



The Meteor.

Edited by Members of Rugby School.

No. 17.

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WE wish to say a few words on a School Debating Society, and herein to look at it in two lights—first, as a new element in our social organization, secondly, as a means of education. The one evil, which all correspondents of the *Meteor* agree in condemning, is the exclusiveness of house feeling, which, fostered as it is by every interest, must often insensibly cut us off from many friendships, the advantage of which we have a right to expect from so large a society as that of our School. How often do we hear Old Rugbeians regretting that they did not find out the virtues of this man or that, before he was a “man”? Now this is an evil which is sure to be more or less corrected by a School Debating Society. Fresh interests, fresh subjects of difference will break us up into fresh sections, at a period of our School lives when we ought to be so broken up. The five members of the Sixth, who decide over the same teapot to think alike on the subject whether you may take up a ball when it is rolling, or whether the Bath or the gate is the better place to run from for taking ground are not bound to the same platform, on the question whether Oxford or Cambridge is the best starting point for the woolsack. Nay, more; the very closeness of their union on the former points will make them the more willing to differ on the latter. Mr. Disraeli, politician, has very different friends from Mr. Disraeli, literateur; in Homer’s Elysian Fields Mr. Gladstone doubtless lies down with Lord Derby. So too with us: it is well to pace the cloisters of the quad with one set of friends, and arrange our campaign in a debate, before ascending the steps

of the VIth School; well also to do the same with another set before streaming into the Vth School; and the orator of the Hillmorton Road will be the less ready to brand him of the Barby with charges of dimness of vision or ignorance, when he reflects that the day before he was applauding with hands and feet some well-tuned period of his beginning. “It is obvious to every man of sense or feeling.” It is said that to our first Debating Society, established in 1832, we owe the dignity and decorum, which always strike the freshly promoted members of the VIth when first they attend that august assemblage—a VIth Levée. No doubt a Debating Society teaches its members to listen with deference to reason, and to respect the force of argument, and without doing honour to a Thersites, encourages us to apply the epithet “manly” to other qualities besides those purely athletic. As far then as creating a new bond of society and one more likely to survive the assumption of a coloured tie and to flourish under the shade of a pot hat, a Debating Society is an unmixed good; it overrides house feeling; it furnishes fresh topics of conversation; and is in all this so far better than a magazine, as it leaves no trace behind of premature prejudice or priggish precocity.

And this is really the only light in which it comes under our province to regard it. If we were a literary magazine, it would be our business to go into greater length to show its advantages as an education. But, after all, they are sufficiently obvious. For whether as a means of bridging over School and play hours; or as a means of teaching

our athletes the manliness of thought; or as giving a field to the more bookish of our body to air themselves—such a society must raise the tone of the School where it exists. And when one adds this to the advantages already enumerated in the social changes it should effect, one is tempted to ask “Where then is the perfection of our School, if it is unable to support such an institution? Does not the absence of it imply a real want of literary power?” For the House Debating Societies do not really supply the need. In a house it is impossible to get enough members on the same footing, as regards age and position to ensure a real *bona fide* division. It is impossible but that meeting on the same ground, and under the same leadership as they have met during the week, they should occupy to one another the same relation. In other words, the “Swells” of the house are sure to have it all their own way, and though this may be all very well, and may ensure great success for didactic purposes, the maieutic which is the great point of a debate is sure to be banished. Otherwise, a house debating society is able to choose its own times considerably easier than one which must meet when all the School can be at large.

Finally, we would not be misunderstood as blaming house debating societies: they are excellent institutions, particularly during the long evenings of the winter term; they bind the smaller and bigger fellows in a house together; they interest and bring on the younger fellows. But they do not take the place of a school debating society; for instead of doing away with petty house feeling they are apt to increase it, and instead of educating the older fellows or swells of the house, they teach them to lay down the law on all points without any sufficient chance of well-considered contradiction.

THE RACQUET COURT.

