



The Meteor.

Edited by Members of Rugby School.

No. 24.

RUGBY, FEBRUARY 6th, 1869.

Price 6d.

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,

in which the females were protected from being eaten by birds, by their strong resemblance to a certain quite different and uneatable butterfly (*Danais*), and further were found to have far different forms, so as always to resemble the one of four distinct species of *Danais* found in this district.

G. Darbshire was elected an Associate.

The next Meeting will be on February 20th, at which papers will be read,—by J. M. Lester, on a Geological subject, and by N. Masterman, “On English snakes, and the slow-worm.”

THE RIFLE CORPS.

Target practice has been carried on with spirit this Term, but the shooting has not yet quite recovered the ground lost in the holidays. On Tuesday, the 26th, Mr. Baldwin's Challenge Cup was shot for by a larger number of Competitors than usual, and was won by Private Lawson with 35 points,—Lance-Corpl. Dudgeon being second, and Private Tobin third. The day was cold, with a slight wind blowing across the Range from left to right.

It was decided last Term that the Wimbledon Eleven should in future be made up by a Committee. For this year the Committee will consist of Ensign Humphry, Sergt. Stuart Wortley, and Corpl. Peel.

The new Range does not progress as rapidly as might have been desired. It would seem that the Contractors have supplied us with very inferior concrete, which has been condemned by the engineer, and which they will be obliged to replace with better. The weather at this time is unfavourable for the work, which at any time is placed at a disadvantage by the absence of a proper road for the conveyance of materials.

However we still hope to have the Butts completed and ready for use in time to have plenty of practice there before Wimbledon.

Owing to the departure of several of the Non-commissioned Officers, there has been considerable promotion in the Corps. The list is as follows:—Quarter-Master Sergt. Eastwick, Sergeants Stuart Wortley, Mackinlay, Reynolds; Corporals Chaplin, Peel, Davies; Lance-Corporals Courtenay, De Bunsen, Dudgeon, and Riley. The post of Colour-Sergeant still remains to be filled.

The following are the members still remaining of last year's Wimbledon Eleven:—Ensign Humphry, Sergt. Stuart Wortley, Corpl. Peel, and Lance-Corpl. Courtenay.

THE SCHOOL CONCERT.

In spite of the large number of active and influential members of the Choir that left at the end of the Summer Term, the above event, which took place on the 16th of December last, may be safely said to have gone off very satisfactorily. The performance opened with Dr. Elvey's Christmas anthem, “Arise, shine,” which was well given, and was followed by Crotch's beautifully devotional quartet, “Comfort the soul,” sung with very good taste and feeling by Messrs. Mason, Grisewood, Paile, and P. Westfeldt. After the anthem “Behold, how good and joyful” (Dr. C. Whitfield), in which a pretty duet by Messrs. Anstice and Trevelyan gave great pleasure, the latter gentleman sang, with pleasing and unaffected simplicity, the Evening Prayer from Costa's *Eli*. The Choral trio from *luth* followed (which possessed greater interest from the presence of its composer); and then the First Part of the Concert was closed by Spohr's impressive, though somewhat intricate Psalm, “O bless'd for ever.” The choruses of the latter were given well and evenly, in spite of the great difficulty of the laboured passages with which Spohr's choral works abound, and the quartet parts were well sustained. Mr. Anstice sang the graceful *aria*, with wonderful success, in spite of perceptible diminution in his power of voice.

