



The Meteor.

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MANY are the regrets that are and will be felt at the news that the School Choir do not intend to close this Term with a Concert. The Easter Concert last year was a novelty, but it was decidedly successful. The audience, aware that it was owing in a great measure to private enterprise, were less inclined than ever to be over-critical; the performers were more than ever (if possible) interested in the success of the evening; and how happy the selections of those who drew up the programme were, was shown by the frantic calls with which some of the pieces then given were re-demanded at the next Concert. Yet it has been decided by one who certainly never shows any lack of interest in the School Concerts, that the Choir had better not repeat on this occasion the effort of last year, and reserve all their energies for their appearance at the end of July. "'Tis an ill wind:" and if Musical Old Rugbeians and Rugby visitors are sorry, we can at any rate feel a little pleasure at the thought that the end of the Term will for once come to MR. EDWARDS without the anxiety which such times must inevitably bring.

In the meantime, however, it is evident the Choir will do best in concentrating all its trouble upon improving the Chapel singing. They have worked so hard that a little praise will not be out of place, and we are not ashamed to tell them that a few Sundays ago their performance in Chapel was pronounced by a competent critic to be far superior to that at a certain other public school which prides itself especially on its musical talent. Still, as a certain poet has aptly remarked—

"*Excelsior!*" There remains much to be done before we can take quite the top of the tree. Certainly the monotone has been much better kept up for the last few Sundays, and we hope this improvement may increase.

If we may consider the question of the introduction of Anthems into our Chapel service to be a legitimate subject for discussion, we should like to express an opinion on their behalf. The chief objection which is made to them is, we believe, that they would be uncongregational, and to be congregational is the first requisite of our service. It must be remembered, however, that our limited time would prevent our learning more than two or three at the most, and these very simple full ones; and these would, after being once or twice sung, become as well known to the congregation as the hymn tunes now in use. The strongest argument in their favour seems the need of variety in the present half-dozen hymn tunes now repeated so often: until the long-expected new hymn-book comes surely an Anthem or two would be a great boon.

We have said above that as there is no Concert now, the Choir can reserve all its energy for its summer appearance. Let us hope this will be so in another branch of the Musical Service, *i.e.*, the Instrumentals. Cheer up, ye violinos and ye double bassos, and put your respective shoulders to the wheel! To use a rather hackneyed argument—If Harrow has at all its Concerts its instrumental band of 20 or so performers, why should not Rugby have the same?

Let the Instrumental Overture at the be-

gining, and the Band and Chorus united at the end, become regular features at our School Concerts.

THERE is no point, it has been remarked, in which the difference between the national characters of the French and English is more clearly seen than in their respective methods of conferring personal distinctions. The French soldier who had entered the redoubt in the teeth of the enemy's guns in the Crimean war, was marched out, and, in the presence of his admiring comrades and re-echoing cheers, decorated with some cross resplendent with gold or silver. The English soldier, on the contrary, who had entered the redoubt at his side with the blood streaming all the while from his wounded arm, was told, perhaps after the lapse of three or four months, that it had pleased His Grace the Commander-in-Chief to award him the sum of £5, as a reward for personal bravery. Certainly, at Rugby, we give the national spirit its freest scope. The majority of the prizes which the School gives are presented with no plaudits from surrounding multitudes: represented, indeed, by nothing more than an insignificant bit of paper. Of course the English system has its advantages. It is well, if we can bring ourselves to it, to be satisfied with an inner consciousness of having acquitted ourselves well: better, perhaps, than to be the object of the envy and admiration of a crowd. But public presentations have an undeniable value in their effect upon the bystanders, and seem a very fair way of increasing the worth of the prize itself.

We have made these remarks because we wish to complain of what seems to us a want in our Athletic Games. We consider that, for many reasons, a public presentation of the athletic cup would be an advantage. To institute a presentation of the whole number of the prizes at the Athletics would seem, perhaps, too much of a reform, and might be open to other objections. But we cannot help considering that it would be a good thing if the winner of the School cup were, at the close of the games, publicly proclaimed, by being publicly presented with his prize. There seems an especial fitness in a public presentation after an athletic contest such as this.

