

THE
Oldham Hulmeian.



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"The Oldham Hulmeian."

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School Notes.

New Boys during the term:—

- Form III Beta—Cooper, A. L., Griffiths.
,, II —Clough, J., Tanner, Twyerould,
Whitham, J., Whitham, H.,
Wrigley.
,, I —Greaves, Maw, A., Maw, A. R.

◆ ◆ ◆
We have scored a fair number of examination successes during the past term. Millington, Baker and Beaumont have each gained Lancashire County Council Scholarships, Beaumont being first of his age in Lancashire.

◆ ◆ ◆
In the London Matriculation, of the three candidates whom we sent in, H. Whitehead and J. H. Cartwright obtained places in the First Division, and J. Bunting in the Second.

S. M. Buckley has passed the Preliminary Examination for Surgeon Dentists.

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School will re-assemble after the Long Vacation on Tuesday, September 11th, at 2 p.m.

◆ ◆ ◆
THE Annual Athletic Sports will take place on Friday, July 27th. That will, of course, be too late for us to give any record of them in the current number of the *Oldham Hulmeian*.

◆ ◆ ◆
There will be two new features in the sports of this year, both of which we highly commend. The first one is the inclusion of swimming races amongst the events in which points may be scored towards both the Senior and Junior Athletic Championships. In this respect the Swimming races will be put on exactly the same level as the bicycle races.

◆ ◆ ◆
It was proposed to hold a Swimming Gala at Hollinwood Baths, but the scheme had to be abandoned for want of sufficient support in the form of entries. As the matter now stands there will be three events (one sub-divided into Senior and Junior) in which Athletic Championship points can be scored.

The other new feature is the inclusion of an "Old Boys'" race on the Sports Programme. This event will, we hope, be fully appreciated, and we hope and expect to see very numerous entries. The distance is 100 yards.

◆ ◆ ◆
We have as yet received no Cricket Notes. Has Cricket dropped out from the list of our School sports?

◆ ◆ ◆
The final competition in the Junior and Senior Swimming Test will take place during the last week of term.

◆ ◆ ◆
A full account of the *Conversazione*, held on May 25th, will be found in another place.

◆ ◆ ◆
We have heard reports that a Natural History Society has been started during the last term. The Society has not yet honoured us with an account of its proceedings, so we are quite unable to give our readers any particulars concerning it. We do not think that the article on "Butterflies" which will be found in our pages comes from the Society, though the author is, in all probability, one of its members.

◆ ◆ ◆
Cricket, our readers will be glad to know, is not quite dead. A belated report of the term's matches has at last reached us.

Gymnasium Notes.

THE boys have been working hard to get fit for the Sports, and every encouragement has been given them by the Instructor to get into condition for the different events for which they have entered.

The spring-board jumping seems to have caught on, and several of the boys, particularly Fort, Thompson, Mallalieu (V), Broomhead, Barratt and Wood ought to make a good show at the Sports.

The practice for the Obstacle Race has caused much amusement; in addition, it is a good test as to the boys' staying powers. There are several good performers at this class of sport.

The "Buck Horse" lately added to the gymnasium is much appreciated; it gives a nice variety to the exercises already taught. There are, however, a few boys who do not yet consider the Horse "tame" enough for them, particularly so after it threw Emmott; however Emmott and the Horse are good friends now. Thanks are due to Mellor, Bunting, and Whitmore for the breaking-in of this animal. To show how much they have accomplished it may be remarked that they were able to coax it from one end of the gym. to the other, and persuade it to stand on its head, between the bars.

The boys are given drill to suit their physical condition, and this is varied as much as possible so as to keep them interested, "Free Gymnastics" (as practised at Aldershot) being made a speciality for the younger pupils. Dumb Bells, Parallel Bars, Ladders, Horizontal Bar are also taught in addition to all the latest Physical Culture Drill, including "Sandow's," forms part of the drill.

Singlestick and Boxing will be included next winter.

Staff-Sergeant KNOWLES,
Regimental Gymnastic Instructor to the
2nd V. B. M. R. (Col. Bridgeford's C,
B, and D Regiment).

Cricket Notes.