The Second Part opened with the vigorous and cheery Christmas chorus “Up, brothers, up,” which was greeted with warm applause; and then Messrs. Mason and Grisewood sang Smart's lovely duet, “The Shepherd's Bell,” in such a way that the audience, who had already been more than once vacillating, so to speak, on the brink of an *encore*, gave vent to their pleasure by a warm and decided demand for a repetition, which was accordingly granted. After the part-song “'Tis May upon the mountain” had been given, Mr. Grisewood sang, with a pure and even *mezzo-soprano* voice, Mr. Goodman's “He that loves a rosie cheek,” in such an agreeable and graceful way as to elicit a more enthusiastic *encore* than the former one. The instrumental performance which followed was a selection from Schubert's “Heroic Marches;” and contained a new feature in the shape of a drum, played with “spirit and precision” by Mr. Leggatt. The band received also great and praiseworthy assistance from Mr. A. W. Rowden (O.R.), who arrived, safe from the perils of “Smalls,”

with ready voice and 'cello, to assist the body over which he had so ably presided. There can be little doubt that all the praise that is ever lavished on M. Costa for power of control, is in like manner due to Herr Petterson, whose *bâton* controls and conducts such a varied body of amateurs, and, in spite of the absence of the clarionet, succeeds in obtaining an *encore*. Another O.R. very opportunely tendered his services, namely, Mr. G. E. Steward, whose singing of "The Ruby" gave great satisfaction. Massinghi's trio "The Wreath," sung with good taste by the good voices of Messrs. Anstice, Grisewood, and Thornton, obtained also a well-merited *encore*. After the choral trio "Haste, gentle shepherd," Mr. Anstice came forward and sang Purcell's "Come unto these yellow sands," and his careful, though easy singing, was honoured with the *encore* that he has never yet failed to win. We much fear, from reports that have reached us, that we have heard Mr. Anstice as a *soprano* for the last time; but can safely say that the School has scarcely ever produced a singer who has given us so much pleasure as, from his first appearance in "*Toujours gai*," to his last and most agreeable performance, we have experienced in listening to Mr. Anstice. Macfarren's difficult and somewhat crabbed part-song, "The Hunt's up," was next sung, without accompaniment, very creditably. Then followed the *Carmen Feriale*; and the *Vive la Compagnie*, sung with great spirit and clearness by Mr. Gray, closed a Concert which we hope it will in some measure requite those whose unwearying efforts are spent in its preparation to pronounce the most successful we have heard in Big School for some time past.

HOUSE NEWS.

J. M. WILSON'S, ESQ.—This House had a house-run,—the Clifton and Hillmorton,—on Tuesday, January 26th. Bulpett ma. and Steel went hares, doing it in good time. Of the hounds, Scott came in first, Adamson and Langford being a good second and third.

REV. C. B. HUTCHINSON'S.—On Monday, Jan. 25th, we had the Bilton as our first House-Run of the Term. Lake and Gwyer went hares, and did the distance in 40 mins. Hallsworth came in first of the hounds in 45 minutes, with Cobbold close behind him. Twenty-one came in out of 23 starters.

FOOTBALL.

RICHMOND CLUB v. 15 OF RUGBY SCHOOL.

This match was played on Richmond Green on Monday, the 11th of January, and from the memorable match last term attracted an unusually large attendance. The weather, fortunately, was fine. The match commenced at three o'clock, Rugby, who lost the toss, occupying the Station Goal. After playing for ten minutes, without any advantage on either side, the ball was carried, by a good run on the part of Badger (who at this period of the game was unfortunately disabled and obliged to leave the field), up to the Richmond Goal, where it was finally touched down between the posts by Gray, who attempted the try himself but was unequal to the occasion, the ball wanting both height and direction. The superior weight of Richmond now drove the School back to their own goal, and a maul was the result in favour of the School, aided by W. Mackinlay, who, though not an O.R., was fortunately "all there" to lend us his valuable assistance. Holmes and E. Rutter now made some dashing runs for Richmond, which however did not meet with the success they deserved, owing to the good tackling on the part of the School backs,—Benham and the brothers Mackinlay. Twice the School were obliged to touch it down, owing to the brilliant drops of E. Rutter and Emanuel, which justly deserved the applause they gained.

