sturrock, K. T. Wood, J. F. Sinclair, A. F. James, C. C. Woodley, C. R. Wright and W. G. Hancock.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of :—*The Aldenhamian, The Alfredian, The Chigwellian, The Laxtonian, The Leightonian, The Lily (2), The Log of the Nautical College, Pangbourne, The Magazine of the City of Oxford School, The Monk-tonian.*

It is with sincere regret that we announce the death of Mr. James Burgess, which occurred at his residence in Abingdon on September 30, after a short illness; and we desire to offer our respectful sympathy to his widow and other members of his family who mourn his loss. The firm of Burgess and Son (formerly Baylis and Co.) has printed this magazine for upwards of thirty years,—almost from its inception; and although Mr. Burgess senior had of late left our section of the work to his son, he had by no means retired from active co-operation in the business. He is much missed in Abingdon, where he was a prominent figure in many walks of life.

The following boys were confirmed at St. Helen's Church by the Bishop of Oxford on Sunday, 2nd December:—H. S. Bartlett, B. W. L. Buckland, W. G. Cullum, T. E. Gardiner, L. D. Hutchison, C. G. Lay, G. F. Powell, V. J. Relle, H. D. Shallard, W. E. Steele, C. J. E. Steff, R. Taylor, N. P. Wiggins.

The following attended the Duke of York's summer camp at Littlestone-on-Sea:—R. G. Spencer, C. C. Woodley, I. T. Leon and A. D. Prince.

A very interesting lecture describing the work of the Dockland Settlement at Canning Town, E., was given in the gymnasium on Saturday evening, 24th November, by Mr. R. Kennedy Cox, who is Warden of the Settlement. A brief account of the lecture appears in another column. A collection in aid of the settlement was made in Chapel on the following Saturday, and a sum amounting, with previous collections, to £18 13s. 7d. was forwarded to Mr. Kennedy Cox.

The senior boys have again been enabled to attend the meetings of the Abingdon Literary and Debating Society. These meetings take place on Monday evenings during the Autumn and Spring sessions, and a varied and stimulating programme has been provided.

The Selborne Society's Film, entitled "The Four Seasons," was shown in the gymnasium on Wednesday evening, 5th December. We found this a most pleasant change from the routine of "preparation" and an excellent method of combining enjoyment with instruction.

We have to thank Mr. C. A. Pryce for the gift of a Roman bronze coin of the Emperor Vespasian (69-79 A.D.). This coin, which Mr. Pryce found in his garden near the river, bears on the obverse side the Head of the Emperor fronting right, with

the inscription "Imp. Caesar. Vespasian. Aug. Con."; and on the reverse a Temple or Altar, with an inscription, somewhat damaged, containing letters S.C. (Senatus Consultum.)

There are forty-two boys learning dancing this term. On Wednesday, 12th December, Miss Grundy repeated her kindness of previous years by entertaining the Dancing Class, with several lady friends of the School, at a formal dance in the gymnasium.

Ten boys are learning boxing this term, under Sergt.-Major Collins.

A Chess Tournament has been organized among the Boarders, and Mr. Grundy has very kindly offered a prize. The winner is E. D. Rice.

Ping-Pong Tournaments have likewise been instituted, providing a pleasant recreation for the dark afternoons of Winter.

The annual School Concert is fixed for Friday, 14th December, and is to be held this year in the Corn Exchange. This marks a new departure in School Music, and it is confidently hoped that the venture will be justified, both by the quantity of the audience and the quality of the entertainment.

The Rag Concert will take place on Tuesday, 18th December, in the gymnasium,—i.e. on the last night of the term, as usual.

Next term begins on Thursday, 17th January, boarders returning on the previous day.

Valete.

VI Form.—R. L. C. Footitt (1917). School Prefect, 1921; Head of the School, 1922; 1st XI Football, 1921; Colours, 1921; Captain, 1922; 1st XI Cricket, 1921; Colours, 1922; Captain, 1923; 1st IV Rowing, 1922; Colours, 1922; Captain, 1923; Athletic Colours, 1921; O.S.L. (1st Class, with Distinction in Higher Mathematics), 1922; H.S.C. (Mathematics), 1923; Sergt. O.T.C., 1922; Certificate "A," 1923; 1st Class Shot, 1921.

R. G. Spencer (1919). School Prefect, 1922; 1st XI Football, 1922; 1st XI Cricket, 1923; Colours, 1923; 2nd IV Rowing, 1923; O.S.L. (1st Class, with Distinction in Latin and Greek), 1922; Corpl. O.T.C., 1923; Certificate "A," 1923.

W. H. Stevens (1918). School Prefect, 1922; 2nd XI Football, 1922; 2nd IV Rowing, 1923; O.S.L., 1922; Sergt. O.T.C., 1923; Certificate "A," 1922.

G.W. Salisbury (1918). 1st XI Football, 1922 ; 1st XI Cricket, 1923 ; O.S.L. (3rd Class), 1922.

C. Ellis (1918). 1st XI Football, 1922 ; Colours, 1922 ; 2nd XI Cricket, 1923 ; 1st IV Cox., 1920 ; Colours, 1920 ; 1st IV Rowing, 1923 ; Colours, 1923 ; Athletic Colours, 1923 ; O.S.L., 1922.

T. A. Wiggins (1918). 2nd XI Cricket, 1923 ; O.S.L., 1922.

VA. Form.—I. T. Leon, (1919).

VB. Form.—A. D. Prince (1916). 2nd XI Football, 1922. W. M. Isbister (1921).

II. Form.—B. R. S. Mainwaring (1922) ; R. C. Ellis (1921) ; D. F. Clutterbuck (1922).

Salvete.

VA. Form.—G. F. Powell ; A. C. Croasdell ; H. W. D. Charleton.

VB. Form.—W. W. Brown.

Remove Form.—N. P. Stathacopulos ; A. J. A. Watson ; D. J. W. Hillier ; A. F. Hanks ; T. G. Austin ; R. S. Fox.

III. Form.—H. F. Good ; F. A. J. Povey ; P. W. Lay ; S. E. Roberts ; A. K. Trinder.

II. Form.—B. J. Pedlar ; W. C. E. Heath ; J. F. J. Weniger ; F. H. Taylor ; F. L. Humphrey ; H. R. d'Almaine ; N. H. Chivers.

O.T.C.

It seems that the camp which the contingent attended at Tidworth Pennings from 23-31 July may be considered a success. Thirty-one members of the corps were able to attend, this being a very satisfactory percentage of those eligible for camp.

There were nearly a thousand cadets at this particular camp, and everything was done to give us a comfortable time and an interesting programme of work. We began with platoon training and for the last day we had a brigade scheme which was helped out by regular infantry, gunners and "flight" people from a neighbouring aerodrome. In addition to our own work we had some very interesting demonstrations given us. It was quite fascinating to watch the modern soldier at work. Schemes giving an idea of the way in which a platoon should work in the attack and act in the defence were prepared for us to watch. On the Saturday afternoon an aeroplane display was provided.

That same evening a boxing tournament was held and the contingent found some to champion it. Prince boxed very well. Footitt and Sinclair

were perhaps unfortunate in having to meet very strong and very clever boxers. But their defeat was at any rate an honourable one.

