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THE ABINGDONIAN.

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SCHOOL NOTES.

We greatly regret that Dr. Henderson, of Exeter College, Oxford, has for some time past been lying ill in the Acland Home. Both officially as a Governor of the School and personally as a friend Dr. Henderson has endeared himself to many of us by repeated acts of kindness and generosity; and we do but voice the general sentiment in expressing a sincere wish for his speedy and complete recovery.

The following are the results of the summer examinations:—

Oxford Higher School Certificates, in Group I (Classics), T. G. Austin, E. G. Langford and K. R. Savage; in Group II (Modern Studies), M. Ogle; in Group III (Science and Mathematics), S. R. Hunt and A. M. Thatcher. Hunt gained distinction in Mathematics and Advanced Mathematics.

Oxford School Certificates, First Class Honours, W. A. Hedges (with distinction in General Science), B. J. Pedlar and J. E. Spencer; Second Class Honours, W. R. A. Kettle and G. E. Sinclair; Third Class Honours, S. S. Bates, M. A. Drewe and

P. J. Squire; Passed, L. S. Bailey, A. E. Belcher, A. B. Blackmore, G. V. Cook, G. Garton, J. A. Howard, J. H. F. Kay, L. P. Mosdell, J. W. Page, V. E. Pollard and G. A. Wood.

The School was fully inspected by the Board of Education on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of October, the Inspectors sent down for the purpose being Messrs. A. R. Marshall, E. M. Battiscombe, C. H. P. Mayo and C. A. Ronald. We understand that they expressed themselves as well pleased with what they found here, and we await their Report with equanimity.

As a sequel to the Board's Inspection Dr. Vaughan, the Headmaster of Rugby School, requested that Mr. J. A. G. Bruce, one of his Classical masters, might be allowed to come for a day to take note of our methods and organization. The visit duly took place on November 9th.

The illustration which we are publishing with this number is the work of Mr. C. O. Wright, to whom our best thanks are due.

The work of clearing and preparation has already been begun upon High Field, as the new Waste Court Ground is called.

M. Ogle is Head of the School and of the House this term, and the other prefects are K. R. Savage, R. A. Langford, W. B. Smith and P. J. Squire. The following have been made sub-prefects :—S. S. Bates, A. B. Blackmore, G. V. Cook, M. A. Drew, A. M. D. Greene, W. R. A. Kettle, J. W. Page, and B. J. Pedlar.

M. Ogle has the distinction of being elected first Captain of Rugby Football since its revival, with J. E. Spencer, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer of the Games.

1st XV. Rugger Colours have been awarded to M. Ogle, G. E. Sinclair, F. H. G. Taylor ; L. P. Mosdell, P. D. Smith ; G. V. Cook, R. A. Langford, K. R. Savage. All others who are regular members of the 1st XV. have their 2nd XV. Colours, as well as some others who are not.

These include :—G. A. R. Boyd, T. H. Hodgson, E. R. Leslie-Smith, W. B. Smith, S. F. Thatcher, W. F. Wiseman and G. A. Wood, who belong to the 1st XV., with P. J. Squire as reserve man ; also R. F. Brown, A. M. D. Greene, J. G. Milsom and H. N. Trye.

The following " scheme of decoration " has been decided upon for the XV. :—1st XV. " Colours " are to wear the School Griffin in cerise on a black lozenge and the remainder a black Griffin on a cerise lozenge on the left breast of the vest, which is to be cerise also. The latter arrangement constitutes 2nd XV. Colours.

We would like to take this opportunity of congratulating the School team—both teams in fact—upon the excellent start which they have made with the new game, and at the same time of expressing the gratitude which we all feel towards their indefatigable coaches. Mr. Alston, as is his wont, has spared neither time nor trouble in his efforts to inculcate sound principles of play and eradicate faults as they develop, and any success which we may achieve as a Rugger School will be due in no small measure to his early coaching. At the same time we have been fortunate indeed in profiting by the advice and encouragement of Mr. N. F. Henderson of Drayton, who played for Oxford in the University Match of 1886 and for Scotland against Ireland in 1892. We greatly appreciate the practical interest which he has taken in our apprenticeship at the game, and thank him most cordially for putting his knowledge and experience at our disposal.

The " first game " was enabled to visit Oxford and witness the match between the University and Old Merchant Taylors.

The " Abingdonian " Committee consists this term of :—Mr. Ross Barker (*editor*), K. R. Savage, M. Ogle, R. A. Langford, P. J. Squire, J. E. Spencer, G. E. Sinclair and L. P. Mosdell.

M. Ogle has been appointed School Librarian.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following contemporaries :—*The Aldenhamian*, *The Aluredian*, *The Brighton College Magazine*, *The Chigwellian*, *The City of Oxford School Magazine*, *The Laxtonian*, *The Leightonian*, *The Lily*, *The Limit*, *The Liverpool College Magazine*, *The Log of the Nautical College*, *Pangbourne*, *The Monk-tonian*.

In consequence of ill-health Mr. Ross-Barker has been obliged to relinquish his work at the School during the latter portion of this term and seek relief at a Hydro. We have been pleased to welcome, as his deputy, Mr. C. T. Plumb, late scholar of B.N.C., Oxford, who has been with us since the middle of November.

Armistice Day this year fell on a Sunday. There was the customary service at the War Memorial in the Square, which the school again attended with the O.T.C. " on guard."

Sixth Form boys have again availed themselves of the educational opportunities afforded by the Abingdon Literary and Debating Society. As usual much interesting information has been gathered upon a variety of topics outside the ordinary School curriculum.

At the Duke of York's summer camp this year at Littlestone-on-Sea the School was represented by E. P. Rice and T. G. Austin.

A notable happening of this term was the great gale of November 16th, which did much damage in Abingdon and the neighbourhood, while its little brothers of the following week were hardly less violent in operation. Among other casualties on the 16th, the Electric Light service from Oxford was interrupted by falling trees, and a large part of the town was plunged in darkness. Day boys had to make their way home as best they could, while boarders had tea and supper by candle-light and—to prove the truth of the old proverb about an ill wind—a gramophone entertainment in the Strange Room, which still possesses a gas-pendant, in place of evening preparation.

Mr. Grundy has again very kindly presented a prize for Chess among the boarders. The winner

this year is W. B. Smith with five wins, S. A. Paige being second with four and D. P. Edsall third with three wins.

Pereunt et imputantur, but the old clock, thanks to Mr. Wright's ministrations, has again assumed a "smiling morning face," with fresh paint and gilding rebuking the laggards and reminding us that youth will not last for ever.

Visitors to the "Rag" this term will find the stage embellished with an elaborate and beautiful *proscenium* of Saxon design, with artistic *aulaea* and interior furnishings. For these again we are indebted to Mr. Wright, and to the ladies who helped with the needlework. The structure of the *proscenium*, though of solid appearance, is of the collapsible kind, and not intended as a permanent feature of the gymnasium. The "Rag" itself will consist of a dramatic *fantasia*—"All in an Afternoon"—written and produced by Mr. Ingham.

The term ends on Tuesday, December 18th, boarders leaving on the 19th.

Next term begins on Tuesday, January 15th, boarders arriving on the preceding day.

The following dates have also been fixed:—
End of Easter Term, Wednesday, March 27th.
Beginning of Summer Term, Friday, April 26th.
End of Summer Term, Tuesday, July 30th.
[N.B.—These are the dates on which the terms officially end or begin: not those on which boarders leave or arrive.]