When "No side" was called, Rugby had gained the advantage by one "try" and a touch-down to three touches-down. This was one of the most evenly contested matches played on Richmond Green this season. For Richmond, Holmes (back), E. Rutter (back), Harper (back), Lambert, Turner, A. Rutter, and Weber, deserved the highest praise. For the School, Benham, the two Mackinlays (backs), Moberly, Kough, Gray (forwards), principally distinguished themselves. The following is a list of the two sides:—

The School: W. Mackinlay, J. E. H. Mackinlay, E. A. R. Benham (backs), H. W. Badger, C. K. Francis (half-backs), W. O. Moberly, A. Gray, W. E. Kough, E. H. Eddis, G. O. Unna, T. J. Paine, A. W. Seton, E. Cant, W. Johnson, and J. C. Anderson.

Richmond: E. C. Holmes (Captain), E. Rutter, S. Harper (backs), A. G. Guillebard, and H. Emanuel (half-backs), A. Rutter,

C. Tomkins, D. Turner, — Richards, G. Hamilton, J. C. Lambert, Weber, Christopher, and Giles.

THE TWO COCK HOUSE MATCH.

[BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

I cannot but feel that this Match, played on December 16th, 1868, would have been a fitter theme for Homer than for a Special Correspondent like myself. The scrummages did not present that close-compacted struggle of mere weight which we sometimes see in smaller matches; but they were made up of distinct groups of combatants, all hard at work in that quarter where their weight seemed most needed, affording to the mere looker-on a spectacle of much more varied interest. Had I then the pen of a Homer, I might perhaps hope to put before my readers a few of the many brilliant exploits that grouped themselves round that hard-used ball. I might tell how the invincible son of Brown with well-leathered toe inflicted dire destruction on the wind-swift shin of mighty Jones, while cheering on his men with vast clamour; or how Robinson out-sprang from the crowd, and would have struck the ball in close encounter, but could not pass the fence of serried shins, and in mighty overthrow fell tower-like on the plain. As it is, however, I must confine myself to the plain Newspaper facts. The day was most favourable, and an unusual number of Old Rugbeians turned up from those four winds of theirs to do battle on either side. Yes, and many a young lady with all her charms might well be jealous of the attractions of that ugly brown ball which can gather so many stalwart admirers around her. But this in passing. The Two Houses had the best of it throughout, except very occasionally when the School got their superior weight to tell. By good forward play, assisted by the runs of Henderson and the other back-players, the ball was brought down close to the School goal, and Field (O.R.) eventually got the ball, and scored the first run-in for the Two Houses. The "try" was missed, but this only stimulated the Houses to still greater efforts, and they drove the ball in again by sheer forward play. Their champion, Isherwood, was equal to the occasion, and a splendid goal was kicked amid hearty cheers from the School House and Hutchinson's. Nothing further decisive was done, so when No-side was called the

Two Houses were left masters of the field for the first time since 1863. In those huge scrummages some of the best play was necessarily hidden from view, but there was one O.R. named Soutter who seemed inseparable from the ball, and whatever the scrumage these two might invariably be seen forcing their way through together.

Dissyllables v. The School was the first Big-Side, in which the former gained the advantage by two tries and one punt-out to one try for the latter; neither side, however, succeeded in obtaining a goal. For the Dissyllables, Warner and Hudson, and for The School, Yule (O.R.) and Kough, played well.

The next Big-Side was played on January 30th, when Dissyllables v. The School was again gone on with, but this time all in favour of the School, who quickly scored two goals,—one from a drop by King, the other from a place by Isherwood, from a run-in by Cholmondeley. As this Big-Side was so soon finished Barby v. Hillmorton was begun, but this again was one-sided, and two goals were quickly scored for Hillmorton by Sidgwick ma. Another Big-Side now commenced—A to M v. The School, and when "No side" was called A to M had scored one goal and a try. Ogilvie ma, Peel and Garrett, played well throughout.

