

THE
Oldham Hulmeian.



· FIDE · SED · CUI · VIDE ·

"The Oldham Hulmeian."

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School Notes.

THE School will break up on Wednesday afternoon, April 6th, and will reassemble on Tuesday, April 26th, at 2 p.m.

* * *

NEXT term Gymnastics will occupy a regular place in the School time-table. After September every boy will have two hours a week in the Gymnasium. The Instructor will be Sergeant Mulcaster, who holds First-class Certificate from Aldershot in Gymnastics, Fencing, and Boxing.

The Concert.

BEFORE the School dispersed for the Christmas holidays, the Choir gave a Christy Minstrel Entertainment, which was supplemented by a performance of "Cox and Box."

The first item on the programme was Mr. Pardoe's *Omnia Mutantur*. This was well rendered by the School Choir. Afterwards came the familiar Christmas carol, "Good King Wenceslas." The parts of King and Page were creditably taken by Wilde and Gorbutt. Wilde's voice was hardly powerful enough for the Large Hall, yet the general effect was distinctly good. Whitmore followed with a recitation, "The Jackdaw of Rheims." His delivery was excellent, and the piece, which rarely fails to interest an audience, produced considerable hilarity.

The first part of the programme concluded with "Cox and Box." This amusing little farce was well received. Millington played Box with considerable success; Tetlow as Cox was also good, but he has a tendency to speak too rapidly for the stage. C. J. Lees looked "every inch a Landlady." The actors on the whole performed well, though the scene in which Box and Cox are reconciled and swear eternal friendship was not made as amusing as it might have been. The door and window, drawn by Mr. Dinsmore on two black-boards, evoked great applause.

After the interval "for taking the air" as the programme humorously put it,—though some of us in the audience thought there was enough of that commodity to be found in the Hall on that occasion without making special provision for it on the programme,—came the Nigger Minstrels, a formidable array in coats of many colours. These, after making a detour of the Hall, mounted the platform, and on being exhorted by Massa

Johnson to "let the welkin ring," acceded to that worthy's request with vast energy.

After this, Massa Brewerton appeared in his great acrobatic feat. With consummate skill he turned a double somersault backwards off the platform on to his head, balancing himself in that position for some seconds; he then gracefully regained his feet, bowed to the audience, and again took his place in the line of musicians. This performance was undoubtedly the success of the evening, and elicited loud encores. Next a diminutive blackamore, yclept H. Tetlow, "marched" on the banjo, not literally, but metaphorically and musically.

Gorbutt gained a well deserved encore for his "Niggers' Serenade," and then the banjo of the afore-mentioned diminutive youth was again in evidence. Massa Moss announced his intention of "singing a little song," and shewed the audience how to die artistically. Massa Johnson in the correct position for a wicket-keeper, gently murmuring "How's that, Umpire?" caught the dying songster. "Not out," was the verdict, and Massa Moss struggled to his feet to bow his acknowledgments. More banjo solos. This time, mark you, they are described as *frivolous*, (vide the programme), and the company dispersed mid the strains of "Forty years on."

PROGRAMME.—FIRST PART.

1. Opening March.....ORCHESTRA.
2. "Omnia Mutantur"..... CHOIR.
3. "The Jackdaw of Rheims"..... *Barham*.
WHITMORE.
4. "Good King Wenceslas"
GORBUTT, WILDE, and CHORUS.
5. Box and Cox }
 { BOX..... MILLINGTON.
 { COX..... TETLOW, H. E.
 { MRS. BOUNCER.... C. J. LEES.

Interval.

(FOR TAKING THE AIR AND OTHER LIGHT REFRESHMENT.)

SECOND PART.

6. Niggers' March—"The Niggers are Coming"
7. Vacation March—"Let the Welkin Ring" ..
CHOIR. [*Trutschel*]
8. "Rolling March"—(Banjo)... TETLOW, H. E.
9. "De Niggers' Serenade"..... *Farrington*.
SOLO by GORBUTT and CHORUS of NIGGERS.
10. "The White Coons"—(Banjo).TETLOW, H. E.
11. "De Music ob de Banjo".....*Farrington*.
SOLO by MOSS and CHORUS of NIGGERS.
12. "Frivolity"—(Banjo).....TETLOW, H. E.
13. "Forty Years On".....