VALETE.

VI. FORM.—A. M. Thatcher (1919 iii.). School Prefect, 1926; Captain of School, 1927; 2nd XI. Football, 1927; O.S.C., 1924, 1925 (2nd class honours, 1924, 1925, with distinction in Greek, 1924, General Science, 1925); H.S.C., 1926, 1927, 1928 (distinction in Mathematics, 1927); Sergeant O.T.C., Certificate 'A,' 1927; 1st Class Shot, 1925; School Librarian, 1927; Mathematical Exhibition (open), Jesus College, Oxford.

S. R. Hunt (1920, iii.). School Prefect, 1926; O.S.C., 1924, 1925 (1st class honours, 1924, 1925 with distinction in Greek, 1924, Mathematics and Additional Mathematics, 1925); H.S.C., 1926, 1927, 1928 (distinctions in Mathematics and Advanced Mathematics, 1927 1928); Lance Corporal O.T.C., 1st Class Shot, 1926; Mathematical Scholarship (open), St. John's College, Cambridge.

E. G. Langford (1918, iii.). School Prefect,

1927; 1st XI. Football, 1927; 1st IV. Rowing, 1927, Colours, 1927, Captain of Boats, 1928; Athletic Colours, 1927, Captain, 1927, 1928; 2nd XI. Cricket, 1926; O.S.C., 1925, 1926 (3rd class honours, 1925, 1926, with distinction in Greek twice and Latin once); H.S.C., 1927, 1928; Sergeant O.T.C., 1st Class Shot, 1926; Hon. Secretary L.S.D.S., 1927; Pembroke Scholarship (Classics).

E. P. Rice (1922, i.). School Prefect, 1927; Head of House, 1927; 1st XI. Football, 1926-7, Colours, 1927, Captain, 1927; 1st XI. Cricket, 1926, 1927, 1928, Colours, 1926, Captain, 1928; Sergeant O.T.C., Certificate 'A,' 1927, 1st Class Shot, 1926; O.S.C., 1926, 1927.

T. G. Austin (1923, iii.). School Prefect, 1927; O.S.C., 1926 (1st class honours with distinction in Greek); H.S.C., 1928; Corporal O.T.C., 2nd Class Shot; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of Games, 1927.

N. J. Banes (1921, iii.). Sub-prefect, 1927; O.S.C., 1925, 1926 (distinction in Greek, 1925, Mathematics, 1926, 1st class honours, 1926); 2nd Class Shot.

A. J. K. Smith (1924, ii.). School Prefect, 1928; Rowing Colours, 1928; Lance-Corporal O.T.C.; O.S.C., 1927.

M. K. S. Girdler (1923, i.). Sub-prefect, 1928; O.S.C., 1926, 1927.

R. M. Short (1921, iii.). Sub-prefect, 1928; 1st XI. Football, 1926; 1st XI. Cricket, 1928, Colours, 1928; O.S.C., 1927.

F. W. Jennings (1924, iii.). Sub-prefect, 1928; Athletic Colours, 1928; 1st XI. Cricket, 1927, 2nd XI. cap, 1928; Lance-Corporal O.T.C.; O.S.C., 1927.

J. H. F. Kay (1926, iii.). O.S.C., 1927.

Va FORM.—R. W. H. Taylor (1927, ii.). 1st XI. Cricket, 1927, 1928, Colours, 1928; 1st XI. Football, 1927, Colours, 1927; 2nd IV. Rowing, 1928.

R. L. Dawson (1926, i.). 2nd XI. Cricket, 1927, 1928.

F. C. L. Humphrey (1923, iii.). 2nd XI. Cricket, 1928.

F. A. J. Povey (1923, iii.). 1st XI. Football, 1927, Colours, 1927; 2nd XI. Cricket, 1928; 1st Class Shot, 1928.

W. A. Hedges (1926, iii.). O.S.C., 1928 (1st class honours with distinction in General Science).

A. E. Belcher (1922, iii.). 1st XI. Football, 1927, Colours, 1927; 1st Class Shot; O.S.C., 1928.

Vb FORM.—W. S. T. Hale (1922, iii.). 1st Class Shot, 1928.

REMOVE FORM.—W. H. C. Mayhead (1925, iii.).
1st Class Shot, 1928.

D. F. Westwood (1924, ii.).

III. FORM.—J. T. Hicks (1926, iii.).

II. FORM.—W. J. Head (1927, iii.).

J. G. Blackburn (1927, iii.).

SALVETE.

VA. FORM.—S. J. Lansdown.

VB. FORM.—R. Langebear; J. H. Guy; J. A. Engall; K. W. Ewing.

III. FORM.—R. J. Ranger; J. Ranger; J. H. Holborow; E. F. Parks; H. H. Eeles; R. P. F. Mills; D. A. Slatter; D. H. Blake; J. Lay; A. N. Elley.

II. FORM.—L. C. Smallbone; E. J. F. Punter.

R. J. Langford; A. W. Lewis; M. Austin; Y. H. Aldwinckle; J. M. Viney.

[We have been asked to add the following to our School Notes.—Ed.]

There was much concern among us all when Mr. Ross-Barker's health compelled him to go away for rest and change in the latter half of the term. We were delighted to have him back again at the end of term, and hope that his cure is complete. The many who have made enquiries about him will be glad to know that we shall again next term have the advantage of his scholarship, his maturity of judgment, and the wide range of kindly service on which we have come so much to depend.

O.T.C.

A week after the summer term ended thirty-five of us went to Strensall Camp for nine days. There is not a great deal to be said about this camp. The country round Strensall is dull beyond description. But this dullness was compensated for by the excellent weather that prevailed in Yorkshire during the first week of August and by the interesting programme of work arranged by the Camp Staff.

This term, on Oct. 30, we had a field-day with Stowe against Radley. We attacked on a two-company frontage from the Abingdon-Wootton road and pursued the Radley forces back to their own grounds. It was quite an interesting scheme, made all the more realistic by the amount of barbed-wire that had to be scaled before any defending post could be rushed. Tea in the College, followed by a forced march back to our own

headquarters, made a fitting end to a good day in the open.

Blue House won the Reeves Shooting Cup last term. Below are the Scores :—

Blue House :—F. H. G. Taylor, 48; T. H. Hodgson, 43; J. G. Milson, 41; P. J. Squire, 47; K. R. Savage, 33; E. G. Langford, 50; A. M. Thatcher, 44; E. P. Rice, 44. Total, 350.

Green House :—G. E. Sinclair, 41; R. F. Brown, 43; W. H. C. Mayhead, 44; J. H. Taylor, 43; J. E. Spencer, 44; F. A. J. Povey, 44; J. A. Howard, 41; W. B. Smith, 39. Total, 339.

Red House :—H. N. Trye, 15; G. A. Wood, 42; R. A. Langford, 37; J. W. Page, 46; L. P. Mosdell, 40; F. W. Jennings, 40; A. E. Belcher, 41; T. G. Austin, 35. Total, 296.

The "possible" was 400.

SCHOOL CONCERT.

The annual concert was held in the Corn Exchange on Friday, December 7th, at 8 p.m., when the exceptionally large gathering showed how very much it was appreciated. Mr. Wright is to be congratulated on the very artistic decoration of the platform and the whole of the arrangements were so excellently carried out that it was a most delightful evening.

