

THE OLDEN NULMEIAN



Fide sed
cui vide.

Credum
in Deo.

The Oldham Hulmeian.

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No. 7.

School Notes.

We regret that we must again make a charge of 1/- for the Magazine. The cost of paper and printing shews little sign of decrease. However, we are in very good company.

We would like to congratulate the boys on their really excellent performances of "She Stoops to Conquer." The crowded houses and the amount they were enabled to hand over to the Building Fund were a fitting reward for much hard work—all done out of School hours.

Also the Old Boys on their Soirée. Everyone rejoiced in the revival of the Old Boys' Association.

We are informed, too, that a certain Committee are accumulating a considerable sum for the Building Fund.

A generally reliable authority states that some building is to begin almost certainly before the end of the century.

T. B. COCKER sails for Singapore (Malay Civil Service), having obtained an Eastern Cadetship. There were only 15 vacancies between 550 candidates.

Our thanks are due to T. KIRKMAN (V.A.) for three volumes of Connington's Vergil for the Library—a most welcome gift. Also may we acknowledge the following presentations:—

- L. V. LECOMBER: Modern Painters—Ruskin,
vols. 1, 2, 3.
Wireless Telephones.
- R. L. HOLT: Captain Calamity—Rolf Bennett.
Periscope and Propeller—J. S.
Marjerison
Love in the Lists—Montgomery.
- A. M. CLEVERLEY: History of Chemistry—Thorpe.
- J. S. WHITWORTH: Round the World in 80 days—Verne
- M. GREENWOOD: "Finished"—R. Haggard.
"Ship's Company"—Jacobs.
"Return of Sherlock Holmes"—
A. C. Doyle
- R. WALL: "A Polar Eden"—C. Kenyon.
- BANCROFT: "Harry Lorrequer"—Charles Lever
- W. HALLIWELL: "How it works" and "How
it is made"
- J. F. SLATER: "Desert Gold," by Zane Grey.

Our thanks, in anticipation, to HOLT, who, it is rumoured, is about to present some more books. Also to W. W. BRIERLEY, who has promised a bat for the best 1st XI. batting average.

W. K. SLATER, the first Old Boy to be elected to the Board of Governors, was married on April 6th to Hilda, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Whittenbury, of Moss Side.

The following marriages may also be of interest:—

On 8th July, 1920, at Zion Chapel, Lees, WILLIAM SANKEY, of 3, Equitable Street, Oldham, to Clara Bottomley, of Woodend House, Lees, Oldham.

At St. Ann's Church, St. Ann's Square, Manchester, on 19th July, 1920, Mr. LESLIE HAMILTON STOTT, only son of the late Mr. Robert Stott, Junr., and Mrs. Stott, of Elmleigh, Werneth, to Miss Annie Crapper, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. Crapper, Mills Hill House, Chadderton.

Mr. REGINALD BARLOW, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Barlow, of Fern Street, Oldham, was married at Leicester on Monday, Nov. 29th, 1920, to Miss May Lord, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Lord, of that town. The bridegroom entered the service of the Manchester and District Banking Company many years ago and is still in their employ. He is an old boy of the Oldham Grammar School, and for a long period has officiated as hon. secretary of the Old Boys' Association. The bride was given away by her father and was attended by several bridesmaids. Mr. Joe Chester was the best man. After the wedding a reception was held and many friends were present. Later in the day Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Barlow left for Buxton, where the honeymoon was spent. They received many presents.

On 19th April, 1921, at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-on-Avon, JOHN MAURICE UNDERWOOD, B.Sc., to Ethel Mary Woodward, of Stratford-on-Avon.

We welcome Mr. BLAKE, B.A. (R.U.I.), late of Bracordale Norwich School, and Mr. SOMERS JONES, B.Sc. (Wales), who joined the Staff in April, and hope they will have a happy time among us.

The School Orchestra, we hope, has come to stay. Their performance at the play, considering the short time they had had in which to practise, was wonderfully good.

Our best wishes to the XI. for a successful season. Some good cricketers have been lost, notably, Lecomber, Mellor, and Holt. But enthusiasm, esprit de corps, and practice can work wonders.

In the few games played at the time of going to press the fielding has been quite keen except in that most important branch—"backing up."

One or two of our batsmen have lost their wickets on occasion through their hair coming down and covering their eyes at the psychological moment. It is rumoured that a quantity of hairpins was swept off the pitch after a recent House match.

In view of the recent startling exhibitions of the art of bowling (?) at the 1st XI. net, may it be suggested to

the captain that, for the safety of the Oldham public, he either increase the size of the net or remove it further from the road?

Old Boys' Successes.

At the recent Cambridge Senior Local Examination ERNEST AGAR BEET, of Epworth College, Rhyl, son of the Rev. W. E. Beet, obtained Honours, with Distinction in Chemistry, together with exemption from the London Matriculation Examination and the Matriculation Examination of the Northern Universities.

D. HARGREAVES: Awarded Hallé Scholarship for the Royal Manchester College of Music.

The following is a list of Old Boys with their courses and successes at the University:—

S. R. CHALONER: B.Com. with distinction in Economics. Appointed Lecturer in Railway Economics at University.

Also Gladstone Memorial Prize (Equal).

G. ROSS: Diploma in Education.

H. L. OGDEN: Final General B.A., 3rd year.

W. E. HARDING: Inter B.A., 2nd year.

J. A. E. JONES: Inter B.A., 2nd year.

E. FITTON: Latin, 2nd year.

A. I. HARDIE: Final Mus. Bac., 3rd year.

J. H. KERSHAW: B. Com., 1st year, 2nd year.

S. N. TAYLOR: Final M.B.

C. EATOUGH: B.Sc. Tech. (1st Class), 3rd year.

J. W. NOBLE: Dentistry, 3rd year.

WHITTLE: 1st M.B., 2nd year.

HUGHES: Mining (Inter), 2nd year.

