

the ball down. The distance was great from goal, but Fletcher was equal to it, and kicked a splendid goal, thus finishing the match.

THE THREE B'S v. THE SCHOOL.—This match was begun on Saturday last, the Road match having occupied the attention of Big-side for so short a time. It promised to be one of the best contended in the season, the School having a slight preponderance in weight; but the play on both sides was uncommonly good. The B's began with the School goal, but by some accident their opponents managed to kick one goal that afternoon, the B's obtaining a punt-out. The match was continued on Monday, when the School got a try between the posts but were foiled in their attempt, owing to the kick being charged down by Scutter. The Houses, after some excellent play on the part of several forwards, touched the ball down in the School goal. A punt-out ensued, which was not caught. The match will be continued on Thursday (to-day.)

BOWDEN SMITH'S v. BURROWS'.—This match was commenced, Oct. 28th, by Tobin mi. kicking off for Burrows', who had the School goal. Burrows' gained considerable advantage by the kick off, and penned slightly for a short time, till a fine run on the part of Gardner ma., for Bowden Smith's, brought the ball to the School side of the three trees, where it remained more or less for the remainder of the match, as Bowden Smith's penned closely ever afterwards, till "no-side" was called, in spite of the strenuous efforts of Tobin mi. (Blake's), who was playing for Ellis ma. No goal was obtained by Bowden Smith's, though they had two tries and a punt out, and made Burrows' touch the ball down eight times in their own goal. For Bowden Smith's we noticed Gardner ma., and Mc.Millan back, Gardner mi., (who, by the bye, made a very good drop at goal, which just went under the bar,) half-back, and Rowden, Paterson, and Kough, forward, as being most conspicuous; while for Burrows' Riley and Russell mi., back, Tobin mi. and Benham (Wilson's) for Ellis mi., half-back, and Russell, ma. and Maitland, forward, played well.

SCHOOL HOUSE v. ARNOLD'S.—This was the first match of the season. The School House took the Island Goal, and gave kick off to their opponents, an advantage which they did not keep for long, as the ball was

soon carried past the three trees and tided into their goal, where they touched it down. Lambert then dropped out, and soon after one of the Arnoldite backs dropped the ball in front of their goal, where Warner (a School House back) caught it and made his mark. Scutter then made an unsuccessful try at goal. They again dropped it out, and Davenport made a short run in, and touched the ball down in the Arnoldite goal. Then followed another unsuccessful try, and a run in by Scutter, but as it was too far for a place kick, Davenport punted it out; the ball was not caught, and a long scrummage ensued under the goal, when the ball was luckily passed back to Moberly (half-back) and he ran in between the posts. This time Scutter kicked a splendid goal. After the change of goal, the Arnoldites stood up very pluckily, and prevented their opponents from making much progress, but Senior (a School House back) soon made up for this by a first-rate run through and past several fellows, and finally touched the ball down in their goal. No goal, however, was kicked, nor indeed after another run in by Moberly. The play on both sides was very fair indeed, and the half-backs, Moberly, Lambert, and Westfeldt, did great service for their respective sides.

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE.—A meeting was held on Thursday, October 31st, for the purpose of drawing the Second House Ties. The results of the first ties our readers will see in another column.—Rev. C. E. Moberly's play School House; Rev. C. B. Hutchinson's play Rev. P. Bowden Smith's; Rev. T. W. Jex Blake's odd house.—Rev. C. E. Moberly's have scratched, so there remains only one match in this round, which is to be played on Saturday next. There will afterwards be one tie and one odd-house.

THE RIFLE CORPS.—The School XI. v. Rossall XI.—The simultaneous match between these sides resulted as follows:—Rossall, 269; Rugby, 247.

The Batting Averages of the Eleven are unusually high for this year. The highest average, that of the Captain, B. Pauncefote, is 37-1; the highest at Eton is that of C. J. Thornton, 32-2; at Cheltenham, F. Baker, 31; at Marlborough, H. Hillyard, 29-2; at Harrow, J. Walsh, 20-4.

