



The Elizabethan.

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NATURAL SCIENCE.

THE introduction of Natural Science into the school a few years ago naturally provoked a certain amount of discussion, and a still greater amount of strong opinions given without discussion. Till a few years back Natural Science was only thought of at Westminster in connexion with the chemical lecturer who favoured us with his wisdom from time to time on winter evenings, and whose discourses were commonly known by the highly classical title of Fug; and with certain vague ideas that honours were given in that subject at the Universities, for which no Public School man would ever think of deigning to contend, except as a little amusement in addition to (or perhaps in case of failure in) classics or mathematics, as the case might be. We believe that it was first generally known that the new study was to be introduced on the occasion of the distribution of prizes at the Athletic Sports of 1871, when every one who made a speech aptly remarked upon the practical part of the science as lately exemplified. Shortly after that time a lecturer was appointed, and the whole of the upper part of the school have since given, or rather have had given them, two hours a week

to profit by his instructions; and a prize has been given each half year to those who have put this time to the best use. And yet Natural Science at Westminster can hardly be called a success. In theory it is considered as the model of an innovation. Those who favour innovation uphold it, and those who hate innovation condemn it; the latter, as might be expected at Westminster, having usually by far the best of it. The half-yearly prize has been a bait regularly nibbled off, but to all appearances no one has as yet been caught by the hook. The successful competitor sinks regularly at the next examination, sometimes more, sometimes less, but invariably before a *novus homo*, and the number of subjects touched upon (we can scarcely say more) remains extremely limited. There is, perhaps, one evident reason for this. A lecture is certainly a pleasant mode of study, but unless there is a real interest shown in the subject it is next to impossible to enforce attention. But such an obstacle as this is found in everything, and is not at all peculiar to Natural Science.

We believe that most of the subjects which now form our curriculum (this new and most elegant term we use to "accommodate ourselves to the spirit of the age"), such as, Heat, Electricity, Mechanics, and Astronomy, are what are known

at the Universities as mixed mathematics; so that the attempt to inculcate them at school is really trying to teach some of the higher, and possibly more interesting, parts of mathematics to those who are at present only very imperfectly acquainted with the lower; for there can be no harm in confessing that mathematics are very generally unpopular at Westminster; perhaps there is no greater bugbear to new comers into the Sixth than the two hours consecutively given to them on Monday afternoon. Be that as it may, till now we have always heard of these subjects as being studied in two ways: scientifically, at the Universities and elsewhere; and popularly, by lectures at the Polytechnic Institution and similar places; a cross between these two is now being attempted, which consists in taking away the science from the first, and the popularity from the second; the general result being a set of unprogressive examples on the first four rules of arithmetic, such as the following:—

Sound travels at the rate of 1132 feet per second (¹ Bar. 22.247); light almost instantaneously. How far off is a gun when five seconds elapse between the flash and the report?

It is difficult to say whether this system is more disappointing to master or boy. The massing together of a number of facts does not tend to elevate the mind, and therefore these subjects are unsuited for general cram. Popularly stated, however, they are generally interesting; scientifically studied, they may lead to important discoveries. All experience shows that a moderate knowledge of classics and mathematics is best suited to train the mind; when Natural Science (*quod Di avertant*) establishes its claim to superiority over them, let it take their place. Till then, let it keep its own. If those who really felt interested in the subject were to form a class by themselves, a great deal of unnecessary waste of time would be avoided, and a master's presence at the lectures rendered useless, because there would be no need to enforce attention; the two weekly lectures might be given to the same class, and thus some real progress made; and the lecturer would find some satisfaction in his work. Unfortunately when the disposition of our time is settled in the heated atmosphere of committee rooms of the Houses of Parliament, common sense is apt to be ousted before rigid theories of the equality of all things.

THE Phillimore Translation Prize has been thus awarded:—Prose Translation (Greek), H. M. C. MacPherson. Verse Translation (Latin), P. G. L. Webb; prox. acc., L. S. Bristowe, C. F. Brickdale.

¹ This is put in to puzzle everybody; but it is not usual for any notice to be taken of it.

School Notes.

Now that the Athletics are coming on, training comes, as usual, into great requisition. It would certainly require some stretch of imagination to believe that all the fellows who say they are training are really undergoing the thousand and one petty torments, generally understood to be comprised under that name. Some of course have their own ideas about training, from which restrictions as to meals and the early morning run are expressly excluded; and a good many submit to only one of these two hardships. Still there are a certain number who go in for the whole thing, and perplex themselves annually at this time of the year as to what the correct thing is. In cases of doubt, a few who have made up their minds to win certain races at all costs, generally overdo it, and find themselves all behind when the race really comes off; considerably more give themselves the benefit of the doubt. It is of course absurd to think that the same training will suit everybody. Moderation is now the general prescription of the wiseacres; few things, except pastry and cigars, being absolutely prohibited. Early to bed and early to rise is an old rule, but none the less a good one; though the latter part of the precept must of course not be too strictly interpreted.

