



The Elizabethan.

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Price 6d.

THE CHALLENGE.

WE have all of us heard something of the departed glories and terrors of the Challenge in its prime before the days of written competitive examinations; but, although the many authors of many excellent books on Westminster have given sketches of the old system of verbal examination, it has not been easy for our generation to understand exactly what happened. Lately, however, a distinguished O.W. has discovered among his papers some Challenge lists of nearly sixty years ago, and has presented them to the library, with a careful explanation of their meaning. The donor contends strongly for the advantages of the old system, and certainly a more accurate knowledge of grammar would be no ill thing for the present generation, who are inclined to avoid all mention of such a subject as unpleasant, and

to look on a casual grammar question or paper set by their form master as a positive insult. And yet this continued study of grammar, based as it then was on rules the working of which was but imperfectly understood, though their finality was more insisted on than at present, must have tended to make boys somewhat pedantic and narrow in their views of language. It seems that, devoted as they were for such long periods to specialising on grammar, they must have lost something in breadth of view over that and other subjects. However that may be, the system was a grand training in accuracy and resource, and we must not forget that, however superior we may be in our 'wider' views of such subjects, we have in most cases lost the rapid certainty which was our fathers' boast. The method of procedure was this: 'When the time for the "Challenge" arrived, the Headmaster called out the names

of the candidates in school order from the Shells, Fifths, and Fourths. . . . Each boy, as his name was called, ran up to the Shell at the top of the school, which was left vacant for their occupation. This was on a Friday evening. Saturday was a "dies non," and Monday morning was given to Scripture. There were four Greek Challenges in the week on the mornings of Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and three Latin on the afternoons of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Tuesday and Thursday were half-school days. . . .

'On Monday evening VI. Non. Mart. the first Latin Challenge began. Forty lines of Ovid's 'Metamorphoses' were set by the Headmaster. These were divided into portions of four lines. The Helps (boys already in College), tutors to the candidates, chose one of these for their pupils, telling each which to set and prepare specially. The Helps sat on forms by the Headmaster's table, ready to give arguments on any doubtful point. The two lowest boys were first called up; one set a portion, the other had to read it, construe it, and answer any five "rules" which the first could found upon it. If he made a mistake which the other could correct, the latter stood above him, and he in his turn would set a portion.' This went on until the middle of March, on the days set apart for Latin Challenges. The Greek Challenges were more complicated. Five lines of epigram were first set, read, and construed; then a word was given to parse according to fixed rule. Next, rules or questions were asked. In the first Greek Challenge these were unlimited, going on till one was exhausted, or had made three mistakes--*i.e.*, by asking rules incorrectly, failing to correct a mistake properly, or to recite a rule which had baffled his antagonist. After the middle of March the second Challenge began: now the rules were limited to twelve, which must be appropriate to one or other of the words given to parse. After Easter the Private Challenges, without Helps, began. The rules were limited to eight. In the Greek Challenge each boy was allowed six general rules, and as many more as he could make appropriate to the words he set to parse. The epigrams were drawn by

lot; and we read: 'poor Johnson, who had been out of school with mumps, returned just in time to regain his place. However, his epigram was about planets, and contained neither verb nor pronoun. Hence he lost his place.' The whole Challenge must have been a severe mental strain, and perhaps we may feel glad not to have to suffer it. The whole matter is, however, very interesting, and we are deeply indebted to one of the last candidates to undergo the old Challenge for his kindness in sending the papers and his valuable notes.

NOTICE.

THE attention of O.W.W. is called to the revised list of the terms of subscription printed at the end of this number.

School Notes.

SINCE the appearance of our last number the School has undergone an experience which, we believe, it has not known for ten years. Owing to an outbreak of a mild type of diphtheritic throat, which gave rise to an unwarranted panic, the School broke up on Friday, November 14, and did not reassemble till Thursday, November 27. This interruption to the term naturally caused all matches, &c., to be scratched.

The Scott Library has received a handsome gift from A. W. Greene, Esq.; he has presented it with thirty-one volumes; worth £10.

We are sorry to lose Mr. Just's services through ill-health. We hope soon to see him back among us. Meanwhile his place is taken by S. C. Probyn, Esq. (O.W.).

All K.S.S. who were present at the Coronation in August have received the Coronation Medal in bronze.