SCHOOL HOUSE.—This house played the Rev. C. Elsee's, Below Caps, on Saturday morning, January 23rd, and gained an easy victory, obtaining a goal in less than a quarter of an hour, which was followed by two others. They also made three unsuccessful tries

BELOW CAPS.—BOWDEN SMITH'S v. HUTCHINSON'S.—This match took place in Reynolds's field, on Saturday, January 30th. Hutchinson's kicked off, but Bowden Smith's soon brought the ball back to their goal, where it was kept during the greater part of the game, Bowden Smith's eventually winning by a try and several touches-down to one touch-down gained by Hutchinson's.

J. M. WILSON'S, ESQ.—This House have had two Below Caps this term. The first on Jan. 21st, v. Bowden Smith's, resulting, though very slightly, in favour of the latter. Bowden Smith's obtained a goal and a touch-down, and Wilson's a try, a punt-out, and five touches-down. The second was on Jan. 23rd, v. Moberly's. Wilson's obtained a goal, a try, and a punt-out, whereas Moberly's only got three touches-down. In both these

below caps Moss (half-back), Brocklehurst (back), Campbell, and Langford distinguished themselves.

It was settled at a Levée of Caps that all Big-Side should this Term be voluntary.

BIGSIDE PAPER-CHASE.

There have been two Big-Side Paper-Chases this term, on Jan. 21st and 28th. On the former occasion Francis (Wilson's), Warner (S.H.), and Gardner (B. Smith's) went hares, starting from Whitehall, and going round by Hillmorton. On the 28th the hares were Scott and Bulpett (Wilson's). The course taken was by Dunchurch Toll-bar, the fir plantations in Mr. Lancaster's park, Rainsbrook, and Hillmorton, coming in at the School Gates. A large field started, among whom was S. P. Bucknill (O.R.), lately head of the School Eleven.

At a Big-Side Levée, the Athletics were fixed for Monday and Tuesday, March 15th and 16th,—S. K. Gwyer being elected fourth Steward.

RUGBY HONOURS.—Mr. J. S. ff. Chamberlain (St. John's, Cambridge), 16th Wrangler.

Among the successful competitors in the late Examination for admission into Woolwich we notice the names of A. C. Bruce and F. W. Campbell (both formerly in the School House) and J. Hone (Rev. L. F. Burrows's).

We notice the publication, by Messrs. Macmillan, of a new edition of *Tom Brown's School-days*, profusely illustrated.

In place of Sir T. Gresley, Bart., whose death is noticed in our columns, another Old Rugbeian, Col. Henry Wilmot, has been elected M.P. for South Derbyshire. Col. Wilmot is the only Rugbeian who has, as yet, gained the Victoria Cross. This honour he obtained when Captain in the Rifle Brigade, for conspicuous gallantry at Lucknow, March 11, 1858, on which occasion he covered the retreat of two of his men who were bearing away a wounded comrade in the face of a large body of the enemy. Col. Wilmot is a Conservative.

We notice the return of W. J. Pinckney (O.R.), last year's stroke, to his place in the Cambridge boat. His place in the Eight was supplied at the beginning of the term by L. R. Wigham (O.R.).

THE SCHOOL MAGAZINES.

The *Cheltonian* gives a long account of Dr. Barry, who, during the six years of his Headmastership, seems to have thoroughly gained the affections of Cheltonians in general. The rest of the Number is principally filled up with Football.

The *Eton Chronicle*, in its review of last term, laments the bad support of the Field-Football, and the consequent weakness of the Field Eleven. The Wall game, however, has prospered. Mr. Drury's was cock house.

Our fame has penetrated to America.—We have received a periodical from Racine College, which, however, contains nothing of special interest.

OLD RUGBEIAN OBITUARY.

The death is announced of Sir T. Gresley, Bart., M.P. for South Derbyshire, in the 36th year of his age. He entered the School in August, 1845.

The death is announced of Capt. Bagenal, of the 16th Lancers. This gentleman is described in *The County Families* as "educated at Rugby," but we can find no mention of his name in the Register. Perhaps some of our readers can enlighten us on this point.