Letters from an Oldham Grammar School Boy 300 years ago.

THE architrave of the Old Grammar School door bears date 1611, but the following letters make it clear that the School was in existence and flourishing before that time. Probably, at its first starting, the School was housed in some hired building. The titular founder of the School was James Assheton, who gave the land, but the true founder was Laurence Chadderton, of Oldham, and a Fellow of his College at Cambridge. The influence of Chadderton is clear in the moral and religious tone of the School, for it was evidently a Puritan Seminary, and one feels the Puritan atmosphere in the letters quoted below. "God be praised," "God be thanked," is the boy's constant exclamation. No doubt the local families of Lancashire, Cheshire, and Yorkshire — and they were many — who attached themselves to the New Religion, sent their sons to Oldham to be educated and brought up in Godly life and the true faith. The master of the Grammar School at this time was a Mr. Hunt, a leader of eminence among men of his own way of thinking.

The writer of these letters was Sir George Radcliffe, of Thornhill, near Halifax. He lost his father while a child and was brought up by his mother, to whom the letters are addressed. He was 14 years of age at the time of these letters. He afterwards went to University College, Oxford, and to Gray's Inn. He became a statesman, and was Irish Secretary under Wentworth, Lord Strafford. On the fall of the monarchy he went into exile in France, and died in poverty. Though a Puritan, he was a Church and State man.

1.—THE 3 DAYS' JOURNEY FROM HALIFAX IN 1607.

To his deere and lovinge Mother, Mrs. Margaret Radcliffe, at Thornhill in Yorkshire.

January 13th, 1607.

Good Mother,

Having little time, and the weather verie cold, I am constrained to write both briefly and ilfavouredly. First, therefore, as my duty byndes me, I humblie crave your dayly prayers unto Almighty God for me, and I humblie and heartilie thank you for all kindnesse towards me. Cominge to Longley on Sunday the weather was not verie cold, for we was warm by reason of our much goinge on foote; when we came thither we was very welcome, for both Sir R. Bellamounte and Mr. Pilkington and Mr. Ramsdens were verie

kindlie.—On Monday the morning was verie calme: going by the way we called at my Uncle's, but they were gone; we lighted at Marsden, and sate there; cominge to Peel and Stanedge the wynde was so boysterous that we could hardly stand, and being both cold and some of us half sick we went to Saddleworth on Monday at night, and there we stayed all night: the next morning was very windy till noon: at noon we set forth, and so came we (God be thanked!) at Oldham in the afternoon. We are all in good health (prayed be God!) here at Oldham. I pray you send the licorice within this fortnight, pounds 8. My Master would gladlie come to Wakefield if he could get the Schoole: I have heard some commendations of him that hath it (a good while since), but now I heare he is a very proud swaggering fellowe. Thus with my heartiest re'mendations to all our good friends I take my leave.

Oldham, this Wednesday January 13th, 1607.

Your most loving and most obedient sonne,

GEORGE RATCLIFFE.

2.—SMALL POX IN THE SCHOOL.

September 9th.

Good Mother,

... There was a very lamentable accident upon Monday last; for Sir Richard Worsley, the flower of our house, dyed of the pocks that day about none: he began to be sicke the Friday before: he endured his sicknesse as patiently as was admirable, and when the pains of death came upon him, he laie so quietly as made the beholders wonder, havinge often in his mouth this sayinge, "Lord have mercy upon me—Sweet Jesus, receive my soule." Thus, in haste, desiring your dayle prayers unto Almighty God for me, I humblie take my leave.

Oldham, this instant 9th September.

Your most lovinge and most obedient sonne,

GEORGE RATCLIFFE.

I pray you remember my commendations to my brother and sisters, and all our good friends.

3.—DOMESTIC INDUSTRY.

November 18th.