A question of considerable importance has been started of late, and it is one which we cannot disregard, however it may cut into institutions which may hold their power mainly because the memory of man speaketh not to the contrary. Now and then we are compelled to do disagreeable things, but we must not flinch from doing them merely because they are disagreeable, if we have a good object in view. The matter to which we allude is simply this—a marker is almost a necessity at a Racquet Court like ours; it is usual that the marker has the monopoly

of articles in use at the Courts; and this monopoly is at present held by the cricket professional. It is, doubtless, a delicate matter for us to verge upon, and we trust that those whom it concerns will take it up, from a desire to improve the style and play of Racquet players in the School. As we have said, our cricket professional enjoys a monopoly of the sale of Racquets and balls. Now this is a monopoly which should never have been his, when we consider how men devote their lives to racquets, as well as cricket, in the expectation of getting an appointment as marker at a good court. As regards the advantages of a racquet professional, they must already have suggested themselves to the minds of all—improvement in style, which we fear is sadly wanted in School players,—knowledge of the game, without which no perfection can be attained. And who can deny the influence which the example of a really good player has upon youthful aspirants. At present there is no one who can at all give an example, except the honorary members and the best School players. Now suppose there were no one to teach us cricket except the Eleven, who are the very class who themselves require coaching to bring them to perfection: so, too, with Racquets; a little coaching would give a finish to our best players, and vastly improve the education of the more unlearned.

And here it may not be out of place to say a few words about the Racquet Club. Since its members have such a command of the Court, on the same principle that members of Big-Side pay more taxes than those of Little-Side, should not they, too, pay a small terminal subscription to pay the salary of a marker? We have heard that those honorary members who take advantage of their membership, are most cordial in their support of the proposal, and have signified their intention of promoting the *bonum publicum* to an extent far out of proportion to their use of the Court. Such being the case, it is our duty to take the matter in hand; and having met with such support, we should not be surprised to see a marker down before many weeks are over.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

A meeting of this Society was held on May 9th. A paper by G. B. Longstaff, on “Caterpillars,” was read by the Secretary. Footsteps from the New Red Sandstone

were exhibited by F. R. Smith, and explained by E. Cleminshaw.

Among the exhibitions were Fossils from the Suffolk Cross with notes on the Crag, by A. G. Ogilvie ; and a badger lately taken in Wiltshire, with a description by N. Masterman.

A case of Indian Insects was presented by F. Lefroy, and books were given by various donors. The following have been elected, F. R. Smith, to keep the Botanical Album ; J. M. Gordon and J. Baynes members, and S. Davies associate.

The next meeting will be on May 23rd, at 8 o'clock.

THE RIFLE CORPS.

WE had hoped by this time to be an enrolled corps, and to be in possession of a new range ; but we have been disappointed, and have to put up with constant delay without any remedy in our hands. It is doubtless dispiriting to be losing so much valuable time, but at any rate that time has been well spent, as we see that the musters have been well attended and that the drill is considerably improved. As regards shooting, an eleven from Christ Church, Oxford, propose paying us a visit next Thursday, when we shall have to shoot our best if we wish to be victorious. A simultaneous match is also being arranged with Trinity College, Cambridge, which will probably take place about the end of the month. Twenty-five members have already fired their third class, the highest score made being that of Corporal Whiting,—

150 yds.	200	250	300
34444-19	24344-17	34334-17	33324-15-68

On Thursday last, May 14th, Mr. Baldwin's Challenge Cup was competed for, and won, after an exceedingly good match, by Private Cobham, who made a very fair score of 43 points. Sergt. Humphry was second with 41 points. The shooting was very good at 200 yards, not a single miss being made by any of the competitors.

	200yds.	400yds.	500yds.	Tl.
Private Cobham	23332-12	24313-16	41223-15	—43
Sergeant Humphry	23323-13	33243-15	32123-13	—41

THE SCHOOL MAGAZINES.

The *Cheltonian* for May is emphatically Cheltonian. By this we imply that it contains very little to draw the attention of a stranger. We get a good description of the Racquet Matches at Prince's, and a long

account of their Races ; the rest of the number being filled with Racquets, Fives, Boating, &c.