ONLY four matches will have been played this season, but we have this satisfaction—that we have at any rate made a start in the direction of good cricket. Owing to the newness of the ground and the need of giving the grass a chance to grow, most of our play has been confined to net-practice. The benefits of the steadier play thus induced are seen in the improved style and form of many of our younger players, though it is a regrettable fact that too many of the older fellows still affect the slash-at-anything style, with disastrous results in matches. We have succeeded in getting a pitch in the centre of the ground which, all things considered, is admirable; and the promise is such that we hope to produce in a season or two, a wicket fit for a county eleven.



1st XI. v. MANCHESTER HULME GRAMMAR SCHOOL 2nd.—This was the first match of the season, and we had a fairly representative team, which, however, would have been improved if one or two boys had not fallen off at the last minute. The match commenced about half-past two, and we, winning the toss, elected to bat first. A good start was made, both Barratt and Wolstencroft, the first pair, batting confidently.

The score was 20 before a wicket fell, Barratt being bowled for 12. Then there was a collapse, and 6 wickets were down for 50. Then Middleton and Emmott stuck together, and added about 20, and soon afterwards the innings closed for 59.

After an interval for luncheon of about 15 minutes, our opponents went to the wickets, but with the exception of three they all failed against our bowlers, who were in good form. Whitehead took 5 wickets for about 16, and Middleton 5 for 21, the total score being 39.

SCHOOL v. HEATON MOOR COLLEGE.—At Heaton Moor, June 23rd. The pitch was a poor one, in the middle of a field of long grass, which interfered greatly with the play. The School, batting first, compiled a total of 42, to which Whitehead and Mellor each contributed 8, and Wolstencroft 6. Heaton Moor responded with 72, in which 27, 13 and 12 were the highest scores. Lost balls added considerably to our opponents' total. Most of the wickets fell to Mr. Pardoe (a master was playing on each side), Wolstencroft taking 2.

SCHOOL v. MANCHESTER HULMEIANS 2nd.—At Oldham, July 14th. The honours of this game were practically carried off by two boys, T. W. Middleton and N. Taylor. Middleton took 8 wickets at a cost of 10 runs; keeping a splendid length, he sent down hardly one loose ball. It was a fine performance, and our opponents were dismissed for the sorry total of 26. When our side went in, it looked as though our score was to be less still. For though Thompson, going in first wicket down at 2, made three useful boundary strokes, there followed what is called a "procession" to the wicket,—batsman after batsman going down for nothing or next to nothing. But on the fall of the sixth wicket at 17, Taylor came in, and at once showed that he was a match for the bowling. While his partner, Middleton, managed by great good luck to keep up his end, he gradually crept up to, and finally (amid much enthusiasm) passed, the Mancunian's total. His best strokes were some late cuts through the slips, and his weakest were his mistimings of the leg balls, wherein he lost many chances of scoring. Taylor carried out his bat for 21, out of an aggregate of 44.

The Conversazione.

ON the evening of Friday, May 25th, the Annual Conversazione and Exhibiton of Work was held in the school, from 7-15 to 7-45 p.m. being the time fixed for the reception of visitors by the Headmaster. Most of the rooms were set apart, in which to exhibit the work.

In Room 2 there was a good collection of drawings, all of which were the work of the boys, and many excellent designs having simple wild flowers for their bases.

Room 3 was the room set apart for the work of Form I. Designs, based upon simple figures, were drawn on blackboards, and hung round the room.

In Room 6 there were exhibited a large number of maps, most of which call for great praise, in that their neatness and their accuracy were excellent. All the maps were coloured to shew the political divisions or to bring out prominently the physical features of the countries.

In the Laboratories all kinds of scientific apparatus were on view.

At 8-15 an Entertainment was held in the Hall, of which the following was the programme :

First Part.

Part Song, “Hail, Smiling Morn” (Spofforth) Full Choir. Recitation, “Pity Poor Fighting Men” (Kipling) Whitmore. Solo, “Where the Bee Sucks” (Arne) J. West. Part Song, “The Bells of St. Michael’s Tower” (Knyvett) “S.” Choir. Madrigal, “The Nightingale” (Weelkes, 1600) “E.S.” Choir. Solo & Chorus, “Les Glaneuses” (Clapissou) “S.” Choir; solo, Pickford. Solo, “Drink to me only with Thine Eyes” Smith. Part Song, “The Red Cross Knight” (Callcott) “S.” Choir. Solo & Chorus, “The Song of the River” (Donald) “E.S.” Choir; soli, H. Spencer and Scholes. Three-Part Round, “Yes, Brothers, Yes!” (Rodwell) Full Choir. Accompanist, T. W. Middleton.