Fortunately a big tent-raid, planned for the last night, was washed out by a torrential downpour.

Our noble "Wongy" was splendid in camp, but even he failed at times to get certain budding guardsmen on parade at the right time. It seems that the longer the soldier the more difficult he is to rouse from slumber.

This term, on November 26, we had a field-day on the same ground as that of three years ago (when some people went pheasant shooting)—between Boar's Hill and Cumnor. We marched to Cumnor and joined the Oxford University, Reading College, Wantage and Oratory O.T.C.s in a scheme with Radley College as the enemy. We did not have such an exciting time as we had previously, but it all meant a day out under ideal conditions—all Nature frozen into a white stillness and ablaze for a few hours with a sunshine that became almost warm for a time.

It is hoped to arrange a field-day early next term on the Downs with the Wantage contingent.

The contingent is at full strength. The following were successful this term in the practical examination for Certificate "A" : Corporal Sturrock, L/cpl. Sinclair, L/cpl. James, Cadet Taylor, Cadet Buckland.

FOOTBALL.

It may be remembered that one criticism of last year's XI was that the forward line shewed little of that dash and vigour, which is so potent a match-winning factor.

This year there were signs of improvement in this respect, although neither of the wings was speedy enough to run round the opposition, with the result that the forward line was constantly being slowed up when attacking. This was particularly unfortunate as the forwards, being unusually light and small, were unable to force their way through a strong defence, and so their only hope lay in rapidity of attack.

They were fairly well served by the half-backs, who were considerably better than those of last year, and had some idea of their duties in attack, as well as usually being sound in defence.

The backs started shakily, but have improved considerably. They must, however, establish better understanding between themselves, and thus enable the goalkeeper to rely on them as much as they have relied on him.

The second XI was better this year than last, and, had the forwards been able to shoot, would have met with more success, as they attacked quite strongly at times. The defence was somewhat unreliable, miskicking being too prevalent.

Undoubtedly the brightest feature of our football this term has been the career of the 'Under 15' team, which can proudly boast of being an unbeaten side. In all their matches they have played with plenty of life and have combined well. Their success was largely due to their keenness, and if they maintain it they should furnish good material towards the building up of future School Elevens.

FIRST XI. MATCHES.

A.S.F.C. v. Leighton Park School, on 26th September. At home. Lost 0-8. This match was too early in the term for the team to do itself justice. There was no combination, and although the backs, especially Hancock, worked hard, they received no support from the halves, who were very weak indeed. The forwards were altogether too slow. The opposing forwards were fast and took advantage of all their opportunities. The School team was as follows:—Goal, J. F. Sinclair; backs, J. S. Fox, W. G. Hancock; halves, G. S. Sturrock, H. M. Insley, K. T. Wood; forwards, G. Stacey, C. R. Wright, W. E. Steele, R. Taylor, R. W. Snell.

A.S.F.C. v. Abingdon Town (under 18), on October 5th. At home. Lost 1-6. Although we were again badly beaten, the team played much better than in the previous match, the most noticeable difference being in the half line. Our opponents pressed hard in the first half and at half-time the score was 4-0. In the second half we picked up and at the end the score stood at 6-1. Taylor scored our goal. Charleton played well at right half, where he took the place of Wood. Mr. Alston played at centre-half in place of Insley, and W. Smith played on the left wing instead of Stacey; otherwise the team was unaltered.

A.S.F.C. v. Mr. H. A. L. Donkin's XI., on October 10th. At home. Lost 0-5. The team as a whole showed considerable improvement on the last performance, and the halves showed promise of becoming quite a strong line, Sturrock and Charleton playing especially well. The opposing forwards were a little too heavy for our backs, who played hard. The forwards tried hard and played quite well with more combination than before against a sound pair of backs. The School

team was as follows:—Goal, J. F. Sinclair; backs, J. S. Fox, W. G. Hancock; halves, H. D. Shallard, G. S. Sturrock, H. W. D. Charleton; forwards, W. J. Smith, C. R. Wright, W. E. Steele, R. Taylor, R. W. Snell.

A.S.F.C. v. Magdalen College School, on October 20th. At Oxford. Lost 2-3. This was a very even match, in which the School halves played well. Our opponents scored very early in the game, but Steele soon equalised with a good shot, and the score remained the same till half-time. After half-time the School scored again through Taylor, and we kept the lead till the last five minutes, when they succeeded in scoring two goals in quick succession. The kicking of our backs was rather uncertain. Steele led the forwards well. The team was the same as in the previous match.

A.S.F.C. v. Mansfield College, on October 24th. At Oxford. Won 8-0. This match was played under rather difficult conditions. We were a better team, and might have made a bigger score, if the high wind had not prevented accurate shooting. The team was the same as before.

A.S.F.C. v. Mr. H. A. L. Donkin's XI., on October 27th. At home. Lost 2-8. Mr. Donkin brought a strong team against us, and again our light forwards could make little headway against the heavy backs. The opposing forwards pressed a good deal, but all the halves played well. The backs lacked combination and their kicking was a little wild. Taylor showed good form and the forwards as a whole combined better. Taylor and Wright scored our goals. The team was unaltered.

A.S.F.C. v. City of Oxford School, on November 3rd. At Oxford. Lost 0-10. This was a good match, but our opponents' forward play was too good for the defence, their shooting being especially good from all positions. Fox played a good game, as did Sturrock. Steele and Taylor did some good work in the forward line. The game was rather spoilt by a high wind. The team remained the same.

A.S.F.C. v. Exeter College, on Nov. 7th. At home. Lost 1-4. A very exciting match, in which the School again found themselves over-weighted. Steel opened the scoring for us, but they soon equalised, and at half-time the score was 1-1. The forwards played well against a strong defence, and the halves held their forwards most of the game. The School team was as follows:—Goal, J. F. Sinclair; backs, J. S. Fox, W. G. Hancock; halves, G. S. Sturrock, Mr. J. B. E. Alston, H. W. D. Charleton; forwards, W. J.

Smith, W. E. Steele, Mr. W. M. Grundy, R. Taylor, R. W. Snell.

A.S.F.C. v. Abingdon Town (under 18), on November 10th. At home. Won 4-1. One of the best matches of the season, and played at a great pace from beginning to end. The forwards at last found their real form and played with some understanding. The School scored soon after the beginning of the game, and at half-time the score was 3-0, Wright having scored twice and Steele once. In the second half they scored first, but Snell scored another goal for us. The combination throughout the team was far better, and Snell played a sound game. The team was the same as that against the City of Oxford School, except that Wright and Steele changed places.

A.S.F.C. v. Exeter College, on November 17th. At Oxford. Drawn 1-1. This game was played at a fast pace throughout, and we did well to hold our heavier opponents. Steele opened the scoring for the School, but they soon equalised and the score remained the same till the end of the game. Charleton and Snell played well. The School team was as in the previous match against Exeter College.

