

the time—that he must give up all idea of an Alpine tour this year, and read nine hours a-day with a coach. Or he may blurt it out at once—"You have, Sir, wasted a disgraceful amount of money, you have done yourself discredit; if you don't read 9 hours a-day &c."

Now, we have a reproof to give our readers, and in doing so have to choose one or other of these methods. Which? Our selfishness leads us to choose the latter. We will make no prelude, we will go by no circuitous route,—straight to the point at once.

In the last few months the School has not been *energetic*; and want of energy is a grievous fault.

We may seem rather to despond, but a careful review of the past year, and may we not say of the past Term, reveals the existence of the fault. The actual play at Football of the School has, we believe, been the subject of praise and commendation from those who are good judges of the game; but the frequent talk of "notes," of revival of "compulsory" rules, seems to point to something wrong in the spirit with which Football is regarded. But in the Running of the School has been the chief exhibition of the evil: Big-Sides have dwindled; the idea of running 8 or 9 miles, on rather a damp cold day, has been scouted in a way which ought to terrify us. The Natural History Society has been kept afloat—shall we rouse the ire still further of a deity who, we fear, already bears us a grudge, by saying just afloat?—at any rate those most intimately acquainted with it would, we suspect, if made to confess the whole truth, wish that the School did a little more than it does at present to maintain it in its present position.

Of course there are, and have been, some brilliant exceptions. The Rifle Corps is to be enrolled, and to gain thereby numberless advantages. May the fame of those who have wrought the change live as long as there are Rugbeian arms to wield the rifle—Rugbeian feet to execute the goose-step! Within our own columns we could point to one or two instances in which a cause has been advocated, arguments adduced, adversaries squashed, in a way that betrays no want of energy at all.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

On the 6th a special meeting was held, at which Rev. J. W. Hayward (of Price's) presented to the Society a large Collection of Butterflies and Sphinges. Mr. Hayward

congratulated the members on the advantages naturalists in the School enjoyed now, as contrasted with the disadvantages which he had himself experienced. He cautioned the members against a reckless love of collecting eggs; many rare birds were, he said, fast becoming extinct, owing to the careless rapacity of collectors.

Notes were read by G. B. Longstaff on "Some additional instances of mimicry in Insects," and on "Lists of Local Fauna."

On the 14th the last meeting of this Term was held; papers were read by J. M. Lester on "Mimicry in animals;" by F. R. Smith on "The Nutmeg-tree," in explanation of a specimen presented by him to the School collection; and on "The Lias Fossils," by E. Cleminshaw. This last paper was the most valuable communication that has been made by any member, honorary or ordinary, since the Society has been in existence: it contained the results of long research in the neighbourhood, and was illustrated by the whole of the author's local collection.

A list of about 90 birds observed near Rugby was handed in by H. C. Reader, and a large collection of plants, made in a tour this summer in Germany and Switzerland, by F. R. Smith. E. W. Prevost (Bowden Smith's) was elected an associate.

FOOTBALL.

BLAKE'S *v.* SCHOOL HOUSE.—This match, after being long deferred on account of the weather, was played on Thursday, December 12th, and continued on Saturday and Tuesday. Blake's won the toss and chose kick off; School House took the Island Goal. Very soon after commencing, by some very good forward play, the School House carried the ball down to their adversaries' goal, where they were obliged to touch it down. It was then taken out, and in a very short time it was taken back, and was touched down a second time in Blake's goal. After this time, however, Blakes' had somewhat of the advantage in penning, although with no result. During this match, Moberly (School House) unfortunately met with a bad accident, breaking his collar bone.

Saturday, Dec. 14th.—The match was continued, and with more equal results. The School House had the best of the penning, and each side obtained a touch down. Some very excellent play was shown this day. The results on each side are so small that it