It was a disappointment that the Abingdon Ladies' Orchestra was unable to give their help as they have done so often and it is to be hoped that they may be able to again in the future. The Oxford Quartette was, however, very much appreciated, and their rendering of Handel's Minuet from *Berenice* and Selections from Sullivan

were charmingly rendered. The School gave excellent renderings of the difficult music which they had attempted, though it is possible that they might have kept together better, if they could have paid rather more attention to their conductress. The Choir's rendering of "Since Thou O Fondest" showed what the School's best voices really could do and was most beautifully given.

Mr Bevir brought down the house with "The Mistress of the Master," which is always a great favourite, and his other songs were equally good.

J. B. O. Durell, O.A., was at his best in "King Charles," which received a well deserved encore to which he responded in a very charming manner with "Sigh no more ladies."

Miss Ivy Sheldon Peach is to be congratulated on the wonderful way in which she had trained the boys and also on the choice of the programme, and she has certainly never been heard to greater advantage herself than in her renderings of "Che Faro Senza Euridice" and the "Chant Hindou," which were exquisite.

J. A. Squire, O.A., is also to be congratulated on his sympathetic accompanying to Miss Sheldon Peach's songs: it was very nice to have him at the piano again.

The singing of the carol at the end of the programme was very good, and the audience responded admirably in the last verse.

PROGRAMME.

PART I.

1. Unison Song "Truth" *Geoffrey Shaw*
The School.
2. Minuet .. "From Berenice" .. *Handel*
Oxford Quartette.
3. Part Song "Song of the Volga Boatmen"
The School. *Granville Bantock*
4. Song "Come to the Cook-house door"
Mr. Bevir. *Wolseley Charles*
5. Trio "How merrily we live" *Michael*
East, 1606

Mr. Ingham, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Alston.

6. Song "Che Faro Senza Euridice" *Gluck*
Miss Ivy Sheldon Peach.
7. Part Song "In London Town" *Stanley*
The School. *Marchant*
8. Song "In Summer Time on Bredon" *Graham*
J. B. O. Durell, O.A. *Peel*

PART II.

1. Selections *Sullivan*
Oxford Quartette.
2. Part Song "Flow not so fast, ye Fountains"
The School. *Peter Warlock*
3. Song .. "King Charles" *Valerie White*
J. B. O. Durell, O.A.
4. Part Song "Since Thou O Fondest" *Parry*
The Choir.
5. Song .. "Chant Hindou" .. *Bernberg*
Miss Ivy Sheldon Peach.
6. Part Song "That very Wise Man" *Parry*
The School.
7. Song "The Mistress of the Master" *H. Lyall*
Mr. Bevir. *Phillips*
8. Carol with descant "Good King Wenceslas"
The School.

At the piano were Miss Ivy Sheldon Peach, J. A. Squire, O.A., W. G. Denny and D. S. Kite.

FOOTBALL.

When it was definitely decided, towards the end of the summer term, that we should be changing from Association to Rugby Football this season, one naturally wondered how much progress it would be possible to make, in the course of a single term, with a game which was quite unfamiliar to the majority of the boys. Everything, one felt, depended on the degree of enthusiasm shewn by them, and the rapidity with which they have come on at the game is ample evidence that there is nothing lacking in this respect.

Unfortunately only one ground has been available for Rugby this term, and this has made it impossible for more than the upper half of the School to play the new game, the rest continuing to play Association for the time being. With the acquisition of the Waste Court property this shortage of ground disappears, and next term we hope that it will be possible for the majority, if not all, of the junior boys to play Rugby regularly. This is obviously most important if the School is to make real progress at the game. It is only by training the younger boys carefully that a good supply of material for the teams in future years can be ensured.

No attempt was made to play any games for the first fortnight of the term. Instead systematic instruction was given in the rudiments of the game, and this policy was fully justified by the rapid progress which was made as soon as regular games were instituted. During these early stages we received valuable help from Mr. N. F. Henderson, the old Oxford "blue" and Scottish international, and we would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation of the active interest he has shown in the training of the XV. and the progress of Rugby in the School generally. His wide and mature experience of the game has helped us greatly.

We had an incentive to progress in the form of two fixtures with Magdalen College School, old and friendly rivals of ours at games, who like ourselves had just taken up Rugby again, after an interval of forty years. Alas, those two games anticipated so eagerly by both schools were destined never to take place, illness and severe frost compelling us to cancel first one and then the other. However the prospect of them was a valuable stimulant to us. We determined to produce the best possible team for the encounter,

and a number of fixtures with club and scratch sides was arranged for the second half of the term, while Leighton Park School kindly sent over a strong 'A' XV. late in the term.

Though only winning two of the six matches played, the School XV. fought gallantly against superior weight and experience in all of them, and were only routed once in a very fast game with R. E. Eason's XV., when the above mentioned qualities combined with superior speed on a dry day had the inevitable result.

There have been very few changes in the personnel of the team, thanks partly to our good fortune in the matter of casualties. Only nineteen boys altogether have played in the team, and as most of the changes have been in the pack, the back division has had the advantage of playing together a lot. At full back Boyd's stout defensive play in practice games early solved a problem which is often a difficult one in the formation of a team. Of the three-quarters the centres, Mosdell and Wood, kept their places throughout the season. Ogle, the captain, and W. B. Smith were obviously marked out for the wing positions by their speed. The arrangement of Mosdell, the best player of the four, and Ogle on the right wing, and Wood and Smith on the left, while making the right half of the line decidedly the stronger, was found to be the most effective combination. This line was fairly sound in defensive play, though the standard of tackling could be improved, and satisfactory if not brilliant in attack, its handling and passing of the ball and that of the back division generally being good, and in the match with the Exiles very good. One does not expect brilliant play in the first season and the three-quarter position is perhaps the one in which inexperience shows up most especially in attack.

We were fortunate to discover two good halves in Sinclair and Taylor, who played together in all the matches. The former's tackling and the latter's clever interceptions were features of almost every match. Another season's experience should make them a really first-class pair.

The forwards had two unavoidable handicaps to contend with, lack of weight and disparity of size, which made it difficult for them to form a compact scrum. Nevertheless they were rarely pushed in the tight scrums, and usually got their share of the ball. In the later games they wheeled effectively on several occasions. This result was only achieved by a considerable amount of hard

work at scrum practice. In the loose they often displayed good footwork, the natural result of a 'soccer' education. Their play in the open was at first inclined to be spasmodic and lacking in cohesion, but they are gradually learning the importance of playing together as a pack at all times. Their chief weakness has been in the line-out, and they have still a lot to learn about defensive play, but taking a general view they have come along wonderfully well. For solid, hard work P. D. Smith, Langford, and Savage have been outstanding, while Cook and Wiseman are effective wingers in attack.

The team as a whole has worked and trained hard, and its members have the satisfaction of knowing that the splendid start (or should we say revival?) of the Rugby game in the School is due in a large measure to their efforts, and if the standard of progress and keenness which they have set up is maintained in future years, the School will soon make a name for itself in the world of Rugby.

FIRST 'FIFTEEN' CHARACTERS.

G. A. R. Boyd (Full-back). Tackles well and falls on the ball fearlessly. Is developing a good sense of position and generally fields the ball well, though he sometimes injudiciously tries to take it on the half-volley. His kicking lacks length at present, though he usually finds touch. Must learn to kick with both feet. Is not afraid to run up and start a three-quarter movement, but he does not always choose the right time for doing this. His whole play is notable for its vigour and keenness.