Sir Hubert Parry, writing to the Headmaster about the Coronation Anthem, says: 'The boys acquitted themselves with rare spirit, and made just the sort of spontaneous unsophisticated noise that we wanted. . . . I also felt that they loyally saved the situation by shouting their "Vivat Rex!" when, owing to there being no "Rex" there, a catastrophe seemed imminent. I was really wondering whether

they would not "jib," and was immensely relieved when I heard the shout go up. If you have a chance, please pat any of them on the back for me.'

The following is the Football Card filled in to date:—

		1902.	
Sat.	Sept. 27	v. Clapham Rovers.	(Lost, 2-5)
,,	Oct. 4	v. Casuals.	(Lost, 0-8)
Wed.	,,	8 v. an O.W. XI.	(Lost, 1-2)
Sat.	,,	11 v. Emeriti.	(Lost, 0-1)
,,	,,	2nd XI. v. Clapham Rovers 2nd XI.	(Won, 9-4)
,,	,,	18 v. Old Harrovians.	(Lost, 0-7)
,,	,,	2nd XI. v. St. Thomas's Hospital 2nd XI.	(Drawn, 4-4)
,,	,,	25 v. New College, Oxford.	(Scratched)
,,	,,	2nd XI. v. O.W.W. 2nd XI.	(Scratched)
,,	Nov. 1	v. Old Foresters.	(Scratched)
Wed.	,,	5 v. Brasenose College, Oxford.	(Drawn, 2-2)
,,	,,	2nd XI. v. King's College XI.	(Lost 1-4)
Sat.	,,	8 v. Old Etonians.	(Lost, 1-9)
,,	,,	2nd XI. v. St. Bartholomew's Hospital 2nd XI.	(Lost, 4-6)
Wed.	,,	12 v. Selwyn College, Cambridge.	(Lost, 0-4)
Sat.	,,	15 v. Christ Church.	(Scratched)
,,	,,	2nd XI. v. London Hospital 2nd XI.	(Scratched)
,,	,,	22 v. R.M.A., Woolwich.	(Scratched)
,,	,,	29 v. Old Felstedians.	(Lost 1-3)
,,	,,	2nd XI. v. Old Foresters 2nd XI.	(Scratched)
,,	Dec. 6	v. O.W.W.	(Drawn 4-4)
		1903.	
Sat.	Jan. 17	v. Clapham Rovers.	
,,	,,	24 v. Old Wykehamists.	
,,	,,	2nd XI. v. London Hospital 2nd XI.	
Wed.	,,	28 v. Hertford College, Oxford.	
Sat.	,,	31 v. University College, Oxford.	
,,	,,	2nd XI. v. Clapham Rovers 2nd XI.	
Wed. Feb.	4	v. Old Carthusians.	
Sat.	,,	7 v. Clare College, Cambridge.	
,,	,,	2nd XI. v. St. Bartholomew's Hospital 2nd XI.	
,,	,,	14 v. Old Reptonians.	
,,	,,	2nd XI. v. Old Foresters 2nd XI.	
,,	,,	21 v. Charterhouse (away).	
,,	,,	28 v. Pembroke College, Cambridge.	
,,	,,	2nd XI. v. O.W.W. 2nd XI.	
,,	Mar. 7	v. An Eton XI.	
Wed.	,,	11 v. O.W.W.	
Sat.	,,	14 v. Old Etonians.	
,,	,,	2nd XI. v. St. Thomas's Hospital 2nd XI.	
Wed.	,,	18 v. L. A. M. Fevey's XI.	
Sat.	,,	21 v. Old Brightonians.	
,,	,,	2nd XI. v. King's College 2nd XI.	
,,	,,	28 K.S.S. v. T.B.B.	

The following is the Debating Society's Card, filled in to date:—

October 2.—'That this House deplores the lack of Good Manners and Chivalry at the present time.' Proposer, E. W. D. Colt-Williams; Seconder, F. S. Fleuret; Opposer, J. D. H. Dickson. (Lost by acclamation.)

October 9.—'That this House disapproves of the system of Commercial Trusts.' Proposer, F. W. Hubback; Seconder, J. R. Trench; Opposer, E. A. Bell. (Carried by acclamation.)