The *Eton Chronicle* celebrates its 100th number, by presenting its readers with a plan of Eton College. Eton has seven old choices for the Eleven this year.

The *Malburian* (May 15). The articles are, Editorial ; the Irish Church ; Music, its nature and worth ; the River of Life. It informs us and its readers that we have a man to keep our cricket ground, whose name is Fred. We are sorry our contemporary did not transcribe so alarming a piece of intelligence rightly. Marlborough scored 232 against Balliol College, Oxford. The Marlborough ground must indeed be advantageous for run-getting, as we notice hits sometimes get 9, often 8 and 7.

Haileybury has shown decided pluck in sending forth a Magazine, the first number of which was issued in March. The papers are well written, and with good support the magazine will prosper. The following is cleverly written, and we venture to quote :—

ALPHABETICA EDITORIANA.

- A was the Author, just rising sixteen ;
- B was the Box of the new *Magazine* ;
- C the Contents, as they first met the eye ;
- D the Depression occasioned thereby.
- E was the Editors' fond Expectation.
- F was their Failure to feel admiration.
- G was the Ghost of its chance to succeed ;
- H the "more haste" that engendered "worse speed."
- I was the author's Ink, blacker than night ;
- J was his Mitchell-pen, peerless to write.
- K was the Knotty point how to begin ;
- L was the Lack of ideas flowing in.
- M was the Man who thought fit to pooh, pooh !
- N was the Never he said it would do.
- O was the Oil by the Author consumed ;
- P was the Praise in the distance that loomed ;
- Q was the Quiz who nor pitied nor spared ;
- R was the single Rush nobody cared.
- S was the Spelling of one poor 'rejected' ;
- T was the Tiptoe on which he expected.
- U are the Public—don't turn up your eyes, For (V) its no Vunder that b'ys will be b'ys.
- W's a Writer whose wits seem precarious ;
- X, Y, and Z are his signatures various.

The Athletic Rules Committee, we hear, have adjourned their meetings till next Term.

The following rule with regard to taking Ends and Fivescourts was passed at a Sixth

Levée last Term—"That ends and five-courts for after dinner be taken after the last lesson of the morning, but that no ground or fivecourts be taken for both before and after dinner."

The place in the XXII., vacated by H. P. Hornby, has been filled by the election of A. H. Hudson.

The following are the First Ties for House Matches this Term:—

Burrows' play	Hutchinson's.
Blake's "	Moberly's.
Wilson's "	Arnold's.
Bowden Smith's "	School House.
Town, odd House.	

Moberly's have scratched; a course which we deprecate, especially since this is a long Term and there is no great hurry to get the matches finished. We shall most likely be able to give the scores of the others in our next number.

The following are the House Racquet Ties:—

School House	{ Sidgwick, } play	{ Buckland. }
	{ Moberly, }	{ Lambert. }
Blake's	{ Tobin ma. }	" Bowden { Gardner ma. }
	{ Tobin mi. }	" Smith's { Gardner mi. }
Wilson's	{ Francis }	" Hutchinson's { Yardley. }
	{ Browne }	" { Gwyer. }
Town	{ Bucknill }	" Moberly's { }
	{ Fitzgerald }	
Burrows'	{ Maitland }	odd.
	{ Mawdsley }	

WINNERS OF RACQUETS, &c.

SINGLE RACQUET.—

1. W. Yardley.
2. S. K. Gwyer.

DOUBLE RACQUET.—

1. { W. Yardley.
F. Tobin, ma.

SINGLE HANDFIVES.—

1. F. Tobin ma.
2. J. R. Walker.

DOUBLE HANDFIVES.

1. { F. Tobin ma.
W. Yardley.

BUTTRESS COURTS.—

1. { P. A. Buckland.
J. R. Walker.

BATFIVES.—

1. J. T. Soutter.
2. F. H. Maitland.

Mr. H. Theobald, Balliol College, Oxford, Taylor Scholarship, for French and German.