We hear on good authority, as an instance of the gratitude of a nation for a valuable discovery, that Major Palliser, the inventor of chilled shot, has received from the British Government, beside the empty title of C.B., exactly half as much as he expended in making his discovery known to the world.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We cannot be answerable for the opinions of our correspondents.

Contributions will be received at the *Advertiser* Office, or at Mr. Pepperday's under cover to the "Editor of the *Meteor*."

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—Although there is very little chance of anything resulting from a continued duel with "Cosmopolitan" than mere contradiction on both sides, will you allow me this once to put in my plea?

In my former letter I asserted that the number of fellows who leave unknown or low in the School, "who are bright, brave, honest, and kindly," is very small. "Cosmopolitan," neglecting my limitation, in his next thrust

takes my meaning to be "very few fellows leave low and unknown." The number of those who leave low and unknown is, I affirm, smaller than that of those who are in some way known, at least by their contemporaries (for of course those who become known to Old Rugbeians, and will be known by name to posterity, are very few). But subdivide them, and how many will you find who are "bright, brave, honest, and kindly," and have remained unknown as such to their contemporaries? I purposely looked up the Rugby Register on the subject, and at hazard took the entrances of a half-year. I found only about one-third of them, in my opinion, who would not be remembered by most who were at School with them. This class is, I say, numerically small; but virtually how much smaller? For I hold that all who have been at Rugby have not a common claim to son-ship. The low and unknown, who have probably not been here long, have not done much to her credit, and cannot lay claim to the rank of eldest-sonship which belongs to those who have increased her fame. Many get a great part of their education, with which they start life, from other schools, to which they have betaken themselves after leaving Rugby. These, I say, are not in the same way Rugbeians as those who have spent all their boyhood here, and who owe to Rugby all the sensations most pleasing to them.

Now to turn to "Cosmopolitan's" next misrepresentation. He says that my statement that the number who leave low and unknown is very small, is not relevant, because, he nobly adds, "however few the sufferers, an injustice is an injustice still." But was not my statement relevant as a contradiction to his, in his first letter, when he says that "Rugby owes a deep debt of loving and grateful remembrance to that *still larger* number, &c., &c." (*i. e.*, the undistinguished)? "Cosmopolitan" seems to hold that

"Full many a gem of purest ray serene"

(*i. e.*, the low, unknown, bright, brave, &c.,)

"The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear;"

(*i. e.*, the Lower Middles.) But if such a state is possible

"Along the cool sequester'd vale of life,"

I think it has not often been demonstrated at Rugby. The Society is too small. No part of the School, except, perhaps, the second and third forms, is an "unfathom'd cave of ocean."

In "Cosmopolitan's" last paragraph he goes off into an entirely different subject,—

the gulf between Upper and Lower Boys. He doubts not that this gulf has been too wide. I feel certain it has not. I am sorry to say that my memory can carry me back not many years, when cosmopolitanism—the mixture of high and low, Sixth and Lower Middle, in one happy family—was not studied as a science; and in those days small boys were not nearly so presuming, the Sixth did their duty more decidedly, and the School in general was in a far higher state of discipline than it is now, or ever would be in the "Utopia" of "Cosmopolitan."

SCOTUS.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

DEAR SIR,—Now that the usual Public School Athletics are coming on, I hope you will allow me to make a few remarks with respect to those at Rugby. In the first place, I am surprised to see by the papers that you still continue "Standing jumping," a species of exercise not particularly elegant, and long since gone out of fashion at Cambridge, Oxford, and at the meetings of the chief Athletic Clubs. Would it not be advisable to discontinue such a useless branch of Athletics?

The next point that strikes me is the absence in your programme of any race longer than 200 yards, for junior boys. Supposing a prize or prizes were given for a longer distance—say half-a-mile to a mile,—would it not bring fellows out rather, and the School Mile be thereby done faster than it seems to be by report.