There would be also a decided advantage, independently of the other advantages we have indicated in our remarks above, in the

fact that in that way the winner of the cup would always be *known*. The first thing that a visitor to our Athletics hears of is that there is a cup which the winner of the most races, &c., holds for the year, and on which his name is engraved. But in very many cases it happens now the visitors at our Athletics separate without the most remote knowledge of who is the hero of the day: not because they do not care to know, but because it is very hard to find anyone who can give the required information. This seems, at the least, unsatisfactory.

Of course, to do this, there must be no casual dropping or placing to wait for; no hand-fives unfinished as yet, which may alter the decision of the two days' games. But this would seem, undoubtedly, an additional gain.

Perhaps some one of the Committee which is now sitting to discuss the Athletic rules will give a thought to these suggestions. For our own part we can see no reason why, except in cases of very bad weather, the cup should not be exhibited in front of the pavilion, and presented to the winner at the close of the games. Surely this would be an improvement on the present system, by which it is only about a twentieth part of the School who have ever seen the cup, and by which the winner very often never receives his prize till several months after the time of his successes.

THE Cricket Season has already commenced, and a fortnight's beautiful weather has greatly assisted the coaching given by two excellent professionals. So far as we can yet judge, the prospects of the Eleven are all that could be desired. Last year only one of the preceding year's team was left, and a very good Public School Eleven was formed out of new material: this year no less than seven survive. In those who have left we have to regret the best cricketer we have had for many years, our left-hand bowler, and two excellent batsmen. These losses seem great: but we must remember that at this time last year that Eleven was thought much below the standard excellence, and that many who ran up long scores in the close and at Lord's, at the end of the season, were in the spring deficient in style, and ignorant of defence. Fielding is well represented; batting is well represented; bowling, perhaps, is our weakest point at present. We have no doubt, however, that this will

prove satisfactory as the season progresses. Rugby will have no left-handed bowler to do battle against Marlborough; a fact which may be taken by some as a slight omen of success for our antagonist. The Marlborough match is, this year, to be played on our ground. This is, doubtless, a matter of great rejoicing to the School in general, as it is not in the power of all to see the match when played on a London ground. With fine weather, we may look forward to a most pleasant match. We only hope our Eleven will not be put out by any feeling of nervousness at playing so important a match in the presence of the whole School.

WHATEVER value a study may possess from the fact that it is interesting, it is certain that this value the upholders of Scientific Education may urge on behalf of the studies they wish to introduce.

As long as we are ignorant of the fact that there are fields of knowledge and research so wide as those of geology or botany, or zoology, or, at any rate, as long as we are forgetful of the fact, we can remain satisfied with polishing our Latin prose, or hammering out the last particle of idea in a line of Sophocles; but when we become enlightened, it can only be with a kind of pang that we return to what fate has determined must be our course of study. We have been favoured by the courtesy of the President with the report of the Natural History Society for the past year. The Editors apologise for appearing so soon before the public. No apology that ever appeared on a title-page was more unneeded. The R.S.N.H.S. may not have been in existence very long: but it has been in existence long enough to set a good work on foot in the School, and it is high time that outsiders should be made acquainted with the nature of this work. Nothing certainly but favourable criticism is it in our power to pass upon the Report: we have examined it from beginning to end, and our only feeling is of envy at those whose good luck has made them members, and wish the same good luck had been our own. One thing strikes us which we hope it may not be thought presumptuous to mention. There seems to us at present to be too few papers read by members of the School. Of course the obvious reason is that so many of the Society's best supporters are in that part of the School where English composition is not of the very best; and that it is only by

great effort, if at all, that they could reduce their information to a readable form. This might, however, be obviated by a little perseverance, and by getting help from those more gifted in this respect. On the other hand, those who would find but little difficulty in their English composition, are so engrossed by other work that they have no time to collect the necessary information. This we believe to be not the entire truth. There must be many fellows high up in the School who could well find the time to prepare both the information and the paper for the Society. Such fellows we would urge to enrol their names at once,—at any rate to read the report.