C. H. SPENCER: Medical.

N. TAYLOR: Metallurgy, 3rd year.

A. M. CLEVERLEY: Metallurgy, 3rd year.

School Dramatic Society.

THE above Society, on Friday and Tuesday, Feb. 25th and Mar. 1st, 1921, gave two excellent performances, before crowded audiences, of Oliver Goldsmith's comedy, "She Stoops to Conquer."

The actors and the characters represented were:—

Sir Charles Marlow	J. M. TURNER
Hardcastle, friend of Sir Charles	T. BOARDMAN
Mrs. Hardcastle	H. SUTCLIFFE
Miss Hardcastle, their daughter	C. T. MILLS
Young Marlow, son of Sir Charles	C. UNDERWOOD
Hastings, his friend	A. WILLIAMSON
Tony Lumpkin, stepson of Hardcastle.....	M. GREENWOOD
Miss Neville, niece of Mrs. Hardcastle.....	V. C. GREGG
Diggory, servant to Hardcastle	J. THEWLIS

Several other boys had minor parts to play, viz.: E. CAMPBELL, R. D. WRIGLEY, M. HALLIWELL, W. L. CARTWRIGHT, W. R. JOSLIN, F. PALMER, H. WATTS, and S. WILLIAMSON. Everyone represented the character he played with great credit.

J. M. TURNER, as SIR CHARLES MARLOW, had little to do in the play, but gave a good idea of an aristocrat of that day.

T. BOARDMAN, as MR. HARDCASTLE, was a good example of a bluff country squire. The indignation he showed at the conduct of Young Marlow and Hastings in mistaking his country mansion for an inn was very well portrayed, especially in the middle of the play.

H. SUTCLIFFE, as MRS. HARDCASTLE, acted the part of a middle-aged lady with a troublesome son very creditably.

C. T. MILLS, as MISS HARDCASTLE, the character which gives the title to the play, stooped to conquer Young Marlow very ably indeed. His representations of the lady and the barmaid were of equal merit.

C. UNDERWOOD, who took the part of **YOUNG MARLOW**, had a very difficult part to play as he had really three characters to represent. His domineering manner towards Mr. Hardcastle, his bashfulness and nervousness when in the presence of a lady of equal rank, his ease and confidence when in the company of the serving maid—all three characters were very finely done.

M. GREENWOOD, as **TONY LUMPKIN**, was the "practical joker" of the piece. He played jokes on all with whom he came into contact; on Young Marlow when he directed him to Hardcastle's house as to an inn, and on his mother, Mrs. Hardcastle, when he led her round by the horsepond and made her believe she was 40 miles from home. Greenwood acted this part excellently; he just seemed to "hit the right note"; he was neither too intelligent nor too stupid, and his rendering of the comic passages was greatly appreciated, especially by the younger portion of the audience.

V. C. GREGG, as **MISS NEVILLE**, niece of Mrs. Hardcastle, made a very pretty girl and, after the first nervousness, acted very creditably.

A. WILLIAMSON, as **HASTINGS**, the friend of young Marlow, made an admirable suitor and gave us a very good impression of the handsome young man of the period. J. THEWLIS was excellent as **DIGGORY**, though he had not a great deal to do.

The play was arranged in 4 acts, the scenes being laid partly in an old mansion, an ale house, and the bottom of the garden. The scenery was under the direction of Mr. BATES, who had himself painted most of it, and it gave a good impression of the eighteenth century style.

Great credit is due to Mr. ALBERY and Mr. MARTIN, who undertook the tuition of the boys.

The intervals between the acts were very pleasantly filled by selections played by the School Orchestra, which was formed only a short time before the date of the performance. It consisted of a piano, first and second violins, viola, and, for the Haydn's Toy Symphony, two trumpets, triangle, drum, cuckoo, quail and nightingales.

The costumes (by HUME, of Manchester) were late eighteenth century fashion, and the gentlemen especially were very smart.

Both the object and the result of the enterprise were excellent, about £136 being realised for augmenting the School Extension Building Fund. A.D.A. (V.A.)

Cricket Season 1920.

BEFORE the opening of this season there was grave doubt as to whether we should be successful or not. There seemed to be more than the usual number of unreliable players. Several of these pursued the uneventful course of single-figure scores, never by any chance rising to the occasion and pulling a game "out of the fire." Yet, in spite of this, we managed quite well, winning 4 out of the 6 School matches played. Halliwell seems to be a very promising medium-paced bowler. He was this season's "find."

The weather, throughout the whole term, was very wet; scarcely any practice could be obtained, and many matches had to be cancelled.

The 2nd XI. fared about as well as the 1st.

1st XI. CRITIQUE.

H. MELLOR. A stylish, confident player who can certainly bat well. He won the game against M.G.S. (away) for us with a brilliant 41. His fielding is quite strong. He was very unlucky.

R. L. HOLT. A player with the advantage of a very long reach. Much was expected from him in the batting line at the beginning of the season, but he proved very disappointing. His bowling, however, as was expected, was excellent. Especially so against Stockport (away), when he took 6 wickets in 8 balls for no runs.

- C. G. R. FIELDING. Opened the season with a promising 52 against Stockport G.S. (at home) but fell off appallingly, never again obtaining double figures. Has a good stroke past cover-point, and can hit well to leg. Left-handed player, rather weak in the slips. Not very strong in the field.
- A. WILLIAMSON. Looks as though he can play better than he does. Rather nervous on going to the wicket and usually despatched before he has settled down. Also too nervous to be very effective in the field. Ought to make good next season.
- T. BOARDMAN. A very good out-fielder and a useful medium-paced break-bowler. His batting is very stiff and methodical. When at the wicket he should enjoy himself and not take the matter to heart and be too serious about it. He may improve much next season.
- J. M. TURNER. A very loose, almost slovenly, player. Had but very little success, as may be expected. Should stand further from the wicket and more upright. A crouching style, although adopted by one or two well known players, is eccentric and dangerous to copy. A happy medium between Boardman and Turner is what is desired.
- M. HALLIWELL. A brilliant slow bowler who can put some wonderful work on the ball. Obtained the bowling average this season, just beating Holt. Takes too professional a view of the game for a schoolboy, and should understand that he is expected to care about his batting as well as bowling. Negligence is very infectious.
- S. WILLIAMSON. A young player with plenty of confidence. Quite good in the field. Ought to develop with time.
- CHADWICK. A budding young cricketer. Played up to Mellor excellently in the match against Manchester G.S. away. His batting, however, ought to be more offensive.

