

Among the Visitors were Miss Temple, Miss C. Temple, Mrs. Burrows, Mrs. Sidgwick, Mr. and Mrs. A. Powlett, Mr. and Mrs. Lee-Warner, Mr. Robertson, and Mr. Cotterill.

But the most exciting debate by far was that raised by the motion of Mr. Kough, who, on Saturday, 20th February, argued,—

“That the dis-establishment of the Irish Church is a necessary act of justice to Ireland.”

After premising that Ireland should be treated as a sister, and taking a slight historical survey, he combated the objections that the wrong was merely sentimental, or that the abolition would be a surrender to the Pope. He insisted strongly on the right of the State to regulate corporate trusts, and all Church property. He concluded by an earnest appeal for justice.

Mr. WARNER was suspicious about the safety or justice of the proposed remedy. He ably argued that all England was equally concerned in the question, that nine-tenths of the soil was Protestant, that the real causes of annoyance were not religious, and that the measure was a blow at all establishments.

Mr. SHIRLEY followed, and in a speech of surpassing eloquence, interrupted by the heartiest cheering, described the ill state of Ireland, the standing grievance of the establishment, which wounded a sensitive nation in its tenderest point, and replied to Mr. Warner's fears by welcoming the overthrow of all State Churches.

After a few remarks from Mr. KENNEDY, ascribing the evils of Ireland (from personal knowledge) to other sources,

Mr. VICARS rose, and pleaded the Conservative cause with a humour and vigour which called forth enthusiastic applause. The Church, he argued, would be lowered in position and tone by the measure proposed. There was no more objection to a Protestant Church for Ireland than to a Protestant Queen. The issue of the proposal to the English Church was not fairly looked in the face. The legislation had proceeded by steps which had all been foreboded, though at the time denied by the Liberal party. He ended by eloquently depicting the greatness of the cause.

Mr. EASTWICK argued that the Irish converts were mostly converts in the second

generation. Also that the State had no right to take away what private persons give.

Mr. POTTS criticised Mr. Vicars' speech, remarking that the “proselytism” argument was invalid in itself and obscured the real issue.

Messrs. WARNER and KOUGH having replied, the votes were taken amid much excitement. There were found

For the motion.....	15
Against	17

The motion was lost by 2

Messrs. Whitelaw, Robertson, Wilson, Potts, Burrows, Gray, and Tobin, voted on the question; and among the visitors were 14 ladies, Mr. Vicars, Mr. Powlett, and Dr. Farquharson.

At a private business meeting held on Wednesday, 24th February, three new members were elected, viz.:—Mr. Allison, Mr. Stevenson, and Mr. Warrington.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

This Society met on February 20th. Presents of books were received from Dr. Oldham and Mr. Lloyd, both Old Rugbeians, and more notably a collection of New Zealand Ferns, on which we comment elsewhere.

Among other exhibitions, the Rev. T. N. Hutchinson showed some splendid specimens of Mica, in connection with a piece of Mica which had been found at the new buildings of the Rugby Bank.

N. Masterman then read a paper “On Snakes, and the Slow-worm,” to which the Society have awarded their prize for an essay embodying original observation.

J. M. Lester then read a paper “On Traces of Glacial Action at Conway, N. Wales,” as seen by him last summer.

Mr. Wilson will furnish all members and associates with tickets for his two lectures at the Town Hall on Monday, the 1st, and 15th of next month.

The Society's Report for 1868 will soon be ready, at Tait's; the price will be 2s. 6d. to the public, and 1s. to members and associates.

HONOURS AT THE UNIVERSITIES.—J. Eastwick, Scholar of University College, Oxford; F. G. Cholmondeley, Studentship at Christchurch.

BIG-SIDE LEVEE.

On Wednesday, the 17th inst., the following motions were proposed by Mr. Francis, seconded by Mr. Gwyer, and carried unanimously:—

- 1.—That the Standing Jumping should be discontinued.
- 2.—That there should be a Quarter-of-a-Mile Handicap, with an entrance-fee of 1s.
- 3.—That one High Jumping, and a Half-Mile Race, both open to all under 5ft. 4in., should be substituted for the two High Jumpings for all under 5ft. 6in. and 5ft. 2in.
- 4.—That the Mile should be open to all, and run in the Close.
- 5.—That all fellows should be allowed to wear flannels at the Athletics.

Mr. Haslam then proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Cordery (O.R.), who has offered a Cup for the Single Racquets. Mr. Francis seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

R. S. R. V. C.

On Friday, February 19, a meeting of commissioned and non-commissioned officers was held, at which Captain Phillipotts made a statement of the accounts since May, when the Corps was enrolled. It appeared that there was a balance in favour of the Corps of £1 2s. 4d., in addition to the Government Grant of about £98, which is to be entirely laid aside for the building of the new Range. It is probable that the expenses of the Corps will not be so great in future, since considerable expense has been incurred this year by reason of the change of uniform consequent upon the enrolment of the Corps.—At this meeting it was also decided that there should be a “march-out” to Kenilworth, which will probably take place on Saturday, March 13.

On Thursday, Feb. 25, the Baldwin Challenge Cup was competed for, at 200, 400, and 500 yards, five shots at each distance. The day was cold, with a strong and somewhat gusty wind blowing from left to right across the range. The Cup was won by Ensign Humphry with 42 points, Private Lawson taking the second place with 25.

OLD RUGBEIAN OBITUARY.

Died, February 24th, of injuries received from a fall when hunting, Sir J. V. B. Johnstone, Bart. (O.R.), M.P. for Scarborough.

THE BEST HOUSES AT FOOTBALL.

At the end of last Term we gave a list of the Two Best Houses for a few past years. By reference to the House-book of Mr. Shairp's House we are enabled to prefix the following list with a few particulars as to that celebrated house:—

1852	{ J. C. Shairp, Esq.'s....	1
	{ School House.....	2
1853	{ J. C. Shairp, Esq.'s....	1
	{ School House.....	
1854	{ J. C. Shairp, Esq.'s....	1
	{ Rev. R. B. Mayor's....	2
1855	{ J. C. Shairp, Esq.'s....	1
	{ School House.....	

We believe we are right in stating that Mr. Shairp's was the first house that vanquished the School House, and it is mentioned, in the records from which we have taken the above, that Shairp's flourished for 13 seasons without a single defeat at football.

In 1852 Shairp's having kicked a goal against the S. H., the two houses played the School, but we do not hear which side won.

In 1853 the S. H. played with a gale in their favour, and with its help just managed to make a drawn match.

In 1854 Mayor's, who had easily beaten all other good houses, were defeated by this champion house, now reduced to 25 members.

In 1855 *there were only 18 left at Mr. Shairp's, but this gallant little House followed-up to a man, and played an even match with the School House Twenty.* This year the two Houses again played the School, and a goal was dropped for the Houses.

From this time till Midsummer, 1857, Shairp's House declined in numbers and was finally given up, the eight remaining members migrating to other houses. The library is in the Arnold Library, and is to be given to the next house which may be opened.

BIG SIDE HARE AND HOUNDS.

On Thursday, February 11th, the Thurleston run took place. The weather was all that could be desired, and the ground perfect for running. A large field appeared at the