Mr. J. S. Parkin has been elected a Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge.

CRICKET.

The following are the Matches, and their dates, for the present season:—

May 16 (to-day), v. University College, Oxford.

May 18 and 19, v. Rugby Club.

June 1 and 2, Free Foresters.

June 6, v. Brazenose College, Oxford.

June 13, v. Rugby Club (return).

June 18 and 19, v. Old Rugbeians.

June 23 and 24, v. Marlborough.

July 18 and 20, v. Butterflies.

July 24 and 25, v. M.C.C.

CRUSADERS v. THE SCHOOL.—This, the first match of the season, was played on Saturday, May 9th. The result is hardly so satisfactory as might have been anticipated at the beginning of the match. The first five of the School batsmen contributed 187 out of the total, 214: the last six contributed 11. The best innings of the day, undoubtedly, was that of Yardley, which was cautious, but not tiresomely cautious, bold but not reckless; and we hope that this is an earnest of splendid scores to come. Bucknill, although he made 44, was far from being at his ease, chiefly, we presume, through being let off once or twice at the commencement of his innings. Of the Tobins, the elder is again coming to the fore, and the younger is showing a vast improvement on his last year's play. The rest have, as yet, not shown their qualities to advantage, but we have no doubt, as the season advances, we shall be able to send out an eleven in no way inferior to those which have been successful in years past. Now a word about the strangers. Mr. Buchanan, who can scarcely be called a stranger to the eleven, at least to the last year's lot, made a good many at the wickets feel rather uncomfortable. The fielding of Vaughan at short-leg was very good. Goschen, as usual, made a good and careful innings; Pauncefote was luckily got rid of before becoming very troublesome. The following is the full score:—

THE SCHOOL.—1st Innings.

F. Tobin (mi.), c Mackenzie, b Buchanan ..	12
S. K. Gwyer, st Goschen, b Buchanan	9
W. Yardley, c Godley, b Pauncefote	100
S. P. Bucknill, c Buchanan, b Vaughan	44
F. Tobin (ma.), c and b Pauncefote	22
C. K. Francis, b Buchanan	0
J. T. Soutter, b Buchanan	8

UNIVERSITY HONOURS.—Mr. C. J. Peile, Foundation Scholarship at Trinity College, Cambridge.

Mr. H. St. Barbe Browne (Mr. Wilson's House), Open Scholarship at Brazenose College, Oxford.

G. Fitzgerald, b Pauncefote	0
J. W. Gardner, st Lyttelton, b Buchanan	0
A. Gray, st Lyttelton, b Buchanan	2
J. R. Walker not out	1
Byes 9, leg-byes 3, wide 1, n-b 2	15
Total	214

CRUSADERS.—1st Innings.

W. E. Goschen, not out	34
B. Pauncefote, c and b Francis	13
Rev. F. R. Evans, c Yardley, b Walker	4
K. A. Muir Mackenzie, run out	22
Hon. N. Lyttelton, not out	9
A. G. Liddell,	} To bat.
D. Buchanan,	
A. Godley,	
R. J. Graham,	
A. Vaughan,	
W. H. James, Leg-byes 4, wides 4	8
Total	90

ANALYSIS OF THE BOWLING.

THE SCHOOL: 1st innings.—D. Buchanan bowled 186 balls for 79 runs, 12 maidens, and 6 wickets; Rev. F. R. Evans, 104 balls, 47 runs, 9 maidens, 1 no-ball; K. A. Muir Mackenzie, 76 balls, 41 runs, 5 maidens, 1 wide; A. Vaughan, 24 balls, 15 runs, 2 maidens, 1 wicket, 1 no-ball; B. Pauncefote, 36 balls, 18 runs, 2 maidens, 3 wickets.