G. L. ASHWORTH. Would probably be able to play well if he cared, but seems to treat the game as a huge joke, in which he is expected to be as silly and childish as possible.

L. V. LECOMBER (Captain). Is probably the best bat we have had at the School during the last twelve years or more. He is also very safe in the field and a useful bowler. Was rather unfortunate in some of the School matches, though his average was excellent.

STOCKPORT G.S. 1ST XI. v. SCHOOL 1ST XI. (Home).
May 15th, 1920.

Result:—School 85 runs, Stockport 59 runs. Fielding (C. R. J.) made 52 runs for School. Holt took 5 wickets for 31 runs and Turner took 4 wickets for 28 runs.

STOCKPORT G.S. 1ST XI. v. SCHOOL 1ST XI. (Away).
June 12th, 1920.

Result:—School 115 runs, Stockport 52 runs. Lecomber made 54 runs (not out) for School, and Holt (R. L.) made 19 runs. Holt also took 7 wickets for 17 runs.

WARRINGTON G.S. 1ST XI. v. SCHOOL 1ST XI. (Away).
June 23rd, 1920.

Result:—School 72 runs for 8 wickets, Warrington 69 runs all out. Lecomber made 38 runs for School. Halliwell (M.) took 8 wickets for 18 runs.

MANCHESTER G.S. 2ND XI. v. SCHOOL 1ST XI. (Away).
June 26th, 1920.

Result:—School 103 runs, Manchester 95 runs. Mellor (H.) made 41 runs for School, and Lecomber made 20 runs.

STAND G.S. 1ST XI. v. SCHOOL 1ST XI. (Home).
June 30th, 1920.

Result:—Stand 58 runs, School 49 runs. For School Holt took 8 wickets for 16 runs, and Halliwell made 15 runs not out.

MANCHESTER G.S. 2ND XI. v. SCHOOL 1ST XI. (Home).
July 3rd, 1920.

Result:—Manchester 43 runs, School 24 runs. Halliwell (M.) took 7 wickets for 23 runs for School.

AN OLD BOYS' XI. v. SCHOOL 1ST XI. (Home).
July 24th, 1920.

Result:—Old Boys, 1st innings 98 runs, 2nd innings 77 runs, total 175 runs; School, 1st innings 112 runs, 2nd innings 46 runs, total 158 runs. In the first innings Lecomber made 66 runs, not out, for School.

Football Matches.

MANCHESTER G.S. 2ND XI. v. SCHOOL 1ST XI. (Away).
Saturday, Oct. 9th, 1920.

This being the first match of the season, a more or less experimental team was played. After a hard game, during which our opponents scored from a penalty, Manchester won. Result:—Manchester 4, School 2.

STOCKPORT G.S. 1ST XI. v. SCHOOL 1ST XI. (Home).
Saturday, Oct. 16th, 1920.

With a re-arranged team, School played considerably better in this match. Williamson (J.) played a good game at full back, being mainly instrumental in thwarting the efforts of the Stockport forwards. Result:—School 5, Stockport 4.

WARRINGTON G.S. 1ST XI. v. SCHOOL 1ST XI. (Home).
Wednesday, Nov. 27th, 1920.

The teams in this game were very evenly matched. Towards the end of the second half Halliwell scored a fine winning goal for School. Result:—School 3, Warrington 2.

STAND G.S. 1ST XI. v. SCHOOL 1ST XI. (Home).
Wednesday, Nov. 10th, 1920.

For this game Stand fielded their strongest team they have had for some years, and in spite of the efforts of School, our opponents won comfortably. Result:—Stand 5, School 1.

HULME G.S. MANCHESTER 1ST XI. v. SCHOOL 1ST XI.
(Away), Saturday, Nov. 20th, 1920.

In this game School played better at Manchester than they have done for several seasons, the forwards in particular playing well. Result:—Manchester 3, School 2.

BURY G.S. 1ST XI. v. SCHOOL 1ST XI. (Away).
Wednesday, Nov. 24th, 1920.

This match furnished a very good game. Williamson (A.) scored first for School, Bury equalising from a penalty. Result:—School 1, Bury 1.

BURY G.S. 1ST XI. v. SCHOOL 1ST XI. (Home).
Wednesday, Dec. 1st, 1920.

For this match the ground was in very bad condition, and School were without two or three of their best men. In spite of this, however, School won after a hard game. Blacker played a fine game. Result:—School 3, Bury 1.

MANCHESTER G.S. 2ND XI. v. SCHOOL 1ST XI. (Home).
Saturday, Feb. 5th, 1921.

On this date Manchester fielded an entirely different team from the one we played against at Manchester. School seemed to have lost their form, and Manchester won easily. Result:—Manchester 5, School 0.

Swimming Notes.

LAST term we were fortunate in securing as instructor Mr. T. Schofield, not only because of his prominence in Lancashire swimming circles, but also because of his loyal and ungrudging efforts on behalf of the boys. His opinion, at the end of the season, was that the swimming as a whole was good, and that very good progress had been made, especially by the boys in the Junior Section.

Of the 28 boys who entered for the swimming tests held at the Central Baths on Monday, Oct. 18th, 26 were successful in obtaining free passes to the Oldham Corporation Baths.