THE singing at the early Abbey services has been too old a subject for blame to escape notice in our columns, and in each of our two last (and also first) numbers, a letter has appeared on the subject. Some how or other these things are not looked upon in the right light; and instead of the choir, being regarded as martyrs, who time after time not only make the best of a bad job in Abbey, but also undergo a preliminary torture called a practice, we fear that some maliciously-minded persons are almost tempted to think them duffers. Such people, it is unnecessary to say, have never tried themselves. The proposal of Harmonicus to scatter the choir among the school, might be, to say the least, risky; but no harm could be done by a much larger number of the school joining the choir. Quantity, not quality, is what we must aim at for these services; for we do not believe that any one really wishes an end put to the musical part of the service. Harmonicus Alter is more practical in his suggestions; for though we may doubt whether the refreshments really improve the singing, the choir (including our correspondent?) certainly deserve all they can get, and if any one is entrapped into singing by the attractive appearance of the pure milk provided, so much the better.

MANY have wondered of late what might be the object of the accumulation of iron pipes, balks of timber, scaffolding, &c. at the foot of the north tower of the Abbey. Drains, or the utilization of the tower for waterworks as at Canterbury have been suggested, but it now appears that a large water tank has been in course of construction for use in case of fire, the Dean and Chapter naturally wishing to have a cure in reserve, if prevention fails. So far so good, but it is to be hoped that the tank will always be kept full of water,

and that we shall not have a repetition of the story of Her Majesty's Opera House when the fire does come, as the idea of water tanks burning like straw is not a pleasant one. A pipe furnished with hose and jets has been fixed round the triforium, though it must be confessed that that is the last place which most people would think of getting into on alarm of fire. While on the subject of pipes we may notice that arrangements have been made for supplying the school with hot air for purposes of ventilation. The quality of air to be supplied is Best London Smoked, from a specially-constructed Artesian well in College Gardens: according to a recent analysis it contains no less than fifty per cent. of pure carbon.

LEAVING CERTIFICATES.

OUR readers may perhaps remember that, at the conference of Head Masters held last Christmas, it was decided to petition the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge to appoint a joint commission, to examine such public and non-public schools as should be willing to undergo the test. Some doubt was expressed at the time as to whether the plan was feasible; but it appears that all obstacles have been removed, since early last month the examiners issued their first list of leaving certificates, which give those of their happy possessors who intend to go to either university, the position of a man who has passed "Smalls." It will be noticed that three of the seven great public schools, viz. Westminster, Harrow, and Charterhouse, do not as yet appear in the list. With regard to ourselves, although our school has entered its name for the competition, the fact that the sixth and shell were examined by the Electors, and not by the University Examiners, who examined the rest of the school last May, has prevented us from taking our place. No doubt the difficulty will have been surmounted in another year, and we shall be able to take our share in the privileges offered by the Universities. The following is the number of certificates gained in each school that has as yet been examined:—

Winchester	34
Eton	13
Rugby	6
Shrewsbury	1
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Marlborough	15
Wellington	10
King's College	6
Clifton	5
Merchant Taylors'	3
Christ's Hospital	1

Besides these, Manchester Grammar School gains 27; King's School, Sherborne, 11; Walthamstow, Bedford, and Radley, 4 each; Weymouth, 3; Brighton and Reading, 2 each; Tonbridge, Durham, Wadlow, and King's School, Canterbury, 1 each.

THE usual school collection was held on SS. Michael and All Angels' Day, September 29.

The Fields.

WE have a few matches left to record, some of which we hope will not be uninteresting to our readers.

As usual, the Eleven, armed with broomsticks, encountered the Second Eleven, who used the customary implements. The Eleven went first to the wickets, and were represented, as usual, by Ryde and Fox; the score of the latter comprised a splendid drive for 5. Ryde stayed a long time, and played very well, scoring nearly half the total number of runs. The rest succeeded (?) most ingloriously. On the other side Watson did most of the work, but was very lucky; however he had no one to support him for any length of time, and was left not out when the last wicket fell. The second innings of the Eleven, mainly owing to a liberal allowance of extras, was an improvement on the first, but none of the scores was in any way remarkable. So far the game looked even enough, as the Second Eleven had 68 runs to make, in order to win. A more extraordinary or ridiculous result has rarely been witnessed. Two of the Eleven were absent, and their places had to be filled by substitutes, one of whom—Denman—secured two catches; but if it had not been for a lucky hit by Rumball, which nearly resulted in a catch, the whole of the Second Eleven would have gone out without scoring a single run by their own merits; half the total consisted of byes. The scores this year have in many cases been rather long, and it only needed this exception to prove the rule.