Second Part.

Selection from “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” (Shakespeare). Dramatis Personæ:—Bottom, the Weaver, Whitmore. Quince, the Carpenter, Beaumont. Flute, the Bellows-Mender, V. Mallalieu. Snug, the Joiner, J. E. Wood. Snout, the Tinker, J. M. Ormrod. Starveling, the Tailor, J. Fletcher. Oberon, King of the Fairies, Horrobin. Titania, his Queen, J. A. Brierley. A Fairy, Andrew. Fairies: Puck, Hutchinson; Peas-blossom, S. Mallalieu; Cobweb, Stephenson; Moth, S. Ashton; Mustard Seed, C. Mallalieu. Theseus, Duke of Athens, Thompson. Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons, J. West. Courtiers:—Demetrius, Garfitt; Lysander, N. Taylor. Philostrate, Master of the Revels to Theseus, T. W. Middleton.

Act I., Scene 2, A Room in Quince’s House. Act II., Scene 3, A Wood near Athens. Fairy Song, “Ye Spotted Snakes” “E.S.” Choir.

Act III., Scene 1, A Wood near Athens. Act IV., Scene 1, A Wood near Athens. Act IV., Scene 2, A Room in Quince’s House. Act V., Scene 1, The Palace of Theseus.

Solo & Chorus, “O Thou Forest” (Obersteiner) “E.S.” Choir; soli, Pickford, Middleton, Smith, and H. A. Clough. National Anthem.

The Hall was undoubtedly the centre of interest. As the programme states, several scenes from “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” were acted, and in the intervals the Special and Extra Special Choirs rendered an agreeable selection of songs. A few solos were also given.

As regards the arrangement of the stage a marked advance was made on the attempts of previous years, and on this occasion the general appearance of the Hall was distinctly pleasing. The same, however, could not be said about its acoustic qualities, and it was with marked difficulty that the pitch was preserved in singing. As regards the actors, we may say that very little of what was said was inaudible at the far end of the Hall, but it was clear that although the curtains had been removed, a great demand was being made upon the voices of all engaged. Whitmore’s distinct and deliberate utterance enabled him, perhaps, to come off best in this respect—as Bottom he was a success. Beaumont’s part was creditably played, although, perhaps, the part assigned to him last year afforded him more opportunities. The Queen of the Fairies was an agreeable surprise. Many failed to recognize Brierley in the winsome, graceful, dainty, ethereal being, whose lullaby was so sweetly sung. The costumes of the fairies were a great success, in each case dress and complexion harmonised perfectly. Puck struck quite the right note of mischievous vivacity, and among Bottom’s helpers perhaps the Moon gave rise to most “innocent merriment,” although the stolidity of the Wall provoked not a little.

Altogether the evening was a pleasant one for those of us who had merely to sit and listen, and satisfactory for all who took part in it. Something over £7 was subscribed during the evening towards our contribution to the Princess Christian Fund.

“Off to the Front.”

THANKS to H. Emmott, we are enabled to put under this heading extracts from the diary of his brother, Private William Emmott, who went out to the Cape with the Oldham Volunteer Active Service Section, under Captain Bamford. The whole diary would occupy too much of our space, so we have with regret been compelled to curtail it to the time between the departure from S. Vincent on May 20th and the final setting out for Ladysmith on June 7th.

Sunday, May 20th.—I went to church to-day at 10 and 6 o'clock. The weather is now getting very hot, and we sleep on deck at night. We had a rough night last night, several men were sick.

Monday, May 21.—We had an alarm of fire this morning, and had to hurry to our various positions. Our company had firing exercise afterwards. We stand at the stern of the boat and fire at barrels, boxes, etc. It is very good practice, as we can tell by the splash in the water where the bullets struck. It is washing day to-day, and lines are stretched all across the deck with clothes on. They soon dry in the breeze. Now and then a shirt or other article goes overboard, and then there is a laugh at the loser's expense. We see lots of curious fish; one of the most interesting is the flying fish, it resembles a small bird when flying.

