

THE OLDEN NULMEIAN



Fide sed
cui vide.

Credum
in Deo.

The Oldham Hulmeian.

Vol. IV. (New Series). MARCH, 1923.

No. 9.

OBITUARY.

It is with genuine regret that we have to record the death of J. WATSON (Form III.). Although he had been so short a time in the School, he made a most favourable impression on all who knew him, and was generally regarded as a boy of unusual promise.

The sincerest sympathy of the whole School is extended to the relatives in their sad bereavement.

SCHOOL NOTES.

Little out of the ordinary has happened since the last magazine was published.

L. R. Huxtable, Pembroke College, Cambridge, B.A. (Hons.) History; H. L. Green, Jesus College, Cambridge, B.A., Maths. (Wrangler); M. H. Elischer, Classical Scholar of Pembroke College, Cambridge, Teaching Diploma, Victoria University, Gilchrist Exhibitioner in Education, have joined the Staff, to all of whom we extend a hearty welcome.

We note with much pleasure the impending revival of the Old Boys' Dinner. The date will be seen on another page.

C. N. Underwood was awarded the British Cotton Industrial Research Association's Scholarship, and is now in residence at Peterhouse College, Cambridge.

J. M. Turner is at Guys Hospital.

C. Noel Walton has obtained his A.R.M.C.M., and has been appointed Teacher of the Theory of Music to the Oldham Education Committee, and Teacher of Pianoforte at the Hyde School of Music.

THE LIBRARY.

Owing to some remarkable circumstance the Library has been carried on as it should be; previously, owing to the calls of the Dramatic Society, Orchestra and other such things, a lending-day was only held intermittently. However, having returned to something like normal conditions we should like to see more people making use of the privileges. Not a single person from the Middle School has borrowed a book! This state of things is lamentable, and we hope that junior borrowers will roll up on Fridays from 1-15 to 1-50 p.m.

Our thanks are due to the following for presentations of books to the Library:—C. Underwood, "The Newcomes"; M. Halliwell, "Q Boat Adventures", "Life on the Mississippi"; F. Morris, "Les Misérables"; Binns, "With Kitchener to Khartoum," "A Soldier's Experience"; J. H. Holt, "Republican Rome"; K. Williamson, "The Secret Service Boy." H.S.

DEBATING SOCIETY.

Having only held three meetings at the time of writing these notes we are unable to say much; but, if the attendances are anything to go by, we shall have a successful session. The junior members have been well in evidence and everything augurs well for the future.

REPORT OF MEETINGS.

10th November, 1922, the Opening Meeting was held on this date when Williamson, J. proposed that "Electricity is to be preferred to Steam as a means of Locomotion." He remarked on the saving in wages and coal, and said there was less risk of accident on an electric railway than on a steam locomotive.

Mr. Huxtable, in opposition, stated that in time of war electric railways could easily be put out of action.

After Lees, W. R. P. and Sutcliffe, H. had respectively seconded Williamson and Mr. Huxtable, the following members spoke: Duckworth, Lees, G.

The motion was carried by 26 votes to 14.

17th November, 1922. The motion before the House on this date was that "The Penalty of Thrift is that we pay more Taxes." Partington, in proposing the motion, mentioned that

there was some consolation in doing our "bit" for the State, and concluded by remarking that a better system of taxation might be adopted.

Kirkman, T., in opposition, mentioned that there were two forms of taxation, direct and indirect. He then went on to remark that thriftiness was practised and always would be.

Corser and Mr. Huxtable then seconded Partington and Kirkman, and on the vote being taken 14 voted for and 21 against the motion.

24th November, 1922. The motion before the House on this date, "The Power of the Press is Misused," was proposed by Joslin and opposed by Williamson, K. The proposer, in an amusing speech, pointed out the various reports current in a daily paper.

Williamson, K., in opposition, said that Newspapers raised the intellectual standard of the people. After Kershaw, J. and Garnett, J. H., had respectively seconded Joslin and Williamson K., the following members spoke: Sutcliffe, H., Ainley, Partington, Rodgers, Mr. Mayers. The "dear Chairman" was then addressed by Raeburn. On the vote being taken, 29 voted for the motion and two against.

H.S. A.D.A.

A VISIT TO HOLLINWOOD GAS WORKS.

On Wednesday, November 1st, most of the members of the Sixth Form, accompanied by Dr. and Mrs. Potter and Mr. Mayers, very gladly accepted the kind offer of Mr. Wrigley, Manager of the above Gas Works, to inspect the various processes necessary for the manufacture of coal gas.

On arriving at the Gas Works we divided into two parties, and each person taking a handful of cotton waste, one party proceeded to the Carburetted Water Gas Plant. Here our guide explained to us the process, how first the steam passes up a tower of white-hot coke, then through a second tower of red-hot coke, in which it is mixed with oil vapour, and finally up a third tower, where the oil vapour is thoroughly fixed with the other mixture. The coke in the last tower is at a slightly higher temperature than that in the previous one. The gas issuing from the first tower is impregnated with the oil vapour to increase the illuminating power of the gas. This gas, known as carburetted water gas, passes through a water valve and thence to the gasometers, to be mixed with the coal gas from the other processes.

From here we passed on to the Laboratory in which the different properties of the gas were tested, namely, composition, calorific value, &c., each of these being carefully explained and any questions answered.

The Coal before being put into the retorts is first passed through two revolving cog-wheels, whereby it is broken up into small pieces, and then taken by means of a continuous belt with fixed buckets to the required place. In the case of the horizontal retorts it is emptied into a movable machine which automatically fills them. These retorts are long sloping brick-lined iron tubes which are encased in a furnace. In them the coal is roasted, and the vapours pass off into mains which lead to the purifiers.

The "Scrubbers" were next visited, these being tall upright towers containing broken brick, over which cold water trickles, and through which the gases from the retorts first pass. Here they are freed, to a large extent, from ammonia, other soluble gases and tar. The gases before passing through the scrubbers are cooled from the temperature of the retorts to about 140 deg. centigrade so that the best results are obtained. Adjoining these was the Power House which was inspected before proceeding further. In this building there are two engines, only one of which is working, producing a vacuum measured in tenths, which draws the gases through the mains, and later forces them into the gasometers. These engines are run alternately so that one can be repaired or cleaned if necessary without causing any stoppage. There are also in this room several pressure gauges, each connected with a self-registering apparatus, so that the watchman on duty can see at a glance if anything is wrong.

The Tar, which leaves the retorts as a vapour, condenses in the mains and runs into a large underground tank, where it is kept until required. The gas issuing from the scrubbers is almost entirely free from tar, since the latter does not appreciably vapourize at that temperature. As the gas still contains some impurities, namely, hydrogen sulphide and carbon disulphide, it is now passed through purifiers containing ferric oxide. This substance removes all traces of the above impurities, and, as no traces are allowed to remain in the gas, the people in charge must be quite sure that there are none of them unabsorbed. Four purifiers are used, and on the gas being tested after passing through the second only minute traces could be found, and none whatsoever after passing through the third.