The Swimming Sports took place on Monday, July 26th, and, judging by the enthusiasm displayed it was, if possible, more successful than our previous effort. The competition was always very keen, and the results, if none of them were remarkable, were quite good. Douglas repeated his previous performance by winning the Neat Dive, while the Long Dive, which was won by Williamson A., was an improvement on last year. The Squadron Races were perhaps the most successful races of the afternoon. Unfortunately the times were not taken, but we feel that it is safe to say that had this been done, it would have reflected very favourably on those who took part.

There is neither need nor space to give account of all the doughty deeds that were wrought that day, for they will live for ever in the memories of both performers and spectators. Suffice it to append the following list of the happy winners:—

Senior Handicap (three lengths).—1, Thwaites (60 secs.); 2, Ashworth.

Middle Handicap (two lengths).—1, Hargreaves (46 secs.); 2, Cartwright.

Junior Handicap (one length).—1, J. Halliwell (47 secs.); 2, C. Schofield.

Long Dive.—1, A. Williamson (35ft. 6in.); 2, Lecomber.

Neat Dive.—1, Douglas; 2, Lecomber.

Balloon Race.—1, Lecomber; 2, J. Horrobin.

Squadron Race, Senior School.—Asheton House.

Squadron Race, Middle School.—Gill House.

Life Saving.—1, Lecomber; 2, Partington.

Lighted Candle Race.—1, Douglas; 2, V. C. Gregg.
Championship.—Lecomber.

House Championship, Senior School.—Platt House.

House Championship, Middle School.—Gill House.

Library.

THE Librarians are pleased to report an increasing interest taken by boys in the School Library. It is especially encouraging to note that the new boys are enthusiastic borrowers, the "Shell" form having the largest list of borrowers in the School.

The Reference Library has also been in great demand since the members of Form V.B were admitted as borrowers.

We have quite a number of acknowledgments to make. May we be allowed to thank the members of Form V.A for the handsomely-framed photograph of the School (taken in July, 1920)? Our thanks are also due to J. L. Bradbury for two sets of Cambridge Scholarship Papers (Mathematics and Science); and to A. M. Cleverley for Thorpe's "History of Chemistry."

Other presentations will be found under the School Notes. C.U., M.G.

Debating Society.

Report of Meetings.

AT a general meeting of the Society, held on Friday, Nov. 5th, the following officers for the Society were elected:—President, Mr. E. S. Ridout. Vice-President, Mr. F. H. Cockell. Secretary, C. Underwood. Assistant Secretary, M. Greenwood. Other members of Committee: C. T. Mills, A. Williamson, H. Yates.

On Friday, November 12th, we held the first debate of the session. SLATER proposed the motion that the "Daylight Saving Bill is Beneficial to the Nation." SINGLETON, in his speech for the opposition, at least amused the House, if he did not succeed in enlightening it as to the disadvantages of the Daylight Saving Bill. PARTINGTON ably seconded the proposer, and Singleton was supported by J. HORROBIN. Upon the debate being thrown open to discussion, only a few of the members of

the hard-working and much-censured (undeservedly, of course) committee ventured to express their opinions upon the subject. Singleton, in summing up the opposition, made some ambiguous remarks concerning the advantages of an extra hour of darkness in the evening. Slater ably replied, and the motion was carried by 34 votes to 14.

A meeting was held on November 19th, when H. YATES brought forward the motion that "Arbitration is preferable to Striking as a means of settling Industrial and Commercial Disputes." The honourable proposer brought forth groans from the House when he appeared laden with three monstrous volumes of literature. However, we are inclined to think that this procedure was merely "outward show," for he was content with reading us a lengthy extract on "arbitration." We would advise him, nevertheless, in future not to show such lack of discretion and good taste as to question the intellectual powers of such a learned and profoundly intelligent assembly as this Society. The rest of the honourable member's speech was sane and, hence, uninteresting to the majority of members present. The excitement lacking here, though, was amply supplied by the speech and antics (chiefly the latter) of the honourable leader of the opposition—R. A. MILLS, who persisted in repeatedly informing the house (each time being violently applauded) that arbitration was "—er—a—um." The proposer was ably seconded by SUTCLIFFE. The speech of WILLIAMSON A., who seconded the opposition, was worthy of Cicero. Would that he would grant us a few more opportunities of hearing a really sensible and logical speech! Quite a host of speakers (among whom we note, with pleasure, several of the new members) followed in a keen and interesting discussion. The opposer and proposer having summed up, the motion was rejected by 24 votes to 21.

"That immediate steps should be taken to prevent the slaughter of harmless birds and animals for human luxury and adornment" was the subject of a heart-breaking and emotional discussion on Monday, Nov. 29th, 1920. The proposer, UNDERWOOD, almost reduced the opposers (MILLS R. A. and YATES) to tears by a harrowing description of the agonies endured by calves, polar bears, and sparrows; with the result that Mills spoke in a voice so broken with emotion that, had not the

chairman introduced him as the opposer, the house would have had no little difficulty in deciding which part he was playing. THEWLIS ably seconded the proposer by volunteering some interesting information concerning the species known as the American bison. YATES, who seconded the opposition owing to the absence of Wall, said that "he liked to see ladies (rather a superfluous statement, we fear) clad in furs and feathers." Several members of the house entered upon a discussion (for which they were obviously well qualified) concerning modern female attire and the workings of the feminine mind. The summing up of the opposer was practically a direct contradiction of the proposer's remarks. Underwood, in replying, played upon the tender feelings of the house, concluded with an impassioned appeal to its humanity, and gave such a lurid description of the blood-thirsty and callous cruelty of bird-catchers that in comparison Bolsheviks and Sinn Feiners would appear tamer and gentler than white rabbits. The motion was carried by 31 votes to 8.

C.U.

The Soirée.