M. Ogle (Left-wing) Captain. Colours 1928. Has plenty of pace for this position. A determined runner who takes a lot of stopping when he goes for the line. Is an exponent of the cross-kick, which he is inclined to use rather too frequently, when he might go on himself. Should practice the inside pass. He is to be congratulated on the progress of the team, due in a large measure to his enthusiastic captaincy.

G. A. Wood (Left-centre). A player whose improvement has been steadily maintained. Though lacking real pace he goes straight and handles the ball well, but is inclined to hang on to it too long before passing. Should try to make more openings for his wing, and also kick for touch more frequently in defence. His tackling is fairly sound.

L. P. Mosdell (Right-centre) Colours 1928. Our best three-quarter. Is fast and plays with

great dash. Draws his man before passing and takes and generally gives his passes well. Can always be relied on to make ground when attacking, and knows when to kick for touch, but must strengthen his defence in other directions.

W. B. Smith (Right wing). Has a good turn of speed and a deceptive run which he should make more use of, being inclined to cut inwards or stop dead when he should go hard for the corner-flag. He has improved latterly, however, in this respect. Can cross-kick and finds touch well. Tackling fair, but must go lower.

F. H. G. Taylor (Stand-off half). Colours 1928. A very promising player with a safe pair of hands, quick to see an opening or intercept a pass. Dribbles well, though he is perhaps inclined to overdo it. Gets his three-quarters going quickly as a rule, and combines well with his scrum-half. A very good kick, he might try to drop a goal more frequently than he does. Has been our only reliable place-kicker both for short and long kicks, and with more practice should become very good in this department.

G. E. Sinclair (Scrum-half). Colours 1928. Another very promising player. Gets the ball away quickly and accurately from the scrum to his partner, and can cut through effectively on his own. Is the best player, as regards defence, in the side, his tackling and falling on the ball being first-class. Should develop his defensive touch-kicking more. He is at present apt, when hard pressed, to indulge in 'soccer' kicks into touch.

FORWARDS.

R. A. Langford. Colours 1928. A very hard working front-row forward whose play is consistently good. In the tight scrums he pushes his weight and is always in the van of the attacks. Is good at breaking away in the loose scrums and line-outs and finding touch well down the field. His passes back from the line-out might be better controlled.

E. R. Leslie-Smith. Has kept his place in the team throughout the season. Is developing into a useful hooker who keeps the front rank together well in the tight scrums. Does his share in attack and defence without being particularly outstanding.

T. H. Hodgson. The third front row forward, he has improved considerably during the later part of the term and is keeping up with the game much better than he did. Works hard and pushes well, but is still inclined to collapse in the tight scrums. Should help the hooker with his feet more when the ball is being put into the scrum.

P. D. Smith. Colours 1928. A fast and shrewd forward who packs down in the second row, where his superior height, while useful in the line-out, is rather a handicap, and he has found it difficult to pack really low. One of the best forwards in open play, he is an effective dribbler, tackles well, and is always 'there' in attack. Has led the scrum well in the later matches.

K. R. Savage. Colours 1928. A consistent player whose methods are quiet but effective. In the open is conspicuous for his footwork, which has frequently gained much ground for his side. Can kick well. Has not much weight but uses his height to advantage in the line-out.

G. V. Cook. Colours 1928. A versatile player who kicks well with either foot and dribbles very neatly. Played at full-back and three-quarter before going to the wing-forward position, where he has been most valuable, imparting fresh life to the forwards by his dashing play, while his three-quarter experience enabled him to be very useful in the open.

W. F. Wiseman. A winger who has the requisite speed and breaks up quickly. Is always conspicuous in the open where he dribbles and handles the ball well; but must not neglect to do his share in the loose scrums through waiting outside with the idea of helping the three-quarters in attack.

S. F. Thatcher. Is a hard worker who follows up fast and keenly, but must guard against getting offside. His play at present lacks polish but is vigorous. Must learn to control the ball better when dribbling and not kick it too far ahead.

P. J. Squire. Has had very bad luck in being kept out of most of the matches through illness. A vigorous player, whose size and weight made him a good partner to Smith in the second row. Showed considerable promise in the matches in which he was able to play.

FIRST XV. MATCHES.

v. Mr. J. B. E. Alston's XV. Played at home on October 27th.

It was unfortunate that the weather conditions were so bad, as they proved a severe handicap to a team playing their first match with only a month's experience of rugby behind them. It naturally followed that they were 'all at sea' during the first half, and allowed the visitors to score five tries (three converted), Powell running in three times on the right wing for them. The School were weak in tackling and falling on the ball and their defensive tactics generally were at fault. The forwards held their own in the

tight scrums, but were very ragged in the loose, and gave the ball to their backs far too much.

In the second half the School improved greatly. The three-quarters attacked strongly, and several times were only prevented from scoring by the fine tackling of the visitors' full-back. But at length Ogle scored on the left wing as the result of a good combined movement in which all the three-quarters took part. The try was converted by Taylor. The improvement in defence is demonstrated by the fact that the visitors only crossed the School line twice in the second half. The game was valuable in showing up some of the more glaring weaknesses of the team. The definite improvement of the team's play during the progress of the game was most encouraging.

Final Score:—for, 1 goal (5 points); against, 3 goals, 4 tries (27 points).

Team: G. V. Cook; M. Ogle, G. A. Wood, L. P. Mosdell, W. B. Smith; F. H. G. Taylor, G. E. Sinclair; R. A. Langford, P. B. Squire, T. H. Hodgson, P. D. Smith, P. J. Squire, E. R. Leslie-Smith, K. R. Savage, S. F. Thatcher.

v. Oxford Exiles R.F.C. Played at home on November 10th.

For this match Cook moved up from full-back to the left wing, his former place being taken by Boyd. Ogle was kept out by injuries. The weather conditions again were rather bad, the ground being wet and heavy. From the beginning the School backs were in great form, their handling of a greasy ball being first-rate, and soon scored through Mosdell. Taylor next cleverly intercepted a pass, to score after running half the length of the field, and converted the try himself. Shortly before half-time Sinclair sent out a nice pass to Taylor, who ran in on the blind side and scored far out.

Half-time scores:—School, 1 goal, 2 tries (11 points); Visitors, Nil.

In the second half the School continued to attack and Cook, held up near the Exiles' line, cross-kicked to Mosdell, who ran through and scored under the posts, the try being converted. Next Cook, obtaining the ball from a cross-kick, cut in and scored. The kick at goal was unsuccessful. The School forwards, who so far had played splendidly, getting the ball nearly always in the scrums, now began to tire, and the Exiles gained ground by a series of forward rushes. They were unable, however, to pierce our defence, and no-side came without further score.

Throughout the first three-quarters of the game

the School, thanks largely to the excellent play at half-back of Taylor and Sinclair, kept up an almost continuous attack and were unlucky not to score more tries.

Final score:—2 goals, 3 tries (19 points)—nil.

Team:—G. A. R. Boyd; G. V. Cook, G. A. Wood, L. P. Mosdell, W. B. Smith; F.H.G. Taylor, G. E. Sinclair; R. A. Langford, E. R. Leslie-Smith, J. G. Milsom, P. D. Smith, S. F. Thatcher, W. F. Wiseman, K. R. Savage, H. N. Trye.

v. R. E. Eason's XV. Played at home on November 14th.