A.S.F.C. v. Leighton Park School, on Nov. 21st. At Reading. Won 1-0. A very fast and well-fought match. Woodley reappeared in the forward line and showed his usual dash. The School opened the scoring through Taylor early in the first half. After this there was no more scoring during the game, which was remarkably even. The backs played very well and were ably supported by the halves. The forwards were well together and Snell put in some good centres from the right wing. The School team was as follows :—Goal, J. F. Sinclair; backs, J. S. Fox, W. G. Hancock; halves, H. D. Shallard, G. S. Sturrock, H. W. D. Charleton; forwards, W. J. Smith, W. E. Steele, C. C. Woodley, R. Taylor, R. W. Snell.

A.S.F.C. v. Magdalen College School on 8th December. At home. Drawn 3-3. Both teams were rather out of practice for this match, and the ground was in a very bad state owing to the frost and rain. Magdalen pressed in the first half and opened the scoring, and both goals after that received attacks. We equalised, but Magdalen again scored. Half-time score 2-1 for them. In the second half our forward line got together and did most of the attacking, but their defence played well. Woodley, who led the forwards well, scored first in the second half, after which they drew ahead and kept the lead till the last 5 minutes, when Woodley again scored, thus leaving the game

drawn at 3-3. Woodley scored all our goals. The team was as in the previous match.

A.S.F.C. v. Old Abingdonians on 8th December. At home. Won 7-5. A very even match. The O.A.s opened the scoring. The backs did not settle down to their game at first and their passing was a little wild; but they soon got together and played a sound game, and were well supported by the halves. Taylor scored our first goal with a fine shot. The O.A.s soon scored again, but Woodley equalised. Both sides scored once more before half-time, our goal coming from a good corner kick of Smith's. In the second half our whole team played really hard. The forwards were well together and owing chiefly to good centres and accurate shooting we led at one period 6-3. The O.A.s then played up and scored twice more, but could not draw level, and we scored once more in the last five minutes. The team gave one of their best displays in this match. The forwards were most satisfactory, Snell playing well. Charleton, Sturrock and Fox kept the defence well together. The School team was as against Magdalen College School. The O.A. team was as follows :—O. E. Cullen, goal; C. R. Davidge, S. L. Buckle, backs; C. E. H. Dolphin, R. E. Eason, A. W. Miles, half-backs; R. B. H. Morland, H. V. Stone, H. A. L. Donkin, C. Ellis, G. W. Salisbury, forwards.

SECOND ELEVEN MATCHES.

A.S.F.C. v. Leighton Park School.—At Leighton on 26th September. Lost 0-8. The team had had hardly any practice and consequently were never together. Right from the start Leighton pressed and the ball rarely went out of our half. Bartlett got hurt in the first few minutes and had to retire, H. Shallard taking his place at back. At half-time the score was 2-0 against us and at the end was 8-0. The halves and backs tried very hard, but the forwards were slow and never together. School team :—S. W. D. Shallard; H. S. Bartlett, P. G. A. Kennington; F. G. H. Allen, B. W. L. Buckland, G. Estcourt; H. D. Shallard, N. C. Wood, P. T. Thomas, T. R. Pollard, H. J. K. Genders.

A.S.F.C. v. Magdalen College School on Oct 20th. At home. Won 3-1. The play was very even throughout. The School took the lead half way through the first half, Stacey scoring. The score remained the same until half-time. On resuming Magdalen ran straight through and scored. But five minutes before time the School scored twice through Allen and Stacey. School team :—S. E.

Clark ; P. H. Barwell, H. S. Bartlett ; H. M. Insley, K. T. Wood, K. L. Aldridge ; F. G. H. Allen, S. W. D. Shallard, N. C. Wood, D. M. Brown, C. Stacey.

A.S.F.C. v. City of Oxford School on November 3rd. At home. Lost 3-2. The play was very even for the first quarter of an hour, but Oxford broke away, and scored three times in succession, with the wind in their favour. On resuming there was no more score until the middle of the second half, when the School scored twice in rapid succession. School team :—S. E. Clark ; P. H. Barwell, H. S. Bartlett ; H. M. Insley, K. L. Aldridge, K. T. Wood ; H. J. K. Genders, S. W. D. Shallard, N. C. Wood, D. M. Brown, C. Stacey.

A.S.F.C. v. Leighton Park School on November 21st. At home. Draw 4-4. In the first half the School had most of the play, but failed to find the net more than once, Leighton scoring three times. On resuming the School pressed but Leighton broke away several times, only being stopped by the defence. The School managed to score twice, and then Leighton obtained the lead by a very good shot which the custodian failed to reach. Genders then ran away down the wing, and scored the equaliser with an exceedingly good shot. School team :—A. F. James ; P. H. Barwell, H. S. Bartlett ; H. M. Insley, K. L. Aldridge, K. T. Wood ; H. J. K. Genders, N. C. Wood, C. R. Wright, D. M. Brown, C. Stacey.

A.S.F.C. v. Magdalen College School, on Dec. 5th. Away. Lost 5-1. The game was played under very trying conditions. The surface of the ground was wet and slippery, but owing to recent frosts the ground underneath was very hard. The School played well at the start, and Aldridge scored what proved to be the School's only goal with a very fine shot. The score remained 1-0 in the School's favour until half-time. But in the second half the School went to pieces, and our opponents found no difficulty in getting five goals. School team :—A. F. James ; P. H. Barwell, H. S. Bartlett ; K. T. Wood, K. L. Aldridge, H. M. Insley ; C. Stacey, N. C. Wood, C. R. Wright, D. M. Brown, H. J. K. Genders.

UNDER 15 MATCHES.

A.S.F.C. v. City of Oxford School 'under 15' XI on 13th October. Away. Won 5-4. The School started well, Thomas scoring in the first few minutes ; but C.O.S. equalised and at half-time the score was 3-2 against us. Thomas scored our second goal. In the second half the School got together, and finished by winning 5-4. Thomas

scored 4 of our goals and W. W. Brown one. The team was as follows :—E. Tinegate ; W. D. Shallard, F. M. Cole ; T. E. Gardiner, H. M. Insley (captain), P. G. Perks-Morris ; A. M. Garton, S. Brown, P. T. Thomas, W. W. Brown, E. P. Rice.

A.S.F.C. v. New College School on 31st October. Away. Won 4-0. The School had most of the play in this match. S. Brown played well throughout the game and put in some good centres. The forwards were well together. At half-time the score was 2-0 and at the end 4-0. The School team was as follows :—A. J. A. Watson ; W. D. Shallard, F. M. Cole ; T. E. Gardiner, H. M. Insley (captain), R. M. Robinson ; S. Brown, E. M. Holbrook, P. T. Thomas, W. W. Brown, E. P. Rice.

A.S.F.C. v. Abingdon and District Elementary Schools on Nov. 10th. At home. Won 2-1. This was a very even and well-fought match. Play in the first half was fast but neither side scored. In the second half the School opened the scoring, but the D.E.S. team soon equalised, and there were no more goals scored till the last few minutes, when one of their backs put the ball into his own goal. Broadbent scored our other goal. The team was as follows :—A. J. A. Watson ; W. D. Shallard, F. M. Cole ; T. E. Gardiner, H. M. Insley (captain), P. G. Perks-Morris ; S. Brown, R. E. Broadbent, P. T. Thomas, E. M. Holbrook, E. P. Rice.