October 16 and 23.—'That this House disapproves of the Private Ownership of Land.' Proposer, H. Logan; Seconder, A. C. Bottomley; Opposer, D. S. Robertson. (Lost: Ayes, 8; Noes, 14.)

October 30.—'That in the opinion of this House the present Aristocracy does not deserve the Name.' Proposer, G. D. Johnston; Seconder, A. L. Crossman; Opposer, F. H. Nichols. (Lost: Ayes, 8; Noes, 10.)

November 6.—'That this House would welcome the Revival of Water.' Proposer, W. J. W. Bonser; Seconder, E. W. D. Colt-Williams; Opposer, G. L. Crowe. (Carried by acclamation.)

November 13.—'That in the opinion of this House a System of Fixed Stopping Places should be adopted for London Omnibuses.' Proposer, G. W. Phillips; Seconder, J. R. Trench; Opposer, J. S. Lewis. (Lost: Ayes, 5; Noes, 7.)

'That this House would welcome some measures restricting the Immigration of Aliens.' Proposer, J. C. Vernon; Seconder, F. C. Failes; Opposer, E. W. Lane-Clayton.

'That this House would welcome the establishment of Courts of Arbitration to decide differences between Labour and Capital.' Proposer, P. M. Bartlett; Seconder, A. G. R. Henderson; Opposer, M. Pemberton.

THE FIELDS.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL v. BRASENOSE COLLEGE, OXFORD.

PLAYED up Fields on Wednesday, November 5, and resulted in a draw of 2 goals apiece. Rain fell during the greater part of this match, and, although it was greatly to the School's advantage, considering their opponents' weight, the game suffered considerably from it. Coleby won the toss, and Brasenose kicked off from the Hospital end at 2.30. The opening stages of this match were evenly though tamely contested. Crowe was soon called upon to save; Vernon made a good run down the wing, and a corner resulted, which, however, proved fruitless. After about ten minutes' play Street broke away and scored for the visitors. The School frequently took the ball down, but were weak in front of goal. Mears put in a good long shot, which was, unfortunately, just too high. There was no further scoring before half-time. On changing ends Brasenose pressed continuously for the first ten minutes, and Street again scored with a lucky shot, which rebounded off the post into the net. Following this reverse the School forwards took the ball up the field, and off a centre from Davey Woodbridge neatly headed through. After this success the School forwards continued to press, and Coleby equalised with a low shot, which their goalkeeper failed to hold properly. In spite of the strenuous efforts of both sides to obtain the winning point, there was no further score.

The teams were:—

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL.

G. L. Crowe (goal); M. Pemberton, H. Logan (backs); R. P. Mears, J. M. Craig, F. S. Fleuret (halves); J. C. Vernon, A. T. Coleby, L. A. Woodbridge, L. G. Kirkpatrick, A. P. D. Davey (forwards).

BRASENOSE COLLEGE.

E. P. Nicholls (goal); H. R. Ramsbottom, T. A. Leach (backs); F. W. Neale, W. F. Buchan, C. K. Hoghton (halves); J. A. Merryweather, H. A. Street, F. C. Thomson, G. E. Grundy, G. F. Dixon (forwards).

Referee: S. C. Probyn, Esq.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL 2ND XI. v. KING'S COLLEGE 2ND XI.

Played up Fields on Wednesday, November 5, and resulted in a win for the visitors by 4 goals to 1. Hubback lost the toss, and Corfield kicked off from the pavilion end. King's College soon scored, but Geddes equalised. After this King's College continued to have the best of matters, and added 3 more goals.

The teams were:—

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL (2ND XI.).

H. V. Capon (goal); W. J. Bonser, J. K. Hepburn (backs); F. W. Hubback, J. R. Trench, G. Cooper-Willis (halves); J. L. Johnston, R. W. Geddes, E. T. Corfield, R. G. Gardner, H. B. Philby (forwards).

The visitors did not leave their names.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL v. OLD ETONIANS.