THE CRUSADERS: 1st innings.—C. K. Francis bowled 76 balls for 32 runs, 7 maidens, and 1 wicket; J. R. Walker, 32 balls, 29 runs, 1 maiden, 1 wicket, 3 wides; F. Tobin (mi.), 28 balls, 16 runs, 1 maiden, 1 wide; G. Fitzgerald, 12 balls, 8 runs.

THE ELEVEN v. TWENTY-TWO.—This annual match was begun immediately after the School reassembled, and ended in a complete victory for the Twenty-Two. Little need be said in detail, as one Twenty-Two match is very like another. Fitzgerald played rather a lucky innings of 42, and Yardley and Bucknill good ones of 33 and 23 respectively, for the Eleven. The bowling of Walker and Graham was very good and steady. Score:—

THE TWENTY-TWO.—1st Innings.

A. W. Rowden, absent	0
W. O. Moberly, c and b Francis	0
T. F. Eaden, c Scutter, b Yardley	6
C. Sidgwick, c Tobin (mi.), b Yardley	5
E. H. Warner, c and b Yardley	1
F. H. Maitland, b Yardley	21
J. R. Walker, b Yardley	18
A. G. Botfield, c Gardner, b Ellis	18
J. Graham, c Tobin (mi.), b Ellis	4
G. Walsh, c Tobin (ma.), b Fitzgerald	18
W. F. Neilson, st Gray, b Yardley	9
J. C. Lambert, b Yardley	10
B. Tower, run out	2
F. Baring, b Yardley	5
A. H. Hudson, c Francis, b Yardley	10
S. Pearson, c Francis, b Yardley	3
H. W. Badger, st Gray, b Yardley	5
T. G. Lushington, c Francis, b Ellis	0
G. H. Lloyd, c and b Yardley	4
F. C. Selous, b Yardley	0
J. Penrose, not out	13
H. W. Gardner, b Yardley	20
Leg-bye 1, wide 1	2
Total	175

THE ELEVEN.

1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
F. Tobin (mi.), c Maitland b Walker	0	c Botfield b Walker	1
Walker	7	c Graham b Walk'r	0
S. K. Gwyer, b Walker	33	(injured)	0
W. Yardley, c Walker, b Graham	7	c Penrose, b Graham	23
S. P. Bucknill, c Eaden, b Walker	7	ham	1
F. Tobin (ma.), c Moberly, b Graham	0	ham	1
C. K. Francis, c Moberly b Graham	9	b Graham	0
J. T. Scutter, c Sidgwick, b Walker	3	c Warner b Walk'r	6
G. Fitzgerald, not out	42	c Maitland b Walker	2
J. W. Gardner, b Walker	0	c Moberly b Walk'r	7
A. Gray, b Graham	4	c Sidgwick, b Graham	4
V. Ellis, c Warner, b Neilson	23	not out	0
Wides 5, n-b1	6	leg-bye 1 wide 1	2
Total	134	Total	40

In the 2nd innings of the Twenty-Two, Mawdsley scored (not out) 2; B. Tower, c Tobin (mi.), b Francis, 1; Byes 4; Total, 7.

REV. T. W. JEX BLAKE'S v. J. M. WILSON'S BELOW XI. and XXII.—This match was finished on May 10th, Wilson's winning by three wickets.

BLAKE'S.

1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
R. Bassett, b Heath	11	c Dudgeon b Heath	4
T. R. Mills, c Parton b Heath	6	c Heath b Tennant	41
R. O. Millne, c Peake b Harrison	10	b Heath	3
T. Tinklar, b Heath	0	b Tennant	0
W. E. Barratt, b Heath	4	b Heath	11
S. Parker, b Harrison	0	b Peake	0
E. Peel, c Heath b Harrison	1	b Heath	1
H. M. Tobin, not out	16	b Heath	0
F. Arbuthnot, lbw b Heath	1	not out	0
E. Bowden Smith, b Tennant	9	b Tennant	5
A. K. Coles, b Heath	1	c Benham b Peake	7
Byes 4, leg-byes 3, wides 9	16	b 7, l-b 3, w 9, n-b 1	20
Total	82	Total	92

WILSON'S.