Tuesday, May 22.—We are now near the Equator, and it is fearfully hot; scarce a breath of air stirring. We parade now in bare feet and without coats; in fact nothing but shirt and trousers on. There has been one case of sun-stroke. Awnings are erected all over the ship to keep off the sun.

Wednesday, May 23.—The heat is not quite so great to-day, a nice breeze blowing. We crossed the line last night. Just now the days and nights are equal—12 hours each. We have been losing time up to now, but we now begin to gain 15 minutes daily. The clock is set at 4 a.m., so if we get up at 3-30 in 45 minutes it is 4-30; sounds odd, eh?

Thursday, May 24.—To-day is the Queen's birthday, and we have had a special parade in honour of the event. We sang "God Save the Queen," and then gave three hearty cheers. The wind has got up a lot during the day, and it is quite cool and pleasant to-night.

Friday, May 25.—To finish off the Queen's birthday there was a grand firework display last night. It reminded me of Belle Vue. The food continues good, with the exception of potatoes, which are getting a bit off. To be up to the mark we have plenty of variety. We had tinned mutton served out for the first time to-day.

Saturday, May 26.—There has not been much going off to-day. About eight to-night we passed the mail steamer "Norman Castle," bound for England. She was lit up from end to end, and we passed quite close to each other. It was a grand sight to see her.

Sunday, May 27.—We had Church services this morning and evening as usual. At the morning service the first collection which we have had on board was taken. It was in aid of the lifeboat fund. We overtook a small steamer

this afternoon, but did not get close enough to make her out. One of our men (Dolphin) has not been very well for the last day or two. He has gone into hospital to-day, but I don't think it is very serious.

Monday, May 28.—We still have the sea water bath in the mornings, but it is now much colder than it was a few days ago. Dolphin is not much better to-day. He does not seem to have any life or go in him at all. Doctor has ordered him to have strengthening foods, such as beef tea, etc.

Tuesday, May 29.—Preparations are now being made for disembarking. Most of our equipment has been stored away down below, and we have been busy getting it up to-day. Although there are such a large number of men on board (1,370) there have been very few articles lost owing to the excellent system in force. All our men have got theirs all right. Dolphin is rather better to-day. He has been on deck for a few hours.

Wednesday, May 30.—We have had a parade this afternoon in full marching order, for inspection by the officer commanding (the Hon. John Scott Napier). We expect to reach Capetown first thing in the morning.

Thursday, May 31.—We arrived here (Capetown) during the night, but did not anchor until daylight broke about seven o'clock. It was splendid to see the sun rise, and it seems to be a very pretty town. Dolphin is now well, and will go on shore with us. He is the only one of ours who is not quite up to the mark. We have just heard that some of Strathcona's Horse, who arrived here about five months ago, only left for the front yesterday. We expected landing this afternoon, but it is now postponed until to-morrow. We don't know whether our company will go forward to Durban in this boat or not. We have been unable to see the summit of Table Mountain yet, as it is enveloped in mist.

Saturday, June 1.—This morning was very misty, but it has cleared, and is now a splendid day. We have just got into dock and lie alongside the "Ulstermore," the boat which Pocklington and Millichamp came on, also the "Greek," which, I think, brought the Oldham Yeomanry. I go on to Durban; leave here to-morrow.

Saturday, June 2, Capetown.—We have been lying at the dockside since yesterday. About 700 or 800 troops left the ship this morning and went on to Green Point Camp. We are allowed to go on the wharf, but not into the town. I quite enjoyed having a walk on land again. The "Pembroke Castle" left here for home with sick and wounded. I saw several arrive in ambulances, which were drawn by four mules each

and driven by a black. Two of the ambulance men who came up with them belonged to Manchester. They came on board and had dinner with us. We have taken a lot of stores, etc., on for Port Elizabeth, East London, and Durban, also 120 men of various regiments who have been in hospital. We left Capetown at 4.30 p.m. Since we have got out to sea the ship is, I think, doing more rolling than ever.

Sunday, June 3.—We have now only 700 or 800 men on board, and the decks seem deserted. There was church service this morning as usual, but as all the clergymen left at Capetown it was conducted by the captain.