Good Mother,

My humble and most bounden duety remembered. We are all well (God be thanked!). Therefore, as my cosin Roberte is more merrie now than when you was here with us, there is one with us that is reddey to do any thing for me he canne at any tyme (not he that spoke to you), who desireth you to send him word, so that this bearer know not, how you sell a load of wheat

and rye; I pray you help him to it as soone as you can; I thinke he will come to you for it shortly, if he may have it; he also desyreth to have 2 pounds of the best licorice, and he will pay: he intreated me to tell you when you was here, but I forgotte. Here is a cord which I have sent from my Maister to Thomas Beatesonne. My Maister would not have you by me any shoes, for he would have me have a pair of his own hyde the nexte weeke, if it pleaseth you; but they cannot make me so good shoes as Hepworth. Thus, desyringe you blessinge and daylie prayers, with commendations to my brother and sisters, and thanks for his I take my leave, craving pardon for these.

Oldham, this 18th of November.

Your most lovinge and obedient sonne,
 GEORGE RADCLIFFE.

4.—BOOKS AND OTHER THINGS.

Feb. 28th, 1608.

My Most Lovinge Mother,

My humble deuty, as is my duty, most humbly remembered. We are all in good health (prayed be God!) here at Oldham; and we hope well, and desire more that you be at Thornhill. I received by George Armitage (as I thinke) 2 books, which came from Wakefield; Smith upon the Lord's Prare; and Daniell's Poems; and some; and by Backster an old book (which Mrs. Hunte had sent me before), besides 6 figges. As touchinge pavinge for the bookes which were bought at Wakefield, I thoughte it needesse to send money, whereas I suppose you have paid already. I pray send me Perkins on the Lord's Prayer, for I have some use of it: I bought one at Wakefield the last tyme, and it is of the lesse volume. . .

At Oldham, this merry Tuesday morning, Februarie 28th, 1608.

Your most lovinge and obedient sonne,
 GEORGE RADCLIFFE.

I pray you hasten our Oxforde voyage as much as may be; but let not my Maister understand of my writinge.

5.—DEATH OF HENRY DIOT.

Nov. 1, 1608.

My Deare and Lovinge Mother,

. . . We had here at Oldham (as I make no doubt but you know) a very doleful joyful accident—doleful I say, because we parted with so sweet, loving, learnd, and virtuous a soul as he was, *viz.* Henry Diot, and by so unfortunate means; joyful, because such a virtuous soul, who made a most wonderfull ende, is made a Sainte in heaven, delivered from this vale of misery, there singing laud and prayse to the Trinity in

fulness of joy. His virtues were rare, his endowments excellent, his life answerable to them both, and his death admirable, to the great amazement of those that heard and saw it, who saide all with one mouth, as Solomon in the commendation of a good woman, "Many daughters have done well, but thou surmountest them all;" so that they had hard many make excellent end, but this was singular. There was a woman by him, who by chance let an othe slip, whereat he rose with such indignation, saying, "Away from me, you swearing woman, I cannot abide to have such about me," with many other such like: his patience rare; "I thank God," att every word; "and God hath comforted me, and I am comfortable, and he will comfort me, and I thank God:" and his last was this, "God hath strengthened me hitherto, and I hope he will strengthen me unto the ende:" and after they thoughte his sences were gone, my Maister said to him, "Harry, if thou thinke to be saved through Jesus Christe, shake this hande;" and, after he could not speak, he shook it most wonderfully. This is not the tenth parte. Thus, desyringe your dailie prayers, and commendations to all our friends, I take my leave, praying the Lord God to preserve us all in his feare.

Oldham, this first of November, 1608.

Your most loving sonne,
 GEORGE RADCLIFFE.

April 6th, 1898.

OF course to us this is a most interesting and important date, for reasons already set forth in School Notes. Let us see what has occurred in the past on April 6th.

Referring to the "Book of Days" we find that on April 6th were born:

- (1) Jean Baptiste Rousseau, at Paris, in 1669.
- (2) James Mill, in Forfarshire, in 1773.