THE Old Boys are to be congratulated heartily on a most successful evening on Dec. 11th. The occasion marked the resuscitation of the Old Boys' Association, and was the first real re-union since the war. The programme was carried through without a hitch, and all present enjoyed themselves thoroughly. Alderman and Mrs. Wilde received the guests, Miss Marjorie Clarke, Miss Edna Stagg, Messrs. Bertram West, Bartley Robinson, H. H. Stott, and Mr. W. Lawton's Orchestra combined in a most enjoyable Concert, scientific experiments under the direction of Mr. R. H. Albery, sleight of hand by Mr. Fred Scholes, most excellent refreshments, and last but not least a dance in the Hall caused everyone to rejoice in the revival of the Association. By no means the least appreciative were the School Staff, who are fully alive to the importance of a flourishing Old Boys' Association and of the benefit to the School therefrom.

A Visit to France and Belgium.

THE varied and interesting accounts which were contained in my uncle's letters, written during the war while serving "somewhere in France," made one long to visit these places, and this longing was intensified by his verbal descriptions when, demobilised, he was able to be with us again.

When he suggested that we should spend our holidays in France, we were all very enthusiastic, realising what a treat it would be to visit France accompanied by one who had spent four years there.

The "Great Day" arrived. In London we paid a flying visit to the Houses of Parliament, Westminster, St. Paul's, The Tower and the Tower Bridge. Also I had my first experience of the "Tube."

We sailed from Folkestone on the "Riviera" to Boulogne, where we went through the ordeal [?] of a Customs Examination, thence by train to Paris.

The country is flatter than in England, and most of the trees are entirely devoid of lower branches, these having been cut off for fuel. On the journey we caught glimpses of the war in the shape of dug-outs, coils of wire, and an occasional wrecked building. Early in the evening we arrived at Paris.

That same evening we visited Notre Dame; over the main entrance are the statues of the Twelve Disciples, while the whole of the front is of beautifully carved stonework.

On the following day we passed the Arc de Triomphe and journeyed through the Bois de Boulogne to Versailles by automobile. Conspicuous features of the grounds at this latter place are the beautiful avenues lined with trees and the large lake. In the palace is the "Hall of Mirrors" where the Peace Treaty was signed; the table is of an antique pattern with a mosaic top.

From here we trained to St. Cloud. The railway carriages were of an old-fashioned style, some of them having tops similar to those of our trams, but with open sides, from which a glorious view of the country

could be obtained. But this was quickly changed when we found ourselves in a tunnel amongst the smoke from the engine. Leaving the train at St. Cloud, we visited the beautiful gardens there.

We spent Tuesday afternoon at Le Louvre, which contains some very beautiful pictures. After dinner that evening we visited the Arc de Triomphe and the Eiffel Tower.

Next day, having paid a visit to the Bon Marché, we went to Napoleon's Tomb, where the blue and gold lighting produces a marvellous effect upon the variedly coloured marble. We looked down upon Napoleon's tomb, and by doing so we were said to have bowed to him as, it is said, all the visitors do. From here we proceeded to the Military Museum, and into the Esplanade des Invalides. In the afternoon we visited the Eiffel Tower again, a wonderful view being obtained from the top—a railway train appeared as a snail, the whole city like a map below our feet. Coming down the lift, I saw a workman, merely standing on a girder at the height of 900 feet, engaged in making a cigarette. The latter part of the descent is by a stairway of 750 steps.

Leaving Paris, we saw in the devastation of Albert and Arras the ravages of war; the ruined Cathedral at the latter place is still used, though one side has been blown to pieces and the whole is entirely roofless.

La Petite Place, La Grande Place, where the destruction appears to have been done by an earthquake as the buildings lean in various directions, and the Town Hall were the next to receive our attention. Near here we saw some people lying under a tarpaulin stretched over a ruined roof and walls. The sanitation was much inferior to that of our English towns; a short, sharp shower purified the air and formed a miniature river through the main street of the town.

From this scene of desolation we proceeded to Béthune, where my uncle was dismayed on seeing the havoc caused by the later bombardment of the German offensive in the spring of 1918. The clock tower and the walls of the Bank only are seen in the main square, while nothing but ruins remains of a town once as prosperous as Oldham. At Petit Bois on the Vimy we were accosted by a one-legged discharged soldier using a chair as a crutch—he received no pension from the Government.

As we were going to the ruins of Lens, we passed a large British cemetery (known as Dud Corner) with its numerous white crosses. Still the same ruin and desolation at Lens, near which is Hill 70—with a large crater at its summit, the trenches winding in and out in the white earth with many reminders of what had taken place.

Early on Sunday morning we went to Lille, where business was being carried on as on a weekday. The fortifications—futile against the German onrush in the early days of the war—were interesting, and the boulevards appeared particularly beautiful on the bank of the Canal du Nord, where the boats are towed by the owners themselves. On the way to Ostend we stayed several hours at Mouseron, where there are many signs of the German occupation. At the former place we saw the *Vindictive*, which was so successfully sunk across the harbour mouth; near by is a German ridout [?—Ed.] with branches extending, so we were told, for miles in all directions. Our next destination was Zeebrugge, where we stayed long enough to realise the profiteering tendencies of the people.

We embarked on the *Pieter Connick*, and after a pleasant crossing landed at Dover. R.W. (V.A.).

Cotton.

COTTON is obtained from the cotton-plant which grows in a number of countries, the chief of which are Egypt and the Southern United States of America. The cotton-plant has to be carefully tended during its growth, since it does not grow to advantage when it is left alone. To deal with the cotton-plant first.

The first of these species is the *Gossypium herbaceum*, which grows from four to six feet high, bearing a yellow flower. The seeds are covered with short, grey down, whilst the fibre it bears is also short. This plant is found chiefly in Egypt, Asia Minor, Arabia, India, and China.

The cotton chiefly cultivated in the Southern States of America is the *Gossypium hirsutum*, which is a shrubby plant having a maximum height of about six feet. The young pods are hairy, the seeds numerous, full, and covered with firmly adhering green-down under the long white wool.