A.S.F.C. v. City of Oxford School 'under 15' XI on 17th Nov. At home. Won 6-2. This match was won rather easily by the School. The forward line was well together, and W. W. Brown played well. The backs defended well. Thomas scored three goals, Broadbent two, W. W. Brown one. The team was the same as before, except that W. W. Brown played instead of Holbrook.

A.S.F.C. v. Abingdon and District Elementary Schools on Nov. 24th on the home ground. Won 6-0. This match, although it resulted in an easy win for the School, provided a very good game. Perks-Morris, half, and Rice, on the wing, both played excellently. The forwards also played well, combining better than previously. Goals were shot by the following :—Thomas 3, Broadbent 1, Perks-Morris 2. The team was composed as follows : A. J. A. Watson ; W. D. Shallard, F. M. Cole ; T. E. Gardiner, H. M. Insley, P. G. Perks-Morris ; S. Brown, R. E. Broadbent, P. T. Thomas, W. W. Brown, E. P. Rice.

FIRST ELEVEN CHARACTERS.

J. F. Sinclair. Captain. Colours 1922. Goal-keeper. Has amply fulfilled the promise of last

season. Inspires confidence by his coolness and safe handling of the ball. As captain he has worked energetically and with enthusiasm.

J. S. Fox (Left Back). Colours 1923.—Has improved immensely during the season. Is apt to become excited and miskick at times, but is fast, uses his weight, and tackles fearlessly, with plenty of dash.

W. G. Hancock (Right Back).—Has played steadily and keeps a cool head. Has a good kick with either foot, but is not quite quick enough in taking his opportunities; would make a better back if he took the offensive more.

H. D. Shallard (Left Half).—His main asset is a certain kick with either foot. Is not quite fast enough yet, but always tries hard. Is handicapped by lack of weight but makes up for this to a certain extent by neat tackling.

G. S. Sturrock (Centre Half). Colours 1923.—A persevering and hard-working member of the team and has improved a lot since the beginning of the season. Has now learnt to control his kicking to some extent, but his passing is still rather wild at times. Tackles resolutely and can move quite fast.

H. W. D. Charleton (Right Half). Colours 1923.—The only really constructive half. Has played consistently well; uses his weight and speed to advantage and tackles well. Has combined well with the forwards. His kicking is as a rule good, but is apt to become erratic.

W. J. Smith (Outside Left).—A neat player, but lost his form in the matches in the middle of the season. His centres are usually well-placed, but he frequently passes back through not watching the movements of the forwards. Has some control over the ball and dribbles well. Played well in the last matches.

W. E. Steele (Inside Left). Colours 1923.—Plays well on his day and always tries. Is quite tricky but must learn to get his pass in before it is too late. Can shoot well, but does not shoot often enough. Is a hard person to knock off the ball.

C. R. Wright (Centre Forward). Played in this position till Woodley came back. A keen player but very much handicapped by lack of weight. Dribbles fairly well and is quite fast but kicks the ball too far ahead. His shooting is weak; he has not got out of the habit of kicking the ball over the bar.

C. C. Woodley (Centre Forward). Colours 1921.—Has led the forwards with all his old dash, and was missed at the beginning of the season. Is the only forward who can make straight for goal and

shoots well. Is fast and distributes his passes evenly and freely.

R. Taylor (Inside Right). Colours 1923.—A hard working and keen player. Came on a lot in the last three matches. Is a little slow in starting, but at times dribbles well. Plays with dash, but is not always quick enough in taking his opportunity of passing. Shoots well.

R. W. Snell (Outside Right). Colours 1923.—Has improved out of all knowledge in the last half of the term. Is still rather slow in starting but gets a move on when he has got the ball. Is on the light side and his tackling is not too sound. Can centre well with either foot, and has an excellent understanding with his half.

THE DOCKLAND SETTLEMENTS.

On Saturday, 24th December, Mr. Kennedy Cox gave, in the gymnasium, a very instructive, and entertaining lecture on the work being done amongst the poor of the London dockyards. The lecture was of particular interest to us, as it is to the mission doing this work that the Chapel funds are contributed.

First of all Mr. Kennedy Cox gave us a very clear account of the miserable conditions under which the dockworkers had to live, before this mission work was started. He then went on to tell us about the lines on which the work is being done, such as the provision of new dwelling houses, and club houses, and the organising of games. These give the dockers something to do after the day's work is over, or at any rate some place to go to where there is warmth, instead of standing in the bitter coldness of a street corner on a winter's night.

Finally the lecturer went through the details of each day's work of the mission, explaining that they had to find something different to do every day of the week, to prevent things becoming too monotonous. Apparently the greatest difficulty was over Saturday night, (pay day), which most people consequently spent in making merry in the public-house. This difficulty, however, has been cleverly overcome by building a concert hall, where all kinds of entertainments are given free, opposite to the public house; the result being that the desire for amusement has conquered the craving for drink.

At the end of the lecture three cheers were given for Mr. Kennedy Cox, and the audience dispersed with quickened interest in the mission and a clearer idea of the good uses to which our contributions are being put.

THE FAIRS & MARKETS OF MEDIEVAL ABINGDON.

BY ARTHUR E. PRESTON, F.S.A.

The occurrences at a gathering so populous and important as *St. Mary's Fair* gave rise as might be expected to civil offences as well as criminal. There are numerous instances in the public records. Dealers in wine and cloth were the principal culprits. Quite early in our commercial history there was an attempt to secure uniformity throughout the kingdom in the price, quality and measure of wine, beer and cloth, and the regulations made were specially left to the King's Justices for enforcement. The customary court of Pie-powder was ready, at Abingdon as elsewhere, to deal promptly with all ordinary disputes between wayfaring people at markets and fairs, but questions affecting the royal revenue were outside its scope. There must have been a considerable wine trade at Abingdon; in 1183-4 we find Henry the vintner returned by the sheriff as indebted to the Crown in 13s. 4d. for selling wine against the Assize, i.e. short measure or defective quality. Henry was apparently a retailer and not in affluent circumstances for it was four years before the sheriff could obtain payment of the amount. The selling price of wine at Abingdon, Reading and other neighbouring places was by the King's writ in 1223 not to exceed 8d. per *sextarius*, a measure practically equal to the modern pint. In October of the following year when the juvenile King was again at Abingdon a remarkable concession was obtained, and the sheriff was ordered to make proclamation that wine might be sold in Abingdon at 10d. per *sextarius* on the ground that the town was remote from maritime ports. Two of the conclusions flowing from this are (a) that the cost of transport from the coast was heavy and (b) that the Abingdon public were drinkers of expensive foreign wines. On the luxurious scale fixed a pint of wine was nearly the equivalent in value of a fat sheep. In the Assize Roll for 1247-8 we get evidence that wine dealers from the Continent and from Southampton and other towns attended the fair, and became subject to fine for selling wine against the regulations. One of the Abingdon vintners, Thomas Bacun, was unable to pay and after seven years grace his goods were distrained by the sheriff to recover the money. An idea of the extensive wholesale trade in wine carried on at fair time may be gathered from the fact that in 1283-4 Roger of Wantage was "in mercy" for 12 hogsheads sold in breach of the assize, Walter of Blew-

bury for 6 hogsheads, William le Taverner (probably an Abingdon man) for 9 hogsheads, Richard of Henley for 4 hogsheads and William Hurtwell for one hogshead. These were only the dishonest section of the dealers, and we are told nothing about the transactions of the others, possibly honest—if there were any. The actual fines are not stated. One of the principal things to which the itinerant justices were to give attention at their septennial visits was the quality and price of wine sold within their jurisdiction. Beer too, was not neglected. Nothing was more congenial to them than assessing the fines in cases of this kind.