Also on the same day of the month there died:

- (1) Richard Coeur de Lion, in 1199.
- (2) Petrarch's Laura, at Avignon, in 1348.
- (3) Sanzio Raffaele, painter, in 1520.
- (4) Albert Dürer, at Nuremberg, in 1528.
- (5) Sir Francis Walsingham, in 1590.
- (6) Doctor Busby, in 1695.

Jean Baptiste Rousseau (who must not be confounded with Jean Jacques Rousseau) was a French poet of some note, who is now chiefly known by his cantatas, a species of composition of which he was the creator.

James Mill, the historian, philosopher and economist, is perhaps best known as being the father of John Stuart Mill.

Perhaps it is hardly necessary to say that Coeur de Lion was King of England, but the following account of the origin of his soubriquet is perhaps not generally known.

It is taken from one of the romances, which states that Richard was taken prisoner by Modard, King of Almayn (Germany). Modard's son challenged Richard to a boxing contest, but was killed by the first blow from the fist of that redoubtable monarch. For this and other reasons Modard desired to encompass Richard's death.

Having a favourite lion, which was noted for its size and ferocity, he hit upon the capital plan of starving the beast for a day or two, and then turning it into the dungeon occupied by his foe.

Richard was, however, fully equal to the occasion. As the lion rushed at him with open mouth, he coolly thrust his arm down its throat and tore out its heart. Then rushing out of the cell (the keepers presumably having been too glad to escape from the neighbourhood of the lion to think of securing the door), he stalked with the bleeding heart in his hand into the presence of Modard and his nobles. Having dipped the heart into the bowl of salt which stood on the table, Richard coolly proceeded to eat it raw, and as we are particularly told "without bread."

Raffaello, the celebrated painter, was born on a Good Friday. Curiously enough the 6th of April, 1520, was also a Good Friday, consequently Good Friday was the day both of his birth and death.

Doctor Busby was a very celebrated head master of Westminster School. On one occasion he preceded Charles II. through the schoolroom with his cap on. Afterwards he excused himself to his majesty, on the plea that it would never do for his pupils to imagine that Charles II. was a greater man than Dr. Busby.

P.

Football.

FIRST XI. MATCHES.

BOWDON COLLEGE 2ND (away), Dec. 11th.—Won, 7—4. In this game the laurels were borne off by the School forwards, who, in the first half, playing up-hill, repeatedly rushed through the Bowdon defence, scoring 5 goals, of which Lees contributed the majority. In the second half our boys' play fell off somewhat, the defence being conspicuously weak. Bowdon pulled themselves together and scored 4 goals in good style, while the School added only 2. It should be stated that in this half the play of our forwards was frequently hampered by the propensity for rambing about the field shown by Broomhead, who had to be repeatedly cautioned by his captain.

SHAW TEAM (home), Dec. 28th.—Won, 4—1. This match took place in the holidays. The School had the best of the game throughout, winning easily by a margin of 3 goals.

MANCHESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL 2ND (away), Jany. 22nd.—Lost, 1—2. The School entered upon this contest with the keenness and vigour engendered by the spell of rest from the arduous duties of School life afforded by the Christmas vacation. The play was very fast throughout, and noticeably even. In the first half each side scored 1 goal. In the second half the School failed to score, owing principally to the splendid play of one of the Manchester backs, but their opponents were fortunate in notching another point a few seconds before the call of time.

OLD HULMEIANS (home), Jany. 29th.—Won, 3—2. The Old Boys were represented by almost their strongest possible XI. Lack of regular and combined practice had, however, produced its natural effects, and though our visitors were decidedly the heavier team, the play of the lighter School XI. was manifestly superior. On the whole the game was more remarkable as an exhibition of the robustness of the players' lungs than as a display of scientific football, but the encounter was nevertheless very enjoyable to both sides.

WARRINGTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL (home), Feby. 5th.—Drawn, 2—2. Play was very slow at the start, as in the match at Warrington. Afterwards it livened up, each side showing superiority of defence over attack. Duxbury on this occasion was much safer than usual in his kicking. Wormald's play at left half was feeble, and Wilde showed poorly as centre. Lees and Harrison each scored for the School in the first half, but Warrington subsequently made matters equal.

MACCLESFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL (home), Feb. 12th.—Lost, 3—9. Sheer weight won the day for Macclesfield. The School combination was fairly good, but some of the players were lamentably weak, and Dunkerley betrayed a proneness to funk. In the first half 6 goals were scored by Macclesfield, against 2 for the School, both of which were shot by Harrison. Our opponents added three more goals in the second half, and also scored one for us. It might be mentioned that we were deprived of the services of Wilde, Ward, and Waterhouse.

MOTTRAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL, with OLD BOYS, (home), Feby. 26th.—Won, 9—7. This game was played in what sailors would describe as a capful of wind, which accounted for the high rate of scoring. The School had the advantage of the wind first half, and succeeded in scoring 7 goals, of which Lees contributed 3, Harrison 2, Mr.

Pardoe and Wilde each 1; Mottram succeeding in obtaining only 1. In the second half Mottram speedily added 6 goals to their score, while the School replied with 2 more, the combined play of our forwards being exceptionally good. Our goals were scored by Wilde and a foolish opponent. Tetlow at back rendered yeoman service.

HULME GRAMMAR SCHOOL, MANCHESTER (home), March 12th.—Drawn, 4-4. This match, always eagerly looked forward to, resulted in a well-fought game, as may be inferred from the fact that each side scored 2 goals in each half. The School had its full XI., not a very common occurrence this term, but it should be added that Lees, our centre forward, was handicapped by wearing a pair of boots some inches too long for him. A word should be said in praise of the play of Harrop, who succeeded in rendering fruitless the tactics of Swindells, the Mancunians' most dangerous forward. Lees scored 3 goals and Harrison 1.

MANCHESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL 2ND (home), March 19th.—Drawn, 3-3. The School was short of four of its regular players, but all the same made a good fight of it. Our opponents were, on the average, nearly twice as tall as some of our boys, but made up for their superior size and weight by being apparently unused to each other's play. At any rate, their combination was defective, while that of the School forwards was often very good. In the first half we led by 2 to 1, Harrison and Lees each scoring. In the second half Lees again scored and had hard luck in not scoring again two minutes before time, while the Mancunians added 2 more.

M. P.

SECOND XI. MATCHES.

GRAFTON HOUSE SCHOOL 1ST (away), Dec. 22nd.—Draw, 3-3. The home team was of a somewhat miscellaneous composition, two big fellows being included, and one of these did practically all the work for his side, playing in every part of the field. Indeed, apart from the play of this individual, our boys had all the best of the game. Harrison, Wilde, and Broomhead scored for the School.

MOTTRAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL 1ST (away), Jany. 22nd.—Lost, 2-8. It turned out that the home team were playing four Old boys, and had it not been for these it is certain the game would have been more equal. Unfortunately this was not discovered until the match was over, when protesting was of little use. As it was, till half time our boys had the best of it, scoring 2 goals, while Mottram had none. In the second half the home

team steadily piled up the goals, their weight telling considerably, while the play of our side decidedly fell off.

FIELD HOUSE COLLEGE 1ST (away), Jany. 29th.—Lost, 0-8. In this game our opponents had matters all their own way. Our fellows found it impossible to break through the home defence, the play of their right back being especially safe. Indeed, we scarcely got in a single shot all the time.

KNITSFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL 2ND (away), March 5th.—Won, 3-0. The School, playing two feeble substitutes, won easily in this game, though the scoring was not high. Our opponents' forwards seemed to exert themselves very slightly, especially in the first half, and one of their backs was decidedly weak. The passing of our boys was often good, and they did all the pressing. The goals were scored by Broomhead, Waide, and Thompson. Broomhead's indulgence in unnecessary shooting and his proneness to wander out of his place were features of the game that could well have been dispensed with; otherwise he worked fairly well.

HULME GRAMMAR SCHOOL, MANCHESTER (away), March 12th.—Lost, 1-9. The School XI. was weaker than usual, and had no chance against the Mancunians, who did nearly all the pressing. Five of their goals were scored by the left-outside with good shots from the wing. Our halves were unable to stop their forwards; and though Mellor (right-back) several times took the ball up the field and gave it to our forwards, the latter consistently lost it through failing to pass in time.