The soil is prepared for the reception of seed by ploughing during the winter months; sowing takes place in March, April and May. Five or six seeds are planted together, and are afterwards thinned out as necessary. Space enough is left between the furrows to allow the labourers to pass between during the picking season. After sowing is finished, the planter has to keep down the weeds, which impoverish the soil.

The picking season is a busy time on a cotton plantation. All hands are requisitioned, as the quality and cleanliness of the crop depends upon its being quickly gathered after the bolls have opened. Should it be left too long, the sun will dry it, the rain stain it, or winds will fill it with dirt of all kinds.

The picker goes between the rows and, with a basket tied round his body, he plucks off the cotton, taking care not to pull off the petals with it. When he comes to the end of the row he empties the cotton on a sheet, or into a large basket, which each picker leaves at the end of his section. The average amount picked is a hundred pounds a day. The picked cotton is carried to the storehouse, where it is kept until it can be ginned: that is, the seed separated from the fibre. The rapid extension of cotton cultivation in America has led to many machines being made to pick the cotton. But these proved to have so many defects that it was impossible to put them to any use.

After the cotton has been picked it has to be prepared for the mills. The first process is the Ginning process, which has been mentioned above. Then the lint is in a loose state, and unfit for convenient transport to distant markets; so it is necessary to compress it in a smaller space, an operation which is performed by the hydraulic press, leaving the cotton in the form of a bale, in which state it passes through the market to the hands of the spinners. The other processes are known as Mixing, Willowing, Opening, Scutching, Carding, Combing, Drawing, Slubbing, Intermediate or Second Slubbing, Roving, and Spinning.

Mixing is the blending of different varieties of raw cotton, in order to secure economical production along with uniform quality and colour. Even when using only

one class or variety of cotton mixing is imperatively necessary in order to neutralise the irregularities of growth and imperfect classification found in practically all grades of cotton. This is the first operation in a cotton mill.

Willowing is a method of opening and cleaning cotton, which is used chiefly in the Oldham district, and is retained chiefly for opening and cleansing low cottons and waste. In consequence of the heavy pressure to which cotton is subjected in packing, the fibres become strongly matted together; this opening process is to loosen them, and to remove the heavier portion of the foreign substances that may be intermixed.

Scutching takes out more impurities and forms a "lap," or a sheet of cotton, which is wound on a small roller.

In Carding, the material is treated in its individual fibres, which are taken from the lap, further cleansed, and laid in a position approximately parallel to each other, forming a thin film, which is afterwards condensed into a sliver—a round, soft, and untwisted strand of cotton. In this process all short, broken, and immature fibre is, as far as possible, removed.

Combing is only used for the production of fine yarns, or those of high quality. Its object is to obtain uniformity in the length of the fibres.

In the operation of Drawing, several slivers are combined and attenuated to the dimensions of the component parts. The object is to render the new sliver more uniform in thickness.

Slubbing is a process by which further combination of slivers is effected, and the objects of Drawing are more perfectly accomplished. It becomes necessary in this operation to twist it slightly to preserve its cohesion and rounded form.

Intermediate or Second Slubbing is merely a repetition of the above.

Roving: This is a continuation of the above, the object being to attenuate the sliver still further.

Spinning: The sliver is here attenuated to the required fineness, and is given the twist by which the thread is formed.

The yarn then passes on to the Loom, familiar to all Lancastrians. In this machine, a process known as Weaving weaves the fibres together and forms cloth.

H.S. (VI.B.).

Bootles, I, and the Rio Minho.

IT was towards the end of September, and the heavy rains of October were near. Already the afternoon showers were creeping back up the clock, and the downpour of late evening had become the deluge of mid-day. Within a few days we should have continuous rain, day and night, for a fortnight or more.

I was in the part of my district where a mass of the central range of the island formed a half-circle of crumpled folds, rising in the centre to over 2,000 feet. Down each fold ran a mountain stream, to pour its waters into the Rio Minho and the Thomas River, just north of my station. A heavy shower over some 200 miles of broken country would bring down to the rivers at its foot many tons of water, and in wet weather quickly swell them to the depth of many feet, more quickly so when, as now, frequent showers had soaked the summer-baked earth of the slopes.

There was only one day's travelling to be done when, perforce, I must turn to other work until the rains had passed, and this work lay in a spot two and a half hours' ride from the parish town. My horses had had much to do for some weeks and needed rest, and so the District Medical Officer lent me one of his ponies. Bootles was a fine up-standing beast of some fifteen hands, with three white stockings and a white blaze down his forehead, very quick under the saddle, but too heavy for all but the best of the mountain roads.

It was an early start that I made, under a dull, sullen sky. Jack, my fox terrier, raced ahead, disappearing now and again as he made his private excursions into the

surrounding bush. There was a certain wild ferret, plentiful hereabouts, in which he was always keenly interested.

From the main road below the township my way lay through a sugar estate until I came to where the high bank of the river had been cut through to give access to the ford. On the other side of the river, a hundred yards away, another cutting showed the road up to the mountains. On the right, twenty yards below the ford, a mass of rocks, tumbled together by past floods, broke the smooth flowing of the river. Just below this, the south entrance of the ford, the waters, checked by the dam of stones, had eaten out of the high bank a half-circle and swirled round, in a pool of some twenty feet in depth, under the dark shadow of the overhanging bamboos.