THE ELEVEN.

1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
C. Fox, c Hemsley, b Rumball	12	run out	11
W. C. Ryde, b Rumball	22	b Rumball	0
E. H. Alington, b Rumball	1	b Watson	8
E. Waddington, b Davson	1	b Watson	7
N. C. Bailey, b Rumball	0	b Watson	0
R. P. McKeand, run out	5	c Rumball, b Watson	7
E. Horne, b Rumball	1	not out	1
F. Rawson, c Robinson, b Davson	0	b Rumball	3
W. Titcomb, b Rumball	0	st Aston, b Rumball	5
A. A. N. Jackson, not out	2	b Rumball	5
R. W. Mead, c Tayloe, b Davson	6	b Rumball	5
Wide	1	Byes 8, Wides 6	14
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	51		66

THE SECOND ELEVEN.

1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
C. S. Davson, c Ryde, b Titcomb	2	c Ryde, b Fox	0
W. C. Aston, c Fox, b Titcomb	9	c Jackson, b Fox	0
A. Dury, run out	3	b Fox	0
H. M. Rumball, b Titcomb	0	not out	2
J. H. Watson, not out	26	b Mead	0
H. P. Robinson, b Titcomb	0	run out	0
R. H. Clarke, st Rawson, b Titcomb	0	c sub. b. Fox	0
A. E. Black, b Titcomb	0	c and b Fox	0
W. N. Tayloe, run out	1	c Ryde, b Mead	0
A. F. M. Gamble, c Bailey, b Fox	2	c sub. b. Fox	0
C. B. Ryde, run out	3	b Fox	0
Leg Byes 2, Wides 2	4	Byes	2
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	50		4

THE annual match between the Eleven and the next Fifteen with Mantle came off up Fields, and was finished on Friday, July 24. The Fifteen, who won the toss, sent in Tayloe and Borradaile, the former of whom played well, and remained for some time; Mantle only scored 14 before he was caught; but Aston's score stands out like a Triton among the minnows, and was the result of spirited play. The total was much larger than was expected, and the Eleven seemed to have more to do than they could manage, with sixteen men in the field. Fox's finely-hit innings of 54 soon altered the state of the game, and as he was well backed up by Waddington, McKeand, Horne, and others, the total was nearly half a hundred in advance of the score of the Fifteen. Aston a second time was top scorer, and it is a pity he was run out. Mantle played well as usual, and Borradaile's contribution was very acceptable, but no one else reached double figures, and thus the Eleven had only 80 to make. Fox and Ryde as usual went in first; the former hit hard as usual, and Ryde, Alington, and Bailey, played well, but four wickets fell to Mantle before the requisite number of runs was obtained.

THE FIFTEEN.

1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
O. Borradaile, b Titcomb	0	c Rawson b Fox	19
W. N. Tayloe, b Fox	33	c Alington b Horne	1
H. M. Rumball, run out.	0	b Mead	9
C. S. Davson, c Titcomb			
b Horne	8	b Mead	2
Mantle, c Alington b Fox	14	c sub. b Titcomb	20
J. Hemsley, b Titcomb	1	b Fox	9
W. C. Aston, b Mead	64	run out	22
A. Dury, b Titcomb	0	b Titcomb	0
C. B. Ryde, b Fox	0	b Fox	2
A. E. Black, b Titcomb	2	c sub. b Titcomb	1
R. H. Clarke, b Titcomb	2	c McKeand b Titcomb	6
H. P. Robinson, b Jackson	4	c Alington b Titcomb	4
A. F. M. Gamble, c Waddington b Mead	2	not out	2
H. Muir, b Mead	1	c Ryde b Titcomb	6
W. Abernethy, b Mead	1	b Fox	1
A. Leggatt, not out.	5	l. b. w. b Mead	2
Byes 3, Leg Byes 4, Wides		Byes 5, Leg Byes 3, Wides	
11	18	6, No Ball 1	15
	155		121

THE ELEVEN.