Monday, June 4.—We arrived at Port Elizabeth early this morning, and anchored very close to the shore. It is a very nice-looking town, the streets are well laid out, and there are some fine buildings. It also seems to be very clean. There is a lot of shipping in the bay, two or three vessels having brought horses. We are quite close to one which is unloading. They hoist them up in slings, and then lower them into lighters alongside. Most of them are in good condition, and appear to have stood the voyage very well. We landed between 100 and 150 men here and they went ashore in a tug. We left for Port Elizabeth about twelve at noon. The weather is now splendid, not too hot. It is dark about five o'clock.

Tuesday, June 5.—We arrived at East London about ten o'clock last night, and anchored in the bay. We have not got very close in shore, so we can't see the town very distinctly; it does not seem quite so large as Port Elizabeth. We have landed here about 270 troops, and embarked 100 Kaffirs for Durban. We left at 5 p.m., and have just passed what appears to be a bush fire. It extends a long distance along the shore and is a fine sight. Since leaving Capetown I have been on guard duty. I have two hours on and then eight off. It is all right if you get a nice post. Last night I was sentry over the magazine, that is down in the bottom of the hold, and it is rather warmer and closer than I like.

Wednesday, June 6.—Arrived here (Durban) about noon. There are a lot of vessels, mostly transports, and we could at once see something unusual had occurred, as all the ships were decorated with flags and blowing sirens. We soon had the news signalled to us that Lord Roberts had entered Pretoria. We expect going ashore to-morrow. The Kaffirs that we have on board are employed by the Army Service Corps and get £4 10s. per month and rations. They drive the transport waggons, etc.

Thursday, June 7.—We do not know exactly when we shall disembark, as the ship has not yet got into dock. There are one or two boats with troops who have been waiting four days, but we have had orders to prepare, and have all ready to leave at five minutes' notice, so I hope we shan't be long before we are off. We have had more fun since the Kaffirs came on board than all the rest of the voyage. One of the Royal Irish Regiment has formed about 16 of them into a company, dressed them in odd articles of uniform, and been drilling them several hours a day. They cut some wonderful figures, and a sight of them would frighten the Boers. They cause roars of laughter, and seem to enjoy it quite as much as we do. There is a lot of fishing done whilst we are at anchor, and some very curious-looking fish have been caught. One species, on leaving the water, swells up like a balloon.

Whit Friday, June 8.—We should have docked to-day. Everything has been got ready, ammunition, baggage, tents, etc. brought from the hold, hammocks, bedding, etc., returned to the store-rooms. The sea is rough, and we were unable to take the pilot on board. We have to wait until to-morrow.

On a small piece of paper, evidently just slipped in the envelope at the last minute, Emmott has scribbled "Saturday: Just landed: going to Ladysmith at once."

Moths and Butterflies of Oldham and District.

THERE is very little variety of Butterflies in the district, and those are of the commonest kinds. Of Moths there is a far greater number, and among them many rare specimens may be found. Good prints of both are to be seen on the charts in Mr. Pullinger's room at school. A description of a few of the most important is given below.

The Large and Small Whites are common everywhere between the months of June and September. The females have two black spots on the fore wings, the males have none. The caterpillar is green and feeds on cabbage. The Green-veined White is similar to the small white, but on the under side of the wings has green veins.

The Brimstone is yellow with a red spot on each wing and is found throughout the summer.

The Small Tortoiseshell is another well known butterfly very common in spring and autumn. The caterpillar, which is brown, with a black line on the back, and is covered with hairs, feeds on the nettle. The Red Admiral is one of our finest

butterflies, and may be found sunning itself on walls and flowers. The caterpillar, which is green or black with white dots, is covered with hair and also feeds on the nettle. The Meadow Brown may be found in almost every meadow throughout the summer. It is brown with a black dot on each wing. The female is larger than the male and has yellow patches on the wings.