Lastly, in both Universities, in the Colleges, and in most of the Public Schools, I find prizes given for a Three Mile race, and yet among the list at Rugby I find no race of this description. How is this? I always thought that Rugby was from time immemorial famous for its distance-runners, and yet, where one would expect to find it, there is nothing of the sort—nothing longer than a mile. The winner of a mile and of a three-mile run is rarely or ever the same person, so I think there would be no danger of both events falling to the same person. Perhaps the School authorities have forbidden a long race under the idea of its proving too great exertion to the competitors; but this can hardly be when year by year the papers notice a great run—the Crick, of fabulous length, and run in fabulous time, and for which—I am informed by all Old Rugbeians—fellows undergo tolerably severe training

without any injury. If this is allowed, surely an annual race of three miles would be sanctioned; and I doubt not but that ere long we should see more Rugbeians contesting on behalf of the Sister Universities. If, therefore, you have a Three-mile race, to which no adequate objection can be raised, see that it is run on a good running path, or on the best and straightest road that can be found.

Apologizing for the length of these remarks, my respect for Rugby School being my only excuse,

I am, Sir, yours,
HARRY MERTON.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—The results of the recent discussions in Big-side Levee have made me feel still more strongly than before that it is impossible in this way to arrive at the true opinion of the School. In the first place the voting is almost exclusively by Houses. The proposer of a measure has only to get an influential member of another house to promise his support, and the votes of his house follow as a matter of course. This evil is bad enough, but I think that the present legislators of the School are not as a body at all competent to decide on most of the questions brought before them; and I think that the recent appeal from them to a different body is a very fortunate precedent.

I consider that the proposal of "Radical" some time ago to form a levee which would represent the different games, is right in principle, though the details are doubtless faulty.

I am, Sir, yours truly,
FREETHINKER.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—After so many letters have appeared in the *Meteor* advocating improvements or changes in the time of celebration and management of the School Athletics, I venture to suggest an alteration in the dress of the athletes themselves. It is, the adoption of flannels reaching to the knee, and of running-shoes. Long flannels, and perhaps worse, "ducks," tucked into stockings, prevent the free action of the knee in running, and although I have seen shortened bags used often, I think that the nearest approach to that at the Athletics was one solitary pair of knicker-bockers. Light running-shoes, too, with small spikes, would give an immense advantage on grass (especially if wet). Either stockings or boots in my time were

the two kinds of foot-coverings for competitors; indeed, during five years' experience, I think I only saw one pair of running-shoes (clumsy ones they were, too), and a very few pairs of cricket-shoes used in races. I also think that every one ought to wear flannels for running, as I do not see why the privilege of comfort in dress should depend upon proficiency in football, and I know that the necessity of running in "ducks" has prevented good runners from entering for races which they might have won.

I think, therefore, that anything which would better the very slow times of our races at Rugby ought to be tried. If, then, a few would set the example,—or if a strangers' race were instituted, where the competitors would dress as runners generally dress,—in fact, if it could be made "the correct thing" among you, I am sure it would materially improve the style of running and shorten the times of the races.

I am, &c., &c.,

TOM SKITCH.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—About a year ago, when our Athletic Games were over, the reformers of our manners and customs, with all the eagerness of those who wish to shut the stable door when the horse is gone, poured forth their eloquence on the subject of the way of deciding on the holder of the Athletic Cup. Many and various were the schemes they proposed for altering the ways of our ancestors—and no doubt they were as excellent as they were various. Are they to fall away unheeded—or at least untried? Assure your correspondent and admirer

M. L.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—In addition to the names mentioned in the list you have already published, I think you will find the four following Members of the present Parliament are also Old Rugbeians.

I am, Sir, yours truly, E. G. L.

Mr. F. C. Smith (C.), N. Notts.

Mr. W. Powell (C.), Malmesbury.

Mr. W. H. H. Bradley (C.), East Riding, Yorkshire.

Col. S. W. Clowes (C.), N. Leicestershire.

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