The Gasometers now received our attention. There are, in the larger ones, three concentric sections, the inner one of which is filled first. The gas is forced through about 18 inches of water before entering so that it is at a small pressure inside them. Before leaving the works to be consumed the gas first passes through large meters, which work on exactly the same principle as the smaller ones fixed in houses, the only difference being that they register larger volumes.

Owing to the varying amount of gas burnt at different times throughout the day, some kind of regulation of the pressure supplied is necessary. A very convenient means of regulating this pressure is found in a form of conical-shaped valve, in which the cone is pushed further out by the addition of weights, the weight in some cases being water, to each of these supply regulators is connected a self-registering apparatus which shows the pressure at which the gas is being supplied to the town. Such valves are necessary to prevent too great a pressure being supplied, and so minimising accidents due to this cause.

The Vertical Retorts are, as their name implies, long upright iron cylinders lined with fire-brick. The coal, broken into small pieces, is dropped in from the top by means of hoppers. It is then roasted at a temperature well above 1,000 deg. centigrade, and the smoke and vapours drawn through wide mains and then purified. The residual coke from these retorts is poked out from the bottom, where it drops on to a travelling belt, which takes it to an elevator and thence to the coke dump. The retorts are charged with coal every two hours, this being a sufficient time for all the gaseous products to have been driven off. Part of the coke from the retorts is transferred to the carburetted water gas plant, where it is used up; this use being one of the chief factors for cheapening the whole process of gas manufacture.

This being the last place of interest in the works themselves, we now called at the Office where there were two pieces of apparatus for finding the calorific value of the gas; these estimations being much more accurate than that mentioned before. Having now visited all the departments we all returned home, everyone having spent a most enjoyable and instructive afternoon. A.D.A.

EXAMINATIONS.

FROM AN EDUCATIONAL CORRESPONDENT IN MARS.

It has been decided that the next School Examination shall include a Paper in general knowledge, which shall be set by the members of the staff jointly, masters being encouraged to set questions that will demonstrate the close inter-relation of subjects. It is hoped that by this method boys will realize that knowledge is not divided into water-tight compartments, but forms an organic whole in which no single item is wholly without bearing on the synthesised scheme of accumulated wisdom that is our intellectual heritage.

Appended below is a series of such questions which will, perhaps, illustrate the truth of the foregoing paragraph.

1. Draw a plan of an Anglo-Saxon village showing clearly—
 - (a) The gerundive.
 - (b) The density of coal gas.

N.B.—Logarithms must not be used.
2. How would you prepare Cæsar Bisulphide ?
3. Make a sentence containing the horizontal bar in the accusative case.
4. What experiments would you perform to establish the calorific value of "On the hands down."
5. Conjugate the future, perfect, indicative, passive, of the parallel bars in double time.
6. Who first formulated the following principles ?
 - (a) A high resistance wire should only be used in the ablative case.
 - (b) The atomic weight of a first conjugation verb varies inversely as the square of its past participle.
7. What experiments are used to ascertain the specific heat of orgetorix ?
8. Discuss the relation of Avogadros' hypothesis to the declension of coniferous trees.
9. What, precisely, is the difference between the mass of ora maritima and its weight ? Illustrate by means of a diagram.
10. Draw a map of the vegetation of Timbuctoo showing—
 - (a) The square root.
 - (b) The genealogical tree of the Hanoverians.
11. What is the effect of Boyle's Law on the temperature of the ablative absolute !

12. Imagine you are a Roman living in the early 5th Century, and write an account of the industrial possibilities of Peru.
13. How would you discover the specific gravity of Maria Theresa.
14. How does dichlorethyl metabisulphide affect the relations between Henry VIII. and the Church? Give reasons for your answer.
15. What are—(a) an atom, (b) a gerund? Explain how it is that all atoms are gerunds, but all gerunds are not atoms.
16. A man in Greenwich is engaged in writing the preterite of avoir.
What time would it be in Zanzibar?
Wellington's French Accidence may be consulted, but Pythagoras' theorem is to be ignored.
17. Decline "sulphuretted hydrogen" (with thanks, Ed.).

IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Around the position marked by longitude 65 W. and latitude 18 N. a map will show a few of a cluster of islands,—some rising boldly to peaks, some mere rocky islets to which Columbus, having in mind the 1,000 virgins celebrated in Spanish religious tradition, gave the name of the Virgin Islands. Indeed many of the islands still bear the names the Spaniards bestowed on them. Till recently, the three western and most important islands were Danish, and to one of these with its beautiful land-locked harbour and picturesque town rising on the foot-hills of the central mountain I used to go by steamer, and thence by the Revenue Cutter to Road Town, Tortola, the seat of government for the Eastern or British Virgin Islands.

Once, however, there was yellow fever in the islands South, and quarantine at St. Thomas, so I chartered a sloop and set sail from Antiqua, in the Leeward Islands, for Anquilla some sixty miles east of St. Kitts, there to spend a week and then proceed to Tortola. The wind freshened after nightfall and by morning it was blowing a gale, before which we ran under the merest rag of a jib and a reefed-down mainsail. I lived that day on biscuits and tinned fish, and there was a case of soda-water for thirst, for no fire could be lighted. I was confined to a cabin that reeked with bilge water and other indescribable odours. Then from Anquilla, after a stay of a week, with a good following

wind, we made the Virgin Islands after a night's run, and as my captain had never been to Road Town I had to do the piloting. True, I brought up in a bad anchorage, but that was soon put to rights.

My work in the main island did not need more than a week or two, and then I had the Government Cutter for a week's cruise among the outlying islands. They build good boats in these islands, fast and seaworthy. The "Lady Constance" was of their best and, being the yacht of the Commissioner, she was roomy and well-found with a smart captain and a good crew of three men and a boy.

Outside the almost land-locked harbour of Road Town we are in Drake's Channel—remember, each island in the group has some story or tradition of Spaniard, buccaneer or pirate, or English or Dutch seaman—and from the low deck of the sloop the islets that lie to the South seem to be one unbroken line of land and we to be in a great sea lake, to the left of which is the high land of Tortoia, and to the East the high peak of Virgin Gorda for which we are bound. Then as we beat up the channel there appears South of Gorda, and a mile from the shore, a mass of granite blocks, tumbled as if they had been let fall through the fingers of some monstrous being, and this the natives know as the Fallen Jerusalem. The Southern end of Gorda presents the same appearance, and here one goes by boat from the anchorage near the village. The scene is quite unique, for here are huge blocks of granite, some a hundred feet long by thirty wide, piled at every angle, and through this accident one has the most beautiful natural bath imaginable. For two great blocks have tumbled together on the shore, sloping as the roof of a house, and at one end the sea comes gently sweeping in over the soft, rippled sand floor in waves that are now white, now green, from the dim reflections of the roof. It was in the open sea outside that I saw a fish-eagle drop a hundred feet into the water and rise heavily with a great red snapper in its talons.