Played up Fields on Saturday, November 8, and resulted in an easy win for the Old Etonians by 9 goals to 1. Owing to heavy rain during the morning the ground was in a very slippery condition. Coleby won the toss, and Gosling kicked off for the Old Etonians at 2.50, playing from the Church end. During the first half the visitors both outpaced and outplayed the School, pressing continuously the whole time. Crowe was immediately compelled to save, and after about five minutes' play Gosling opened the scoring with a shot which just grazed under the bar. The same player soon added a second. Our backs were forced to concede two corners, the second of which was converted by Ellis. The Old Etonians succeeded in adding 5 more goals, chiefly through Gosling and Ellis. On changing ends the School had much more of the game than before, but only scored once through Kirkpatrick, although several opportunities were missed. Towards the close the visitors put on another goal. For the School Crowe was good in goal, and the defence worked hard, but were too slow for the opposing forwards. The forwards were very weak, displaying no dash and hesitating too much in front of goal.

The teams were:—

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL.

G. L. Crowe (goal); M. Pemberton, H. Logan (backs); R. P. Mears, J. M. Craig, F. S. Fleuret (halves); J. C. Vernon, A. T. Coleby, L. A. Woodbridge, L. G. Kirkpatrick, A. P. D. Davey (forwards).

OLD ETONIANS.

S. H. Hole (goal); Lord Hawick, B. O. Bircham (backs); N. Malcolmson, L. D. Gosling, A. R. Rouse (halves); S. C. Taber, R. G. Ellis, T. S. Gosling, M. L. Darling, W. Hughes-Onslow (forwards).

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL 2ND XI. v. ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL 2ND XI.

Played up Fields on Saturday, November 8, and resulted in a defeat for the School by 6 goals to 4. Hubback again lost the toss and Corfield kicked off at 2.45, playing towards the 'Big Game' end. After about twenty minutes' play St. Bartholomew's scored, and succeeded in further increasing their lead before half-time. On changing ends Philby scored for the School, and a few minutes later Hubback equalised off a corner. St. Bartholomew's obtained two more points, after each of which Geddes equalised for the School. Towards the close the Hospital got ahead, and in spite of the efforts of the School defence obtained a sixth point just on time. The teams were:—

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL 2ND XI.

H. V. Capon (goal); W. J. W. Bonser, J. K. Hepburn (backs); F. W. Hubback, J. R. Trench, G. Cooper-Willis (halves); H. B. Philby, R. W. Geddes, E. T. Corfield, R. G. Gardner, K. N. Colville (forwards).

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL 2ND XI.

C. Gray (goal); A. Barber, T. S. Morse (backs); T. W. H. Berone, F. Gooding, S. Upton (halves); E. Paine, G. F. Rees, J. C. Mead, R. H. Pratt, A. Forrester (forwards).

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL v. SELWYN COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

Played up Fields on Wednesday, November 12, and resulted in another defeat for the School by 4 goals to *nil*. The School were not at full strength, notable absentees being Powers and Craig. Coleby won the toss and Selwyn kicked off from the Church end at 2.50. The opening play was of an even character, both sides pressing in turn. Following this Selwyn managed to keep up a continuous attack for fully twenty minutes, but failed to take advantage of many good opportunities of shooting. During some even mid-field play which followed Kirkpatrick unfortunately injured his knee and had to leave the field, and, owing to the courtesy of the Selwyn captain, Geddes was allowed to take his place. Up to half-time there was no score. On changing ends the visitors immediately broke away and scored through Edmunds. The School then pressed, but were never really dangerous. Vernon made a good run down and passed inside, but Coleby shot over. Selwyn returned to the attack and scored through Bendall. From the kick-off the School took the ball down and Woodbridge got a good opening, but failed to turn it to account. From a centre by the

visitors' outside right, Macaulay headed through, a goal which Pemberton ought to have cleared. The visitors added another goal, and thus won by 4 goals to *nil*. The School display was disappointing, especially that of the inside forwards. For the visitors the centre half was best. The teams were :—

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL.

G. L. Crowe (goal); M. Pemberton, H. Logan (backs); E. W. D. Colt-Williams, J. R. Trench, F. S. Fleuret (halves); J. C. Vernon, A. T. Coleby, L. A. Woodbridge, L. G. Kirkpatrick, H. B. Philby (forwards).

SELWYN COLLEGE.

J. A. Lush (goal); W. E. Owen, R. W. Ross (backs); R. A. Ker, A 'Ginger,' W. E. C. Greenwood (halves); H. E. Blackett, C. C. Macaulay, C. V. Edmunds, F. W. D. Bendall, H. Pochin (forwards).

