

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

would be useless detailing the day's play.

Tuesday, Dec. 17th. This day each side played with 19 men, owing to a difficulty in obtaining substitutes. Soon after the beginning, Blake's forced their opponents past the three trees, and down to their goal, where soon very hard play followed. Here the ball was kept for a long time, near the School House goal, when after a scrummage, Reynolds touched the ball down for Blake's. A try was about to follow, but this was mauled, and was consequently scored as a punt-out. The game was then continued, and soon after this, Haslam (Blake's), getting a severe blow on the head, was totally disabled. Not long after, Ingram made a long run to the Barby road side, which materially changed the state of the game. Here, again, after some very hard play on both sides, the ball was touched down in Blake's goal by Stunt. A try followed by Davenport which was unsuccessful, and after some scrummaging Blake's were obliged to touch it down. Here ended the match. Where the play was so universally good it is hard to select any, but we may say that of the School House the play of Westfeldt, Davenport, Phillips (substitute for Moberly), and Cholmondeley was excellent; while for Blake's, Tobin ma., Graham, Fletcher, and Botfield (substitute for Hornby), played splendidly.

MOBERLY'S v. BURROWS'.—This match was played on Monday last, and was very equally contested, chiefly through the excellent play of Lambert (Arnold's), who was playing substitute for Ellis ma., the latter being prevented from playing, owing to severe indisposition. Soon after the beginning, the ball was brought down to the neighbourhood of Moberly's goal, by a succession of runs by Lambert, where it was finally touched down for Burrows'. A very good try at goal followed, considering that the kick was from the slope. After this the game was very equally contested for some time, when a very good run by Southam changed the state of the game and brought the ball within Burrows' 25-yds. post. Here, by two splendid runs by Crenshaw, the ball was brought into Burrows' goal, when it was touched down for them by Cochrane, after a maul with two of the opposite side. A try followed which was unsuccessful. Burrows' were then obliged to touch it down, and soon "no-side" was called. Thus each side had obtained a try at goal, and Moberly's had one touch down to their credit.

TWO COCK HOUSES v. SCHOOL; BELOW CAPS.—This match was played on Thursday, November 28th, and resulted in a slight victory for the School of a couple of touches down, though the two Houses (the School House and Mr. Hutchinson's) made a much better fight of it than could have been expected from the overpowering weight of their adversaries. For the two Houses we noticed Fowler, Gwyer, Westfeldt (half-back), and Layton (back) as playing very well; while Nicolson, Marshall, and Tinkler (half-back) did good service for the School.

School Dropping 1. Tobin mi.
2. Crenshaw.

School Placing 1. Baylis.
2. { Peshall.
Yardley.

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE.—At a meeting held on Thursday morning last it was decided that the order of the Houses be—1, School House; 2, Blake's. It was also proposed, and afterwards carried at Big-Side levée, that in future the head of the School be a member of the committee *ex-officio* without a vote.

BIG-SIDE RUNS.

THE THURLASTON.—This run came off on Thursday, December 5th. The ground was not in a very favourable condition for running, but very slippery owing to the thaw after the recent frost, but in spite of this seven out of eight came in. The Hares Bucknill (Town) and Graham (Blake's) were slightly beaten by the leading Hounds, who came in in the following order. 1st, Eddis (Hutchinson's), 49min. 20sec.; 2nd, Lane (Town), 50min.; 3rd, Townsend (Arnold's), 50min. 10sec.; 4th, Whiting (Bowden Smith's), 52min.; 5th, Shirley (School House), 53min. 35sec.; 6th, Gordon (Burrows's), 54 min. Milner (Arnold's) was unfortunately unable to start until a few minutes after the other Hounds, but came in easily, accomplishing the run a little over 50min.

THE CRICK.—After two adjournments, the Crick at length came off on Saturday, December 14th. It is perhaps worth mentioning as a curious fact, that it is exactly 10 years since the Crick has been run on a Saturday, or indeed upon any other day than Thursday. Most unfortunately illness and the House Match in the morning prevented five fellows from going who had intended to run. But in spite of the small start, and the dire prognostications of some despairing prophets