North of the peak lies Gorda Sound in which, in the past, the British North-American Fleet would anchor on its cruises South. A fine harbour with bold water right up to the cliffs. North-east lies Aneqada,—in English, the "Drowned Island,"—grave of many a fine ship before the lighthouse on Sombrero, still more in the North-east, was built. "Drowned," indeed, for none of the surface rises more than two feet above the sea. The approach is exciting for there are about two miles of broken reef in detached masses of jagged coral to sail through, and we

went in with a man at the mast-head, the captian at the bows, and a steady fellow at the helm, then, at a mile from shore, the water shoals and we take the cutter's dinghy to within a hundred yards of the shore, and then proceed either on the back of a sturdy black, or wade. There is a story of a Bishop who, thus going ashore, made a joke that the black man so enjoyed that the result was disastrous, to the episcopal garments and temper.

The village on this coral strip is curious, for we find it built of good wood with iron roofs, well-painted in green and red, the reason being a steamer came ashore and provided the islanders with what they could never buy. The cattle here are no bigger than donkeys, for there is little pasture, and their drink is the brackish water obtained by breaking a hole through the upper crust of the coral surface. Curious, too, is the fact that on the Southern end of the island one finds shrubs peculiar to South America, the seeds of which have been borne hundreds of miles by the current that flows north from the Continent. On the North end flamingoes are to be found, so I made one attempt to see them. The Rector of Tortola and I set out one late afternoon to walk to the point, and sent a boat along the shore to bring us back. As the path was intersected with frequent pools of water, it was necessary to remove certain clothing. The Rector disrobed entirely. Soon the night drew on and the mosquitoes came out in their thousands, nay, millions. It was a very sore and discouraged Rector who finally clothed his clerical person and took refuge in the boat that had followed us along the shore, out of range of the mosquitoes.

In the evening, anchored in some cove, quiet save for the plunge of a fish in the calm water, or by the harsh croak of a night heron, flying across from shore to shore, one would dive, listen to the captain's yarns, and then the awning spread, have one's bedding up and sleep in the pure, cool air. Then in the morning, if the waters were safe as regards sharks or barracouta, the plunge overboard and the swim, followed by the early coffee.

If there were space, I should like to tell of the manatee or sea-cow that used to live in Road Town Harbour, of dead man's chest, the islet of the buccaneer treasure, the copper mine of Gorda, the wrecks of the old ages, of a glorious morning when we caught king-fish, of some good shooting; but, there is none.

C.M.M.

BOOK BORROWERS.

We all know the man who asks you for a match, lights his pipe and puts your box of matches in his pocket. We have often wondered where he finds room for storage, when at last his bulging pockets compel him to empty them. We have all watched the man who, with punctilious care, chooses the best umbrella before leaving his club. But of all the species, they who flourish most like unto the green bay tree, they whose conception of morality is the most puny, are the book borrowers. The broken sets they cause give them no twinge of remorse; the gaps they have occasioned on another's shelves disturb not their sleep at night, though their own shelves, tables and desks groan beneath a load of volumes, filled with anyone's name but their own. A true but distressing picture, nor is it confined to this age alone; our ancestors have suffered from this destructive pest, as the title pages and book-plates of their volumes show. For instance, "The ungodly borroweth and payeth not again, 1756." But in dire threats and awful curses on the appropriator the modern Schoolboy is little, if any, inferior to his forefathers.

To cull a few selections from this field of literature, we will begin with the time honoured—

"Black is the raven ! Blacker the rook !!
But blackest the boy who steals this book !!! "

To have the desired effect, this should be accompanied by a sketch of the appropriator expiating his crime on the gallows.

Again, if the owner be a Classic—

"Hic liber est meus,
et testis est deus ;
Si is tolleretur,
fur collo pendetur."

Those who have escaped the refining influence of the Classics may inscribe—

"Steal not this book if you value your life,
For the owner carries a big jack-knife."

or

" This book is one thing,
My fist is another ;
If you touch this one thing,
You'll soon feel the other."

A less bloodthirsty note is sounded in—

“If this book should chance to roam,
Smack its head and send it home.”

or in

“Steal not this book for fear of shame,
For in it stands its owner’s name ;
If that name you wish to see,
Look at page one hundred and three.”

Lastly, there is the boy who has no poetry in his soul—the Geddes perhaps of the future—terse and to the point—

Stolen from —————

And yet books disappear.

ATHLETIC SPORTS.

The Athletic Sports were held this year during the last week of July. Owing to the vagaries of the English Summer the events had been postponed two or three times. Although few visitors were present, a large number of boys crowded round the ropes when a start was made.

Williamson, J. won the 100 yards Scratch Race, with Campbell and Greenwood, M. second and third respectively. The time, as declared by the unofficial timekeeper, was 11 seconds, and I understand that Williamson ran one of his heats in a fraction under 11 seconds. Williamson, J. also dead-headed in the $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, won the High Jump and Long Jump, and was second in throwing the Cricket Ball ; thus, he won the Championship Cup with 37 points out of a possible 48. Mention must be made of Halliwell’s throw with the Cricket Ball. He threw it 87 yards and some odd inches. If this is not a School Record it is very near one.

The Senior Relay Race was won by “Assheton,” with “Platt” running second and “Lees” third. In the Tug of War, “Lees” beat “Platt” after the latter had beaten “Assheton.” “Assheton” won the Senior Championship quite easily, having almost twice as many points at the close as “Lees,” who were second. In the Middle School “Booth” won the Relay Race, and “Emmott” the Tug of War.

Cheetham, in the Middle School, achieved creditable performances in winning the Long Jump and High Jump with jumps of 14 feet 8 inches and 4 feet 2 inches respectively.

OTHER RESULTS.

SENIOR SCHOOL—

100 yards Handicap (over 15)—	Dale, 1; Campbell, 2; Royle, G., 3.
220	Dale, 1; Royle, G., 2; Campbell, 3.
440	Royle, G., 1; Campbell, 2; Partington, 3.
100 yards Handicap (under 15)—	Wilson, 1; Brankin, 2; Kirkman, F., 3.
220	Wilson, 1; Kirkman, F., 2; Brankin, 3.
440	Kirkman, F., 1; Spencer, H., 2; Wilson, 3.

MIDDLE SCHOOL—

100 yards—	Hartley, H. K., 1; Cheetham, 2; Aspinall, 3.
220 ..	Cheetham, 1; Aspinall, 2; Hetherington, 3.
440 ..	Aspinall, 1; Hall, 2; Hetherington, 3.