Another commodity under the special care of the Itinerants was woollen cloth. Since the regulations of Richard I. in 1197 fixing the statutory measures and assigning men in each borough to see the regulations properly carried out, the manufacture of cloth had received a stimulus and had deeply taken root in Abingdon as an individual occupation in the small dwellings then existing. Situated in a district that was plentiful in sheep wool was abundant, of high quality and cheap. Many of the principal inhabitants were engaged in the trade as dealers or wholesalers, and sometimes found difficulty in keeping themselves within the law as regards price, quality and measure. As an instance one Robert Saleman was amongst those who at the *General Iter* in 1247 found themselves in trouble with the judges for breaking the statute at *St. Mary's fair*. Saleman was heavily fined but need not in consequence be regarded as a wholly abandoned character. In the preceding November he had been making a gift—a very liberal one for the period—of 12d. per annum "to God and the Blessed Mary and *St. Helen's Church*" for the support of a chaplain to celebrate Mass. The original document is still in the Hospital Hall. In actual point of time Saleman's offence no doubt preceded the gift; and he may have regarded this as a way of salving his conscience or as tending to re-establish his good name with the Church and his fellow townsmen. The lesson of 1247 did not, however, act as a deterrent, for in 1260 we find Saleman again convicted of the same offence; and this time in company with other prominent townsmen such as John de Colcote, a proctor of the chantry of the B.V.M. and provost of Abingdon at the date. Important official positions and a defective sense of commercial morality sometimes went together then as now.

At this point we may leave *St. Mary's Fair* for a while and follow the fortunes of the new fair of *St. Edmund's* established in 1290. It will be re-

membered that it was a seven days fair in the month of June intended for the support of a chapel in West St. Helen Street, founded by Edmund Earl of Cornwall—childless and a near kinsman of the King—in honour of the local saint Edmund Rich, archbishop of Canterbury. The only connection between the two men was the name “Edmund.” The Earl’s father had formed a partiality for the archbishop in his life time and had given the name Edmund to his own son. The abbot who concluded with the Earl the improvident arrangement to find priests and maintain services at the chapel “for ever” died soon afterwards, and the problem of how to meet the expense was left to his successor Nicholas de Culneham, who resorted to the expedient of a new fair. It was an ill-starred scheme from the start. Immediately after its establishment popular opposition became so manifest, that in 1294 the abbot found himself obliged to abolish the tolls on which he had built such hopes, and to content himself with the meagre receipts to be derived from the erection of stalls. At one hit the whole financial purpose for which the fair was conceived collapsed, and except for the liberality of one John Porter (an abbey servant) and his wife, the chapel would have been left with nothing for its support, beyond casual oblations of the altar. The Porters came to the abbot’s rescue with a gift of property in Abingdon that brought in some five pounds a year. But public feeling was such that the abbot was not permitted to drop the tolls merely as an act of grace (which he might revoke) but was called upon to enter into a formal agreement with the men of the town to forego them for ever. One part of the indenture sealed by four prominent townsmen was left with the abbot and the other copy impressed with the Abbey seal was retained by the townsfolk. Only the accident of this document being hidden away amongst the old muniments in Christ’s Hospital Hall has preserved to us any knowledge of the transaction. The previous custodians were no doubt the brethren of the Holy Cross (the predecessors of Christ’s Hospital) and possibly we may see in this circumstance an indication of their existence as early as 1294. It is practically certain that the four selected townsmen were members of the body. The abolition of tolls proved, however, insufficient to allay the public resentment. Grave disorders broke out; and during the reigns of Edw. II. and Edw. III. the history of the town is mostly a record of the conflicts that now commenced. In December 1295 the disappointed abbot is found obtaining a special commission of *Oyer* and

Terminer to adjudicate on his complaint “that a multitude of malefactors had driven away men from the fair and caused it to be held outside his jurisdiction in the neighbouring Hundred of Sutton. Violence was done to the keepers of the fair and their wands of office were broken.” It is significant that at the head of the rioters were two of the town representatives who had so recently sealed the compact with the abbot—Richard de Shippon and Thomas le Spicer.

What, it may be asked, had brought about the change. What were the causes of their new demeanour? It was no minor discontent about tolls as they had been abolished; the grievances must have lain deeper than that. In a way we can see what they were. The new fair, men thought, was only an added means of oppression and extortion by the abbey and was not needed. To many even the new chapel was a surplusage. There were already 8 churches in the town (or chapels as some of them were called) to serve a population of less than 1000 souls, even if we include the inmates of the Abbey. The recently canonized saint had established no hold on the imagination of the people; to the majority he was only a devout former townsman personally known to some of them. There was no veneration, no halo of romance. If the chapel was to be a clog on the new industrial progress that was just opening out they would rather be without it. So men reasoned.

Towns under the rule of monastic houses at the time were in a position of utmost disadvantage and had not the slightest hand in their own affairs. Local commerce was increasing and bringing in its train greater independence to the inhabitants; a new era had begun, and the desire for emancipation from feudal control was abroad. Claims were being advanced to a voice in town management and in the appointment of officers. But it was all a dream. Never so long as the Abbey lasted were the inhabitants able to wrest for themselves any concessions towards self-government or corporate life.

It may help us to understand the determined hostility of the local trader if we bear in mind that before the new *St. Edmund’s Fair* there were already three other fairs in existence, and during their continuance—for a whole week at a stretch—all other trading in the town was perforce suspended; all buyings and sellings were compelled to take place in the small area appointed for the fair and under the eye of the abbot’s officers. No bargains over 20s. could be entered into except before

witnesses. The dislocation and inconvenience must have been enormous. Tolls at the new fair were gone, it is true, but a greater evil took their place. Outsiders in unlimited numbers were admitted with their goods as equal competitors—not foreign wares from overseas—but commodities of all kinds that Abingdon could itself produce. The new fair was only a sort of magnified market of merely local repute, and not on the same plane as the great St. Mary's fair. The monopoly in his own area so dear to the mediæval trader was further invaded and that no doubt was the culminating grievance responsible for the revolt. The abbot unwittingly and before his time was offering in effect free trade to residents and strangers alike, but the townsfolk's antagonism to outside competition could not be overcome and they were implacably opposed to it. Convinced "protectionists" in short, on whose whole-hearted support a mediæval Baldwin might with confidence have relied.

