



# The Meteor.

Edited by Members of Rugby School.

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MUCH as has been said about the Fives Courts and the system by which they are engaged for play, until we were favoured by a happy thought on the subject by "A Fives Player," we cannot say that we had before us any beneficial measure of reform. The first we heard of the question was from "Hillmorton," who merely brought the subject into notice in rather a round about style, without giving any definite plan for amendment. Our next correspondent stood up as the champion of the would-be injured House, very proud that his House has not so many sixth fellows as Blake's, and so many students of Natural Science as Wilson's; and what devotion does he boast of for his House, but that they are more addicted to voluntary games? But we are afraid his argument does not go for much when we reflect that all Houses have the same opportunities of excelling in School; all may study Natural Science; the Sixth of all Houses may make Football compulsory; but Hand-fives and Ends after dinner are restricted to Arnold's, whenever they please to play them. Again, we are not aware that Arnold's excell all other Houses in Racquets, that is a voluntary game? No, for the Racquet Court is not a monopoly of theirs. They are not enormously superior to other Houses in running, are they? No, for all Houses have the same opportunities of excelling in that line. Yes, and there are other voluntary games, in which other Houses can hold their own; but in Cricket and Hand Fives Arnold's certainly have greater opportunities for excelling. The very fact that the House is in the Close, and that it is but a step to the Fives Courts and just a step to

the Ends, gives and will always give them slight advantages in those games. But surely because their House is near the Fives Courts there can be no reason why they should be further favoured by a monopoly of these Courts. Judging from his arguments it would be impossible to think that our correspondent ever got so high in the School as the Sixth, unless he himself had given us the information.

And now we come to a third correspondent's ("A. M.") views on the subject; a most elaborate composition, all the *pros* and *cons* classified evidently to his entire satisfaction. The idea of going solemnly down to the School Bath and starting up the hill in all directions, is very ludicrous. But even this would be preferable to the existing system.

And now our eye rests on still another epistle, that of "H. J.," which we publish. A staunch unyielding Tory must he be. "It is a custom, and why should we abolish it?" But again he says "it has worked very well." May we reply, if the custom be a bad one, remove it; and assuredly this custom is an unfair one to all the other Houses but Arnold's.

The best proposal undoubtedly is that by "A Fives Player," whose chief plan is to have a slate, as for the Racquet Court. Surely this is a good plan. Could not a slate be kept at the Racquet Court, with the Fives Courts for that day and the following, and let the Courts be taken at Diver's as the Racquet Court. The chief and great advantage of this would be that nearly every one

would be satisfied—for it would be on the same footing with the Racquet Court—viz., first out of 1st Lesson gets the Courts, and nearly every one is satisfied with that, for those who wish to play Racquets always get Courts somehow or other, but at present many cannot get Fives Courts when they want them.

And while we are assailing the Hand-fives Court nuisance, let us not forget another which has not yet been so much assailed, but which we are sure requires it just as much if not more than the other. We allude to the Bat-fives Court. It is not so easy for a House to monopolize the three Fives Courts with four players on each, as for a House to monopolize the Bat-fives Court with only two players. Undoubtedly the Bat-fives Court should be dealt with as the Hand-fives Courts, and we contend there should be a slate kept at Diver's for the Racquet, Hand-fives, and Bat-fives Courts, and let all the School have opportunities for practising at and enjoying those games, for which School prizes are awarded.

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SWEET is the sight of Dover Cliffs (to use a not unheard of illustration) to the British seaman, and sweet is the early worm to the early bird who drops thereon,—yea, sweet, too, the double-figure exhibited on the telegraph to the aspiring batsman, and sweet the “rattle in the timber-yard” to the ambitious bowler,—yea, they are all sweet; but sweeter far than all is, to the Editorial heart, the letter that in full yet pungent terms produces—a real grievance. Great is the mind of the mighty nameless Editor of the *Times*; great, too, though in a less degree, that of the equally unknown Editors of the *Standard* or *D. T.* Yet even such mighty intellects may be supposed to feel a thrill of joy when “Vindex” or “M. M. P.” trespasses on their valuable space to call attention to the fact that five out of six West-end butchers make a profit of 30 per cent., or Smith invokes their mighty aid against Jones, who detracts from the immortal fame which Smith's respected sire has won as the sole inventor of the “Ægroplekasora” boot-blackening machine. Seriously, grievances are the daily bread of newspapers: if no one has the spitefulness, or, as rather oftener happens, the ingenuity to discover one, Editors, speaking metaphorically, must grow thin and languish.

Rugby, or rather the sphere of the *Meteor*,—for the two terms are not precisely synony-

mous—is really without a good grievance. Either the stock has failed, or those whose acidity of temper supplied us at first with the necessary diet have left, and have grown sweeter and less capable of grievance-finding as they have grown older Rugbeians: some of our old ones have been, alas! cured: others, though evincing the utmost perseverance in their originators, are seen to be evidently unequal to the task of rousing the British Lion to the pitch at which, by profuse purchases of newspapers, he becomes profitable to the Editorial class.

For three long weeks we have carried on the search, but in vain. We have gone down to lessons determined to come back brimming over with wrath at the little boys in the town who desecrate the quads with hand-fives; but at such hours the exuberant spirits of the members of the lower school have been invariably curbed, either by the four walls of Big School or nestling under their paternal roof, and we have returned grievanceless.