THE LEAGUE.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Pts.
A	—	L 2-6					L 1-6		0
B	W 6-2	—		W 5-0					4
C			—	W 6-0				D 0-0	3
D		L 0-5	L 0-6	—					0
E					—	W 2-0	D 0-0	W 2-1	5
F					L 0-2	—	L 0-3	D 2-2	1
G	W 6-1				D 0-0	W 3-0	—		5
H			D 0-0		L 1-2	D 2-2		—	2

League Captains :—

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| A. E. A. Bell. | E. G. Castle-Smith. |
| B. G. T. Boag. | F. J. K. Hepburn. |
| C. W. J. Bonser. | G. J. S. Lewis. |
| D. H. V. Capon. | H. R. Macdonald. |

JUNIOR HOUSE MATCHES.

	K.SS.	G.	R.	H.BB.	A.H.	POINTS
K.SS.	—		W 6-0	W 7-0	W 6-2	6
GRANT'S		—	W 2-0	D 1-1	L 0-3	3
RIGAUD'S	L 0-6	L 0-2	—	W 5-1		2
H.BB.	L 0-7	D 1-1	L 1-5	—	L 0-3	1
A. H.	L 2-6	W 3-0		W 3-0	—	4

DEBATING SOCIETY.

THE House met on Thursday, October 30, to discuss the following motion: 'That in the opinion of this House the present aristocracy does not deserve the name.'

The PROPOSER (G. D. Johnston) opened his speech with a definition of aristocracy. 'The government of the best' was what he took it to mean. He then proceeded to argue that the House of Lords, whom he identified with the term 'aristocracy,' were not equal to the task of good government, or even of any government. He showed that they were not energetic enough as a body, that they left things too much to the Commons. He instanced the fact that they are no longer supreme in judicial matters. Mr. Gladstone had proposed their abolition, which showed there was a strong party in the nation against them.

The OPPOSER (F. H. Nichols) replied that it was only natural that most of the business should be left to the Commons, as they were the representatives of the people. He gave as an instance of the utility of the Lords the fact that they had rejected the Home Rule Bill. The House of Lords was, in his opinion, equal to all that was required of it. He then took the social side of the matter. If the Lords were abolished what class would be found to constitute a better aristocracy? No one would respect an upstart aristocracy. The present aristocracy were, he considered, a charitable class of people, and we should gain nothing by their abolition.

The SECONDER (A. L. Crossman) said that whether the aristocracy were good or bad was beside the point. The question was whether they were worthy of the name. The present aristocracy consists of people of high birth. This is the sole qualification. Although the aristocracy were useful and powerful in olden times, they were not so any longer. It was true that the tone of the aristocracy was upheld by those members of it who had obtained their position by merit.

H. LOGAN spoke next. He complained that the wording of the motion was ambiguous, and told a story of the American who on asking who were the aristocracy, and being told they were people who loafed about and did nothing, said that they had them in America, but called them tramps. He next supported the abolition of the House of Lords. They are supposed to rule in a business-like way and do not do so. The Bishops should certainly be expelled, owing to their apathy on the question of child-labour in coal-mines. The present aristocracy, the House of Lords, merely consists of wealthy landowners. These are not the best people in the country. No aristocracy should be hereditary.

K. N. COLVILLE rose next. He pointed out that the Bishops, who were the Peers the last speaker had spoken against especially, were the only non-hereditary Peers. Though the political work of the Lords was formal, they did a great deal of committee work.

The Lords acted as a check on hasty legislation. An orator might persuade the Commons to pass an undesirable Bill, but he could not persuade the Lords. The aristocracy sets the tone for society; if there were no aristocracy of blood the tone of society would be set by such men as Lipton. The aristocracy would hence become one of wealth who could lead society. Moreover, administrative qualities were hereditary, therefore an hereditary aristocracy was possible.

After a few remarks between the last speaker and H. LOGAN, and a condemnation of the Lords by the latter on the grounds of their never having supported a Labour Bill,

C. POWERS rose to speak. In his opinion in the event of the abolition of the House of Lords men such as Lipton would have no more chance of dominating society than at present. Money would have nothing to do with the matter; the tone of society was set now by the people of best character, and it would be so then. The speaker confined himself to the social view of the question.

