



The Meteor.

Edited by Members of Rugby School.

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THE attendance of Caps at Big-Side matches is a question which has been considered a great deal at the beginning of the present season. It is undeniable that some legislation is required on the subject, for it is a scandal that Caps should absent themselves from Big-Side on grounds so trivial as are sometimes given. However, that the Big-Sides should be so small this season can in some way be accounted for by the fact that not a single new Cap has been given since the Sixth match. Here, surely, there is something wrong. Why no new Caps? At the Sixth match this year, it was said the number of new Caps was the smallest on record. We suppose then there is a diminution of players worth their Caps in the School. Why so? Carry your memories back, those of you who can, three or four years, to the time when you were in the Middle School, you who are now in the Sixth or Twenty. Do you not remember how there were ten Caps, two fellows in the Eleven, and four in the Twenty-Two, all in your own Form? Ask a Middle School friend now-a-days, how many swells of the above denominations there are in his Form. His answer will tell you, perhaps, that there is one Cap, and, by chance, one in the Twenty-Two. Of course, then, you cannot but wonder what has caused this. You begin to feel that, after all, certain discontented Old Rugbeians have reason on their side when they lament over the degeneration of the School since their days. In spite of the violence of your protestations against the fact of any such degeneration, a melancholy truth seems to force itself upon you, and,

contrary to the feelings and wish of your inmost heart, you are beginning to think that the glories of the Middle School must be fading. But some excuse must be found; we must have something to lay the blame upon; we must be able to say to Old Rugbeians that the fellows in the School are as good and as strong as they used to be, and that any apparent falling off in the School must be attributed to some latent cause. What can that be? It cannot be the enticements and enervating effects of the Arnold Library already. What then? Superannuation. That word so dreadful to you when you wish very much to come back and get into the Twenty-Two, or get your Cap. That is the reason. If you will but consider, how many are there who are on the verge of getting into the House Twenty who are coldly informed that they are superannuated, and must leave? We have found then a reason which can explain away the small choice of fellows to make new Caps; and this also gives a certain amount of excuse for the smallness of Big-Sides. Shall we, then, haste to give numbers of Caps, so that there shall always be a Big-Side of a tolerable size? By no means. Let us always keep up that standard of Cap-play which has been fixed by our predecessors. In olden days, when the number of Caps was larger, the absence of a few did not materially affect the match: there were always sufficient to make the match a good one. But now, it is not so; it makes the greatest difference in the match any two or three good players being absent. In order to amend the attendance at Big-Side, "Trio" have written in our columns;