P. B.

THE SEASON'S RESULTS.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Goals for	Goals against
1st XI....	15	5	6	4	56	64
2nd XI ..	10	4	5	1	18	49

LOWER DIVISION.

WITH but two more matches to play, the football season for the 3rd Eleven is practically at an end. The team is to be congratulated on the great success it has achieved, more especially as the idea of forming a permanent "under 14" Club is a new departure. So far, out of 14 matches played, only 5 have been lost. Against the two Hospitals the team was fairly beaten on its merits, but against Wellington School and Field House College the Boys were outmatched by weight rather than by skill.

In dress and appearance the team is by far the smartest of any junior eleven in the district; it is to be hoped that its members will reach an equal standard of excellence in gentlemanly and sportsman-like behaviour when visiting other Schools, or when receiving them on our own ground. The style of play has shewn a vast improvement since the commencement of the season; especially is this seen in the half backs, in whom lie the making or marring of all teams. A criticism of individual players appears below.

Creditable victories have been obtained over The Hulme Grammar School, Manchester (twice), Brooklands School (twice), Mottram Grammar School, Oldham Blue Coat School, Bowdon College, and Field House College (once each). Keeness in matches, however, has not extended into keeness in practice games. In practice games players should take the same position as they hold in matches; it is impossible to combine the styles of forward and back play, and actual harm is done by change of position in the field.

Scratch sixes, commonly played in Public Schools in the Spring term, have been instituted, but are being carried on in a somewhat desultory manner; players should remember that in refusing to turn up for the games they prejudice the chances of others in their teams as well as their own.

CHARACTERS OF THE XI.

N. Taylor, outside right. A good player, fast and hard working, but centres too late.

J. E. Wood, inside right, has improved of late and has done useful work. Gets too near his outside partner and is a weak shot.

Garfitt, centre. A hard working forward, but has fallen off in that respect considerably; passes too often in front of an *opponent's* goal.

Broomhead, inside left. As with the inside right, keeps too near his partner; must learn to pass more accurately.

West, outside left. Plays very pluckily, but is very weak in centreing and slow in taking a pass.

Middleton, W., right half-back. A useful half, passes well and accurately.

J. B. Wood, centre half-back. Plays a really good game, but must keep the ball lower in passing and mark the opposing centre forward more carefully.

W. Buckley, left half-back. Has made an excellent beginning; must keep the ball lower in passing.

Winterbottom, left back. Works hard but has several faults; must part with the ball sooner, and follow the halves and forwards up and down the field.

Lambert, right back. Kicks and tackles well,

but is too inclined to dribble when near his own goal.

Peacock, goal. Has been very useful to the team; should remember always to use his hands and kick or throw towards the wing.

MATCHES.

Dec. 11th.—FIELD HOUSE COLLEGE 2ND XI. Won, 3—2. A fast and even game resulted in a win for the School by 3—2, Garfitt, Wood, and Harrison scoring the goals. This was a very creditable victory, as the Field House boys were considerably the heavier team.

Jany. 22nd.—KNUTSFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL "UNDER 14" TEAM. Lost, 2—0. Owing to want of practice the School forwards shewed very little combination, and a somewhat slow game ended in a victory for Knutsford by 2—nil.

Feb. 5th.—THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL. Drawn, 2—2. This match resulted in a draw. Garfitt and J. B. Wood scored in the first half; and playing down the hill the Blue Coat School equalised and had rather the best of a good game.

Feb. 12th.—CHEETHAM HOSPITAL. Lost, 12—2. The School were out-matched in every respect; Cheetham, showing better combination and more dash, won as they liked. J. E. Wood obtained two goals for the School.

Feb. 19th.—HULME GRAMMAR SCHOOL, MANCHESTER, "UNDER 14" TEAM. Won, 8—2. After their crushing defeat in the previous match, the team displayed far better combination, and won by 8 goals to 2—J. E. Wood 3, Whitehead 2, N. Taylor 1, Broomhead 1, West 1.