We have watched for a hat of shape extraordinarily battered, or a notice on Big School more than ordinarily the subject of miscellaneous wit, that we might kindle in our pages and in our readers' hearts the fire of a good controversy. But without result.

Perhaps the editorial brain, under troubles of scanty correspondence and scanty news, has lost the keenness of vision necessary for grievance hunters. At any rate we come to the Rugby labouring world: Suffer not, ye noble sons of Sheriffe, the organ of your School to pine for lack of this or that: let the boxes of Pepperday and Tait,—capacious and all-receiving though they be,—overflow in the next three weeks with effusions as pungent in sarcasms, as profuse of note paper: and forget not that amid all such effusions none can be more acceptable than the good old English grievance.

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WEEP, O ye Athletes! Weep, O ye ladies! for the Athletics are again in rainy, wintry March. We at least have the satisfaction to know that last year we did raise a remonstrance; this year we did not do so, and we are doomed to another cold, comfortless scene at our games. Why should they not be in April? Why not in May, or June, or July? These are four delightful warm summer months. We feel more athletic on a cheerful April day than in drizzling March. The spectators enjoy warmth more than rain, parasols more than umbrellas. Rugby may be brought to see this, some day; let us hope.

THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

A Meeting of the Society was held for the exhibition of Microscopic objects on February 22nd. Mr. T. N. Hutchinson kindly lent his drawing-room for the evening, and made a short address on Microscopes, dwelling especially on their polarizing apparatus. Microscopic objects were exhibited by Messrs. Wilson, Hutchinson, Robertson, Kitchener, E. J. Norton, and F. R. Smith.

A frog under the action of ether was exhibited to show the circulation of the blood. The frog is reported to be doing well since the operation.

A change was made in the method of electing members; the ballot is not to be used, but names are to be submitted to a committee for election. H. G. Wauton, J. P. Baynes, W. H. Pike, M. W. E. De Bunsen, and E. J. Norton were elected members.

J. H. Davies has been appointed Secretary.

The property of the Society is at present kept at Mr. Kitchener's, where members have access to it on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, between 2 and 6.

A meeting will be held on March 7th, in Sixth School at quarter to eight, when papers are promised by Mr. Wilson, "on the Victoria Works;" and by J. H. Davies, "on Sensitive Plants."

On March 21st, a paper will be read by G. F. Helm, Esq., "On the circulation of the blood."

R. S. R. C.

It may interest some to hear what is at present contemplated with regard to the organization of the Rifle Corps. We hope to receive official permission from the War Office this week to be enrolled. As two permanent Officers are required to command the Corps, Mr. J. S. Philpotts, whom we would here thank for the great interest he has always taken in the Corps, has kindly taken on him the arduous duty of Captain, and Mr. H. Lee Warner has taken the post of Lieutenant. We can at present only muster 63 members over 17 years of age, but hope that we shall soon see the numbers swell.

The Cadet Corps will remain on exactly the same footing as hitherto; it numbers

about 60, so that at present we have 120 members in the Rifle Corps.

The question of a New Range is still undecided, but it is hoped that something definite will be settled by the end of the month.

We have great pleasure in recording a victory as the result of the first expedition made by the Corps this year. On Saturday, Feb. 22, a team went over to visit the Coventry Corps, and notwithstanding the hurricane that was blowing, succeeded in making a very creditable score. Fewer misses should have been made at the 200 yards' range, but at the longer distance the shooting was considerably improved. The Coventry Corps were hardly in their usual form, or we should probably have a different tale to tell; as it is, however, the R. S. R. V. may congratulate themselves heartily on having achieved a victory over such cracks. Score:—

THE SCHOOL.

	200 yds.	500 yds.	Tl.
Captain Tobin.....	32324	14	34203 12—26
Sergeant Humphry .....	23342	14	24233 14—28
Corporal Penrose .....	42232	13	33223 13—26
“ Botfield .....	22023	9	22230 9—18
Lnce.-Corp. Chaplin .....	02404	10	03304 10—20
“ “ Stuart Wortley .....	20433	12	00423 9—21
“ “ Whiting ....	33333	15	r2324 11—26
Private A. N. Other .....	23223	12	30233 11—23
Totals....	99		87 188

COVENTRY.

	200 yds.	500 yds.	Tl.
Lieutenant Blake .....	42433	16	42r24 12—28
Corporal Wilsby.....	23220	9	0rrr3 3—12
“ Tillet .....	22233	12	00030 8—15
“ Butler.....	23323	13	023r3 8—21
Private J. Wilson .....	22334	14	23230 10—24
“ W. Truslove ....	42332	14	3r034 10—24
“ T. Howard.....	23023	10	02332 10—20
Corporal Beamish .....	22333	13	02024 8—21
Totals..	101		64 165

The sun was shining brightly the whole time, and the wind blowing a hurricane from left to right.

The Baldwin Challenge Cup was competed for on Thursday, February 27th. We are glad to see that some fresh blood has been infused into the Corps, and the old members of the XI. will have to work hard to hold their own against such shooting as won the Cup on Thursday. The day was bitterly cold, and the wind very strong from left to right. The winner, Corporal Botfield, made an excellent score of 40 at the three ranges,