JUNIOR SCHOOL—

80 yards (under 10)—	Andrews, 1; Spencer, 2; Cheetham, 3.
120 yards (over 10)—	Stott, 1; Herbert, 2; Grey, 3.
100 yards (open)—	Grey, 1; Stott, 2; Herbert, 3.
Egg and Spoon Race—	Smethurst, 1; Fidler, 2; Stott, 3.
Three-Legged Race—	Andrews and Wright, 1; Spencer and Stott, 2; Butler and Davies, 3.
Wheelbarrow Race—	Holden and Cornell, 1; Thomas and —— 2; Herbert and Spencer, 3.
Long Jump—	Stott, 1; Herbert, 2; Earnshaw, 3.

H.S.

SWIMMING.

FROM OLDHAM CHRONICLE, 17/10/22.

The Oldham Grammar School Swimming Sports were held at the Central Baths on Monday. Some very interesting races were seen. The high level of efficiency shown by the boys reflects great credit on their Instructor, Mr. Schofield.

The most noteworthy performances of the afternoon were Abbott's long dive (a School Record) and the consistent form of Partington, who won the Balloon Race and the Four Lengths' Breast Stroke, as well as helping his House to win the Relay Race.

The Results were—

Senior Handicap (3 Lengths)—1, Ramsden ; 2, Stansfield ;
3, Chapman ; 75 seconds.

Middle Handicap (2 Lengths)—1, Ebdon ; 2, Palmer ; 3,
Hargreaves ; 42 seconds.

Junior Handicap (1 Length)—1, Appleyard ; 2, Bowers ;
3, Grey.

Breast Stroke (4 Lengths)—1, Partington ; 2, Ramsden ;
and Chapman dead heat.

Neat Dive—1, Abbott ; 2, Sutcliffe.

Long Dive—1, Abbott (36 feet, School Record) ; 2, Partington.

Squadron Race—1, Hulme House ; 2, Lees House.

Balloon Race—1, Partington ; 2, Stansfield ; 3, Chapman.

Candle Race—1, Chapman ; 2, Palmer.

The Championship List reads as follows :—1, Partington, 16 ;
2, Chapman, 14 ; 3, Abbott, 12. E.P.

CRICKET.

O. H. G. S. v. STAND G. S. at Oldham, May 10th.

School won by 136 Runs.

	STAND.	RUNS.
Wise, c. Greenwood, b. Williamson, J.....		0
Garstang, lbw., b. Halliwell		0
Crompton, run out		3
Walkden, b. Williamson		12
Scholes, c. & b. „		5
Hulton, b. „		1
Baguley, c. & b. Halliwell		4
Wardle, b. „		0
Whiteley, b. „		0
Smith, b. „		0
Knowles, not out		0
Extras		4
		—
Total		29
		—

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Halliwell.....	6.4	1	16	5
Williamson.....	6	1	9	4

O. H. G. S. v. STAND.

O. H. G. S.

	RUNS.
Underwood, b. Smith.....	6
Halliwell, not out	107
Williamson, J., c. Whiteley, b. Scholes.....	26
Kirkman, T., b. Walkden	0
Letham, b.	12
Briggs, b.	4
Tither, b.	0
Campbell, b. Crompton	6
Greenwood	} Did not bat
Hardman, F.	
Dale	
Extras	4
Total for 7 wickets ...	165

O. H. G. S. v. STOCKPORT G. S., at Stockport, May 13th.

O. H. G. S.

	RUNS.
Underwood, b. Rigg	0
Halliwell, c. Martyn, b. Rigg	23
Greenwood, b. Rigg	0
Williamson, b. ..	7
Kirkman, b.	3
Letham, st. Adshcad, b. Carline	1
Briggs, b. Rigg	14
Tither, b. Stanton.....	6
Campbell, b. ..	0
Hardman, F., b. Rigg	0
Dale, not out	3
Extras	7
Total	64

Rigg took 7 wickets for 18 runs.

STOCKPORT.

	RUNS.
Martyn, c. Williamson, J., b. Halliwell.....	9
Bamber, b. Halliwell	0
Hoe, run out	1
Stanton, c. Letham, b. Williamson	3
Adshead, b. Williamson.....	2
Cutler, b. Halliwell	3
Carline, b. „	0
Davie, b. Williamson	0
Imrie, b. Halliwell	0
Astington, st. Greenwood, b. Williamson	0
Rigg, not out	0
Extras	6
Total	24

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Halliwell.....	9	4	11	5
Williamson.....	8.4	4	7	4

O. H. G. S. 1st XI. v. MANCHESTER G.S., at Oldham, May 17th.

O. H. G. S.

	RUNS.
Halliwell, c. Williams, b. Bell.....	2
Briggs, b. Bell	1
Underwood, b. Coop	0
Kirkman, run out	12
Letham, b. Hyman	13
Greenwood, b. Coop	7
Dale, b. Bell	4
Tither, lbw., b. Coop	0
Campbell, b. Bell	0
Hardman, F., b. Bell	4
Morris, not out	0
Extras	0
Total	43

MANCHESTER.		RUNS
Nesfield, not out		26
Cooke, b. Kirkman		5
Hymen, not out		11
Coop, c. & b. Hardman, F.		0
Extras		5
Total for 2 wickets ...		47

O. H. G. S. v. STOCKPORT, at Oldham, July 1st.

STOCKPORT.		RUNS.
Martyn, run out		0
Miller, b. Longbottom		12
Taylor, st. Greenwood, b. Kirkman		1
Adshead, c. Letham, b. Halliwell		3
Cutler, b. Longbottom		20
Stanton, st. Greenwood, b. Halliwell		4
Bamber, run out		1
Hoe, b. Halliwell		1
Rigg, run out		2
Carlisle, not out.....		4
Malbon, b. Halliwell.....		0
Extras		2
		50

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Halliwell.....	11.2	2	19	4
Longbottom	5	-	13	2

O. H. G. S.		RUNS.
Halliwell, M., run out		43
Briggs, lbw., b. Rigg		4
Longbottom, lbw., b. Malbon		2
Letham, run out		11
Kirkman, T., c. & b. Rigg		9
Underwood, run out.....		1
Greenwood, lbw., b. Rigg		0
Tither, b. Stanton		2
Campbell, not out.....		2
Hardman, A., b. Stanton		0
Partington, c. Rigg, b. Taylor		0
Extras		5
		79

O. H. G. S. v. WARRINGTON, at Warrington, July 5th.

O. H. G. S.

	RUNS.
Halliwell, c. Tonge, b. Harding	21
Briggs, b. Parker	9
Williamson, J., c. Travis, b. Gibson	23
Longbottom, c. Price, b. Gibson	5
Letham, b. Gibson	22
Kirkman, b. Gibson	0
Underwood, b. „	0
Greenwood, b. Wood	5
Dale, not out	15
Campbell, c. & b. Wood	3
Hardman, A., not out	5
Extras.....	12
Total (for 9 wickets) ...	120

WARRINGTON.