Outweighed in the scrum and outpaced behind it, the School were quite unable to hold the visitors, who got the ball back nearly every time from the tight scrums and line-outs. The long and accurate passes distributed by Seabrook and the accurate place-kicking of Thompson were outstanding features of the visitors' display. The School forwards did not pack low enough, and the tackling of the team was weak with the exception of Sinclair, whose defence was very sound indeed, and Boyd who played a very plucky game at full-back.

The School started well by scoring in the first few minutes of the game through a forward rush which took the ball over their opponents' line, the try being converted by Taylor. The visitors replied almost immediately and thereafter scored regularly every few minutes, until towards the end of the game the School rallied, and the forwards put in some good footwork, by which they transferred the game to their opponents' territory. One of the School three-quarters' few movements nearly resulted in a try, Smith being forced into touch by the corner flag.

Final score:—for, 5 points; against, 58 points.

The School team was the same as in the preceding match, except that Ogle and P. J. Squire returned to the side in place of Trye and Thatcher.

v. G. F. Powell's XV. Played at home November 21st.

This match was played in the most dreadful conditions. Almost incessant rain for several days had converted our ground into a sea of mud, and the ball was practically impossible to handle. Play was fairly even forward, and neither side could gain much advantage for some time until, owing to a mistaken attempt by one of the School forwards to start a three-quarter movement on his own goal line, the visitors scored a try under the posts.

Just before half-time the visitors again got over after a prolonged struggle on the School goal-line. Both these tries were converted.

In the second half matters continued fairly even with the visitors just a little bit the more enterprising. A well judged cross-kick by their right wing sent in the left centre for a try, and they scored again before the end; but the game was more even than the score indicates, the School being unlucky not to score on several occasions.

The forwards played well, as did the halves who were both awarded their colours after this match.

Final score :—for, nil; against, 2 goals, 2 tries (16 points).

Team :—G. A. R. Boyd; M. Ogle, G. A. Wood, L. P. Mosdell, W. B. Smith; F. H. G. Taylor, G. E. Sinclair; H. N. Trye, E. R. Leslie-Smith, T. H. Hodgson, P. D. Smith, P. J. Squire, W. F. Wiseman, K. R. Savage, G. V. Cook.

v. Berkshire Wanderers 'B.' Played at home on December 1st.

The ground was again wet and heavy. As Ogle had to stand down owing to injuries, W. B. Smith went over to the left wing and Mosdell took his place on the right, Mr. Alston playing in the centre.

Play was even at the start and quickly resolved itself into a duel between the opposing forwards. The visitors soon established a superiority in the line out and were dangerous in the loose, while our forwards held their own in the tight scrums, and frequently gained ground by good footwork, Savage, Cook and Wiseman being prominent. The backs found the ball difficult to handle, and several movements by both sides broke down in consequence. Fifteen minutes from the start Taylor intercepted smartly and got clean away to score a try, which he converted.

The Wanderers' forwards attacked strongly and went over from a five-yards scrum to score an unconverted try. The School three-quarters then attacked and Mosdell ran in on the right wing.

After half-time each side continued to score in turn, the Wanderers again through their forwards, the School as the result of some fine dribbling amongst the forwards, which carried the ball right over the line, where Wiseman touched down. The visitors got another try, one of their forwards forcing himself over the line. Two more tries were obtained for the School by Smith, the first after a combined three-quarter movement, the second largely through using his speed to outpace the defence and score near the corner-flag. None of

the tries scored in the second half was converted.

Final score :—for, 2 goals, 3 tries (19 points); against, 3 tries (9 points).

Team :—G. A. R. Boyd; W. B. Smith, G. A. Wood, J. B. E. Alston, Esq., L. P. Mosdell; F. H. G. Taylor, G. E. Sinclair; R. A. Langford, E. R. Leslie-Smith, T. H. Hodgson, P. D. Smith, S. F. Thatcher, W. F. Wiseman, K. R. Savage, G. V. Cook.

Colours were awarded to L. P. Mosdell and P. D. Smith.

v. Leighton Park 'A.'

The weather was fine and the ground dry for this match, which was played at home on December 5th. In the first half play was even, and though both sides attacked strongly they were unable to penetrate their opponents' defence, until shortly before half time Wood fielded a good cross-kick by Smith and cutting through in the centre sent in Ogle on the left, the try being converted by Taylor.

Shortly after the resumption Leighton Park attacking strongly carried the game into our '25,' when one of their forwards, Buckley, shaking off several half-hearted tackles ran through and scored between the posts. This try was converted. For the rest of the game play was kept mostly in the School half of the ground, the Leighton Park forwards getting most of the ball in the line out and loose scrums. Their halves were very good and repeatedly started three-quarter movements, which resulted in two tries being obtained by their left wing three-quarters. In the last minute their stand-off half dropped a clever goal.

Until the last quarter of the game, when the superior weight of their opponents began to tire them, the School forwards played very well, except in the line-out where they hardly ever obtained the ball. Savage, Cook and Wiseman were again conspicuous for their dribbling. The backs appeared to be rather slower than usual and their defence was not quite sound enough.

Final Score :—for, 1 goal (5 points); against, 1 goal, 1 dropped goal, 2 tries (15 points).

Colours were awarded to K. R. Savage, R. A. Langford, and G. V. Cook after this match.

The team was the same as in the preceding match, except that Ogle returned to his place on the left of the three-quarter line, with W. B. Smith on the right. Mr. Alston, of course, was not playing.

SECOND XV. MATCH.

v. Oxford Exiles R. F. C. Played at home on November 17th.

For this, our only 2nd XV. match we got together quite a respectable pack of forwards, but were rather nervous about our backs, who were very inexperienced, especially the three-quarter line, which had not played together much. We felt that our best policy was to make a forward game of it as much as possible. The team received instructions accordingly and the forwards rose to the occasion. In the first half they held their own after the first ten minutes, during which the Exiles' forwards broke through and scored a try. The other two tries which the Exiles scored in this half came from individual efforts by their scrum-half and an inside three-quarter, who got through our lines very easily.

In the second half our forwards dominated the game. They kept the ball and took it into their opponents' twenty-five again and again, enabling

Trye, who was very conspicuous throughout, to score one try, and Greene to run in on the blind side from a five yards' scrum and score another. The first of these tries was converted. The longer the game lasted the better the forwards played, and prevented the Exiles from scoring at all in the second half of the game. The halves, Greene and Brown, also played very well, Greene especially finding touch very judiciously throughout the game.

Final Score:—for, 1 goal, 1 try (8 points); against 1 goal 2 tries (11 points).

Team:—J. H. Guy; S. A. Paige, A. B. Blackmore, P. W. Lay, W. B. Badcock; R. F. Brown, A. M. D. Greene; J. W. Page, P. B. Squire, T. H. Hodgson, J. A. Howard, S. F. Thatcher, W. R. A. Kettle, H. N. Trye, G. A. Page.

J.B.E.A.

[To the general disappointment the O.A. Match, fixed for December 15th, had to be cancelled in consequence of severe frost.—Ed.]

RUGGER IN THE 'EIGHTIES.

(We are indebted to J. B. Reeves, O.A., and through him to H. M. Digby, O.A., for the following reminiscences of Rugger at the School in the 'Eighties. They should prove of the utmost interest to many of our readers at the present juncture. Ed.)

It was very gratifying to read in the last number of *The Abingdonian* that the School had emerged from the dark ages of Soccer and was once again playing the more enlightened Rugger.