1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
C. Fox, c Tayloe b Rumball	54	b Mantle	17
W. C. Ryde, b Rumball	8	b Mantle	19
E. H. Alington, c Rumball b Mantle	7	b Mantle	18
R. P. McKeand c and b Mantle	25	b Mantle	0
F. Rawson, b Mantle	16	not out	0
E. Waddington, b Mantle	28		
W. Titcomb, c and b Mantle	11		
E. Horne, b Rumball	27		
A. A. N. Jackson, not out	14		
R. W. Mead, c Muir b Mantle	0		
N. C. Bailey, b Rumball	0	not out	15
Byes 9, Wides 5	14	Byes	11
	204		80

ON Friday, July 31, the First Seven encountered the next Eleven and obtained an easy victory. The

Seven took first innings and made good use of their opportunity, as all of them scored, and six of them got into double figures. The Eleven failed most miserably to accomplish the task set them, and if it had not been for Rawson's good innings of 22, they would have been very badly off, as five of the others shared 0 between them. They were obliged to follow on of course, and in the second attempt they fared somewhat better, but the total of 73 left them still in a minority of 18, and thus they were beaten in one innings.

THE SEVEN.

C. Fox, b Rumball	15
W. C. Ryde, b Mead	13
E. H. Alington, c Rumball b Horne	12
E. Waddington, c Watson b Mead	34
R. P. McKeand, not out	20
N. C. Bailey, b Rumball	2
W. Titcomb, thrown out by Rawson	14
Wides 2, Byes 16, Leg Bye 1	19

129

THE ELEVEN.

1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
R. W. Mead, b Titcomb	2	b Fox	11
E. Horne, b Titcomb	1	b Titcomb	8
F. Rawson, c sub. b Fox	22	c Waddington b Fox	2
O. Borradaile, l. b. w. b Titcomb	0	b Titcomb	15
H. M. Rumball, run out.	1	c and b Fox	4
W. C. Aston, c Ryde b Fox	0	b Titcomb	11
J. H. Watson, b Titcomb	0	b Titcomb	3
C. S. Davson, not out	0	c Titcomb b Fox	4
W. N. Tayloe, c sub. b Titcomb	2	b Fox	3
A. E. Black, run out	1	l. b. w. b Fox	8
A. Dury, b Titcomb	0	not out	1
Byes	9	Bye 1, Leg Byes 2	3
	38		73

THE season was, as usual, wound up with the annual match between the Town Boys, and Queen's Scholars, which was played on Monday, August 3, in very fine weather. The Town Boys were expected to win, as they mustered in their ranks seven of the school eleven. It was the Queen's Scholars turn to take first innings, and accordingly Davson and Aston were deputed to defend the stumps against the attack of Horne and Fox. Both batsmen played carefully, Aston being the first to go after having made 12 by steady play; and Davson followed not long after, having made a like amount. Watson had to retire after receiving one ball from Horne, and Alington came in, and with Mead who filled the vacancy caused by Ryde's departure, raised the score a little. Mead's stubborn defence was at last beaten by a ball sent down by Horne, and Waddington joined Alington, and hit so freely and well that a change of bowling was resorted to—Titcomb being substituted for Fox. After Waddington and Alington had been at last got rid of, the innings was thought to be virtually over: but such was not the case, as the three last men made 17 between them, of which Black claimed 10. The total was rather larger than was expected: it was however materially helped by the extras. The Town Boys began their innings with Borradaile and Fox, the former receiving the first ball,

which sent the stumps flying in all directions. Mead followed this up by demolishing the wickets of Fox and Titcomb almost immediately afterwards. Horne came in and made one hit for 4 off Mead, but he had to be contented with this, as Whitehead bowled him soon after. McKeand made 2 and was then bowled by a tice, and the next ball proved fatal to Rawson. Bailey and Jackson made a temporary stand, but not for long, as both were bowled by Whitehead. Tayloe also made some slight resistance to Mead's attacks but was soon disposed of by that bowler, who also got Dury caught at short leg. The total of 45 astonished every one by its small dimensions. Mead got 7 wickets (of which 6 were clean bowled) for 16 runs, and alarmed the Town Boys considerably. The Queen's Scholars being 69 runs in advance, the Town Boys had to follow on, and amply revenged themselves for their defeat on the first innings, as the score will show. Hemsley and Jackson went first to the wickets, and played very carefully, but did not make many runs. The latter was well caught at the wicket. Fox, who was third on the list, hit hard as usual, and scored 26 before he was caught at long-off by Robinson; Borradaile also proved useful. Bailey did not do much, and it was left for McKeand to make the highest score. His innings was a very good one, one of the best he has played this season. The Town Boys had it all their own way while he was in, and the bowling was completely knocked off. Titcomb, who followed Bailey, played very carefully, but only just succeeded in getting into double figures. The first ball received by Horne from Mead was hit away to long-on for three, as in the previous innings, but this did not last, as he only made 5 more when he ran himself out. Rawson then joined McKeand and played as well as he has ever been known to do; the partnership was dissolved by a splendid catch made by Alington. Tayloe was tenth, but he gave the scorers no trouble. Dury succeeded to the vacant place, and with Rawson played up to time, 188 runs having been scored, for the loss of nine wickets. The Match thus resulted in a draw.