The Poplar Hawk Moth is very common in the district. It is a night flier and may often be seen round bright objects. It measures about three inches across the wings. It is greyish in colour, with red bands across the fore wings. The caterpillar is green with oblique red stripes on its back and an upright horn on the tail. The Hummingbird Hawk Moth is also fairly common. It is most frequently seen in hot summers hovering over flowers or around lamps at night. Its fore wings are brown, its underwings orange. The Puss Moth is occasionally found here, both in the daytime and at dusk. It is greyish-white in colour with black markings on the head and fore wings. Its body is thick and long and is covered with thick down. The caterpillar is very peculiar and interesting. It has a lump behind the head and two long horns at the end of its body. It turns to a chrysalis in a cocoon, spun in the bark of a tree, generally a willow. The Emperor Moth has been found in the neighbourhood of the school. It is very handsome and flies in the daytime in the early months of the summer. The female is much larger than the male and different in colour. The Ghost Swift is exceedingly common in this district. Its name is derived from the glossy white of the upper surface of the male and the dark brown of the lower, causing the insect to disappear from sight when it settles. The female is yellow and much larger than the male. The Currant Moth is found in the day time. It is white with black and yellow spots. The caterpillar is the same colour and is found on gooseberry bushes. The Yellow Underwing is very common in July and August. It flies by night and hides in the herbage in the daytime, running along the ground when disturbed. The Tiger Moths are occasionally found, but never in large numbers. They are very handsome moths, and are found on the wing in July. The caterpillars, brown covered with brown hairs, are often known as "woolly bears." The Swallow-tailed Moth is very common in the South, but rare in the North. It has been found this year in the Oldham district. It is a large yellow moth with a tail on each of the underwings.

J.B.

Sea Fishing.

L196122

YOU may be interested to know something about our fishing at the different places we have visited. At Port Erin, Isle of Man, we used to trawl for mackerel. We caught the first one with a piece of string and then cut a piece of skin off the stomach of the fish. This we used for bait to catch the other fish with. We caught fifty-two mackerel one morning in two hours. It is good sport. We generally took a boy with us and when he was rowing or putting bait on, father and I would look after the lines. The fishing off Bradda Head was very good, but the fish were very small. If we went towards the Calf of Man the fish were rather bigger. Once we were nearly drawn by the tide through the sound which separates the Calf from the mainland, and had very hard work to pull back. We should, many times, have liked to land on the Calf of Man, but the owner is very strict, and does not like strangers to land on his island.

At Newcastle, county Down, Ireland, we had to trawl with a sail and had to go a long way out. The chief place here was at the mouth of a little river with a very sanguinary name, where there were a few whiting and cod. We did more mountain-climbing at Newcastle than fishing.

At Cromer, in Norfolk, our fishing was not a success, the sea being very rough most of the time, and when we did try we did not catch anything worth mentioning. At Crickieth, in North Wales, we had to fish off the mouth of a river called the Dwy. We caught a good many flat fish here, also some coarse fish not fit to eat. The bait was chiefly sand-worms and sometimes mussels.

At Lamlash, Arran, Scotland, we had to go a long way out for any fish at all. In the bay we caught one or two whiting, but very seldom. We once walked to Whiting Bay and came back by boat. A fisherman rowed us while we trawled. It took us about two hours, and in that time we caught only two whiting. The fishing at Brodick, near Lamlash, is also a long way out, there being there a sand bank deep down where splendid whiting can be caught. I think this sand bank is a continuation of the fishing ground near Lamlash. The difficulty of fishing at most of these places is the scarcity of bait and we have to dig sand-worms when the tide is out, for some kinds of fish. I am looking forward to the next holiday, when I hope to have more good sport. When away at the seaside we spend nearly half of our time on the water.

G. E. STOTT, Form III Alpha.

The Boxer Trouble.

To thoroughly explain the Chinese question, as it stands at present, is perhaps somewhat difficult. One must first understand that China is a land of intrigue. There are always some plots afoot to get rid of someone in high places, to overturn or undermine the government. It is a land where bribery and corruption run riot, where almost everyone is playing for his own hand rather than the good of the country. Add to this the fact that China is a country whose people are opposed to foreigners living there, but nevertheless have not the energy to develop it, or work its vast mineral wealth, and we shall perhaps understand its peculiar position. Secret societies abound, and the "Boxer" society is of such a kind. It has certain rites and ceremonies. It is a religious society. Its avowed object is the extermination of all foreign influence in the country. The society is at the bottom of the present crisis. It has taken advantage of the fact that China, which has been in the past (since the Japan War particularly) considered by Europe to be breaking up, has been forced by first one country, and then another, into granting them certain concessions in respect to trading rights and leases of land which they hope to have for themselves in the future. This has naturally angered such a conservative people as the Chinese, and the society has begun a crusade of slaughter and extermination against all foreigners, though this probably is but a ruse to cover some other deep laid plot. It is more than suspected that in this they have had the support of the Chinese Army. The result is that many foreigners have been killed, while others have had to flee for their lives. The Legations in the sacred city are besieged by thousands, though still, we hope, holding out. European powers have dispatched soldiers and naval men to rescue the foreigners, and to put down the disturbances; and fighting is proceeding at many points.