Mar. 5th.—BROOKLANDS SCHOOL 2ND XI. Won, 3—2. This match shewed the School team to great advantage, though they were opposed to a much heavier eleven. Broomhead scored from a scrimmage in front of goal; Brooklands immediately equalised, and soon adding another goal led at half time by 2—1. Afterwards the School pressed, and playing well together gained 2 more goals—J. E. Wood 1, N. Taylor 1, and won a good game by 3—2.

Mar. 12th.—MOTTRAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL 2ND XI. Won, 4—1. This match produced the best football of the season, the passing of the half-backs being especially good, while the forwards, with the exception of Garfitt, shewed unusually good combination. J. E. Wood scored twice, while some neat play on the right wing ended in an accurate centre from N. Taylor, Garfitt heading the ball through well. An opponent gave away the 4th goal.

SUMMARY OF MATCHES.

Played	Won	Lost	Drawn
14	8	5	1

FORM CHAMPIONSHIP.

THE Inter-Form matches for the above commenced on Feby. 1st. All Forms have taken part except the Ist, several players of which, however, have been in demand to fill the gaps in the Vth. As in last Season, the weaker Forms have been strengthened by the presence in the XI. of one or two masters, and sometimes of a boy from another Form as well. The IVth soon proved themselves the strongest team, and have not, so far, lost a match, while they have won most of their matches by a good margin of goals. But nearly all the games were good fights, and it could rarely be asserted that any team had matters all their own way in any match. The wearing of scarves—a different colour for each Form—upon white shirts, has both had an artistic effect and been of practical utility to the players and the referee.

The Second Round of matches is not completed at the time of writing, so that the Forms cannot be arranged in order of precedence. But the IVth, having won each of the seven matches they have already played, have put the winning of the championship beyond doubt, and are to be congratulated on their unbroken series of successes.

RESULTS.

FIRST ROUND.

Date	Forms	Winner	Scores
Feby. 1...	III. v. II.	Lower	II. Lower.. 0-5
" 3 ..	V. v. II.	Upper	Draw ... 4-4
" 8 ..	V. v. IV.	...	IV. ... 2-6
" 10 ..	III. v. II.	Upper	II. Upper.. 2-6
" 17...	V. v. III.	...	V. ... 4-3
" 22...	IV. v. II.	Lower	IV. ... 5-5
" 24	II. Upp. v. II. Lowr..	II. Upper..	4-3
" 25...	IV. v. II.	Upper	IV. ... 12-1
Mar. 1...	IV. v. III.	...	IV. ... 5-3
" 3...	V. v. II.	Lower	II. Lower.. 1-5

SECOND ROUND.

Mar. 8...	V. v. II.	Upper	Draw ... 4-4
" 9...	IV. v. II.	Upper	IV. ... 4-2
" 10...	V. v. III.	...	V. ... 6-3
" 16...	IV. v. III.	...	IV. ... 6-1
" 22...	V. v. IV.	...	IV. ... 2-4

(Five matches still to be played.)

The Football Season.

THE season now closing has been much interfered with by rain, and the consequent wetness and marshiness of our clay tract, yclept the "field." Considering the state of this ill-begotten product of past geological conditions, which under the present circumstances of damp and tramp is beautifully exemplifying the transformation of a turf bed into a quagmire, the wonder is that,

instead of developing a very fair amount of skill at the game, our boys have not become veritable stick-in-the-muds. The opinion has been freely expressed that the ground will not "recover." Really, would it be impious to hope that it might instead die a natural death, if by so doing it should compel us to seek a ground elsewhere.

Owing to the climatic conditions many matches have been scratched, so that, though our fixture card showed nearly 40 matches for the 1st and 2nd elevens, only 25 have been played. The 1st eleven's record of 5 wins, 6 losses, and 4 draws, out of a total of 15 matches, works out slightly better than last season's. The 2nd eleven's record of 4 wins, 5 losses, and 1 draw is inferior to that of last season, when the wins doubled the losses. But, as remarked in our last issue, comparison of results is almost futile, from the fact that we have this season played only two of the teams we were engaged with last year, School elevens outside Oldham taking the place of local teams, with the result that the contests have been in many ways pleasanter and more profitable. Moreover, contact with clubs of a better class has tended to improve the tone and style of the School football, and it may fairly be said that our players are now rarely guilty of unsportsmanlike behaviour or indifference to "good form."