1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
F. C. Selous (Dudgeon), b Bassett	18	run out	8
H. W. Peake, b Bassett	11	run out	4
E. A. R. Benham, c Coles b Bassett	0	h-w b Mills	6
J. A. Parton, c Peel b Bassett	1	b Bassett	0
H. C. Harrison, b Tinklar	0	b Mills	4
T. Heath, c Peel b Bassett	3	c Mills b Bassett	6
R. F. Langford, c Coles b Bassett	2	not out	41
R. M. Campbell, b Bassett	8	not out	5
J. R. Tennant, c Tinklar b Bassett	5	b Mills	0
A. E. Bourne, b Bassett	0		
G. E. Jeffery, not out	4		
Byes 11, leg-bye 1, wides 14	26	b 10, l-b 2, w 3	15
Total	86	Total	89

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,—I should like to say a few words about the new plan of allowing racquets to be

played on two out of the three Rugby fives-courts. A hand-fives player has not nearly so much opportunity for practising now as before this rule came force, and I think that unless great care is taken hand-fives will deteriorate and become a less popular game than formerly. It is true that anyone wishing to play hand-fives has the right to turn anyone playing racquets off the court, but it is unpleasant to do so, and many would rather give up their game than obtain the court by turning others off. Would not some such rule as the following be better,—“That the courts, after second lesson, may be taken for *hand-fives* up to 10.30, but if not then taken for hand-fives, they may be taken for *racquets*.” Of course the racquet player might put in his paper before 10.30, but it might be overruled by a hand-fives player. Anyone taking the court for hand-fives should be strictly prohibited from playing racquets on it. The same plan might be adopted after calling-over and at other times. Thus a hand-fives player would have a fair chance of getting a court, and we should not have the mortification of perceiving any falling off in this popular game of

HAND-FIVES.

THE ATHLETIC CUP.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

“First fixed he prizes for the athletes bold;
An eared tripod that could measures hold—
Twenty and Two.” *Homer.*

SIR,—I am very unwilling to trouble you with this letter, partly because I fear that it will be unconscionably dull, and partly because I labour under no slight apprehensions that your readers should have wearied of the subject. But I trust that they will allow me to appeal to their public spirit, and lend me their attention to the consideration of a question which, I do not think, is the least important that has been discussed in the pages of the *Meteor*—I allude to the subject of the Athletic Cup.

I have always, sir, felt a profound reference for the genius of the man who first struck out the plan for the Athletic Cup. I do not know who he was, but if these words should meet his eye I hope he will feel assured that he has at least one ardent admirer. The idea of starting a Cup to be held by the greatest athlete of his day, and to be handed down to late posterity with his name engraved upon it in letters over which Time has no power, seems to me to be pre-eminently the thought of a great creative

genius. But much as I approve of the conception I by no means approve of the method in which it has been carried out. Indeed, to judge from the letters which have appeared in the *Meteor*, there would seem to be a general feeling of dissatisfaction on this point.

First, I suppose every thoughtful critic would agree with all your correspondents that something must be done with respect to the manner in which seconds count for the Cup. I think much the simplest plan would be (as “Equity” suggests) to pass a rule—“that any winner in one year may run again in the same races in succeeding years, and, if he win, count those winnings again towards the Cup, but not take the prize a second time.” Against this proposal “Old John Cross” raises an extraordinary objection, namely, that it would bar a great number of entries and thus spoil the race. Why so, if the winner cannot take the prize but only wear the laurels? And even if the result were such as he supposes, can a race be said to be spoiled by a rule which allows the best runner in the School to compete for it? Ardent Rugbeians perpetually complain of the bad time of the races. Where is the marvel in this, if we persistently exclude the winners of preceding years?

