



The Meteor.

Edited by Members of Rugby School.

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A change is needed in the *Meteor*: it is so intensely Rugbeian, that outside the small circle of ourselves and Old Rugbeians, there are very few people whom it interests, and indeed the reason why fellows in the School buy it, is often to see their own names in print, as having made a good run, or a good score on Big-Side; and so they send the *Meteor* home for their people to see—perhaps with the paragraph marked at the side, in which their own name figures; and then when their parents have read the line about their son, they naturally look into the rest of the paper, hoping to find something to amuse them, for I am sure with the world at large, schoolboys are thought to be amusing. They may perhaps see a whole page about hats for new fellows, but now that their son is no longer a new fellow, and they no longer have any interest in the number of hats he wears out, they do not care at all about it; or again, who but an anxious mother who objects to her son running on an empty stomach, cares whether we run for our fives courts before or after dinner. I remember, too, when at home showing the *Meteor* to a lady, and she read it for a few minutes, and I was beginning to think that she was appreciating it, when suddenly she threw it down and pronounced it to be very slow, for she said,—what did she care whether the School House beat Hutchinson's or Hutchinson's the School House. This is, I am afraid, only too true, and we should do well to imitate our Contemporaries at Marlborough, and put in something that would be interesting to everybody. Surely we do not lack material in the School, —the spirited eloquence of the Debating

Society directly refutes this charge, but somehow there is a lack of help shewn to us by the School in general, which it is hoped will soon be otherwise.

SLOWLY but surely are the farmers enclosing us in their toils. House Paper Chases have already fallen before them, and to such a pitch has their audacity come that they have actually dared to restrict the august proceedings of Big-Side itself. Already we are driven one mile from the town, and possibly our relentless enemies will not even be satisfied with this concession, and Rugby Paper-Chases, now looked on with envious admiration by the whole of the outer world, though handed down to undying renown in the immortal pages of "Tom Brown's School-days," may become a thing of the past.

Nor is this our only institution that is threatened. Let "Radical" and his Myrmidons triumph! A blow has been struck at the existence of Big-Side Levée: its decision has been referred to a higher tribunal. No doubt in this particular case the course taken was perfectly sensible and justifiable, but the precedent is dangerous. Let us at all events not lose our Big-Side Levée till we have found an efficient substitute for it; and no scheme as yet suggested can altogether be pronounced a decided improvement.

DEBATING SOCIETY.

We are glad to announce the formation, in accordance with the suggestion of the

Meteor, of the above Society, to which our best wishes are due, for its success and permanence.

The Society was constituted last term, when the following officers and members were elected:—A. Sidgwick, President; A. B. Haslam, Vice-President; W. O. Moberly, Secretary. *Members*: F. H. Baring, J. Eastwick, A. Scott, C. W. Kennedy, W. Warner, C. H. Lomax, D. B. Wilson, C. B. Stuart Wortley, S. Garrett, T. S. Plumb, H. W. Peake, J. E. H. Mackinlay, W. Shirley, J. H. Davies, E. P. Arnold, J. C. Hannen, H. M. Tobin, M. W. E. De Bunsen, A. H. F. Lefroy, W. E. Kough, H. G. Wauton, J. M. Lester, H. Riley, H. F. Lester, E. J. Norton, E. Peel, C. K. Francis, H. W. Gardner.

It meets every Saturday (at present) at 2.20, in the Library, for Debate, and by the existing rules each member may introduce one Visitor (including Ladies) into the debating room, while the gallery is thrown open to the Public.

On Saturday, 23rd January, 1869, the Society met for the First Debate.

Mr. Haslam moved, "That it is the Duty of England to give up Gibraltar," and in his speech appealed mainly to arguments of justice. Mr. Baring, who followed on the same side, dwelt chiefly on the expediency of cession.

Mr. Eastwick in an exhaustive speech, enriched with much fertility of illustration, opposed the motion, and was seconded by Mr. Moberly. The President, vacating the chair, argued briefly on the same side. The Honourable Opposer and Opener having replied. On a division the votes were:—

For the motion	6
Against	20

Majority against the motion 14

There were 16 visitors present, among whom we noticed Mr. Papillon.

On Saturday, 30th January, 1869, Mr. Eastwick opened the Second Debate with the motion;—"That Capital Punishment for overt political crime is on the whole just."

The Speakers were—

For the motion	Against
Mr. Eastwick.	Mr. Shirley.
Mr. Stuart Wortley.	Mr. Lee Warner.

Mr. Eastwick's thorough and persuasive argument, met, as it was, by Mr. Shirley in a speech of much fire and enthusiasm, made the Debate a most vivacious and interesting

one. If we might find any fault at all, it is that the Society seems rather unduly chary of applause.

The Society was honoured by the presence of Miss Temple, Miss C. Temple, Mrs. Lee Warner, Mrs. Powlett, Mrs. Jex Blake, Mr. Robertson, Mr. Lee Warner, Mr. Ingram (O.R.), Mr. H. S. Kynnersley (O.R.), Mr. Eyton (O.R.), and 13 others, besides several gentlemen in the gallery.

On a division, there voted

For the motion	16
Against	5

Majority for the motion 11

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

The First Meeting of this Society was held on Saturday, Jan. 23rd. Mr. Kitchener was re-elected President, and J. H. Davies Secretary, for the ensuing year.

After a review of the proceedings of the Society in 1868, and a statement of its finances, had been made by the President, a paper was read by J. Armitage, "On the Inmates of a Rugby pond." The frog, the toad, and the newt were the inmates selected for notice.

C. T. Clough then read a paper "On the recent discoveries in Aerial Infusoria."

A box of rare Scotch Moths has been presented by Mr. Longstaff, corresponding member of the Society.

It was announced that the last report might now be obtained from the officers of the Society at the reduced price of 1s.; and that J. H. Davies and J. M. Lester had been appointed to edit the next report.

The Second Meeting was held on Saturday, January 30th, at which Mr. Lloyd (O.R.), who has been sent down by the Government to report on the Gravels of the Avon, was present.

A paper by E. Cleminshaw, "On the Gravel Deposits of the neighbourhood of Rugby," was read by the Secretary, and gave rise to some conversation. Mr. Wilson has found reason to differ from several inferences in Mr. Cleminshaw's paper, and his reasons will appear in the new report. Mr. Lloyd spoke of the appearance of the Gravels of the Lower Avon, and gave some practical hints.

Mr. Wilson exhibited some butterflies, lent for exhibition by Mr. Swanzy, of Lee, Kent,