After remarks by the OPPOSER and the PROPOSER, and a severe criticism of the House of Lords by H. LOGAN, the House divided.

The motion was lost by 8 votes to 10.

The House met on Thursday, November 6, when the following motion was discussed: 'That this House would welcome the Revival of Water.'

The PROPOSER (W. J. W. Bonser) made his maiden speech. He strongly advocated the revival of water, adducing as arguments in its favour the great successes gained by Westminster in rowing during former years. Cricket and football at Westminster had not benefited much by the abolition of water, nor would it matter taking away a certain proportion of the School for rowing. Radley, which was a much smaller School than Westminster, managed to row. He also considered that the river would be a more healthy place for exercise than Vincent Square.

The OPPOSER (G. L. Crowe) also made his first speech. This was somewhat short and slightly incoherent. His chief arguments against water were that its revival would interfere seriously with cricket and football in spite of the Proposer's remarks, and that the Cadet Corps, which as a new institution should be encouraged as much as possible, would also suffer.

The SECONDER (E. W. D. Colt-Williams) remarked that his support was scarcely required to such a popular motion. He had some arguments to give in favour of water. He pointed out that in old days cricket and water had flourished together, and asked why they should not do so now. Between 1852 and 1862 water and cricket had done very well. Water had only been stopped owing to a change in the School hours. It was a pity that having supplied so many Blues in old times we could now no longer do so.

H. LOGAN spoke next against the motion. He brought forward the argument of the expense of

keeping a launch for the rowing people which would be necessary. He also failed to see why, when Westminster was bad enough at cricket, it should be made worse by the revival of water.

The Debate now degenerated into a series of disconnected remarks and repetitions of previous arguments. The House divided early, when the motion was carried by acclamation.

The House met on Thursday, November 13, to discuss the following motion: 'That in the opinion of this House a system of fixed stopping places should be adopted for London omnibuses.'

The PROPOSER (G. W. Phillips) confessed that he did not understand the motion. However, he conceived the great objection to having no places fixed for stopping to be the strain on the horses occasioned by continually stopping and starting. It was always a great nuisance to have the 'bus stopping continually. People could learn to get on and off in between the stopping places while the 'bus was moving. He wound up with a reference to the prevailing disease.

The OPPOSER (J. S. Lewis) proposed the abolition of horses and the adoption of motor-'buses. He spoke of the abominable crowding now prevalent which would be abolished by a system of stopping places. He complained of the inadequacy of the Proposer's arguments.

The SECONDER (J. R. Trench) said that the Proposer's best argument was the strain on the horses. He also said that great inconvenience was caused by the L.C.C. taking up the roadway all along at the same time. He approved of the Parisian 'bus system, which was run on the principle of 'first come first served.'

K. N. COLVILLE said that the question of horses was most important. He said that a director of the London Omnibus Company had stated that continual stopping did not strain the horses. Fixed stopping places would occasion rushes for seats and long waits. He thought the Parisian system anything but perfect; if all the 'buses stopped the traffic would be seriously impeded.

E. W. D. COLT-WILLIAMS approved of the Secunder's care for horses. His proposal was that 'buses should have stopping places in the less crowded parts of the streets.

After remarks by various other members, F. H. NICHOLS brought up the question of the frequency of the proposed stopping places. He considered 100 yards' interval too small. Members seemed rather to avoid this objection, and after a few more repetitions of the original arguments the House divided.

The motion was lost. Ayes, 5; Noes, 7.

House Notes.

COLLEGE.—Since the last number of THE ELIZABETHAN the diphtheria scare and the consequent

break-up of the School has sadly interfered with Play arrangements. We are not nearly so well on with rehearsals as we had hoped. However, Play preparations are going forward, and the 'houses' are all down. Owing to the diphtheria half of College are to be accommodated in Dean's Yard for the rest of the term. On the whole we have been lucky with regard to the mysterious disease which has afflicted the School. Before the break-up the Literary Society managed to read the first two acts of *The Merchant of Venice*. The Chess Society is, it seems, progressing favourably, but the Fives Ties do not seem likely to be finished this term. In Football our Junior Team has been so far successful, gaining a magnificent victory (6-0) over Rigaud's. We hope to beat Grant's. Our hearty congratulations are due to J. R. Trench on appearing for the School against Selwyn College, and to G. L. Crowe on gaining his Pink and Whites. We are glad to see that M. L. Gwyer has been elected a Fellow of All Souls' College, Oxford. We offer him our heartiest congratulations.