W.

[The sad story of the fall of the Legations and of the subsequent Pekin massacres, is we now fear only too true, though it had not reached us when the above was written.—Ed. O.H.]

Rain.

THE sea-water is always evaporating, that is, it is always giving off a vapour. The air over the sea gets saturated with this water vapour, and when it blows over the land the water vapour condenses and falls as rain. This rain sinks into the ground, and springs out again, forming little streams. A lot of these streams join and form a river, which empties itself into the sea. The

operations of evaporation and condensation are repeated over again, so that the water on the earth never gets any less, or any greater in quantity.

The rain is useful in many ways. It waters all the land and so makes all the crops grow. It gives us water, and makes the rivers up which ships can sail. If no water evaporated from the sea, and we got no rain, then only just the coast strip of countries could be cultivated, and all the water we needed would have to be brought from the sea. It depends greatly on the winds, the elevation of the land, and the lie of the mountains, how much rain a country gets. For if a country has a high range of mountains on one side, the winds have all their moisture condensed on them, and are dry when they blow across to the other side. If a country is situated in the middle of a mass of land, it will receive very little rain. The south-west winds chiefly bring the rain to this country, for, blowing over the warm waters of the Gulf Stream, they are laden with moisture; and, as they are the prevailing winds during most of the year, we get plenty of rain.

VEE EMM.

The Fire at New York.

A MOST disastrous conflagration occurred at Hoboken, near New York, on Saturday afternoon, June 30th. At the time of the outbreak five Transatlantic vessels of the North German Lloyd Company were alongside the docks, where the fire commenced. Many hundreds of persons were on board the vessels or on the docks, also a large number of men were at work discharging the cargoes. The fire started in some bales of cotton on the docks. It spread with alarming rapidity, and in a few minutes the wooden structures alongside the docks were ablaze from end to end.

The people on the vessels, thinking they were safe, remained on board until it was too late; and the people on the docks and piers, finding egress impossible, jumped into the water. A large number of these were drowned. The fire then caught the ships, and they soon became like burning furnaces. Many tugs were near at the time; but, owing to the excitement, only one vessel was able to get away in safety. The fire was stopped only by the blowing up of an adjoining pier.

At the portholes of the burning vessels could be seen many people trying to escape, whom it was impossible to help. Many of these were driven mad with fright. The loss of life due to this fire will never be known, but it is estimated at about four hundred persons burned. In the United States, even disasters seem to take place on a large scale.

J.B.R.

Mathematical Curiosities.

1.—The five chains of 3 links each are made into a single chain by breaking up one length into 3 links, and then using these three to join together the remaining four chains. Thus only three links are touched.

2.—The American Magic Square may be filled up as follows:—

First row	1	15	14	4
Second row	12	6	7	9
Third row	8	10	11	5
Fourth row	13	3	2	16

3.—The chance of £1000 in case a coin falls head twenty times in succession is worth less than $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

The Editor has received the following new questions:—

1.—"Add two figures to 191 and make it come to less than 20 without crossing out any figures."

2.—"Add the figures 123456789 and make them come to 100. Don't use any figures twice and don't cross any out."

3.—"A man bought a pair of boots for 15/-. He gave the bootmaker £1. The bootmaker had not

change, so he went to a butcher for it. He received from the butcher 20/-. He then gave the man 5/- change. A quarter of an hour after, the butcher came back and said it was a bad sovereign. He wanted 20/- back from the bootmaker. How much per cent. did the bootmaker lose on the whole transaction?"

4.—The following appeared in the *Globe* a short time ago:—"The length of an army on the march is 25 miles, it travels 50 miles. As the army starts a man is detached from the rear, with a message to the front, and then returns to the rear, reaching it just as the army halts, having accomplished 50 miles. How far has the man travelled, the pace of the man and the army being respectively uniform?"

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The Editor will offer a prize for the best set of solutions to the above received before November 1st.

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