Once across the ford, where the water ran discoloured above the horse's knees, it took me some two hours to climb up to my destination. But not before the rain had begun to fall steadily and heavily. The clouds could no longer contain the excess of moisture. There was much work to be done, and it was not until late in the afternoon that I could have Bootles saddled and get away. It had rained incessantly, and it was growing rapidly dark as we got down the fifteen hundred feet of mountain to the river. I could see little of the country through the driving mist. And when finally I had got to the ford it was so dark I could barely see Jack for a moment as he halted at the water's edge and then disappeared in the gloom, whither I knew not. I reined in at the ford. The rush of water over the dam of rocks had swollen from the sharp note of morning to a dull roar, and, above this and the sharp "swish" of the driving rain against my face, I could hear the dull grinding of loose stones forced by the current over the river bed. I thought I knew how to guide Bootles accurately so as to strike the roadway on the other side, but there was the gloom, the uncertain foothold, the strength of the waters, the chance of floating logs or trees uprooted from the wet banks. On this side, there were only the huts of the negro peasants. On the other, dry clothes and a comfortable lodging. I put Bootles down the bank, and he was in for what I think must have been the most exciting experience of his life. The current was up to his girths, and the ford-way was now covered with round stones driven down by the river.

He slipped, stumbled, recovered, slipped and stumbled again, yet always recovering his uncertain footing until he brought me quite into mid-channel, where always the water is deepest. And then down we went, and from the heave of his body I knew Bootles swam until with a jerk he brought himself upon the rolling stones on the bottom of the further side, and so slipping and stumbling he made the cutting on the southern bank, in what manner I do not know, for what with the gloom and driving rain I could see not a yard beyond me. I believe Bootles was as proud of his work as I was grateful to him for it, for he took the bank as gamely as if he had just come from the stable in the morning. And when we had gone half a mile from the river I heard the scutter of paws in the muddy road, and here was Jack. He, too, had crossed, but with what chances and risks he never told.

And so back to dry clothes and nine hours' dreamless sleep.

C. M. M.



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REGINALD BARLOW,
9 Fern Street, Werneth, Oldham.

Old Boys' Notes.

THERE has been, during the transition period from military to civilian activities, an insistent demand for the re-formation of those Societies which bring together men either of similar aims or of similar memories. The Old Boys' Association was no exception, and its re-institution was talked over by Old Boys whenever chance brought two or three together.

The remnant of the old Committee available considered the position carefully, and decided to call together a general meeting of Old Boys to elect a Representative Council and to consider the most suitable methods of bringing the Association to the notice of all Old Boys.

After much difficulty the meeting was called, and proved a most successful one. The corner class room was well filled when Mr. PICKFORD took the chair, and the enthusiasm of the meeting never faltered until the business had been entirely settled and the Association re-launched with great éclat.

A new Council was elected, consisting of five members from each of three periods in the history of the School. It is hoped that by this arrangement everyone will be represented, from those Old Boys who are becoming men of weight both municipally and physically, with a nice taste in dinners, to those who are mastering the lighter arts with some difficulty but considerable pleasure.

The Committee, which undertook the task of pleasing all the diverse sections of the Association, having been duly elected, the meeting went on to consider the relative merits of dances, dinners and soirées. Of course the aldermanic members immediately thought of roast turkey washed down with draughts of the widow's vintage, whilst with almost greater rapidity the amatory section saw visions of discreetly shaded corners containing one arm chair and

With great skill the two Sections were drawn together and a compromise was made by arranging for a Soirée. What a success it was is told elsewhere by another hand; it remains only for me to say that it brought in nearly fifty recruits to the Association.

When the question of the Soirée had been settled, the meeting went on to consider what support it might best give to the Building Fund. It was decided to leave to the newly appointed Council the selection of the Old Boys' Representatives on the Central Building Committee. The building scheme was discussed and approved by all, with but one criticism, namely: that the provision of a separate chemical laboratory for the Girls' School would remove for ever those charming exhibitions of femininity which have stirred two generations of adolescent youths to higher ideals and nobler aspirations.

The Old Boys present at the meeting offered subscriptions to the value of £465, and promised to assist in every way the efforts of the Appeal Committee.

Progress since the meeting has necessarily been slow, but it has been nevertheless quite marked, and it is hoped that in the course of a few weeks a circular will be sent out to all Old Boys giving details of the proposed activities of the Association. The Committee will be very greatly obliged if any Old Boy, who is suddenly conscious of a psychic disturbance, will take careful note of it and send the nascent idea on to the Secretary. Don't waste any really first-class ideas for the sake of a post card and a penny stamp, because like all true democracies the Association carries its brains in its tail; the Committee is not a scrap of good unless it has the whole-hearted co-operation of every individual member. The Committee has no desire to be either a cabal or a coterie, its whole object is to carry out the wishes of the majority, which it can only do when the majority takes the trouble to express itself.

There remains but one thing to say, and that concerns the invisible members of our Association, those who dwell only in the "inner eye." It was generally felt at the meeting that we wished to remind the boys of future generations that great men have sat at the very desks they occupy, have played on the same field they play on, and crammed the same old lessons they but conned to-day. It was therefore decided that, first of all, out of the funds raised by the Old Boys for the building a sum should be set aside to place a simple memorial to the glory of our dead, and if sufficient were raised to pay for a whole class room in the extension, then it be dedicated to the same dear memory.

Cambridge Letter.

Peterhouse.

Dear Sir,

A CAMBRIDGE letter ought not to be a swan-song; but some sort of lament must come from one whose terms have lessened into weeks, and are lessening into days; and for the Old Hulmeian colony up here threatened with, let us hope only a temporary, dissolution.

To the four Old Hulmeians—G. T. Lees, J. B. Stopford, J. E. Whitehead, and F. Whittaker—who have left us we wish good luck and prosperity. Of the remaining three, T. B. Cocker, having obtained an Eastern Cadetship, sails this summer to take up a judicial appointment. Of A. S. Parkes, we have heard rumours, nay, more than rumours, anent the University Lacrosse team.

Otherwise one enters on this May Term with very mixed feelings. There is the complacent satisfaction due to the Light Blue success in the Boat Race; there is the near prospect of a Tripos, and inevitably of work left undone, and the somewhat further anticipations of the joys of May-week. Cambridge is beginning to burst into its summer glory, which its undergraduates attempt to match by gaudy blazers on river, tennis court, or cricket ground. Everywhere one feels the tense atmosphere where all are very much in earnest over work and sport; where expenditure of time and energy is carefully calculated and appraised towards its desired end.