I asked Arthur Stockton to give me his recollections, and he tells me that he was one of those who, possibly from lack of skill and hatred of rice puddings, which he believed were considered necessary to make an Association player, were opposed to the original change to Association, and that Rugby was still in force when he left in 1885. However, when he went home to Banbury there was no Rugby club, and he must have overcome his dislike of farinaceous food, as he became Captain of the local Association team in 1888, 1889 and 1890, winning the Oxfordshire Cup and playing for the County. His elder brother, Oliver J. Stockton, also played for them.

I played forward in the XV. in 1880-1 and 1881-2. We played on the cricket ground in front of the school buildings. The three Masters who impressed themselves most on my memory were W. C. Birch of New College, playing back, H. I. Fripp of St. John's, Oxford, playing forward—he played several times for Oxford but did not get his Blue—and E. Rice, a Cambridge Blue, who was a Master for one

term. The School played the Masters (alas! at Soccer), and won by 4 goals to nil.

The difficulty then was to find other schools who played Rugger. I only remember playing against Reading and Magdalen College Schools, the Abbey Military College, Abingdon, and Culham (a training school for teachers, I believe). Reading School beat us on that occasion by a goal and a try to a try, and Magdalen College School by two goals to three touch-downs. The return matches were postponed owing to an outbreak of Mumps at the School.

Nearly all our matches were on Wednesdays and Saturdays against Oxford teams from New, Hertford, Worcester, Jesus, Wadham, Oriel, St. John's and Queen's Colleges and St. Edmund's Hall, who enjoyed the drive over in a brake.

Playing these college teams was very good practice and we acquired the reputation of playing a very hard game. It was a point of honour for the rest of the School to turn up, but I fear the watching crowd was a bit one-sided. I remember "Chief," the Rev. E. Summers, never used to miss a match. The School colours for football were black and yellow: I could never understand why they were not cerise and white.

In the first two or three matches I played in we had two backs, one half-back and two quarter-backs. This was changed later in the season to one back, three quarter-backs and two halves.

At the end of the next year we were playing three three-quarters, the era of four three-quarters coming into existence a few years later. The game was not so open as now. Tight scrimmages were the fashion and "mauls" were allowed. Well do I remember the exciting struggles when the two men in a maul were over the touch line, with a shouting mob urging on their respective sides to touch the ball down.

As to some of the players, H. M. Digby is too modest to speak for himself, but he was one of the best players the School ever had. When at St. John's, Oxford, he played for the Varsity several times, but missed his Blue. He afterwards played for Bath and got his County Cup for Somerset. T. R. Davies played for Trinity Hall, Cambridge, in both the Rugby and Association teams, until he took up La Crosse in 1885. Both he and C. J. Bickmore, another Old Abingdonian, became La Crosse internationals, playing for England. Davies went out to Canada as a schoolmaster, since when I lost touch with him. Swabey, I remember, played several times for Blackheath. He was a very fast three-quarter.

One of the best players for the school later on was a day-boy, L. P. Brook, who when in London played for the Westminster Bank and for Middlesex County; I believe also for the South of England v. the North. Another player in 1880 was Harry

Challenor, who needs no introduction to either present or past Abingdonians.

J. B. R.

As regards Rugby at Abingdon (about time they did return to Rugger!) I don't think I have ever come across any of the old crowd who played at school barring Swabey, who played for Bath once or twice while I did, but faded away somewhere. Hallett played for his College (Oriell) and F. P. Lysaght (since dead) played for Exeter College. The masters who played were T. Eland, Deazeley and Birch, the latter being rather useful at three-quarter. As regards the Schools I think Reading was the only one and some School not far from Abingdon, Culham, and an Army tutor's team in Abingdon. Most of our matches were against Oxford Colleges, but what a different game it is to-day! I often think of our old goal posts: two uprights with a piece of white tape stretched across the top: not like to-day with the uprights stretching almost up to the skies. There were no "line-outs" from the touch line: if the ball went into touch we just bounced it outside and ran like hares. Yes, the game has altered considerably since our time, but I go regularly every Saturday to either Richmond or Twickenham and see the matches there, so I am fairly well up with the modern game.

H. M. D.

THE TENDER MARINER.

(A Ballad of Wales.)

Nauta, a sailor, had purchased a whaler

On I don't know which day of the week:

He was Welsh to the core: she was built on that
And she sported a permanent leak. [shore,

He rowed out to fish—'twas his grandmother's

And caught enough crabs for a pie; [wish—
But the wails of the dears moved him also to tears;
For crabs in the plural *cancri*!

Though he thought of them hot and bright red in
the pot,

He put them all back with a snuff,
The tender young lubber. But think of the
blubber!

He was surely rewarded enough.

Now while he was whaling, he neglected the bailing,

And, what with the tears and the sea,
He sank; and the dabs and ungrateful young
Made a sumptuous afternoon tea. [crabs

Perhaps they had planned so to have him un-
manned,

And their tears were a heartless device;
For a crab, as I know most distinctly, *cancro*,
And the crew looked remarkably nice.

I prefer to believe that their personal grief

Had nothing to do with his fate,
And they hadn't a notion down there in the
ocean

Who the gentleman was whom they ate.

But why not, if a friend meets a watery end

And sinks to your side dead as mutton,
Still enjoy him as food—that is if he's good?
But mind you don't swallow a button!

Now crabs do not mind being after their kind,

Like certain uncivilised men;
And it clearly must go to their credit, you know,
That they all were allophagous then.

They snapped off his nose and his fingers : his toes
 For further carousals they kept ;
 And, if crabs cannot feel any human appeal,
 I suppose after gorging they slept.

That they've long understood the preserving of
 food
 Is not an unfounded assumption ;
 For, as Kennedy shows, crabs (objective) *cancros*,
 Which must be for future consumption.

But whether they left in some watery cleft
 A tin of that tender young man, sir,
 I really can't tell—at least not very well :
 Let us leave it for others who *can*, *sir*.

Still his grandmother waits with the dishes and
 plates,
 Supported by Parish relief.
 She has not been told—for she's rather too old—
 How her grandson, alas ! came to grief.

W.W.

A RUGGER NIGHTMARE.

The boy stood on the Rugger field :
 The ball was in the scrum :
 The boy was waiting for the ball :
 He thought he'd make things hum !
 The last rank heeled it out too quick :
 It seemed to travel at a 'lick' ;
 And then—he felt so ill-and sick,
 The ball *had* really come !

The boy was like a Trojan born :
 He giddily looked around,
 And to his joy he saw nearby
 A '3 Q' goal-ward bound ;

And then he heard a cry upraised
 And knew (although he was still dazed)
 That he must stop him ; then amazed
 He brought him to the ground.

He heard a groan and took a glance,
 At which he nearly died :
 The victim he had tackled thus
 Was the Captain of his side !
 No longer now he deigns to play :
 It isn't that he funks the fray,
 But—well, it isn't fair to say :
 I'd rather spare his pride.

K.

THE COMING OF THE RAIN IN SOUTH AFRICA.

A dry, parched country stretches around us,
 burnt up by the long drought, a drought of some
 two years or more. Day after day we look for
 some signs of rain, but it is always the same :
 sometimes thunder clouds form up on the horizon,
 raise our hopes ; then the wind changes and the
 storms pass away—to the East, to the West, and
 leave us wondering what will be the end of it all.