QUEEN'S SCHOLARS.

C. S. Davson, c Titcomb b Fox	12
W. C. Aston, c Bailey b Fox	12
W. C. Ryde, b Fox	3
J. H. Watson, b Horne	0
E. H. Alington, b Titcomb	19
R. W. Mead, b Horne	13
E. Waddington, b Fox	21
F. Whitehead, b Fox	0
C. B. Ryde, b Titcomb	4
A. E. Black, not out	10
H. P. Robinson, b Fox	3
Byes, 4, l. b. 9, w. 3, n. b. 1	17

114

TOWN BOYS.

<i>1st Innings.</i>		<i>2nd Innings.</i>	
O. Borradaile, b Mead	0	thr. out by Mead	13
C. Fox, b Mead	3	c Robinson b Mead	26
W. Titcomb, b Mead	0	c Whitehead b Mead	11
E. Horne, b Whitehead	4	run out	8
N. C. Bailey, b Whitehead	11	c Black b Whitehead	2
R. P. McKeand, b Mead	2	c Alington b Mead	60
F. Rawson, b Mead	0	not out	33

TOWN BOYS (continued).

<i>1st Innings.</i>		<i>2nd Innings.</i>	
A. A. N. Jackson, b Whitehead	8	c Aston b Whitehead	2
W. N. Tayloe, b Mead	7	b Waddington	0
A. Dury, c. Whitehead b Mead	3	not out	2
I. Hemsley, not out	0	b Whitehead	6
Byes 2, l. b. 2, w. 2, n. b. 1	7	Byes 6, l. b. 2, w. 13, n. b. 4	25
	45		188

The match between the Town Boys and Queen's Scholars is of very ancient origin, as it had probably been in existence for many years at the beginning of this century. The earliest match of which we have any record took place in 1806, when the Queen's Scholars won by 10 wickets. Since then the match has been played every year without exception, the results being generally in favour of the Queen's Scholars, who have been victorious on 46 occasions, while the Town Boys have only obtained 20 victories. It is remarkable that out of the 69 matches of which a record remains, only 3 have been drawn, two out of this number having been played during the last five years.

The season which is just over has not been very successful, as regards the number of victories gained. Out of the nine matches which have been played, we have won three and lost four, while two were drawn. The reason why the defeats are more in number than the victories is not very hard to discover. The fielding was quite up to the average, and the batting was probably better than it has been for two or three years past; but it was in bowling that our weakness lay. That the Carthusians scored 121 runs for the loss of three wickets, is a sufficient proof of this statement; and if another is wanted, we need only refer to the match against the Incogniti, when more than 130 runs were made by our opponents, between the fall of the fourth and fifth wickets. However good the batting and fielding may be, we cannot expect to win many matches, if we are wanting in good bowlers. Everybody now-a-days seems to think that a bowler, like a poet, *nascitur non fit*, and therefore if they cannot bowl, do not try to learn. But this is undoubtedly a great mistake, and we feel sure that if a little more attention had been given to the bowling department during the early part of the season, we might have been able to show a longer list of victories. McKeand, who wins the average bat this year, has an average which is more than three times as great than the one which headed the list last year. Fox's average is in reality better than it seems, since he has, on almost every occasion, gone on first. On the whole the batting shows a decided improvement on last year.

BATTING AVERAGES.

	<i>Inns.</i>	<i>No. of runs.</i>	<i>Average.</i>
R. P. McKeand	7	329	47
N. C. Bailey	10	113	11-3
E. Waddington	10	152	15-2
E. H. Alington	11	128	11-7
W. C. Ryde	11	90	8-2
C. Fox	10	277	27-7
W. Titcomb	5	58	11-3
E. Horne	5	53	10-3
F. Rawson	6	75	12-3
A. A. N. Jackson	3	30	10
R. W. Mead	5	53	10-3

The Water.

ALTHOUGH possibly the events of the last few evenings of last half may be pretty generally known, yet it may be hoped that we are not guilty of a grave breach of decorum in producing them in black and white at the beginning of this. The account of the Queen's Scholar and Town-Boy Race has already been given, so we may proceed at once to the Pairs, which were rowed on Thursday, the 30th of July, from Putney to Wandsworth New Bridge. There were seven boats entered for this race, but some of us were suffering so acutely from certain dilapidations resulting from the race of the day before that only three boats actually started. The stations were as follows:—

MIDDLESEX.	CENTRE.	SURREY.
F. D. Crowdy, Q.S.	J. Fischer.	H. Macnamara.
J. H. Williams, Q.S.	J. A. Batley.	C. C. Macnamara, Q.S.