Soon lecture-room and playing-field will be empty till another year. When that comes there will, we fear, be no Old Hulmeians. That there is no place like Cambridge is the verdict of everyone who has been there. Let us hope that the sequence will not long be broken; and with best wishes for the School come to a close.

J. L. BRADBURY.

University of London,
King's College,
30 iv. 21.

To the Editor of the "Oldham Hulmeian."

Dear Sir,

AT your request I will make a wild endeavour to provide some amount of literature for the perusal of the cream of Oldham's youth by briefly chronicling various items of news connected in some way with the Old Hulmeian Society of this University.

This Society is still at the maximum strength attained last year, there having been neither departures nor arrivals. We are still—one. Naturally we have not yet in any degree scrapped, and we still unanimously support the same political ideals. (None of the members have as yet, by the way, a vote.) However, to questions of a more general nature.

When last we wrote, the hearts of the "First Years" were much disturbed and troubled within them by the presence of the cloud of Inter examinations. That cloud has now passed over, the "Inters" have split up into their various honours schools, but alas! they have only jumped out of the frying-pan into the fire, for (excuse, my dear sir, the excellent mixture of metaphors) in place of Inter cloud, there has now come the Sessionals cloud, and still further away on the horizon may be seen the Finals cloud. It is generally accepted, is it not, that the third time "does it," and many of us fear that the third cloud will "do" us, that we shall be deluged, carried away by its flood, and cast up in the casual ward of some work-house, provided, of course, that we are not "done" by the second cloud.

In spheres more cheerful the College is still in a good state of health. At the end of the Michaelmas Term, Commemoration Week was held. On the Monday festivities were opened by a Commemoration Oration from Mr. G. K. Chesterton. That gentleman laughed several times, and so shook the whole building that I am given to understand that many of the pillars in the Great Hall have since been found to have been seriously cracked on

that occasion, and the foundations are now pronounced totally unsafe. The rest of the week was spent in dining, dancing, supping, dramatic entertainments, &c. In order that the enjoyment might be complete, the powers that be, with characteristic forethought, managed to make Commemoration Week coincide with Examination Week, and would not, of course, on any consideration, detract from the students' pleasure by separating the events!

Let me tell you one piece of exciting news. The War Office has generously presented a G-U-N to King's (or rather, as the ticket attached thereto said, "to Ernest Barker, M.A., Principal of King's College," but it's rather too big for a study mantel-piece). Cans of paint and days of time have been expended on re-camouflaging it, so that it is now difficult to tell whether we have a gun or a plantation in the quad. The worst part about the wretched thing is that it is too big to be seized and run down the Strand during a rag, and in all sincerity, sir, I ask you, of what earthly good is a gun with which a neighbouring college cannot chase off, except by the aid of at least twenty traction engines?

On Shrove Tuesday a rag was developing, but as an august body known as the "Council of King's College" was about to sit under the chairmanship of a person by name Hambleton (I believe he's a Viscount or Esq. or something like that), the Principal promptly descended and carried off the ringleaders (no, I was not about to say "to be whacked") to a peace conference, while the strains of the "Death of Poor Cock Robin" floated up from the gentlemen assembled in the entrance hall.

I must not omit to mention that at the end of last term King's carried off the University Soccer Team in the final against Guys Hospital. The event was celebrated with due solemnity.

What's that you say, sir? Space? You want time to do Mr. Ridout's homework? Good gracious! What next? However, time you shall have, but how Hulme must have altered! I wish you joy in your task, and you may share my wishes and sympathy with all similarly engaged.

Yours, &c.,

S. E. BUCKLEY.

The University,
 Manchester,
 3/5/21.

Dear Sir,

IN pre-war days our representation down at Owens was rather meagre; if there were three down, the fact was the signal for rejoicing—but now that the tide has turned no apology need be made for intruding on the space of the usually well-filled Oldham Hulmeian. At present there are eighteen Old Boys upholding Oldham traditions amongst the undergraduates, not to speak of two of our more learned Old Boys who honour the University Staff by their presence. It is to be hoped that, if any of our people fall into their clutches, old memories will, if necessary, be a sufficient incentive to translate a possible III. into a II., whilst “ signing up ” at least should be facilitated.

With regard to our activities—it is quite a shock to find the varied courses which are being taken, from Arts (for politeness' sake placed first) to Science, with such variations as Economics, Music, Medicine, Dentistry, Engineering, Chemistry and Metallurgy.

We have recently said farewell to W. K. Slater and G. Ross. Slater has been of great assistance to everyone who has come up, and it is to be hoped that someone will ultimately remain down long enough to carry on the good work he initiated. Ross did good service in the Union, as Union Secretary, and left us to take up a scholastic appointment.

Our activities in sport are somewhat limited, though we must congratulate N. Taylor on having earned his colours for Hockey—he was one of the stalwarts of the team.

We regret that it is not possible to emulate our more élite (sic) brethren of Cambridge in running a Society, but our courses are so diverse and the opportunities for seeing one another so slight that until the University becomes totally residential we shall have to be content with the hope that in the fulness of time such an institution may become an accomplished fact.

S. R. Chaloner is to be congratulated on his successes in the Finals last year, also on his appointment as Lecturer.

F. Whitaker is also a Lecturer, but the rather material Science people see little of him.

Six of us are expecting to "be through" in July, and the majority are in that pleasant mental state of realising the smallness of their knowledge and the enormous amount of matter which might be known.

As for the rest, having safely got through the rough sea of Terminals, they are either in the maelstrom of working for various "Parts" or else hoping against hope that fine weather will make it possible to get some tennis or cricket.

With best wishes for the continued success of the School.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

A. M. CLEVERLEY.

The Editor of the Oldham Hulmeian.