Secondly, I come to a proposal made by “Aquila,” on the suggestion of a Master and an Old Rugbeian. It is too long to quote, but your readers will perhaps be good enough to read it over again. I differ with regret from so high an authority, but I cannot assent to either of his proposed amendments. That “things once won should be entirely done with after the year in which they are won” may be a very admirable rule, but, unsupported by arguments, it fails to convince me. That “Racquets, Hand-fives, Bat-fives, Steeple-chases, Dropping, Placing, &c., should not count towards the Cup,” is a proposition against which all Present and Past Rugbeians will energetically protest. Surely the Cup ought to be won by the best athlete, and surely Athleticism is not confined to running between two flags without tripping up, to clearing a dozen hurdles without knocking off a bar, and to jumping over a horizontal bit of string without touching. Which is most admirable, to be the best Racquet player, the best “drop,” and the best “place-kick” in the School, or to be able to jump four feet without a run? To ask such a question is to answer it.

Thirdly, I come to the important sugges-

tion of your correspondent "Change." Scarcely any one, I think, will doubt that it is absurd to make every prize count equally towards the Cup. But having thus, as is the case with most reformers, agreed with your correspondent on the principle, I differ from him *toto cœlo* as to the details. He thinks it "absurd that two or three straight drops with a football should count as much as winning the mile." I think it absurd that to run 1,760 yards along a hard, high road in the space of five minutes, should count as much as good dropping, which may cover the School with immortal fame, which may exalt to the highest pinnacle of human glory the Barby or the Hillmorton Road, and which may sway, whether for weal or woe, the destinies of Houses. But his opinion and my opinion on specific details is of little matter provided that the general principle be recognised. He would probably agree with me, that it is most desirable a Committee should be appointed to examine into the whole question, and weigh carefully all the arguments which are advanced. And that I may not be accused of leaving all suggestions to others, I will throw out a few hints of the changes which might be acceptable to such ultra-radicals as myself.

In the first place, I think it might fairly be said that an undue preponderance is given to Long Running in the deciding of the Cup. Since the cup was started two additional long races have been founded, but the short races remain just as they are. Is this altogether fair to the winners of the 100 and 200 yards? Secondly, I would go even further than "Change." I would make a really important thing, such as the Racquets, count twice, nay, five times as much as Diving, for instance. Great numbers in the School play Racquets the whole year round. No one can doubt that an expert Racquet player expends immense toil and energy in bringing his play to perfection. Few, on the other hand, take any interest in Diving, and fewer still practice that immaculate accomplishment. It might be urged by a cynical critic that no great importance ought to be attached to a plunge to the bottom of the Avon, resulting in half a minute's immersion, when the ardent diver reappears—in no such poetic fashion as Schiller's of yore—puffing and blowing like a young grampus, with his hands full of eggs and his mouth full of mud. Again, why should the Standing Jumping count as much as the High Jumping or the Broad Jumping? nay, why should it count

at all? I believe that it is generally allowed to be an exploded branch of Athleticism. I have scarcely ever seen any account of Athletics where it has occupied a place. In Oxford and Cambridge certainly it is unknown.

Lastly, sir, I come to my most startling innovation, and I beg your readers in judging of it to vouchsafe me their kind indulgence. Why should not Cricket, Football, and Hare and Hounds count towards the cup? Surely no one can pretend that eminent Athleticism at Cricket is less meritorious than eminent Athleticism in jumping hurdles. Why should Silean Ajax be honoured more highly than Achilles or Hector? Why should the bright butterfly of the hour, who is the first to breast the tape in the Quarter of a Mile, arrogate to himself a glory which is denied to the Cricket of the great bowler of 1863 and the great bat of 1867? And may not the same be said in the case of Football? Surely it is less skilful to run 100 yards along a fair course with no favour, than to bear the ball in triumph from the Three Trees to the Island Goal through the serried ranks of the impeding foe amidst a storm of flying hacks. If it is a feat of skill to drop a puntabout between the goal posts in cold blood, without let or hindrance, it is, at least, a feat of equal skill so to drop it with unblenching eye and hand that trembles not amid the hoarse shouts and fierce charges of desperate assailants. Why should the palm of victory be assigned to the one feat, whereas the other remains to future ages "unnoticed, unremembered, and unknown?"