Williams drew ahead at the start, followed by Batley, while the Macnamaras, who were not very well matched, had such difficulty in keeping clear of the bank that they soon retired from the contest. Batley meanwhile had had some difficulty with a barge, thus widening the gap between himself and Williams; who finally won by four lengths.

On Friday—the last night—the Second Eight *v.* the First Four of the Eight, was rowed over the same course. The Eight was very dilapidated indeed, so that out of the only four that could row at all, Bow was suffering from indisposition, and Stroke was not altogether fresh, both having rowed in the races on the two preceding nights. In the Second Eight, A. P. Hill being unable to row, his place was taken by A. L. Kelly, so that the boats were—

FOUR OF THE EIGHT.	THE SECOND EIGHT.
Bow. F. D. Crowdy.	Bow. A. L. Kelly.
2. J. H. Barber.	2. R. D. Brinton.
3. C. F. Brickdale.	3. E. V. Arnold.
Stroke—J. A. Batley.	4. A. P. Longstaffe.
Cox.—P. J. C. Randolph.	5. C. A. Jones.
	6. R. H. U. Ellis.
	7. J. Fischer.
	Stroke—J. H. Williams.
	Cox.—F. G. Hallett.

The Second Eight rowed in a lighter boat than has usually been given them, which made some difference, but it is doubtful¹ whether this materially influenced the race. The reader would be wearied with all the explanations that have been offered of the phenomenon, but it doubtless did actually occur that the Second Eight came in considerably in front of the Four; the most satisfactory explanation is, that the Four not seeing the Eight, and thinking that the latter were so far behind as to be out of sight, rowed in easily, and were considerably disgusted to find the Second Eight waiting for them at the end.

Thus ended this year's rowing, in which it is to be hoped that some advance has been made; attention has been perhaps more given to improving the general style than to working up the Eight itself to any high degree of proficiency; and of course until there is a clear prospect of foreign races there is not so much

¹ Very.—ED.

inducement to training particular crews. We must take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to those Old Westminsters who have helped us this year, and of "soliciting a continuance of favours," without which it is difficult to see how we should have been able to do anything at all.

Athletic Sports.

COMMITTEE.

E. V. Arnold.	C. F. Reeks.
M. M. Rodocanachi.	A. B. Cartwright, <i>Hon. Sec.</i>
E. Waddington.	J. A. Batley, <i>Treas.</i>
E. H. Alington.	

THE Athletic Sports will take place at Vincent Square, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 14th and 15th inst., as usual.

We give a list of the various races, &c., with last year's times, distances, and heights, for the sake of comparison; also the holders of challenge cups.

First Day, 14th October, 1874. 1 o'clock.

1. Throwing the cricket ball—Under 15. Distance 62 yards.
2. Flat Race—one mile—open. Holder of Challenge cup, H. S. Otter. Time, 5 min. 24 secs.
3. Throwing the cricket ball—open. Distance, 81 yards 1 ft.
4. Flat Race—100 yards—under 15. Time, 13 secs.
5. Long Jump—open. Holder of Challenge cup, H. A. C. Rogers. Distance, 15 ft.
6. Flat Race—440 yards—under 16. Time, 63 secs.
7. Hurdle Race—100 yards—8 flights—open. Holder of Challenge cup, H. A. C. Rogers. Time, 17½ secs.
8. High Jump—under 15. Height, 4 ft. 3 in.
9. Flat Race—300 yards—under 14. Time, 45 secs.
10. High Jump—open. Height 4 ft. 8½ in.
11. Final Heat of Hurdle Race.
12. Flat Race—100 yards—under 16. Time, 12½ secs.

Second Day, 15th October, 1874. 11.30 o'clock.

1. Throwing the Hammer—open. Holder of Challenge Hammer, H. S. Otter. Distance, 75 ft.
2. Throwing the Hammer—under 16. Distance, 67 ft.
3. Quarter Mile with Hurdles at End—open. Holder of Challenge cup, E. H. Alington. Time, 2 min. 37 secs.
4. Pole Jump—under 15. Height, 6 ft. 4½ in.
5. Flat Race—150 yards—under 13. Time, 20 secs.
6. Long Jump—under 15. Distance, 13 ft. 1 in.
7. Flat Race—100 yards—open. Holder of Challenge cup, H. A. C. Rogers. Time, 11 secs.
8. Flat Race—440 yards—under 15. Holder of Challenge cup, A. E. Black. Time, 69 secs.
9. Pole Jump—open. Height, 7 ft. 8 in.
10. Hurdle Race—100 yards—8 flights—under 15. Time not taken.
11. Flat Race—440 yards—open. Holder of Challenge cup, R. W. F. Harrison. Time, 61 secs.
12. Consolation Race—300 yards. Not timed.