	RUNS.
Harding, b. Halliwell	0
Higham, b. Williamson	0
Price, b. Halliwell.....	0
Parker, b. Williamson	0
Gibson, b. Halliwell	5
Smith, lbw., b. Halliwell	0
Milbourne, b. Halliwell	4
Singleton, b. Halliwell	0
Tonge, c. Longbottom, b. Williamson	4
Wood, not out	2
Travis, c. & b. Halliwell	0
Extras	3
Total	18

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Halliwell.....	7	3	6	7
Williamson.....	6	1	8	3

O. H. G. S. v. OLD BOYS, July 15th.

OLD BOYS.

	RUNS.
Barber, P. M., c. Kirkman, T., b. Williamson, J.....	6
Ashton, H., b. Kirkman, T.	27
Bunting, J. A., b. Halliwell	0
Taylor, N., c. Morris, F., b. Williamson, J.	3
Griffiths, D. E. G., c. Potter, W.B., b. Halliwell.....	3
Stott, J., c. Briggs, b. Kirkman, T.	9
Mills, J., b. Halliwell	0
Boardman, T., not out.....	0
Extras	6
Total	54

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Halliwell.....	9	4	16	3
Williamson.....	7	-	28	2
Kirkman	2.4	-	4	2

O. H. G. S.

	RUNS.
Halliwell, b. Stott.....	0
Williamson, J., c. Boardman, b. Stott	6
Briggs, c. Ashton, b. Barber	8
Longbottom, c. Barber, b. Boardman	9
Kirkman, T., b. Barber	4
Greenwood, not out	36
Potter, W. B., run out.....	8
Dale, b. Barber	2
Campbell, b. Ashton	26
Underwood, b. Ashton.....	6
Morris, lbw!, b. Ashton	0
Extras	10
Total	115

O. H. G. S. 2nd XI. v. STAND G. S., at Stand.

STAND.	RUNS.
J. C. Chapman, c. Howard, b. Hardman A.	23
Brierley, b. Longbottom	0
Hannaford, c. Holroyd, b. Longbottom ...	0
Lomax, c. Longbottom, b. Hardman, A. ...	6
Brooks, c. Lees, W. R. P., b. Hardman, A.	1
Taylor, b. Longbottom	12
Horton, b. ,,	1
Orrell, c. Howard, b. Hardman, A.	0
Grant, c. Holroyd, b. Longbottom	11
Johnson, c. Ramsden, b. Hardman, A.....	0
Sedden, not out	7
Extras	6
Total	67

O. H. G. S.

	RUNS.
Gartside, E., st. Grant, b. Lomax	6
Longbottom, b. Taylor	4
Ramsden, b. Taylor	8
Moore, b. Lomax	0
Holroyd, c. Brooks, b. Taylor	1
Graham, b. Taylor	3
Hardman, A., run out	5
Ainley, b. Brierley	4
Morris, c. Hannaford, b. Taylor	0
Howard, not out	0
Lees, W. R. P., b. Brierley	0
Extras	0
Total	31

FIRST ELEVEN, 1922.

BATTING AVERAGES :

	No. of Innings	Times Not Out	Highest Score	Total	Average
Halliwell.....	6	1	107	216	43.20
Williamson, J.	4	0	26	62	15.40
Letham.....	6	0	28	87	14.50
Greenwood, M.	5	1	36	48	12.00
Dale	5	2	15	24	8.00
Campbell	7	1	26	41	6.85
Briggs	7	0	14	40	5.71
Kirkman, T. .	7	0	12	40	5.71
Longbottom...	4	0	9	17	4.25
Underwood ...	5	0	6	13	2.60
Tither	5	0	6	8	1.60

BOWLING :

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Halliwell....	46.4	14	75	24	3.12
Williamson.	27.4	6	52	13	4.00
Kirkman, T.	10.4	1	37	4	9.25

Williamson, J., a good, steady bat. His best stroke is one past cover. Good medium paced bowler, and a safe catch in the field.

Greenwood, very disappointing as a batsman, but played very well against "Old Boys." Keeps wicket well, but should not appeal before the ball hits the wicket.

Kirkman, T., another disappointing batsman. A good medium paced left hand bowler with a natural leg break. Picks the ball up well in the field, but rather slow in getting to it.

Briggs, a steady bat, but should learn to stand more upright at the wicket. To crouch when batting cramps the style. Not over quick in the field.

Letham, a strong forcing batsman, especially on the leg side. A very fine slip fielder.

Longbottom, a batsman with a very good style. Should score plenty of runs next season with decent luck. A good medium paced bowler.

Underwood was looked upon as one of the best defensive players in the team, but his batting fell away considerably. Appeared impatient, and could not wait for the ball. Marked improvement in his fielding.

Campbell, a batsman with the luck against him this season. Has a good forward stroke. Not very safe in his fielding.

Dale, very stiff in his batting. Fair left hand bowler. Has a jerky action when delivering the ball and, as a result, is inclined to over exert or even wrench himself.

Tither, a very small player. Very good field and a safe slip. Rather disappointing in his batting this season, but should get plenty of runs when he grows stronger.

Halliwell, M., has been a very capable Captain. Is an exceedingly good bowler, who can bowl a good length and vary his pace. Ought to develop into a very good batsman. He is at present too impatient to score runs. Made an excellent century against Stand. A very safe fielder in most positions.

HOUSE MATCHES

LEES v. HULME.

Lees 82 for 4.	Hulme 34.
Halliwell, 30.	Letham, 18.
Spencer (not out), 28	
Campbell, 18.	Halliwell, 7 wickets for 11 runs.

PLATT v. ASSHETON.

Assheton, 107.	Platt, 69.
Tither, 20.	Greenwood, 22.
Williamson, J., 28.	Longbottom, 15.
	Dale, 15.

HULME v. PLATT.

Hulme, 54.	Platt, 98 for 6 wickets.
Underwood, 18:	Briggs, 17.
	Thewlis (not out), 42.

LEES v. ASSHETON.

Lees, 84.	Assheton, 85 for 5 wickets.
Earnshaw, 17.	Kirkman, T., 36.
	Williamson, J., 23.

LEES v. PLATT.

Lees, 44.	Platt, 56.
Campbell, 16.	Greenwood, 23 not out.

ASSHETON v. HULME.

Hulme, 16.	Assheton, 91 for 1.
	Williamson, J., 63 not out.
	Ramsden, 19 not out.

FOOTBALL.

1st XI. v. HULME G. S., Manchester, October 4th.

Played at Alexandra Park on October 4th, and resulted in a win for the home eleven by 3 goals to 0.

This was a most disappointing match to watch, as it is no exaggeration to say that our 1st XI. ought to have won if the inside forwards had taken even a few of their chances.

Dale played a splendid game at outside-left, and Williamson, J. and Gartside, E. were the pick of the defenders.

Ramsden kept goal very well, but ought to have saved the second goal.