The Sermon for the Rugby Fox Master-ship, in India, was preached this year by the

Rev. W. Benson, Headmaster of Wellington College.

The following subscriptions to the Organ Fund, received by Mr. Edwards, have been paid by him to the Treasurer:—E. W. P., 10s.; E. Hailstone, Esq., 10s.; S. Hailstone, Esq., £1; H. H. Johnston, Esq., £1 ls.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Contributions will be received at the *Advertiser* Office, or at Mr. Pepperday's, under cover to the "Editor of the *Meteor*."

RUGBY FOOTBALL.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

DEAR SIR,—Having known football at Rugby now for some years, I venture to send you a few remarks on my impressions of the present state of the game.

In the first place I remark two very great improvements in the game of late years, one is the suppression of vicious hacking and the other the absence of "mauls." But I do not think that these two improvements, excellent as they are in themselves, have been conducive to unmixed good to the game. In idea the object both of the hacking and the mauls was to get the ball on. Often a good strong fellow carried the ball clear through a scrumage, by dint of hard hacking, and also a little dodgy fellow would somehow wriggle out of a maul and get away for a clear drop: so it happened that the ball was seldom stationary for long together; but now the "squashes" which follow a fellow being caught with the ball, and made to put it down, may last an indefinite time, for the ball lies quietly on the ground, while the players shove each other in the ribs with their elbows; and even if the ball has the luck to show itself outside the scrumage, it is instantly shoved, rather than kicked, back among the forest of motionless legs. Now my notion is that it is a most desirable thing to get the ball out of a scrumage, and that as soon as it appears outside it should be kicked at once *sideways*, or only slightly forward, so as to give the half-backs a chance of a clear run, and drop. My impression is that the present practice, which keeps the game so tame, has arisen from a wrong idea about funking, namely, that a fellow must be a funk unless he sticks always quite close to the ball. This is a mistake, for much more pluck is wanted to make a good run at the ball, when it is *loose*,

than to shove, with the whole side to back you; and the consequence of the idea is that there are never any open scrummages, in which the ball is carried on with the feet,—more as in Eton football—instead of the hands. With our strict rule of "off-side" there is not much fear of "sneaking;" and the game is much livelier and more exciting if the sides spread more, so that the players can help each other. I suppose the object of each side is to get the ball on, and I maintain that the best means are not taken to do so. I believe this is clear if you think what the result of a game would be in which one side kept close upon the ball, according to the present fashion, and the other spread itself out, and observed the rules that backs and half-backs should always get their drops, and forward players seldom or ever take up the ball at all, unless with the fair chance of a "run in." It used in my time to be a rule that back players of both kinds should make sure of their drops, and by the side spreading out it was ensured that if a back player made a "skew" drop, some other fellow far out would follow it up for him and prevent a long-back on the other side having, as he has now, a calm run away from the game. There has been an idea abroad that a back player funks unless he runs till he is caught; no doubt some times this leads to a brilliant run in, such we saw in the VI. match, but generally I think it only tends to choke the game. My two suggestions are that backs and half-backs should drop more and try to run less; and that the forward players should spread more, and in the case of a tight scrumage should aim at getting the ball out, forwards, sideways, or backwards, according as it gives the best chance of a neat run and drop. It is obvious that I speak from a back-player's point of view, and so no doubt my opinion is open to suspicion, but at any rate it is founded on a good deal of experience, and offered from a sincere desire that all should get as much fun as possible out of the jolly old game, which we always so doggedly maintain *must* be the best game in the world.

I remain, dear Sir,

Your obedient servant,
F. H. FISHER.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

School House, Nov. 2, 1867.

SIR,—Will you allow me to remind your correspondents "Trio," that the jurisdiction of the Football Committee only extends to