

they put "Sir" in at every comma. To the Vith they talk of Exhibitions as Scholarships, and betray an ignorance of the value of Speech Prizes; to Caps they display a total want of knowledge as regards the football rules; with cricketers they cannot talk on Averages. And all this might be spared them, if the most moderate powers of football or cricket enabled them to cultivate the dignified silence of English games. In the bat or the ball they would have a congenial friend who never changes, who remains in the same form where they leave him, who always takes them up where they last left him, and remembers their friendships and adapts himself to their phraseology.

I fear I may seem cruel to your Lower Middle readers; but I must defend the majority of the School from the imputations of your correspondent. And my answer shortly is, stated in its plain brutality, that a Lower Middle Old Rugbeian, who has not frequented the Close, cannot possibly have enough associations to induce him to revisit Rugby often. The "vulgarest beasts on earth" are objectionable here, but can escape notice in a Big Side. But a Lower Middle "with a loud tie and a cane" appeals to our sympathies in a way that challenges observation.

H.

EVER since the reception of that somewhat bitter letter from "F. R. A.," we have been subject to certain qualms of conscience as regards the prominent part we took in urging the engagement of a Racquet Marker. True all doubts on the subject have been sufficiently cleared up by the letter from the Head of the School published in our last, but on seeing our suggestion so suddenly adopted we cannot but feel somewhat staggered at our own audacity; and the question "Has Diver been fairly dealt with?" has occasionally come home to us with disagreeable force. These qualms, however, have latterly been completely set at rest by a remarkable—nay, we may add, a miraculous dispensation. It was some three hours past mid-day on Tuesday, Nov. 9th, when to some observant bystanders in the School Close a Meteor was seen to shoot, with fiery track, across the heavens, and to explode when at its full brightness immediately over the Racquet Court. We are not superstitious, we are not credulous, we do not pretend to a knowledge of astrology,—but who could shut his eyes to such a portent? We can here picture our readers contemptuously remarking "A mere

Meteor! why, there is nothing in that." But we repeat there is a great deal in that. Who has ever yet seen a Meteor in bright sunshine? Was it not specially sent at 3.30 p.m., when the Close was certain to be crowded with those waiting to begin Football? Lastly (and this is no mean climax), why should it dart so swift and so sure, and bury its dying energies in the Racquet Court, if that was not the goal to which its mission was directed? Such an appearance requires no Daniel nor Raphael as interpreter. If an ancient Mexican had wished to express in writing "The Meteor sheds its bright influence over the Racquet Court," how else would he have done it than by a picture such as that which was seen in the heavens on that auspicious Tuesday? Thus it is that Nature prompts us to read. In a word, from the line taken by our brother Meteor we are led to argue, or rather confidently predict, a brilliant future for Gray and the Rugby Racquet-players.

Q. E. D.

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#### NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

Meetings of this Society have been held this Term on Sept. 26th, Oct. 10th, and Oct. 24th.

On the 26th Sept. the Report of the Marlborough Society for the last half-year, and other presents, were exhibited.

A paper was read by J. H. Davies, "On the *D. Cuscuta Hassiaca*," a species of dodder lately found in Lucern, in Herefordshire.

The Rev. T. N. Hutchinson exhibited and described the *Hippocampus brevirostris*, from the Mediterranean.

A satisfactory statement was given of the accounts of the Society.

Dr. Farquharson was elected an Honorary Member; J. D. Lowe, Geological and N. Masterman, Zoological Album Keepers; C. T. Clough, A. Napier, J. Armitage were elected Members, and G. H. Harris Associate.

On the 10th Oct. the President read a botanical note on a perfect flower of the *Lycanis dioica*, found at Rugby.

A paper promised by one of the members on the Japanese silk-worm, not being forthcoming, an article on the same subject, in the *Naturalist's Circular*, was read by the Secretary.

A rule was passed by which all Old Rugbeians can be elected corresponding members of the Society, and W. C. Eyton, late of Mr.

Bowden Smith's, was elected a corresponding member.

On the 24th Oct. a paper was read by the President "On bud variation," illustrated by a variety of specimens.