What the result of the judges' investigation may have been at the trial in 1296, what decisions were arrived at or what punishments, if any, were awarded, are all alike unknown. The public records yield no information on the point. In the main it is probable that the abbot succeeded, but the social discontent remained. No further upheavals are heard of during the time of abbot Nicholas, nor till near the end of the reign of his successor Richard de Clive.

The years 1315 and 1316 were periods of incessant wet, deficient harvests and great distress. Much of the corn never ripened and there was a great famine. A murrain broke out amongst the cattle and by the universal scarcity many were rendered desperate and lawless. Aggravated perhaps by these circumstances fresh attacks on *St. Edmund's Fair* broke out, and one of the last acts of abbot Clive in July 1315 was to obtain another special Commission for trial of the offenders. There were new features this time. The markets and courts were assailed as well. "The rioters had prevented the abbot from holding his half-yearly Court Leet, and people coming to the abbot's mill to grind their corn had been compelled to withdraw; at the weekly markets the abbot's officials were prevented from collecting tolls." So ran the abbot's complaint. Then followed a tragedy. Within a fortnight and perhaps whilst the Commission was sitting, the abbot, the treasurer and other officials of the Abbey were accidentally drowned in the swollen Thames whilst returning from a knightly dinner at Chiselhampton, 27 July, 1315. The

river was in summer flood, and the restive horses and the swift stream swamped the boat at a point some distance below the modern railway bridge in Nuneham reach.

The visit of the commission could have done little to abate the popular ferment, and in the summer of 1316 yet another Commission was issued on the application of the new abbot John de Sutton. There were again fresh features. Conspiracy to harass the abbot was now the first item of complaint, and to this was added hindrance of the markets and obstruction of the Hundred Court. Particulars, said the abbot, which the decenners (or tything-men) of the town ought themselves to have presented to the Court, were caused by the rioters to be derisively written out and sent to the abbot's bailiffs. Scarcely any of the Abbey servants dared go forth to execute their office. Injury was accentuated by insolence and there was something approaching a state of terror. Such was the indictment; and it is evident that the area of discontent was enlarging. A few of those concerned in the revolt of 1295 and many who were mixed up in the riotous proceedings of 1315 were again at the head of the offending crowd. From the character and standing of some of the men taking part, it is impossible to ignore that the popular grievances may have been real and substantial, and something different from what might be supposed from perusal of the abbot's one-sided allegations. His own record must be taken into account. By his misgovernment and misappropriations of the monastic property the Abbey was brought to a state of poverty, and twice within two years the Crown had to extend its protection and appoint keepers to save the convent from pressing creditors. "A provedly bad man and the very worst of administrators" was the monks' description of the abbot in their formal protest to the Bishop in 1320. Small wonder the townspeople rebelled if the treatment they received was at all comparable to the abbot's tyrannous conduct towards the prior and other monks. But that is too long a story to enter on here.

In the disturbances of 1316 Richard de Shippon, party to the agreement of 1294, is again as in 1295 one of the principal ringleaders; and with him were Thomas Cok, and most of the prominent Abingdonians of the day. The whole intelligence and influence of the community was ranked against the Abbey. Both Richard de Shippon and Thomas Cok are interesting and important figures, and especially the latter as marking perhaps the first appearance of the capitalist in the trade of the town. Although a citizen of

London, Cok was a wealthy wool merchant domiciled at Abingdon and had a stall on the Bury. Here no doubt in the commodities of wool and cloth his money was made, and the public records contain many instances of his ability to lend large sums on security. Many of the landowners in neighbouring counties as well as the abbot were glad to obtain from him financial help. Richard de Shippon was destined within the next three years to become M.P. for the county—a fate that sometimes overtakes the advanced reformer even in these days. In the Parliament of 1319 and before the Houses were divided he sat as one of the two knights of the shire, and as such may be taken as belonging socially to the class of the minor barons, with whom he associated and voted as an equal.

Men of this calibre were no mere disorderly law breakers. In becoming the leading spirits of a popular movement in which violence was to play the principal part we must recognise that they had no faith in the efficacy of milder methods. The affairs of the Abbey were rapidly becoming demoralized; abbot Sutton, after seven years of acute misrule, was ignominiously dismissed by the Pope in 1322, and died soon after. He was followed by John de Cannynge—the former prior—a weak and timorous man, little fitted to guide a great monastery through the local difficulties and national disorders of the time. The closing years of the reign of Edwd. II. were preparing the way for the great outbursts at Abingdon and elsewhere that immediately followed the accession of his youthful son in 1327.

(To be concluded.)

THE CONFLICT.

They tell how a young prince at Cressy fray,
Dash'd by the splendid chivalry of France,
Sent couriers hot for succour to the stance
Of his great father on a hill; they say
That he, who had set the battle in array,
And saw its course and after, look'd askance
On their amaze; and his large utterance
Rings, 'Let him earn his knighthood'—to this day.
From the world's battlefield bewildered men
Desperate prayer and thoughts reproachful fling
Unto a Father that still seems averse.

I think He smiles as the king smiled, and when
His messengers win through, they will rehearse
In God's own speech that answer of the king.

O.J.C.

GYP.

"We must get a dog."

It was the first I had heard of it. I turned to Ethel in surprise. "What for?"

"Oh well, it wouldn't be so lonely for me when you're away."

"Thank you," I said with emotion.

"Oh no," said Ethel hurriedly, "I don't mean what you think I mean. But really, we must get one. Harriet says she has always been used to a dog in the house, and feels nervous without one."

"Oh! So it's come to that, has it? Do you think Harriet would like us to move the piano down to the kitchen or buy her a Marconiphone?"

"Don't be silly; you know perfectly well that if Harriet leaves us we'll be in a muddle again."

"Won't she give us a reference?"

"Now do be sensible. We must get that dog, or I shall have to go servant-hunting again. I'll get it to-day."

In the evening, when I came home from work, tired and irritable, there was a big brute of a bulldog in possession of the front step. I opened the gate. The dog sat up and swore at me.

Ethel came to the window.

"Oh, it's you, is it?" she observed, as though I were the last person on earth she expected to see.

"Will you please call your dog off?" I said with icy politeness.

"Gyp?" she asked.

"I—we hav'n't been introduced."

She laughed. "Why, he's friendly enough. Speak to him nicely."

So I spoke to him nicely.

I said: "Good dog; give me a paw." Could anything be nicer than that?

I took a step forward, and Gyp advanced to meet me, smacking his lips. Somehow it struck me that I didn't really want a paw: that I was troubling him too much. I went back to the pavement. In the end I had to be smuggled into my own house through the kitchen window.

When I was inside Gyp was friendly enough. His idea seemed to be that as many people as liked might be in the house. He was even willing to let them go out. But not a soul was to come in. When people came about the house he attacked them with delight. That was what we wanted, of course, and we were prepared to put up with the minor inconveniences, though it did seem hard lines that our friends should stop calling. And Harriet was satisfied!

We had no trouble with beggars, or tramps,

or canvassers. That was something to be thankful for. I believe everything would have gone swimmingly, but one day Ethel started to train Gyp. One evening we all three went out for a walk, and she made him carry my stick. He carried it all the way home. Then he sat on it, and dared anybody to touch it. In the end he ate it.

One night I woke up with a start.