The order of these events must not be considered as being yet finally settled.

ASTRONOMY.

As has been before intimated, we have lately been enjoying a course of lectures on Astronomy, of which we propose to give a slight abstract for the benefit of absent friends and those who may have happened to be drowsy or preoccupied at the lectures.

Astronomy is ostensibly the science that treats of the properties of the heavenly bodies. It by no means, however, confines itself to its legitimate study, and widens the area and fits investigations to inquiries connected with the owners of the properties of the heavenly bodies—i. e. the heavenly bodies themselves. It is also rather partial to indulging in poetical but apparently useless speculations as to what would occur to us under circumstances that we are practically certain can never exist. For instance, a considerable portion of our time and attention was consumed in grasping the consequences to the earth if the sun suddenly became a round oak table six feet wide, when as far as I can remember we should immediately find ourselves inhabiting a fourpenny piece. It may be a great cause for thankfulness and thus a good moral exercise, to feel practically certain that as the chances in favour of such a hypothesis are small, so our fears may be proportionately lessened of having to undertake such a revision of the laws relating to tenure of land as would be rendered necessary. We also found that the scheme for making a railroad to the sun would have fallen through, if it had ever been set on foot, owing to the fact that the fastest mail trains would not perform the journey in less than 169 years, exclusive of stoppages, and that therefore although Methuselah might have performed the journey under such conditions, our stock of centenarians even now is so low that we could not risk the chances of loss that would be incurred by starting on such an expedition.

There is no knowing, however, what the inhabitants of the sun are doing when we learn that they are four times as clever as we are, for the density of the sun is only one-fourth of that of the earth: we subsequently learned, however, that our centenarian excursionist, besides having to put up with inconveniences of climate, and inclemency of atmospheric arrangements, would find that owing to the increased mass of his basis of operation, not only would the force of gravity interfere with his availing himself of the facilities afforded by the purchase of a return ticket, but he actually would not be able to support his own weight, which would certainly be insupportable. In considering the advantages we receive from the sun, the most indispensable was said to be heat, but we could only persuade ourselves that it was the most noticeable or self-important just at that time; and we were convinced that our share of $\frac{1}{27000000}$ enjoyed by our whole system, had come out unusually large this year. Electrical communication has also been established to the satisfaction of philosophers; so we may hope to have all questions of doubt cleared up by succinct reports, sent in through the medium of the postal telegraph office, as soon as convenient. All our impressions of colour are derived from the sun; we may therefore safely infer that just at present these

arrangements are a little out of order, judging from the spectacle lately exhibited to Londoners, of letter-boxes which we know to be dark green, suddenly appearing of a brilliant scarlet or flame-coloured hue. We must here conclude, in order to give our readers time to digest some of the conclusions that we have (we flatter ourselves not wholly unoriginally or unprofitably) deduced.

 RECOLLECTIONS OF A HOME-BOARDER.

IN these days, when the school numbers 200, one half of whom are half or home-boarders, it may be difficult to realize the appearance of Westminster with less than ninety boys, of whom, as forty were in College, there were but fifty to be divided between the three boarding-houses and the home-boarders. Such, however, was the strength of the school when I entered it, in the later years of the rule of Dr. Williamson, that most estimable gentleman, and most unsuccessful master, who was eminently unfitted to pull Westminster through the days of struggle which ensued in the decade following the establishment of King's College as a place of education for boys whose parents resided in London. So fatal, indeed, was this step to the constitution of our Alma Mater, that her numbers diminished in four years from 200 to 100, and even on one occasion are recorded to have been only sixty-seven. There is, however, a tide in the affairs of boys as well as men; and, on the day on which I first made my appearance up school, there were probably some eighty or eighty-five boys present to stare at me, and inquire my name.

I must, I should suppose, have excited rather more than the usual amount of curiosity, mingled, perhaps, with a certain superstitious contempt of so insignificant a creature. I was not eight years old, yet I dared to appear in a garb which has perhaps, never before or since been seen in a public school; so small was I, that my parents considered it would be ridiculous to put me into a jacket, and I made my *début* behind the examination table in the pelisse in which I had figured in the earlier stage of my education. For do not imagine that I was now for the first time going to school; far from it; from the age of four, I had been at a boarding-school (kept, it is true, by ladies), where I was so thoroughly at home that, on one occasion, I was left behind for my holidays. Perhaps it was due to my having thus become used to be out of apron-strings, and to a general disposition to make the best of it, that I was not too much frightened at the chaff I received, and escaped being murdered and having my obnoxious garment sent home dyed with my blood; at any rate, to this day I think that my survival of those first hours is a good proof that persecution and bullying were not carried to the extreme point for which Westminster at that time received credit.