C. Boyd was elected a Member, and D. A. Ogilvie an Associate.

On the 7th Nov. papers were read, by D. A. Ogilvie "On Caterpillars," and by J. Lawe "On Rats."

On the 21st a paper was read by Dr. Farquharson "On the Mechanism of the Vocal Organs in the Animal Kingdom." The paper was much enjoyed by a large meeting.

The Society offers a prize to all members of the School for essays on any subject connected with Natural History; the essays are to be sent in early next term, and further information can be obtained from T. H. Davies, the Secretary.

#### THE TRICENTENARY FUND.

THE following Subscriptions have been reported to the Secretaries since August, 1868:—

	£	s.	d.
Bernard C. E.....	3	3	0
Boden, C. J. ....	2	0	0
Brocklebank, T.....	10	0	0
Bucknill, S. P. B.....	3	0	0
Fitzherbert W. H. M., Rifle Brigade .....	10	0	0
Ingram E. H. W. ....	1	0	0
Lushington A. H. ....	1	0	0
Miller G. T. ....	5	0	0
Monck Sir A. E., Bart.....	5	0	0
Porch, R. ....	5	0	0
Sandham Rev. H. ....	2	10	0
Sandham Capt. W. H., R.A. ....	2	10	0
Temple Sir Richard, K.C.S.I. ...	20	0	0
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Warre, F. ....	10	0	0

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#### R. S. R. V.

It was about this time last year that we first organised a system of simultaneous shooting matches. The first was against Rossall, who defeated the School by 22 points, making a first-rate score of 269. In the spring of this year, however, we retrieved our honour by a victory of 24 points. It was only last week that the result of our third match was known, and we found that a good score of 252 had landed us winners by no fewer than 37 points. It is but lately that the Corps have taken up again the Enfield rifle (after using the "Hay" for two years), and at present the progress made is very satisfactory. The Rossall XI. was strangely out of form, as it is not long since it made 238 in a match against Marlborough. For Rossall Corpl. Marston shot very steadily; while Captain Tobin and Colour-Sergeant Humphry scored well for Rugby. Score:—

	RUGBY.		Ttl.
	200 yards.	500 yards.	
Capt. Tobin .....	4 3 2 2 3—14	3 4 4 3 0—14	28
Col.-Srgt. Humphry	3 2 3 3 2—13	3 3 3 4 2—15	28
Sergt. Fenrose .....	2 2 3 3 2—12	0 0 3 0 3—6	18
Corpl. Chaplin .....	3 3 3 2 2—13	2 0 0 3 3—8	21
Lance-Corpl. Peel..	2 2 3 3 3—13	2 3 3 2 0—10	23
" Cobham .....	2 2 3 3 3—13	0 0 4 0 4—8	21
Private Tubb.....	3 3 4 3 2—15	2 3 2 0 3—10	25
" Courtenay..	3 2 4 4 3—16	0 0 3 3 0—6	22
" Emson .....	3 0 3 3 2—11	0 3 0 2 2—7	18
" Lawson .....	3 3 2 2 3—13	4 2 3 2 3—14	27
" Dudgeon .....	2 2 2 3 2—12	3 3 0 0 3—9	21
	145		107 252

	ROSSALL.		Ttl.
	200 yards.	500 yards.	
Corpl. Marston .....	2 4 2 2 3—13	3 2 3 3 3—14	27
L.-Corpl. Darlington	3 4 3 3 4—17	0 2 2 0 3—7	24
Col.-Sergt. Upcher	0 4 3 3 2—12	0 2 3 2 2—9	21
Private Atkinson ..	2 2 2 3 0—9	0 3 4 3 2—12	21
Sergt. Stooks.....	2 0 2 2 3—9	2 0 3 3 3—11	20
Private Myers .....	2 3 2 3 3—12	3 0 3 0 2—8	20
Corpl. O'Brien .....	2 3 2 2 0—9	2 3 3 0 2—10	19
Sergt. Thorp.....	2 2 2 3 4—13	3 2 0 0 0—5	18
Private Norris .....	2 2 3 2 2—11	3 0 2 0 2—7	18
Corpl. Leek .....	2 2 3 3 3—13	0 0 0 0 2—2	15
" Butler .....	2 2 0 2 2—8	2 0 2 2 0—4	12
	126		89 215