Slowly the weeks drag on. The sheep and
 cattle tramp the veldt looking for an odd blade of
 grass. Talk of mealies spoilt, cattle and other
 stock dying, of ruin ahead, of springs drying up ;
 and all we can do is to wait for another day. Then
 a moonlit night and ourselves lying in the darkness
 of our rooms with the moonlight streaming through
 the window. Waves of heat make sleep almost
 impossible : sheets tossed aside and pillows

turned ; and a long late sleep.

* * *

. A sudden awakening in the chill of darkness.
 Somewhere a door bangs and a cool wind blows
 through the open window. The moon has gone,
 hidden by a lowering curtain of cloud. Lightning
 flashes in the distance, followed closely by roll
 upon roll of thunder. Suddenly a blinding flash
 and a terrific crash of thunder brings us eagerly
 awake. Then upon the roof the first heavy re-
 luctant drops : then more, a race—pat, pat, one
 drop upon another ; and suddenly, the floor of
 heaven fallen out and a torrent spattering, dinning
 and reverberating on the iron roof above us.
 The flashing of lightning, crashing of thunder,
 and beneath all this a steady, a blessed undertone—
 Drip ! Drip ! Drip !

O. A.

LAMENTATION.

It is a Monday morning :
 The dawn breaks dull and grey :
 The dismal clanging of a bell
 Proclaims another day.

Upon his iron bedstead
 A slumb'ring schoolboy lies ;
 But, at this harsh and fearful sound,
 He opes his sleepy eyes.

Then, in the gloom around him
A shadowy form appears :
His bedclothes shooting off his bed
Confirm his darkest fears.

Soon, more or less awakened,
Albeit, with gloomy mien,
He totters to his shallow bowl
Of water, cold and keen.

And, plucking up his courage
He takes his frozen sponge,
And, shiv'ring slightly at the thought,
He makes the fatal plunge.

At last, the ordeal over,
With fingers numb and blue,
He wrestles with a stubborn stud,
Or seeks a missing shoe ;

And, as he dons his jacket,
Right gloomily he thinks
Of Latin, French and Calculus,
And Algebra and 'Stinks.'

And now, my gentle Reader,
Shed tears of sympathy
For poor unhappy schoolboys in
Their morning misery.

EVOE.

OXFORD LETTER.

Dear Mr. Editor,

Another year has rolled by, and once again we face the pleasing if hazardous task of convincing the readers of "The Abingdonian" that the Oxford O.A.s. lead an arduous and happy life.

Our community now numbers ten, a number of which we are justifiably proud. Jimmy James, our doyen, in spite of the advancing years is still devoted to the river—in fact, he seems to have chosen his digs with a view to living as near as possible to it. We have seen him as far away as Radley, paddling very, very slowly and with eyes closed. It is very strange, but we suspect some connection with Toggers. For the rest, he is lost in the mazes of formal logic, and habitually, as he drinks his breakfast coffee, sorts out the categories and makes analytic judgements of sense.

Cory Wright returned from Military service in the Vac. feeling so strong that he was able to forgo the use of one hand when stroking the Pembroke Coxless Four. Besides this, he has been showing his energy in coaching freshmen and in roaming the river in a light pair. Finally, he was fortunate in being rescued from certain disaster by a fair *dea ex machina*. Some say that he must have been mistaken for Apollo on that occasion, but we think such explanation unnecessary.

Gerald Hancock, in spite of the fact that he is Captain of Pembroke Soccer this term, has left Oxford to live in the country. He is, however, often to be seen in a comfortable café in the city. He travels to and fro on a motor-bike, which some declare to be the noisiest in Oxford, but this is a calumny. His appearance of imperturbable cheerfulness and good-humour gladdens the hearts of all his friends. Never has there been a jurisconsult whom we regarded with greater affection.

Geoffrey Powell is as inimitable as ever. Indeed, only another Cicero could find words which could describe the distinction he confers upon the Law School. Moreover, once again he has won glory in the field, both by putting the weight in the Seniors' Sports and in covering one hundred yards in 10 $\frac{1}{10}$ seconds. We hope he has been equally successful in his pursuit of the elusive "Divvers."

Sidney Clark has caused us much anxiety this term. At first the near approach of Mods induced a kind of paralysis (that old, familiar feeling!) which made him disinclined for any exercise. Later, however, he recovered sufficiently to row in a Pembroke Trial Toggler. The popularity of rowing with Oxford O.A.s is indeed an omen of good; Durell, Raymont and Kingsley Smith have all been keeping S.E.C. company in the afternoons.

Durell has in his spare time been engaged in a struggle with the most annoying of all public examinations. He may be seen every Friday night religiously studying the history of the Semites, and heard at other times disturbing the dust on the windows of the Sheldonian.

Raymont is devoted to English History, to the open road, and to the ballroom, and is more of a *grand seigneur* than ever. The driving of his car clearly calls for some concentration, though not so much as to prevent his waving a graceful hand whenever we meet him, even in the perilous streets of Oxford. He has won some renown as College Secretary of the Academic Dance Club.

Finally, Sir, we extend a hearty welcome to the three new O.A. members of the Varsity, though we wish that some of them were less retiring. We believe they are all working hard, for which they deserve credit. Smith has been making the Pembroke Barge more cheerful even than its wont, and

Langford has been playing golf with considerable success. Thatcher is now indistinguishable from a third year man. What could Oxford do more ?

May we take this opportunity of wishing yourself and your readers a very happy Christmas ?

Yours sincerely,
O.A., Oxon.

O.A. CLUB.

J.B. Reeves, O.A., has most generously presented the Club with a Golf Challenge Bowl.

It was suggested that this should be played for each summer on the Sunday following the O.A. Cricket Match. As however the Secretary received the Bowl a week or two ago, he arranged for it to be played for on Sunday December 16th—the day following the Past v. Present Rugger Match. Unfortunately the Rugger Match had to be scratched, but seven entries were received for the Golf competition, and the leading results were as follows :—

E. G. Langford 84 - 7 = 77

H. A. L. Donkin 95 - 11 = 84

O. B. Challenor 96 - 7 = 89

The Match was played at Frilford Heath (medal round under handicap). The icy ground was

thawing on the surface and a cold wind made things uncomfortable.

E.G. Langford is to be complimented on his good round under the difficult conditions. He will hold the Bowl until next summer.

The regulations for the summer meeting will be circulated to all members beforehand, and it is hoped that there will be a large entry. The secretary hopes to be able to arrange for members to have the Courtesy of the Green at Frilford and thereby to save the Green fees. It is suggested that there should be an entrance fee, to provide the winner with a replica.

The Cup is a magnificent Rose Bowl and we are sure all members greatly appreciate the generosity of the donor.

O.A. NOTES.

BIRTH.

LAYNG.—On September 2, 1928, at 7 Arlington Road, Eastbourne, to Betty (née Colebrook) and Peter Layng, of Cambridge—a daughter (Judith Elizabeth).

MARRIAGES.

KIRKBY—LASBREY.—On June 13 at St. John's Church, Higham, near Rochester, Geoffrey Richard, second son of the Rev. J. H. Kirkby, Vicar of Shippon, to Margaret Joyce, elder daughter of the Rev. P. U. Lasbrey, Vicar of Higham.

DAVIDGE—SMYTH.—On August 23 at St. Mary's Church, Little Houghton, Northampton, Cecil Vere, Barrister-at-law and University Lecturer in Law at Oxford, to Ursula Catherine, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Smyth of Little Houghton House.