"Get up," Ethel whispered: "there are burglars in the house!"

"Nonsense!" I told her. "Gyp would bark at them."

"Then they've killed him." And she began to weep.

To tell you the truth, I didn't feel a bit sorry. Gyp had begun to be just a little wearisome. But to reassure Ethel, I got up and tiptoed downstairs. There was a light in the dining-room. I crept to the door and peeped in. Sure enough, there were the burglars; two of them—and the dog.

Gyp wasn't dead; not a bit of it. Neither was he barking. No; he was too busy—carrying the burglars' bag!

Harriet has gone.

A.F.J.

AN ASSYRIAN FRAGMENT.

This fragment was discovered during the recent excavations in connection with the building of the School Tuck Shop.

1. Now it came to pass
2. In the déhzov-yungkri-stophàh
3. The sin-gàhov-phrèñch-songz
4. That Gràhnp-ah was Kap-téhn
5. Of the Uppa dâwm-phùtbâwl.
6. Ichmem-bâhpèhd-thripènz.
7. Then followed a phrehnd-léh
8. With lôh-wàh-dâwn-stùdd-déhbhoiz,
9. And those that dúh-slip-out
10. Who hadtha-monfeihn-léh
11. . . . For Gràhnp-àh-aph-aurzèd
12. Lost èht-gôhlz-tù-phaur
13. But after the skerm-ish
14. All trooped to the tûkhs-hoppe . . .
15. Where ichgotte-phauhéph-aurth
16. Of Mih-stahm-eilzdóhn-utz
17. Udàth-awtîht

THE HERON.

Swaying your long curved neck at every tread

From side to side, why, when you first suspect

Approach of danger, do you cast your head

And lordly body all at once erect?

Then first when your intruder's form you see,

Why do you peer askance with such disdain,
As if one had no legal right to be

In your wild water-meadows' bleak domain?

No harm from me dear bird; how you do hate

To think you're looked upon by human sight!

Few moments pass; more you won't tolerate;

You crouch—then make your one huge leap to
flight:

Gliding to meadows where none will intrude,

Still more remote—more certain solitude.

P. F. Clark.

NATURE NOTES.

(With acknowledgments to "Nature Magazine.")

I. WEATHER WISDOM.

Every Rambler over the countryside should make himself to some extent weather wise.

Rings round the sun or moon, as also twinkling of the stars late at night, are signs of coming bad weather. Clear, cold, frosty nights indicate good weather. If the sun rises red, it is bad: if it sets red, it is good. A dark blue sky foretells wind, and may be rain, a light blue one fair weather.

There are two signs less often noticed, that invariably indicate fine weather: these are a heavy dew and the falling of the wind at sunset.

The cultivation of Weather Wisdom is a pursuit that is interesting as it is profitable. Being much out and about, you should practise it.

D.L.D.

II. BIRD TABLES.

The Red Indians of North America have what they call a "Wakan." It really is a rock, on which they leave bits of their food for the good spirits. The good spirits, however, are generally the birds and squirrels, and when all is quiet they come out and eat up all the food.

Now, if you come to think of it, why should you not have a "Wakan" in your garden? for it would give you ample opportunity for studying the habits of birds. And first comes the "how to make it" part. Get an old barrel and saw round about two inches from the end and nail it upside down to a post. The projecting parts of the barrel will keep off cats, etc., and you can leave food for the birds without fear of disturbance.

J.G.

III. THE TROUT.

The trout is a fish of which the colour varies much according to the nature of the stream or lake in which it lives. The common English trout is of the species known as the yellow trout, and yellow is its general colour. The back and upper portions of the sides show spots of red and

black; the under parts are a light yellow or a silvery white; and the tail and the brown dorsal fin have spots. But at times the colour may be greenish black, or violet: in bright, clear waters the colours of the fish are likewise bright, but in dark or boggy lakes or tarns the trout assumes an almost inky shade. This variation is a very striking instance of protective colouring.

Trout (and they are voracious fish) feed on other creatures—minnows and other little fish, slugs and worms fallen from the banks, freshwater shrimps and tiny shell-fish; but more welcome than anything yet named are the may-flies which are seen above the surface of the stream in spring.

N.V.P.

IV. WHAT BIRDS WILL DO FOR A LIVING.

Though eagles and other birds often fight over their prey, it is not always so: sometimes they combine when they are very hungry, and get their prey together.

One way for two to do it is as follows:—one flies fairly high, while the other flies low over shrubs, bushes and undergrowth, beating these with its wings in order to frighten rabbits, birds, and other small game. As the prey darts out, the unseen terror of the skies drops from aloft and seizes it. Then the two share the prey,—which is a truly marvellous thing; for although we see birds feeding together, nearly every kind of bird will fight its neighbour over a particular piece of food.

J.M.

V. THE GOLD-TAIL MOTH.

Of course you know the pretty insect very well indeed by sight, for it is one of the commonest of our British moths. You cannot possibly mistake it for any other because of its snowy white wings and thick tuft of long yellow hairs at the end of its body, from which it gets its name of "Gold-tail."

In the female moth this tuft is very long and thick indeed, and she puts it to a most curious purpose. For when she has laid her eggs, she strips off the golden down from her tail and covers them carefully with it, leaving the tip of her body almost bare.

D.C.K.W.

ON A RAINBOW.

The joyous day of Spring is thick o'er-cast;
Dark clouds go scudding fast across the sky;
The raindrops patter down incessantly;
And through the trees howls mournfully the blast.
But see, the lowering clouds give way at last!

And through the veil of rain one may descry
A rainbow, its bright arc stretched out on high;
And lo! the terror of the storm is past.
So, when beneath the frown of Fate we bend,
And dark Despair induces unbelief
That brighter days will banish dull Distress,
A never-failing Providence will send
Bright beams of hope to pierce the gloom of Grief,
And herald in the day of Happiness.

C.C.W.

CORRESPONDENCE.

London.

9-12-23.

Dear Mr. Editor,

After a lapse of two years or more I take up my pen to greet you.

I have a sinking suspicion that in your last issue that time-honoured institution the "Oxford Letter" was conspicuously absent. A painful episode, Sir, but possibly to be explained by the great mental strain involved in Schools. Hence these few lines.

Gone alas! are the care-free times of the happy past; we are now a business man. We have made great progress. We have learned to be 'obliged' by the receipt of your favour of the — inst., 'ult.,' or 'prox.,' as the case may be, (why on earth 'obliged' or 'favour,' Heaven alone knows) and we invariably subscribe ourself as the obedient servant of people whom we would willingly throttle, if only an occasion would arise.

But, my dear Mr. Editor, have you ever used a dictaphone? A devastating instrument! There was once a schoolmaster who was involved in a dire tragedy by combining a dictaphone and an unimaginative typist:—one qualification of a typist, I am told, is mental deficiency. However, to my theme. The following was the result:—

"Dear Mrs. X.

Many thanks for your letter (yes, what do you want?). I am glad to hear that you (WHAT IS IT?) find the train suitable (you never seem to think that I am busy).

I am sending your boys off in charge of a responsible person (NO, you can't have my keys) who will see them safely on their way (you blithering idiot!). They have both made a good start (I am NOT the games master) and are settling down nicely. (When will you stop worrying me?)

