

that the run would not be accomplished in less than ten minutes longer than last time, the pace was fair being only one minute slower than last year's. Some of the fields were very heavy, especially those which had been recently ploughed. The Hares, Milner and Whiting, left the School Gates at 2.33, and the Hounds who were six in number, ten minutes after them. For the first mile the latter all kept well together, but after this, Eddis and Townsend took the lead and soon lost sight of the rest with the exception of Lane, who ran about 200 yards behind them until they reached Crick. Going up the hill into Hillmorton, the two first Hounds sighted one of the Hares about 300 yards in front of them, a distance which they gradually lessened, until upon reaching the "come in" it was diminished to 30 yards. The following are the times:—Hares, G. H. Milner (Arnold's), 1h. 33min., H. Whiting (Bowden Smith's), 1h. 35min. 55sec. Hounds, H. Eddis (Hutchinson's), 1h. 26min.; J. H. Townsend (Arnold's), 1h. 26 min. None of the other hounds came in, in the requisite time.

**ERRATA IN OUR LAST.**—In the letter signed "Psittacus," two mistakes considerably change his meaning. For "monstrous" read "monotonous"; and for "disposition" read "disproportion."

It is with pleasure that we notice that the Terminal Prize Foils, at the Gymnasium, Oxford, have been again won by an Old Rugbeian, E. Wason, of Wadham.

Old Rugbeians will be glad to know that the Rugby Register has been reprinted and continued up to the present term, covering from 1675 to 1867.

**NEW CAPS.**—Fletcher (Blake's) received his cap on November 24th. The following have received a like honour within the last week:—Arnold's—Sartoris and Marshall; Burrows'—Dodds & Riley; Bowden Smith's—Mac-millan ma. and Micholls; Blake's—Penrose, Stevenson, and Dugdale; School House—Field, Stunt, and Fowler; Wilson's—Nicolson; Moberly's—Stock and Eaden; Hutchinson's—Gwyer.

During the late frost, owing to the prohibition of real skating, it was carried on vigorously in the close, where the gravel, we should imagine, made considerable havoc among new and good skates.

The School Concert is fixed for Monday next, December 23rd. The first part will contain selections from "Israel in Egypt" and the "Messiah."

We learn from the *Cheltonian* that the College Council have lately presented the Cheltenham College Rifle Corps with £70 for new rifles. Oh! for a College Council! The above-mentioned Corps are before the world in reform, being assisted by an efficient band of 28 performers.

It is with the deepest regret that we notice the death of one who was till recently a member of this School. Mervyn Prower, formerly of the Rev. C. B. Hutchinson's House, expired at his rooms at Brasenose College, Oxford, on the 29th of November last. We believe we are right in saying that the immediate cause of his death was fever, but its proving fatal may be attributed more or less to a serious blow on the head, which he unfortunately received during the recent Oxford riots. The deceased left the School, of which he had been a member for about five years, at the end of the Midsummer Term of 1866. As Captain of the Rifle Corps and one of our best "Caps," he held a prominent position in the School; and at Oxford he had already proved himself a very promising oar. His frank good nature and manly heartiness caused him to be a universal favourite, while those who were intimate with him will regret him as a true and affectionate friend.

We regret to have to announce the death of John Bakewell, late of the Rev. C. E. Moberly's House, and of Quorndon, near Derby, who died of congestion of the lungs, at Dr. Sharp's house, on December 4. He only came amongst us in January, and consequently was not very generally known, but his death called forth a universal feeling of sympathy for his father and mother, whose only son he was, and for Mr. Moberly, who has had so much anxiety this Term. The annual house supper is, in consequence, postponed till Easter.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

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

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

SIR,—Before public attention is entirely turned away from football, will you kindly allow me to make a few remarks on the present state of the game?

First of all, I wish to make an emphatic protest against a practice which threatens to grow into a very serious evil; I mean that of holding by the neck, or "scragging." Lookers-on have observed and remarked upon the fact that attempts to "tackle" are becoming more and more reckless attacks upon the neck of the holder of the ball. If we could only realize how very tender, how very liable to serious injury, the upper part of the spine is, I am sure that all such attempts would at once entirely cease.

Again, the opinion seems to prevail that "scragging" is the legitimate remedy in cases of obstinate refusal to "have it down." Judging from the rules, which forbid "all attempts to throttle as totally opposed to the principles of the game," I should imagine that hacking—on this occasion only combined with holding—is the remedy intended for such obstinate cases; and indeed, a tradition, if not a rule, exists which authorises its application.

Lastly, I wish to point out clearly what appears to be the certain result of the present "tight scrummages;" their extraordinary compactness is caused by the custom which many players have of holding on to those in front of them, sometimes even of grasping the front rank of the opposite side. To such an extent does this custom prevail that in a scrumage last week no less than four strong arms were observed encircling one sturdy pair of shoulders. Now to say nothing of the obvious breach of the rules committed by *holding a player who has not got the ball*, the immediate result of this unnatural tightness is to prevent the ball from being taken through, consequently it is "raked out" at the sides; and already, I see, good forward players, finding that they are useless in the centre of the scrumage, have begun to hang about its outskirts, playing almost half-back: by and by everyone will avoid the centre, and the scrumage will by slow degrees melt away, and fall into disuse.

Whether this would be a desirable consummation or not is a question on which I offer no opinion, I merely wish to show to what results the present system must inevitably lead.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
J. H. D. M.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

SIR,—I think your correspondent "Psittacus," in bringing forward a torrent of crushing argument to make "O.R. at Oxford" feel small and hide his diminished head, misunderstands that gentleman. In no other way can I account for his extraordinary argument. He says, with reference to the School Twenty, "If you ask 'Who are they to play?' he answers 'Oh! the other Caps of course. It would be like the Eleven playing the Twenty-Two in Cricket.'" He goes on to say in so many words "I do not know what it may be like in cricket, but we do not want any more matches like the Eleven and Twenty-Two match in football!" In this case I do not see what this has to do with it, surely there is no resemblance between the Eleven *v.* the Twenty-Two, and the Eleven and the Twenty-Two *v.* the School! Neither is it to the point as far as numbers are concerned, for the School Twenty would not be much outnumbered by their opponents; indeed I should think they would probably make up for more in quality than their opponents would in quantity.

Without dwelling on the (in my opinion) manifest advantages of a School Twenty; except in so far as to say, that I entirely disagree with "Psittacus" in what he says about playing other Public Schools,

I beg leave to remain, Sir,  
Yours humbly,  
CARLO.

## THE RACQUET COURT.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

SIR,—In your last number but one you touched on a subject which is a matter of great interest to all Racquet players. Nobody, however, has taken up the glove which you have thrown down; so I venture to submit the following suggestions to your readers. Few will be so blind to the faults of Rugby as to deny that in Racquets we hold a most inferior place compared with other Schools. Old Rugbeians are always well up for the