With regard to the contents of the book itself, some of the papers strike us as extremely interesting. If any one considers local scientific research trifling, we only hope he may be persuaded to take the trouble to read Mr. Wilson's paper on page 11. In General Geology he shows that the proper work of the Geological section must be to render the study of geology accessible to the School. But in Local Geology it is astonishing to the uninitiated how wide a field he opened to his hearers. It would seem that really the neighbourhood of Rugby does offer especial inducements to geological research. And much, far more at any rate, than we might think, has been done. The discovery which he mentioned on page 15 must assuredly, as Mr. Wilson remarks, reflect the highest credit on those who made it. We have no space to give our readers any further remarks on the Report. Our advice to them, is certainly, to read it for themselves. We may just mention that of the papers by members of the School, those by E. Cleminshaw and W. C. Marshall seem to us the best; and repeat our thanks to the President for forwarding us the Report of the Society.

We learn with serious regret that we have not been allowed to enter for the Public Schools Racquet Competition. We have heard of no reason assigned, except a misunderstanding; which we really hope may be overcome, even at this late moment.

The Bishop of Worcester held the Annual Confirmation in the Chapel on Wednesday last.

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RACQUETS, FIVES, &c.

We beg to apologise for any inaccuracies in the following; many of the papers containing the Ties being lost. The Double Racquets did not produce quite so good a game for the final as last year. The exciting game was that between the winners and Gwyer and Gardner mi., the former of whom played a losing game in first-rate style.

In many cases the games were not played, scratching being resorted to. As will be seen below, up to the time of going to press the final ties have not all been played. In the Double Hand-fives we anticipate an easy victory for Tobin ma. and Yardley; in the Single Racquets there will be no opposition to Yardley; for the Hand-fives we should think Tobin ma.; for the Double Eton and the Bat-fives it is not quite so easy to discern the winners.

Double Racquets :—

FIRST TIES.

Tobin ma.	} beat {	Warner
Yardley		Westfeldt
Gray	} " {	Neilson
Tobin mi.		Bayley
Gwyer	} " {	Hare
Gardner mi.		Foster
Soutter	} " {	Maitland
Lushington		Mawdsley
Buckland	} " {	Montagu
Peele		Lambert

Gardner ma. }
Baring }

SECOND TIES.

Tobin ma.	} beat {	Buckland
Yardley		Peele
Gwyer	} " {	Gray
Gardner mi.		Tobin mi.
Lushington	} " {	Gardner ma.
Soutter		Baring

THIRD TIES.

Yardley	} beat {	Gwyer
Tobin ma.		Gardner mi.

Lushington }
Soutter }

FOURTH TIES.

Yardley	} " {	Lushington
Tobin ma.		Soutter

Double Hand-fives :—

FIRST TIES.

Graham	} beat {	Mawdsley
Dugdale		Riley
Yardley	} " {	Fletcher
Tobin ma.		Gwyer
Buckland	} " {	Neilson
Walker		Pritchard
Francis	} " {	Soutter
Lloyd		Moberly
Baring	} " {	Warner
Rowden		Westfeldt

Montagu }
De Bunsen }

SECOND TIES.

Tobin ma.	} beat {	Baring
Yardley		Rowden
Buckland	} " {	Graham
Walker		Dugdale
Francis	} " {	Montagu
Lloyd		De Bunsen

THIRD TIES.

Tobin ma.	} beat {	Walker
Yardley		Buckland
Francis	} }	
Lloyd		

FOURTH TIES.

Tobin ma.	} to play {	Francis
Yardley		Lloyd

Single Racquets :—

SECOND TIES.

Gwyer	beat	Tobin mi.
Yardley	"	Lambert
Gardner mi.	"	
Hare	"	Gardner ma.

Tobin mi.

THIRD TIES.

Yardley	beat	Hare
Gwyer	"	Tobin mi.
Gardner mi.		

FOURTH TIES.

Yardley (15, 13, 1, 15, 15) beat Gwyer
(10, 13, 5, 8, 6).
Gardner mi.

Single Hand-fives :—

FIRST TIES.

Walker	beat	Ellis
Yardley	"	Fletcher.
Tobin ma.	"	Neilson.
Francis	"	Baring.
Lloyd	"	Mawdsley.