O. H. G. S. v. MANCHESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL, October 7th.

This match was played on the School Grounds in weather more suitable for cricket than footer. Hardman, F. deputised for Williamson and won the toss. After 15 minutes Holroyd scored, but shortly afterwards Manchester equalised. We again scored, through Spencer who shot high into the net over the heads of a group of defenders.

In the second half we showed more enterprise, and one of the Manchester defenders, in attempting to clear, put through his own goal. Dale added a fourth goal by scoring from a penalty. Manchester were not to be denied, however, and scored with a fast ground shot which completely beat Ramsden. Result: Oldham 4, Manchester 2.

1st XI. v. WARRINGTON 1st XI., October 14th.

This match was played on the School Ground. The School side was strengthened by the return of Williamson, J. After about five minutes play Tither scored with a low ground shot. Shortly afterwards Warrington equalised with a fine shot.

The second half opened very tamely, the efforts of our forwards being feeble. The Warrington forwards and backs took advantage of this and Oldham were compelled to defend. A little later the Warrington outside-right scored with a high shot from a difficult angle, which gave Ramsden no chance. This proved to be the last goal of the match, Warrington maintaining the pressure to the end were unable to score again.

The Oldham defence was very sound and reliable. Result: Warrington 2, Oldham 1.

THE SCHOOL XI. v. MR. COCKELL'S XI., October 11th.

Mr. Cockell fielded a team partly composed of some of the old guard whose reappearances always excite interest, and partly of some fresh material obtained amongst the new members of the Staff. The latter were, for the first time, brought face to face with the undoubted physical vigour of certain members of the VI. and V. Forms. Mr. Cockell, as usual, was lucky in the spin of the coin, and set the School to face a strong sun. Almost immediately after the kick-off Spencer scored for the School, but just before half-time Mr. Cockell equalised. In the second half some of the old reliables began to show signs of wear, and Holroyd and Spencer (2) for the School, finding the defence at fault, scored goals in quick succession. Then the old guard rallied and scored per their Captain. Towards the end Mr. Taylor, with a good individual effort, beat the School keeper. In spite of all their opponents' efforts the School ran out winners of an interesting game by 4 goals to 3.

SCHOOL 1st XI. v. MR. EDWARD'S XI.

Played at Oldham, Saturday, November 11th. The School forwards gave an excellent display and netted five times, the scorers being Spencer (3), Tither and Holroyd. Halliwell, who appeared for Mr. Edward's team, proved very elusive and scored twice. Lecomber also turned out at centre-half played excellently. The game ended in a draw of five goals each. Mr. Taylor scoring the three other goals for the scratch team.

UNDER XV. v. CASTLETON, September 14th.

This match was played on the School ground. The defence was sound, and there was very little wild kicking. The combination of the forwards was excellent.

Tither, 3; Whitehead and Wilson 1 each, were the scorers. Result: School, 5; Castleton, 0.

SCHOOL 2nd XI. v. STAND 2nd XI.

Played at Oldham, Wednesday, November 8th. Corser won the toss and took advantage of a slight breeze. The only incident of note in the first half was Hadfield's goal, which he scored with a high, dropping shot. Barely had the second half commenced before the visitors were on level terms. In the last twenty minutes the visitors took the lead, which they maintained until the end. The game ended somewhat abruptly when our Captain burst the ball with a particularly hefty kick. Result: School, 1; Stand, 2.

2nd XI. v. MANCHESTER GRAMMAR, October 7th.

In the first half Manchester pressed consistently; their forwards appeared to have little difficulty in scoring frequently.

In the second half our team shewed a great improvement and pressed for the last fifteen minutes of the game. Townsley played a very good game at full-back. Lost, 1-8.

SCHOOL (under 15) v. WATERLOO H.S.C. (under 15).

This match was played on the Waterloo ground on Saturday, October 14th. Both teams played very good football, and an evenly contested game ended in a draw. Each side scored 3 goals. The School scorers being Kirkman, F., Chadderton and Townsley.

RUFUS.

LET Jacob's jest with "Ginger Dick,"
 And "Peter Russet" raise a smile:
 Those heroes of a humorist
 A weary hour may well beguile.
 But you, whose locks are flaming fire,
 And hence with the world's sneers contend,
 Raise but your russet halo higher
 And be not sad at heart, my friend.
 Long since, men lived in the land of Khem,
 Where age to age the great Nile links,
 Who raised the puzzling pyramids
 And carved the riddling face of Sphinx.
 'Tis thrice a thousand years since these
 Lived, loved and laboured in their day,
 Who yet by their strange arts contrived,
 Though dead, to vanquish death's decay
 Of these we yet may record trace—
 The men who first left books to read,
 And deathless is the Pharaoh's race
 In many a monument and screed.
 The world was young, when they to us
 Their dim mementos deigned to give;
 In tombs, and bricks, and papyrus—
 Yet, they were not the first to live!
 No! for we have one relic more,
 One balsamed corpse in Egypt found,
 Which lived some thousand years before
 The swart Egyptian tilled the ground.
 The first, the earliest specimen
 Of all mankind, alive or dead,
 A white-skinned man, and (oh! my friend,
 Take pride in this) his hair is red!

Take heart then, Rufus, when they rail,
 Their taunts are but a worthless sham,
 Nor shall their sullen sneers prevail
 To dull your igneous oriflamme.
 This from your breast shall grief remove
 What time a cruel comrade winks,
 By this same glitter shall you prove
 A lineage older than the Sphinx.

M. H. Elischer.

A VISIT TO HARROW-ON-THE-HILL.

On June 1st, through the courtesy of our Headmaster, I had the pleasure of visiting Harrow. The Union of Directors of Music in Secondary Schools held their Annual Conference there, and I had the privilege of seeing some of the work done during Term time.

We were welcomed by the Headmaster, the Rev. Ford, at luncheon, served in the School shop, and after adjourned to the Music School to hear an Address given by Dr. Percy Buck, Music Master, on "Psychology, and the Teaching of Music." An interesting discussion followed. It was a welcome change to go to the Playing Fields to watch a cricket match "School v. Town." The ground is of great extent, and the pavilion is one of the best.

At 8-30 p.m. the School singing of "Harrow Songs" in the Speech Room—a large building, amphitheatre in shape and would hold a thousand. The singing was accompanied by Dr. Buck on the organ, which is a magnificent instrument in the centre of the building, extending to each side. It has five manuals, and many wonderful effects were accomplished by Dr. Buck. The singing was excellent, all unison as the majority of the boys are past the treble stage. The songs were chiefly about Queen Elizabeth, John Lyon (the Founder) and Drake. The programme finished with the well-known "Forty Years On," which was written by a former music master, Dr. Farmer, whose portrait hangs in the Music School. All this singing was evidently the result of much work by Dr. Buck and his assistants.