I believe that I must have been in the Petty the first day of my school life; but no sooner had it come to my turn to appear before the awful pair of judges, than they found my qualifications sufficient to entitle

me to an honourable position as third boy in the Under First. (In strict fairness I ought to mention that there were only two others in that form, and none in the Petty, so that there would have been some inconvenience in making a whole Form of me.) The head of my form was a few days younger than myself, and had been a year at School, so that he must have started at the age of six; the second boy was much older, at least nine, I should think, and, being a chorister, was the subject of some depreciation, not unmixed with envy, at his being entitled to skip an hour's school twice a day, in order to attend the services.

The earliest of my duties of which I have a distinct recollection was to watch, with my eye at a hole in the upper door of School, along with two other scouts, in order to give warning on the appearance of a Master. I must mention that in those days my much respected Hypodidasculus (as he loved to style himself) was, or thought himself, a great invalid, and in the cold spring mornings, he found it far pleasanter to send for a set of boys to come to his house, than himself to hear their lessons in School. Thus, when at ten o'clock the Head Master took the Sixth into the Library, it was pretty certain that the Under Master also would not be present; and the two ushers, being aware of this, found it more agreeable to saunter up school about half-past ten, than to hurry away from their breakfast directly the little boys under the arch raised the shout of "Will-iam-son co-o-o-ming!"

(To be continued).

TO CORRESPONDENTS, &c.

OUR next Number will be published on the 21st inst. All contributions should be sent to the Editor, St. Peter's College, Westminster, by the 15th inst.

The subscription to the Elizabethan up to Christmas next (when the terms of subscription will be re-arranged) is 2s. 6d. All subscriptions should be sent to the treasurer, St. Peter's College.

We are sorry to hear that some copies of the Elizabethan for August last did not reach their destination, although posted by us. We shall be much obliged if all subscribers not receiving their copies early in the month will at once write to the Secretary.

LL.D.—Many thanks for your second contribution, which we reserve for the present.

Declined with thanks.—Libertatis Amator: Football.

Felis.—We advise you to join drawing.

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ELIZABETHAN.

SIR,—Might I ask whether any of your readers have noticed the cricket ground the Under Elections had to play on? This last year they have been obliged to play on a substance which resembles a turnpike road more than anything else. Surely

if Town-Boys were allowed a ground with grass on it, the Under Elections might also have one. I hope next year it may be improved, and that they will be able to play on grass at least. Hoping this may meet your approval, I subscribe myself,

A LOVER OF FAIR PLAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ELIZABETHAN.

SIR,—It is, I believe, the custom of the school that football should be commenced immediately on the return from the summer holidays. This may be all very well sometimes—when the weather is not too hot—but in a year like the present it is next to impossible, that is with any approach to comfort for the next hour or so, to play with any energy. Would it not therefore be better to postpone football for a week or two after the beginning of the Autumn Half?

ROBUSTUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ELIZABETHAN.

DEAR SIR,—I am sorry to say that there are many small boys who cannot join in the Athletic Sports because they are too old, and also there are many young boys who are tall and strong, who of course win the races which ought to be won by the small boys. Now, if there were races for a certain height instead of a certain age, I think it would be much better.¹ Another thing also many boys want, and that is a sack race. With these alterations I think the sports would go off much better,

I am, sir, yours truly,

SMALL BOY.

TO THE READERS OF THE ELIZABETHAN.

DEAR SIRS,—I have been much surprised at the small amount of correspondence which was sent in during the last three months. As this may possibly proceed from ignorance of the first principles of correspondence, allow me to insert a few hints to intending contributors.

1. Be sure always to take the wrong side of a question: this will stir up a number of opponents, desiring "to employ the medium of our valuable journal," and making the next number quite lively: or,

2. A still better plan is to take the right side, but to state it so absurdly as to make every one think it wrong: in the next number several of the unwary will perhaps even laugh at you: a month after you reply, crushing the whole lot. This, however, requires art.

3. Read the daily papers regularly, and take in a stock of long words.

4. Studiously avoid temperate language. Everything you at all disagree with should be "a monstrous abuse," "a sad grievance," "unequalled stupidity," &c.

5. Get a Latin "nom de plume," if possible with a mistake in it. This will save us the trouble of copying it out wrong.

6. Send some one else's name and address, as a guarantee of good faith.

7. Do not propose to abolish the Play, as no letter having such radical tendencies will be inserted.

Most of these rules having been carried out with success in the best known papers for many years past, will surely produce a good result in this case. It may also be interesting to compare a copy of what you write with what is printed in our columns.

THE EDITOR.

¹ Would not races for a certain measurement round the chest, fore-arm or calves be more equitable?—Ed.

Floreat.