It has been found very difficult this season to keep the elevens intact. At Christmas nearly half the second had to be moved into the 1st, owing to boys leaving. And since then there have been repeated changes, and trials of fresh blood, resulting in general instability of composition of the teams.

The season's play, as a whole, has been safer and more brilliant in defence than in attack, especially since Middleton has taken to playing half-back. In this position he certainly shines and is far more effective than he was as a forward. In P. Tetlow we have as safe and strong a back as the School has yet seen. Indeed, in point of skill he is probably superior to Hirst of last season. Duxbury, who has now left us, had much improved in kicking until he was deprived of practice, and was doing good work.

Among the newer hands, Harrop at half-back has come on wonderfully and bids fair to be in the future a mainstay of the School eleven. Collins is generally safe in goal, but is too fond of kicking out to the opposing forwards. Harrison has played well all the season, and since his promotion to the 1st eleven has done as good work as any. He is, perhaps, our safest shot, though A. O. Lees when in form is very hard to beat. The latter now plays centre forward, and will do very well there with more experience. Ward is a good dribbler, and when he remembers to be

unselfish plays a very good game as right-outside.

The other two forwards of the 1st eleven, Waterhouse and Wilde, show up well at times, but are not sufficiently reliable, and play with too little vigour. The same must be said of Wormald, as left half, playing sometimes for the 1st and at others for the 2nd. Bunting (half-back) has dash and pluck, but is at present too clumsy in kicking and tackling. Spencer has made good progress and plays fairly well either forward or half-back, but is somewhat slow. G. H. Mellor promises well as a back, and Wright and Dunkerley have at times also shown good form in the same position. Broomhead, as forward or half-back, would do much better if he would learn to keep his place, and play a quieter game.

Other forwards of promise are H. E. Tetlow, Waide, Thompson, and Hirst. But many of those who have been tried for the 2nd eleven show too little dash, and move far too slowly to be of much service at present. In other cases want of sufficient practice causes inaccuracy in kicking and passing, for there is far too much passing right forward instead of to the side. But of course on our ground really accurate passing is quite impossible.

The supply of goal-keepers is poor. Brierley has usually played goal for the 2nd eleven, but is too slow. He would probably do better at back. Younger players should note this need of reliable "custodians," and endeavour, if they have any liking for the position, to acquire the necessary alertness and skill. The Inter-Form matches have served a useful purpose in bringing to light unsuspected talent in this and in other directions, and though at first sight the outlook for next season appears poor, we may hope that when it comes we shall find ourselves at any rate no worse off than usual.

Q. C.

Mathematical Curiosities.

To the four new questions propounded in our last issue the Editor has not yet received a single reply. J. F. Kershaw has shewn that according to Euclid I. 22 a scalene triangle can be constructed and therefore may exist, but no one has pointed out the fallacy in the proof that every triangle is isosceles. If the construction is made with geometrical instruments and not drawn roughly, the fallacy is at once apparent, but the Editor will still be pleased to hear where exactly the flaw in the reasoning arises.

* * *

How is it possible to tell in the temperate regions whether you are north or south of the equator? The answer is simple. Look at the sun. If it moves from left to right you are north of the equator; otherwise south.

* * *

THE slices of the gilded sphere contain the same amount of gilt, if they are equally thick. Slices near the centre of the sphere will be of greater circumference, but the measure across the gilt will not be so great as in the case of the others. Consequently the sphere must be sliced into 10 pieces of equal thickness.

* * *

ACHILLES cannot overtake the tortoise although he moves ten times as fast. Is this so?

* * *

WHY does the mud only leave the back wheel of a bicycle to fly to the rider's back? The answer will be held over until next issue in the hope that correct solutions may be received before then.