Friday, June 2nd, at 8-15 a.m., Chapel Service for fifteen minutes, consisted of Prayers, Psalm, Lesson, and Hymn "Fight the Good Fight" to a tune I had not heard before. The Choir was large and all the boys sang heartily, clearness of words being especially noticeable. Later, there was a Conference in the Music School. A paper was read by Archer Vassall, Esq., Senior Science Master at Harrow School, on the "Art in Reflection to Everyday Life, and the Art at School," followed by a discussion which was most interesting

Next there was a visit to "Ducker," the School Bathing Pond, fed by the river Colne, about 120 yards long, 40 feet wide, and of various depths to suit the different stages. Luncheon in the School shop ended the Conference.

A few remarks about the buildings and boys. The School was founded by John Lyon in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The buildings are very scattered, additions having been made at various periods. They are now busy with a War Memorial, presented by the Old Boys. What it was to be was quite a mystery, no one knew except the Old Boys themselves.

The boys board at Houses, under the supervision of a House-master, about eighty in each. There are a few boys of different nationalities from our own. All wear straw hats with small crowns and large brims, which are kept in position by an elastic band. They are worn at the back of the head and give a somewhat curious appearance to the wearer. A powerful bell marks the time of day.

Among other bequests the founder left thirty acres of land at Paddington for the upkeep of the road from London as most highroads then were in very bad conditions. The land was of little value then, but is now worth half-a-million sterling. Unfortunately this is of no pecuniary value to the School. C.W.

CAMBRIDGE LETTER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE OLDHAM HULMEIAN.

Dear Sir,

To one who has not been in Cambridge more than six weeks, the task of contributing a "Cambridge Letter" appears rather formidable. Your readers must, therefore, excuse this necessarily small and paltry attempt.

Well, fortune has managed to instal another old Hulmeian at Cambridge after a lapse of one year; but one representative is not sufficient and we are hoping for reinforcements next year. Any eulogising about this much-talked-of University would be superfluous and wearisome, but it may be added that the new phase of existence into which one enters up here is absolutely unique, and is an experience by which anyone ought to benefit immensely. But enough of this moralising—School magazines are not made of that stuff!

As regards the general state of affairs here, one may say that Cambridge is gradually subsiding into a condition at least com-

parable with that of pre-war days, although, the Colleges have not yet reduced their numbers to those existing before the war; for example, in Peterhouse there were about eighty before the war I believe, whilst now we have twice that number, which is at the same time considerably less than during the war. It is interesting to note that at one time, according to the College History, there were seventeen students in Peterhouse. During the Races, sixteen of these occupied the two College Boats, while the remaining one was accustomed to run along the river bank waving the College colours and cheering at the top of his voice. We also note that one year, although we only housed thirty-nine students, in spite of this we were head of the river. You may probably deduce from this (and correctly too) that "Pothouse" is one of the smallest Colleges. There is an advantage in this inasmuch as there is more opportunity of "getting to know everybody" than in the larger Colleges.

As might be expected, undergraduate life is not a state of passive existence; on the contrary, it is a condition productive, in general, of a most marvellous ingenuity, often actively employed to the most trivial ends. This has been particularly manifest during the last few weeks, owing to the close succession of three events of vital importance, namely, November the Fifth, Armistice Day, and the "General Election." It is the custom in Cambridge among undergraduates, as most of your readers are probably aware, to celebrate any such event by providing an outlet to their patriotic (and other) emotions in a display of what is commonly called "ragging"; this term has, therefore, provided a super-abundant supply of excitement in the way of "rags," in which, however, the writer of this letter, being a "Natural Science" person and, as a consequence, leading a very laborious life of study, has not been able to indulge himself to the same extent as the more frivolous "Medicals," "Classicals," and "Historicals," &c., whose lectures do not happen to coincide so inopportunately with the time fixed for these celebrations.

Well, of such topics one could write for hours, but as it is not my business either on the one hand to occupy your valuable space with trivial anecdotes, or on the other, to provide for the hard-working (?) students of the O.H.G.S. an abridged edition of the "Visitors' Guide Book to Cambridge," I will conclude with a repeated hope of an early resuscitation of the Oldham Hulmeian Society at Cambridge "in the plural number," and with very best wishes for the future success of the School.

Peterhouse,

Yours, &c.,

Cambridge, 23/xi/22.

CYRIL UNDERWOOD.

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION.

The Old Boys' Association has made no progress since the last notes were written. It is regrettable, but nevertheless true.

It would not be difficult to point out the dominant symptoms of the disease, which is sapping the energy of the organisation, but to suggest a cure is a far heavier task.

The Association must have enthusiastic and energetic officials, who have few other calls upon their time, and a Council which is prepared to shoulder its share of the responsibility. To obtain this ideal the members, as a whole, must take an interest in the Association. It is not enough that they support its social functions, read the magazine, and send in their subscriptions, they must support the organisation that manages the affairs of the body politic.

It is but a poor ambition for such an Association as ours, that its highest aims be the organisation of a dance, a dinner or a cricket match. What meaning have these events unless we appreciate the opportunities they offer for the renewal of the most perfect friendships of life: the glorious chance presented of slipping back again to the days when self-interest did not weigh so heavily in the scale; the reunion of a brotherhood.

There can be no stronger bond than that we have youthful memories in common, that we sat at the same desk, played on the same field, and obeyed the same traditions, sat in the same hall at prayers, bowled at the same nets on hot summer days, carried the same colours to victory on muddy winter fields: is it not reasonable that we face the world together?

Many Old Boys are rising rapidly in the professions and in business, *is not* the ideal for which we must aim one of mutual help and comradeship; the older and more experienced giving help and advice, the younger paying the debt as they in their turn find the opportunity? To this end we gathered together on occasion to dine or to dance, but it should never happen that the function is the end in itself, otherwise the Association fails in its duty, and in doing so lowers the prestige of the School.

There is to be the Annual General Meeting very soon, and every Old Boy who can should be present. The Association needs the help of *every* Old Boy.

The Annual Meeting of the Old Boys' Association was held in the School on the 11th December, 1922. The meeting was,

unfortunately, rather small, but it was decided to hold a Dinner early in February. It is hoped that all Old Boys will make an effort to attend this Dinner, details in regard to which will be advertised in the local papers.

It was also pointed out at the meeting that, last year, many Old Boys who received magazines did not pay any subscriptions. This practice, naturally, cannot continue and subscriptions for the current year should be forwarded either to the Hon. Sec. or the Hon. Treasurer as soon as possible.

A vote of thanks was passed to W. K. Slater, who retired from the position of Hon. Secretary owing to pressure of work.

COUNCIL.

PRESIDENT :

A. G. Pickford, Esq.

VICE-PRESIDENTS :

R. G. Barlow.

W. W. Brierley.

Dr. Potter.

