



The Meteor.

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WERE all other motives absent, one, and a powerful one, would still exist, to lead us to speak, and contribute to the welfare, of our School Rifle Corps. We feel, when we begin to treat of it, that it has for us a familiarity, a fondness of association, which quite distinguish it from any of the other subjects which may engage us. For, as our readers will doubtless remember, the *Meteor*, when in its very infancy, united itself with the military element of the School, and the pages of its first number bore the names of those who had recently assumed the uniform of the R.S.B.C. We may be pardoned, then, if we speak at some length, and with much earnestness, on our present subject. At about the same time as that we have been mentioning,—the time, namely of our first appearance,—as will be also remembered, the hearts of Sergeant TAIT, and, indeed, of all true friends of the School, were delighted by a very sudden rekindling of the martial spirit among us. Our Rifle Corps had been established several years, but from various causes—principally the gradual decline of the spirit which had originated it—it had become miserably contracted; the members became fewer, the attendance at drill and at the butts smaller, the numbers dwindled to a solitary company, and even the most blind and sanguine were forced to allow a lamentable decline. Yet in spite of all this, in spite of the distance of the range, in spite of the attractions of cricket and racquets, there was one thing left, one thread, as it were, by which the friends of the Rifle Corps might snatch it from its threatened fate,—namely, the Public School Competition at Wimbledon.

And this was not overlooked: by degrees the School were gradually brought to feel that it was disgraceful that the School which had once held the Shield in its keeping, the School which could maintain its own so well in cricket and football, should fall so miserably short of its past doings and its present capability in this one respect; and at the beginning of this year, by the energy of the Captain and some of the Masters, the number of recruits exceeded that of the old members; new rules were made for drill and shooting; and, most important of all, new and improved rifles were got for the Eleven. These exertions were fully answered by the results. In the Summer Term many of the winter recruits were found to be fit for the Wimbledon team; foreign matches were introduced, in the majority of which the School was successful and above all we were, as we heard at the Concert, "a very good second" for the Wimbledon Shield.

It is with the hope of advancing, in some measure, the next step of the Rifle Corps, that we are writing now. It is proposed by persons who have the interest of the Corps very much at heart, to have it *enrolled*. In case some of our readers may have forgotten or never known what this term implies, we will explain a little. Any School Rifle Corps (having a certain number of efficient members) can, on application to the Lord-Lieutenant of the county, be sworn in and become enrolled. What this enrolment means is best seen by seeing what are its results; and to save time we will take them in our case by dividing them into two classes—the advantageous and disadvantageous. Firstly,