I trust you will be as satisfied as I am (go away) with their progress.

With kindest (GET OUT) regards,
sincerely yours, A.B.C."

After that, dear Sir, Bedlam, we think. And so to finish. Of the Great City I will write no more. I am but a voice crying in the wilderness, a mere Barcelona nut in a veritable desert of sea shells. None the less may I wish your self and your readers a very happy Xmas?

Believe me, dear Sir,
very truly yours,
J.K. (O.A.)

O. A. NOTES.

BIRTHS.

INGOLD.—July 31, at Handsworth, Sheffield, to Phyllis, wife of Geoffrey Ingold, a daughter.

STONE.—October 14, at Park Farm, Radley, to Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Stone, a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

SHEPHERD—WATKINS.—October 10th, at St. Augustine's Church, Edgbaston, by the Rev. Canon A. G. Lloyd, M.A., Vicar of the Parish, George Hubbard Gelston Shepherd, M.A., eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Shepherd, "Glyndwr," The Park, Abingdon, to Dorothy Mary Victoria, only daughter of Mr. W. I. Watkins and the late Mrs. Watkins, "Kenmare," Hagley-road, Edgbaston.

DEATHS.

DRAYTON.—October 1, at Benson, Oxfordshire, the result of an accident, Harry Urwick Drayton, of 136 Divinity road, Oxford, aged 41 years.

WEAVING.—November 20, at Sedbergh, Yorks, Reginald James Weaving, of Pewet House, Abingdon, aged 34 years.

H. U. Drayton came to the School at the beginning of 1897 and left in the summer of 1899. He rowed for the School in '98 and '99, stroking the IV in the latter year, in which he was also Captain of the Boats. He was also, in his last year, a member of the Football and Cricket XIs. But both at School and afterwards he excelled principally as a musician, and as such he had played an active and prominent part in Oxford. In 1909 he was appointed organist at St. Michael's-at-the-Northgate, and choir-master in 1912, while for some years he had been managing director to Acott and Co., Ltd., the music sellers in the High Street.

His death was due to the overturning of his car near Benson in the early hours of the morning. Missing the road in a thick fog, he appears to have driven into the ditch. He leaves a widow and two young children, a boy and a girl.

R. J. Weaving joined the School in September, 1902, and left in July, 1908, for Oxford, where he

had won the Pembroke Scholarship. At school he was a member of the Shooting VIII and gained his Colours in 1907; and during his last year he was Head of the School. At Oxford he took Honours in Classical Mods. and in the Law Finals, and represented his College at Lawn Tennis, his favourite game. After a few years' teaching at East Grinstead, he joined the R.G.A. (2nd Lieutenant 1915, subsequently Lieutenant), and was stationed during the war at Aldershot and in the North of Ireland; but his war service was terminated shortly before the Armistice by a severe attack of fever, resulting in the loss of an eye. When sufficiently recovered he returned to teaching, securing a post at Sedbergh Preparatory School, where he worked until the spring of this year, when his health again broke down.

The Rev. F. H. Currie, who is, we understand, the oldest surviving O.A., is resigning the living of Lyford, near Wantage, which he has held since 1897. It is now close on seventy years since Mr. Currie left the School to proceed to Wadham College, Oxford.

It gives us much pleasure to announce that our late Headmaster, the Rev. T. Layng, is engaged to be married to Miss Muriel Jolly, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Jolly of Stanley Hall, Selsley, Gloucestershire. Miss Jolly is well known in the neighbourhood for her social work as a Guardian of the Poor and in other ways, and for two years she has been a Magistrate for the County. The wedding, it is hoped, will take place early in the New Year, when Mr. Layng and his bride will have the good wishes of very many friends, but none will be more cordial than those of his old pupils and colleagues at Abingdon.

O. J. Couldrey is engaged upon a book about India. It is to be published in the spring by Hunt and Blackett (London), with title "South Indian Hours." The book, which describes "the palms and temples of the South," will contain many illustrations by the author, three of them in colour.

We have had news of the Rev. A. W. Stevens, who is at present ministering to the Wesleyan Congregation at Stone in Staffordshire.

We have heard likewise of M. G. Brinsmead, who is rubber-growing in Sumatra and manager of an estate. His present address is c/o Harrison and Crossfield, Tanjong Kassan Estate, Tanjong Rubber Co., Teking Tingi Deli, East Coast, Sumatra.

Another O.A. emigrant is John Bond of Lincoln, who has recently gone to the Gold Coast. His address is Thornburn House, Asylum Road, Accra, Gold Coast, West Africa.

C. M. Nowill is in Greece, where the British Club, Athens, will find him.

J. D. L. Robinson, of the E.T.C., has gone to Carcavellos, in Portugal.

T. F. T. Morland sailed on November 18 as Captain's Clerk on the "Loch Katrine" for Vancouver, via Panama.

C. V. Davidge was placed in Class II by the examiners in the Final Honour School of Jurisprudence at Oxford. He is staying up for a fifth year and reading for the B.C.L. By way of exercise he has been rowing, as usual, and occupied for a week a thwart in one of the Varsity Trial Eights.

E. O. Hills has succeeded him as Captain of the Boats at Pembroke.

R. E. Eason has been rowing regularly in the B Trial Boat. This is the first time that he has been tried on the "bow" side, and we trust that the change will bring him luck. The race—rowed this year for the first time at Henley—was left unfinished, as our readers are aware, owing to the breaking of a rigger; but we are pleased to note that Eason's form receives favourable mention from the rowing critics in all the leading papers.

W. Memory has left Oxford and is now at work in London, having accepted a post in the Sales Department of the London Daily Express.

C. R. Davidge is studying at the London Polytechnic.

Congratulations to C. E. H. Dolphin on his "Blue" at Sandhurst for Cross Country Running.

Ivan Williams is at present in the Acland Home, Oxford, the victim of a motor-cycling accident near Newbury in the early part of November. Latest advices report that he is progressing favourably, and we wish him a speedy and complete recovery from what seems to have been a rather serious smash.

Of those who left last term, R. L. C. Foottit has gone up to St. John's College, Cambridge, where, we understand, he has been rowing in an eight which won the "Senior Cocks" (?) and distinguished itself in the preceding bumping races by being the only boat to make a bump. Congrats!

R. G. Spencer is in the Birmingham branch of the London Joint City and Midland Bank.

W. H. Stevens is studying at the Royal College of Science, London.

C. Ellis is in the Borough Surveyor's Office in Abingdon.

G. W. Salisbury is in Barclay's Bank in Oxford.

A. D. Prince has been in France studying (1) the language, and (2) the culture of roses on the continent.

ABINGDONIAN ACCOUNTS.

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RECEIPTS.							PAYMENTS.						
				£	s.	d.							
				£	s.	d.							
Balance in hand	..	..	..	2	9	3	Printing 300 copies of 15 p.p.	..	..	12	0	0	
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Cash Sales	..	..	..	3	12	0	Postage	..	..	..	7	3	
Governors' Cheque	..	..	..	3	6	8	Balance	..	..	..	5	11	
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