GRANT'S.—Owing to the breaking-up of the School there is very little to record since last number. Most of the Grantites who have been out of school are now back, but a few are still away. In Juniors we drew with Home-Boarders (1-1). We are looking forward to the Play Supper, which is to take place, by the kindness of Mr. Tanner, on the second night of the Play. Songs are already beginning to be prepared. The Debating Society met on November 11, but the debating was very poor, and no talent was shown. S. A. Dickson, who left last term, is just about to sail for South Africa, where he has a Civil Service appointment.

RIGAUD'S.—We have not been troubled much by the diphtheria scare; only two proper cases have occurred. Clark was made a temporary monitor. Our congratulations to Hepburn on his House-colours, and playing for the Second XI. We are entirely unprepared for the trials; we should have been glad to see A. T. Willett's proposal carried out, namely, the abolition of trials. To the latter our congratulations are also due, for playing in the Freshers' Match at Oxford; also to H. Failes on obtaining a first class at South Kensington for machine construction, and the prize for machine drawing at the Greenock School of Engineering.

ASHBURNHAM.—We regret the absence of Colville, Walton, and Chappelow, who are suspected of harbouring pseudo-diphtheritic germs. Mears has been made a temporary monitor. The first rounds of the House Fives Ties are almost completed. We are drawn against Grant's in the Senior House Match trials. Our prospects would be good but for the unfortunate absence of so many of our team, though we still hope that they will return in time. Our Literary Society still exists, but has not held many meetings lately.

H.B.B.—Although somewhat belated, we much congratulate P. H. Napier on winning the Photographic Competition, his contributions being excellent. Our Junior team is very weak; the Captain (R. Macdonald) was the only one to show consistent good form. Oppenheimer was at times excellent, but had his off-days; Castle worked hard; Summerhays and Vincent show great promise. We regret that J. K. Davey was unable to play more often, especially as he showed up well in the only match in which he was able to play. We drew with Grant's (1-1), this being our best performance this year. In the House Fives Ties Johnston and Farnfield lost to Corfield and Chapman (9-15), (7-15), and Vernon and A. Davey beat Tudge and G. Phillips (15-0), (15-3). This completes the first round. We are glad to see Tull back again; and although he will not be able to assist us in the trials this term, we hope he will still be with us for the Shield matches.

Old Westminsters.

IN recognition of services in South Africa, Colonel H. E. Rawson, R.E., is created a Companion of the Bath; Lieutenant J. B. Wells and Lieutenant A. A. L. Stephen are made Companions of the Distinguished Service Order; Captain N. M. Smyth, V.C., is promoted Brevet Major, and Major A. R. Hoskins is placed on the list of those qualified for Staff employment.

We heartily congratulate Mr. M. L. Gwyer on his election to a Fellowship of All Souls'.

The Rev. T. J. Prout's restoration of Tom Tower is now complete. Mr. Prout has been sixty years a student of Christ Church, and is some years older than the next on the foundation. His munificence has preserved Tom Tower from the ruin which threatened it.

Mr. Bedford's History of the Order of St. John is now published.

The Rev. G. V. Sampson is appointed Minor Canon of Truro.

Mr. H. B. Day is become L.R.C.P.

Mr. C. H. Blakeney, Head Master of the Borlase School, Marlow, proposes to issue by subscription a new volume of poems. His last volume, 'Voices after Sunset,' was published in 1897.

Professor Dixon is on the Council of the Royal Society for the coming year.

Mr. R. H. More, who served in the war for nearly three years, has resigned his commission in the Yeomanry and been appointed to a position in the War Office.

Mr. B. G. Brown is President of the Cambridge University Chess Club this term.

Births.

MOON.—On October 29, the wife of Edward G. Moon, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of a daughter.

PECK.—On October 15, in India, the wife of Captain J. H. Peck, I.S.C., of a daughter.

Marriage.