HON. SECRETARY :

N. Taylor,
Hulme Grammar School.

HON. TREASURER :

J. Swales,
103, Windsor Road.

C. H. Pickford.

J. A. Brierley.

J. Fletcher.

H. Clough.

P. Stockdale.

H. Hirst.

E. Brierley.

C. I. C. Gill.

F. W. Wilde.

W. K. Slater.

F. Worthington.

J. Stopford.

J. A. Bunting.

J. A. Kershaw.

L. V. Lecomber.

F. C. Pollard.

A. Wallace.

W. Ross.

A meeting of the Council was held on February 18th, at which it was decided to hold a Dinner on February 13th, 1923 (Shrove Tuesday). It was also decided that the Dinner should be held at the School, and should be followed by a Smoking Concert. Any Old Boy not able to come to the Dinner is cordially invited to come to the Smoking Concert.

During the Cricket Season, 1922, the Old Boys have played two matches against the School. Very little response met the invitation, issued through the School magazine, for players in these matches. Is it that the Old Boys are really old?

In the present Football Season we have already met the School once. The next match will be March 10th. Will those Old Boys who would like to play send in their names and positions to L. V. Lecomber as soon as they know they will have a free date? Can the rest make a noise?

June 24th, 1922.—The Old Boys were represented by D. E. G. Griffiths, J. A. Brierley, L. V. Lecomber, W. Watson, J. Stott, E. Brierley, C. M. Barber, E. Clarke, F. Holt, T. Boardman and N. Taylor.

School won the toss and elected to bat. They were dismissed for 59. Taylor and Stott bowled well for the Old Boys. The fielding was quite keen and efficient. When all was ready for us to bat it began to rain. We retired for tea. There was no further play.

SOME OLD BOYS AT MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY.

W. K. Slater, M.Sc.	S. R. Chaloner, B. Com.
H. L. Ogden, B.A.	
T. Boardman, 2nd Year Engineering.	
E. Fitton, Final Year Commerce.	
R. L. Holt, 3rd Year Medical.	
A. Horrocks, 2nd Year Hons., Chemistry.	
J. H. Kershaw, Final Year B. Commerce.	
M. Greenwood, 1st Year Hons., Chemistry.	
L. V. Lecomber, 3rd Year Hons., Chemistry.	
C. T. Mills, 2nd Year Medical.	
J. W. Noble, 4th Year Dent. Diploma.	
G. E. Shaw, 3rd Year Hons., Chemistry.	
C. H. Spencer, 3rd Year Medical.	
L. R. Stanton, 3rd Year Metallurgy.	
J. Thewlis, 1st Year Physics.	
W. Watson, 3rd Year Hons., Chemistry.	
H. Whittle, 4th Year Medical.	

B.A., 1922.

J. A. E. Jones.

W. E. Harding.

OUR READING IN RELATION TO LITERATURE.

One feels a certain sense of hesitancy in attempting to give impression to one's ideas on a subject which appeals to many, and from different points of view. Apparently a very simple theme, it bristles with difficulties; not the least amongst the latter is, that on honestly looking into the facts, one may find it necessary to make statements which may wound the tender

susceptibilities of those who consider themselves readers. First of all let us face the important fact that considerable experience is needed with literature before the average reader amongst us becomes, in the true sense, an enthusiast. It is true, of course, that there are some who, favoured by environment or heredity, do read very well, but we must deal with the many. How often do we find ourselves reading words and characters, aye, even pronouncing words correctly when our minds are otherwise occupied? What amazing results follow with a reader of this description when he is cross-examined about the subject matter of a novel, or even of a chapter of a novel, which he is alleged to have read. Again, suppose that such a reader does manage to extract the narrative portion of a text from the rest for amusement's sake, we cannot call this reading in the true sense of the term. It may be argued that, when one reads a story or a poem in one's spare moments, one ought to be amused. Well we take what may seem to be an extreme view when we say that every book worth perusal ought to be read in precisely the same way as Jones' "Sound, Light and Heat" is read.

Every good book of poetry, romance or fiction has as its aim or end a full and true examination of the facts ascertainable from a study of life, and from a knowledge of human nature. From this, one arrives at the position that every book worth the name will bear any number of readings, and that with the advance of years the facts about human life portrayed by a master-hand will become more and more illuminated in the light of our own experience. It is, obviously, impossible under these conditions for a man to style himself a reader who gets through, say, one hundred or one hundred and fifty novels in the year. Such a reader simply cultivates the habit of reading for amusement. It is a type of mental dope, a building of a dream world tending to atrophy of the higher faculties and perceptions, a neglect of the cultivation of the deeper seats of feeling. Again, do not let it be understood that we mean to ban novel reading. A good novel is one of the best types of mental food; the greatest minds have been satisfied with the fare provided by a good novel. What really is at the bottom of the whole matter is the way in which we read a book; this is, if anything, a weightier consideration than the subject matter of the book itself. The question then arises can any advice be offered as to what to read, and when to look for good books.

This is really the question that troubles us most. No individual no matter how great his literary enthusiasms, how wide his reading, can prescribe for varying individual tastes and inclinations. Many lists of the hundred best books have been published by

prominent men ; no two of them have agreed on the same list, their own individual tastes and preoccupations all influence their several choices. Well, if we cannot recommend to you the choices of various prominent critics, what substitute can we offer ? First of all your choice must be an individual one to be worth anything. If you possess any originality, you have decided enthusiasms, tastes, inclinations, in literature ; decide first what these are and then choose from the best that has been written on the particular subject of your choice. But, you say " I am a man of no reputation." " How am I to decide ?" When we think of the bewildering literary output of modern days, this is a perfectly natural question. We can say no more on the point than that one has no reason to distrust the verdict of generations of human beings in the past, with regard to our choice of books. The best books on any subject in literature are all too few, perhaps one or two for every civilization with the exception of the Greeks, and countless numbers of those who have lived before us have given us their opinion with regard to these. We may doubt the verdict of one man, but we cannot doubt the verdict of generations of men. For instance, to use a familiar example, it took Englishmen a considerable time before they found out what a scientist in the matter of human personality they possessed in Shakespeare.

We can only treat the question of where to look for the best books on the very broadest lines. The sacred books of the great religions come first, even from the point of view of literature. One may ask " why" ? Well, the greatest possible care has been lavished on them. They have been written and rewritten until they are, from a literary point of view, polished and finished. Marvellous epic poems which are the expression of national ambitions and ideals are also worthy of a premier position. Lastly, the drama as it reflects life must be placed amongst the most important products of the literary spirit. Again, we cannot over-estimate the importance of an effort to obtain a good grip on the outlines of Greek mythology provided that the outline is written attractively and vividly. The basis of the literature of Europe rests on classical study, and on a knowledge of the conditions which inspired the best in Greek literature.

There is one piece of advice which we consider peculiarly apt amidst the bewildering and alternatives presented to the young and inexperienced chooser in modern days : " Whenever you hear of a new book being published, read an old one."

R.A.H.M.