I have not nearly done, but in very mercy to your readers I must forbear. Perhaps you will allow me on some future occasion to continue (as the *Globe* would say) to infect the School with delirium tremens, induced by the drugged alcohol of my democratic infatuation.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,
TREBLA.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—We are thinking just now of improving our Racquets; we have formed the Racquet Club for that purpose, and there has been some talk of getting a marker to teach them. But the first thing that is necessary for improved Racquets is a Court on which it is possible to play well. When the Racquet was first built, it was found that it was almost impossible to play during a great part of the day, by reason of the sun,

which shone in through the glass. Blinds were proposed, to be worked by cords from the gallery; but the estimate for them was £140. At last, at the suggestion of Mr. Wilson, the glass was painted. This cost £6, and was expected to last four years. It answered perfectly, and has lasted much longer; but at last the paint has almost all fallen off. In the middle of the day the sun comes in through the glass at the top; when it is too low for that, it comes in through the windows in the gallery. On the left side of the Court, except close to the back wall, the ball pops from the light into the shade, and from the shade into the light again, till you have not the least idea where it is. Why should not the glass be re-painted? The windows in the gallery used to have tarpaulings over them. I suppose they were taken away in winter, when there is little sun, and the Court is often very dark: but now that summer has come they ought to be put up again.

I remain, Sir, yours truly,

B.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—Why not £900 for a Pavilion? I hope you will excuse me if I say I entirely disagree with your correspondent "Olim." I have the same longing as most in the School to see the New Pavilion built while I am in the School; but I will ask your correspondent whether it would be better to build a pavilion for £500 no bigger than the present, in better style perhaps, but not at all sufficient to answer the demand of the present day; or to wait until we have requisite funds to build a really good one, with proper accommodation for all classes of cricketing swells from the Captain of the Eleven to Fell. In the former case, we should require to make some additions in less than half-a-dozen years, and shall then be sorry that we did not do the thing in proper style at first.

I beg to remain,

WHOLE HOG.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—I confess that we can never expect to have everything which we desire, but I think some approach to it. I wish I could always have my racquet, racquet shoes, and fives-gloves to myself and myself alone. This may be selfish, but I cannot but wish for the fulfilment of my desires in this case. I pay for my racquet; and I do not see why some one should smash it (I suppose) by hitting

it hard against the wall. I pay for my shoes, and I do not go on the court often, but my shoes are worn out at the soles and sides before a month is over. I also pay for my gloves, and I feel grieved, nay, angry, when I go up to the court and find them (sometimes I do not find them) lying about the floor, in a state far from that in which I should like to see them. This state of things has gone on so long and so much that very few can afford to keep themselves comfortable in the above articles; and those who do have their own find it too much trouble to carry them from their houses every time they are going on a court. I do hope by publishing this you will assist me in preventing this unbounded liberality, with which many appear to believe the owners of these commodities are gifted.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

F. R. C.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—I feel myself bound to write a short answer to a letter which appeared in your columns of last number; I allude to that of "Rantoon." I will always contend that it is impossible to keep the ground in proper order, when there is no fixed place for members of the School to stand. For instance,—in the 200 yards course, can you expect that fellows will be content to remain at the slope? I say you must allow them up to the side of the course. In the case of the jumping, I would have none in the enclosure, nor in the longer races. Until, then, we have courses that can be kept in order, we cannot blame the mass of the School for wishing to have a glimpse of the Races, nor the Sixth for allowing them to do so.

I do not think it can be seriously objected that so many feet spoil the turf of Big-Side, for the Athletics are just before the Easter holidays, and there is plenty of time to get the ground in order before the School re-assembles.

I beg to sign myself

LENIENCY.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Cantab."—We can see no reason why the spring-board at the bathing-place should not be covered with cocoa-nut matting as it is at Cambridge.

"Scrutator."—Your query does not lie at all within our province.

"Point."—That is a matter entirely for the Captain of the Eleven.