BALFOUR—PAGET.—On October 28, by the Rev. R. Harington (O.W.), Christopher Egerton Balfour, D.S.O., Captain in the King's Royal Rifle Corps, third son of Archibald Balfour (O.W.), to Dorothy, eldest daughter of Gerald Paget.

Obituary.

WESTMINSTERS of the younger generation will learn with much regret the death of JOHN WRAY MERCER. He was born in 1874, and was at the School from January, 1889, to Christmas, 1891. He graduated at Cambridge from Clare College and afterwards went to St. George's Hospital, where he became House Surgeon. There he died of enteric fever on October 31. Mr. Mercer was a Rigaudite, and one of the earliest of our skilled photographers.

The death of Mr. GEORGE ALFRED HENTY is a loss not only to Westminster but to the whole school world. Born in 1832, he entered the School in 1847, and some three years later left for Caius College, Cambridge. On the outbreak of the Crimean War he entered the Commissariat Department. His younger brother, who was in the same force, died in the Crimea, and he himself was invalided home. He afterwards joined the staff of the *Standard*, and represented that journal in the Italian Wars of Independence and the Franco-Prussian War. His first boys' book was published in 1868, and in all he wrote nearly a hundred. He died aboard his yacht on November 16. His burly and patriarchal figure and his straightforward, vigorous speech will be missed at many different gatherings of Old Westminsters.

Correspondence.

AN OLD WESTMINSTER CLUB.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—We cannot own to a complete failure with the time-honoured gambit if we 'crave your editorial indulgence to ventilate a long-standing grievance which, we are sure, has only to be pointed out to instantly command [*sic*, only alas! too typically *sic*] the serious attention of all those who have the welfare of Westminster at heart.'

Briefly it is this: The number of O.W.W. in London is out of all proportion to the size of the School. And O.W.W. have a well-deserved reputation for hanging together. It is the due appreciation of these facts which leads us to suppose that the idea of an Old Westminster club-house is not altogether an impossible one.

Our conclusion (if incorrect) may look for anger, but not remorse, on the part of its premisses.

Those who can only afford to join one club at a time would surely care to profit by the ampler ether, the diviner air of all things Westminster. While those who are of many clubs would not object to yet another on the ground of expense; nor, in this case, could there be to the greatest of them any loss of prestige. It seems to us that a circular letter might well be sent to all O.W.W. inquiring if such a club could be assured of their support. Suggestions as to a reduced rate of subscription to country members, and (in all friendliness) a vastly increased one for the masters—tempted to honorary membership by a problematic fives-court—could be left till later.

There may be some insuperable objection to this that has not occurred to us, and in any case we see fully that the difficulties in the way are great. But we recommend it, none the less, to the Elizabethan Club—as, indeed, a scheme for its own housing.

May we ask you, Sir, to take this proposal as seriously as you and your Poet take that strenuous gentleman; and (pursuing the analogy) to believe that if in this we are but plodding in the wake of others, we are at least as indifferent as he to the very transient Fame that dogs the footsteps of Originality. (Only metaphors such as these can make his life worth living.)

Relying on that anonymity which, in default of some peculiar qualification, can alone save us from the charge of self-advertisement; and apologising for the length of this,

We are, Sir,

Yours &c.,

PAR NOBILE FRATRUM.

[FROM OUR OXFORD CORRESPONDENT.]

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—First and foremost, Mr. M. L. Gwyer is to be congratulated most heartily on his Law Fellowship at All Souls', a distinction that of late has only too seldom fallen to an Old Westminster. Messrs. F. Waterfield and W. S. Hopkins, too, have got into the I.C.S., and are up doing their year of probation. Our congratulations are late, but none the less sincere. There is little other news to record. B. H. Willett, F. I. Harrison, and G. Schwann were playing in the House Cup Tie against Keble, and the first two also played against Queen's; C. B. H. Knight kept goal for Exeter in their Cup Tie. A. T. Willett has been kept out of the field by a strain, and E. E. S. B. Atherley-Jones has played, we believe, for Magdalen: H. R. Kirby has been coxing trials; we congratulate him, and hope he may keep his place. L. H. Bennett continues to do well in the cross-country runs.

All up are sorry to hear of the School's misfortune, especially members of the House who had looked forward to playing against the School on the 15th of this month.

No further news of interest can be chronicled by

Yours,

November 22.

EX AEDE CHRISTI.

