

into a rippling sea of molten gold;" suppose the last pages adorned with poetry on "Dear Avon's glassy rill," and hexameters "Written on searching an old desk;" do you not feel morally convinced that that very Jones would be the first to cry out, the first to make funny remarks about sending the Editors to to Hanwell by public subscription, &c. ? Do you imagine Jones has ever for a moment considered the possibility of making a school magazine decently exciting ?

It must be borne in mind that we are assuming all the time that we are some good. We believe this to be the opinion even of the cynical Jones himself, certainly of the majority of the Rugby world. Smith may look down upon us with contempt, from his intellectual elevation and ridicule the tameness of the articles and the poverty of the subjects ; but he was really glad when we set the Hat question on foot. Bails, even, the all absorbed athlete, thinks at the bottom of his heart, (if cricket and football have not absorbed all that valuable organ) it is better that we should appear than not. Blockhead, laughs at us, not because he has an especial objection to school journals, but because it is his dignified habit to say to everything, except perhaps what contributes to his direct personal gratification, "What rubbish !"

We are aware that the grounds of praise or support which we receive from those who do praise and support us may not be wholly unimpeachable. Cainhandell, in the xxii., says he really thinks a school like Rugby ought to have a periodical ; but his real reason for visiting Pepperday's every third week and depositing sixpence is not because he thinks those who give Rugby a dignity it ought to have are to be supported, but because he has a predilection for seeing his glorious old Norman name in real printer's type. "Smallboy" too gives us a good name among his acquaintance, because he likes to be able to say at the critical moment when the paternal hand is in the pocket and another half-sovereign is trembling in the balance: "You'd like me to *buy* (with especial stress on the *buy*) the *Meteor* and send it; to let you know how the school is going on, you know."

But we are tempted to doubt if the reasons of our reviling friends are as good even as these. It must be remembered that there are matters in which the opinion of a theoretical man does not avail much against practical experience.

A member of the Anatomical branch of

the Natural History Society, if such a branch existed, might demonstrate to you that there was sufficient motive power in the muscles of your leg to jump a six-barred gate; he might try to convince you that the force of gravity was not sufficient to counteract this. But you would have much more confidence in your practical experience which tells you that you have often stumbled at a rail a good four inches lower, and that a "howler" would most emphatically result from any compliance with his wishes.

If our readers have any belief in our honesty, ought they not to conclude that we are convinced that novels and rhymes are best out of our pages, and that what we produce is the result of our best efforts ?

Be it borne in mind finally that we do not wish to avoid fair criticism. We do not deny that many a number, many a page of ours may justly merit correction, perhaps contempt. But we would ask you, reader, to consider whether a school magazine is desirable, and unless you decide candidly that such a thing is altogether useless, to take up our numbers with a will rather to favour than to criticise; above all not to set up a standard, the real impossibility of attaining which you have never attempted to consider.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

A meeting of this Society was held on May 23rd. Among the exhibitions was a collection of Andamanese curiosities presented by Capt. Fryer. Papers were read by F. Lefroy, on "Reason and Instinct in Animals;" and F. R. Smith, on "Enplectella, a Siliceous Sponge," which he exhibited. 54 persons were present. The number of the Society has been limited to 20 members and 20 associates. The new members are V. Ellis, H. Powell, G. A. Ogilvie; and the new associates A. Napier, C. T. Clough, and J. D. Anderson.

CRICKET.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, OXFORD v. THE SCHOOL.—This was only a one-day's match, consequently each side had but one innings. The School were worsted by 27 runs. As will be seen from the annexed score, many of the enemy troubled the scorers; for us notably Tobin ml. and Francis. Very fine fielding was shown by Kennaway at cover point. Score:—