SMITH—AURIGO.—On August 28 at Ashford, Middlesex, Kenneth Casson, son of Mr. C. P. Smith, of Staines, to Vivienne Westbury, daughter of Mr. C. P. Aurigo, chartered accountant, of St. Margaret's, Middlesex.

DEATH.

BOSLEY.—On December 11th, at Reading Hospital, the result of a motoring accident, Mervin Jack Bosley, grandson of Joseph Brewer, Fir Tree Farm, Steventon, aged 20 years.

M. J. Bosley, whose untimely death we record

with much regret, came to the School in April 1922 and left in the summer term of 1925. The accident, due to the skidding of his motor cycle, happened in Reading, where he was employed. He lingered for some weeks in hospital, but all efforts to save his life proved unavailing.

G. H. Kirkby and his wife are now living at Pernambuco, Brazil, where "c/o The Western Telegraph Company" will find them.

C. E. H. Dolphin of the Lincolnshire Regiment was Adjutant during the hot weather of a Hill Depôt in the Himalayas, about 7,500 ft. above sea-level. His Regiment has now been moved from India to the Soudan, where it is likely to be stationed for a year before returning to England ; but he himself hopes to be home on leave (about three months) in April of next year.

B. V. Edsall departed in the Spring to seek his fortune in New York, where, we understand, he is now occupied with the subtleties of French Real Estate. His address is :—Hotel Belvidere, West 48th Street, West of Broadway.

The brothers Baumann are both now at work in Milan. L. L. has been for the past eight months with the firm of Cicerini Cantoni Coats, an Anglo-Italian business run by Britishers in co-operation with J. & P. Coats of Glasgow.

R. C. F. Saxby of the E.T.C., who has been home on leave in Abingdon during the summer, has now gone out to Zanzibar.

A. C. Vivian, who obtained an Exhibition from the School to the City and Guilds' Engineering College in 1913, has been awarded a "Telford" premium by the Council of the Institution of Civil Engineers. He is at present at Abadan in the Persian Gulf.

J. Harding returned from Geneva at the end of August and is now being initiated into the mysteries of the Cotton business with Messrs. Armitage and Rigby, Ltd., at their Mill in Warrington. He finds this a very thorough change from diplomacy.

From Ceylon we learn—*via* P. E. Rowlandson—that "E. O. Hills ('Hebe') recently stroked Colombo to victory in a rowing contest (variety unstated) against Madras." We should be glad to have further details.

Likewise that "T. T. Theophilus recently passed through Colombo on his way to China."

R. G. Spencer ("Winkle"), we are told—at Buckland, Lymington—"is contriving, out of Bank hours (which we all know to be notoriously brief!), to soak up a certain amount of French and Spanish, in addition to becoming a golf expert." (We quote *verbatim* from our correspondent, who does *not* happen to be Spencer himself.)

W. N. E. Bruce has been playing since the summer in "Excelsior" at the London Playhouse.

G. S. Sturrock has started work with the British Thomson-Houston Company at Rugby. As he is the possessor of a motor-bicycle, he is generally to be found at the School at week-ends.

J. F. Sinclair was awarded third class honours in the Final School of Litterae Humaniores at Oxford. He has obtained an appointment with the Asiatic Petroleum Company, and sailed on December 14 for Bombay, there to await further orders as regards his destination. We wish him the best of luck, wherever he may be.

The School was well represented this year at the Oxford Art Society's Exhibition, where O. J. Couldrey had four pictures hung—two Indian scenes and two of Polperro, Cornwall, while Mr. Wright had two—a large seascape. "From Whitenose to Lulworth," and a small picture of Abingdon Bridge. Those of us who have seen Couldrey's Indian pictures (the two exhibited were "Recessional—Kandy" and "Rock Chapel

at Ajanta") will not be surprised to learn that they received exceptionally favourable notices in the Press.

News has come through to us of W. J. Farmer who sailed for Australia last December. He is now on a farm in South Australia (c/o Mr. H. Thorpe, Petina, West Coast, S. Australia)—a wheat and sheep farm two hundred miles north of Port Lincoln, where he seems to be enjoying the life and learning the business thoroughly.

Congratulations to E. A. Passam and N. V. Pearson on passing the Intermediate Arts Examination (for external students) of London University: to H. R. Lansdown on passing the London Matriculation Examination: to T. E. Gardiner on passing the Intermediate Law Examination: to K. Cleave on passing the Final Examination of the Surveyors' Institute; to W. J. Smith on passing the Final Certificate Examination of the Board of Education: and to C. Ellis on passing the Testamur Examination of the Institute of Municipal and County Engineers.

The Rev. R. F. Ashwin, we learn, has been elected Mayor of Brackley.

W. G. Hancock has been Captain of Soccer at Pembroke this year.

G. F. Powell, besides assisting Pembroke in the inter-College (sprint) Relay Races, took part with distinction in no less than three events—Weight, Long Jump and Hundred Yards—in the Oxford Seniors' Sports.

C. R. Wright, in addition to stroking Pembroke in the Coxswainless Fours, again appeared in the early days of training in one or other of the Varsity Trial Rights.

D. C. K. Wright was rowing at "3" in the local boat at the Henley Town Regatta in August, when his crew won the Maiden Fours, beating Albion Rowing Club in the final by one length.

H. R. Lansdown is now in the Drawing Office of the Associated Daimlers Company in London.

D. J. W. Hillier has been since August with the Legal & General Insurance Company in Piccadilly.

A. J. A. Watson, who is now a Lance-Corporal in the Grenadier Guards, is at present stationed at Aldershot.

J. C. Toogood is with Messrs. White & Sons—a firm of Fruit Importers in Hull.

F. M. Butterfield is at present working with Hill, Upton & Co., Electrical and Mechanical

Engineers in Oxford, but hopes after Christmas to commence a three years' apprenticeship with the General Electric Company in London.

Of those who left the School last term three—A. M. Thatcher, E. G. Langford and A. J. K. Smith—have gone to Oxford, Thatcher to Jesus and the other two to Pembroke. For news of their doings and the doings of other Oxford O.A.s we would refer our readers to the Oxford Letter which we publish on another page. S. R. Hunt on the other hand has gone to Cambridge, to St. John's College, where he seems to find the work rather formidable but the life otherwise pleasant enough.

Of the rest who left last term E. P. Rice has decided to become a Veterinary Surgeon, and is at present studying with that end in view.

T. G. Austin has started work with the Century Insurance Company, with the prospect of studying, in his spare time, French, German and Spanish, and other subjects required for the Fellowship of the Insurance Institute exams.

N. J. Banes is a clerk in Messrs. Stewart and Lloyd's, Ltd., Birmingham.

M. K. S. Girdler and R. M. Short are at Culham Training College.

F. W. Jennings is in the National Provincial Bank in Bournemouth.

J. H. F. Kay is at Nottingham University, attending evening classes in Intermediate Science.

R. W. H. Taylor is in a Millinery Warehouse in London.

J. L. Dawson is on a farm at Fordhouses near Wolverhampton.

F. A. J. Povey is a clerk in the Morris Motor Works at Cowley.

W. A. Hedges is articled to Messrs. Stallwood & West, Solicitors, Reading.

A. E. Belcher is with a Chemical firm in Oxford.

W. S. T. Hale is in a Tea Merchants' Office in Rood Lane (near Mincing Lane), London.

W. H. C. Mayhead is now a cadet on board the "Worcester."

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