

Natural History Society.

ON Thursday evening, October 29th, the Society held its first *Conversazione* and Exhibition of specimens. A large number of boys were present, and Mrs. Pickford and Mrs. Harrison kindly came also.

The Hall was set out with tables, on which the specimens were arranged. Amongst other exhibits, of which there was a goodly store, were:—The shell of a tortoise killed by the fall of one of the pillars of the Temple of Jupiter at Olympia, found and prepared by Miss Lees; a walrus' skull, horns of deer, and rhinoceros' horn, kindly lent by C. F. Cross, Esq.; a very finely carved paddle and brace of old flint pistols, lent by the Headmaster; collections of shells, lent by Miss Bagguley and Messrs. Pimm and Greenhalgh; and some splendid photographic studies by Mr. Harrison.

The Headmaster opened the proceedings by presenting two prizes, kindly given by himself, one for the best collection of specimens in any branch of natural history; the other for the best collection of photographs.

There were only two entries for each of these prizes, and he considered that F. Kempsey's collection of sea shells certainly deserved the prize for the best exhibit in the first department. Bagot was highly commended for his collection of botanical specimens. Broadbent's lantern slides were, without doubt, the better of the two collections in that section.

These prizes having been awarded, the musical part of the evening began with a pianoforte solo, "La prière d'une Vierge," by J. E. Whitehead, who also ably accompanied the songs.

This was followed by "O! who will o'er the downs?" by the members of the Society, and "Medicine Jack" by West. This greatly amused the audience. The first part of the programme ended with a song by Broadbent, "A Dream

of Paradise." The inspection of the specimens was then resumed, and during the interval some splendid microscopic slides were shown by the Headmaster and Messrs. Pimm and Harrison. The concert was resumed with a recitation by Viner. Mr. Pimm then sang "The Farmer's Boy," which was received with so much applause that he had to repeat the last verse. The next song, "Ten Little Nigger Boys," was very amusing, especially as each of the "ten" wore a black mask. After singing "Widdicombe Fair," Mr. Williams was cheered till he had to sing an encore, "Ho! Jolly Jenkin," while the boys joined in the chorus. Mr. Pimm next gave "The Owl," which was much appreciated. The last item was "Daunc Durden" by the "Members."

After the singing of the "National Anthem," the entertainment concluded with "Three cheers for the Society and for Mr. Pimm," which were heartily given. To the Headmaster and Mr. Pimm for their untiring energy and keenness is chiefly due the success of the meeting. Indeed, without the latter, the musical part of the entertainment, at any rate, would have been a minus quantity. Thanks are also due to those boys who so energetically assisted in the arranging of the objects.

G. T.

The ramble for this term was necessarily a short one, as the afternoons close in so early. We found, though, that it is not always necessary to journey a long distance in order to have a pleasant outing, and one yielding good results in the way of specimens. By the kindness of Mrs. C. E. Lees we were invited to explore Werneth Park, and this invitation was gladly accepted. We were advised by Mr. Pimm to give most of our attention to fungi, and the advice proved worth following, as specimens of a great many varieties were found, both in the shrubberies and in the clough. The angle or tilt of the nose of the member who was asked to carry a capital specimen of *Phallus impudicus* (the Stinkhorn) was something which will not be easily forgotten.

However, a jar of spirit was soon forthcoming, and to that we consigned our evil-smelling trophy.

Considering the date (November 17th) it was with some astonishment that we found a thrush's nest containing eggs. True, three of them were broken, but the fourth one was intact, and was promptly added to our collection. It was subsequently found to be addled. Another member discovered that sulphuretted hydrogen may be met with outside the chemical laboratory. This discovery was owing to his having pinched too hard another thrush's egg which he had found.

We finished up with a visit to the greenhouse and conservatory. In the former we saw the begonias, a mass of pink beauty; in the latter the chrysanthemums, among which the newly-cultivated one, the "Motttram," was much admired.



British & Foreign Bible Society.



ON the 17th November a most interesting account of the work, aims, and organisation of the above Society was given in the Hall by the Rev. A. Taylor, one of the secretaries of the B. & F. B. S. Besides Mr. Taylor, the clergy were represented by the Revs. P. Lancashire (Rural Dean of Oldham), Sargeant, and Plant.

Proceedings opened with a hymn and prayer. Mr. Taylor, who spoke for some thirty-five minutes without once losing the attention of his audience—a high testimony to the interesting character of his speech—gave a very manly and energetic account of some of the difficulties with which the Bible Society has to contend.

From Mr. Taylor we learnt that out of about 2000 known languages the Bible has been translated into some 380. The Society has depôts all over the world, and issues about

10,000 Bibles a week. The work of translation is necessarily attended with great difficulties, and it is often found that a retranslation conveys to its readers by no means that which is intended.

With regard to payment for Bibles, the Society pursues the laudable course of demanding not a fixed price, but a payment which those benefitted by the possession of a Bible can well afford, which in many cases consists not of money, but of payments "in kind," e.g. cowrie shells in Uganda.

As evincing the keenness of the natives in many parts of the world to possess a Bible, which, in view of the dearth of books amongst them, they regard with almost superstitious veneration, Mr. Taylor mentioned that in Madagascar the native boys in the interior go a three day's journey to the coast, and return with the Bibles strapped on their backs. Reference was also made to the system of "colporteurs" by which the Bible is carried to distant and otherwise almost inaccessible districts by men who cheerfully devote their lives to this magnanimous and often dangerous calling.

In conclusion, the lecturer called attention to the fact that the Society celebrates its Centenary next year; that many of the great English public schools had promised to make collections on its behalf, and that he hoped that we too would add our quota to their endeavours.

The Headmaster, in heartily thanking Mr. Taylor for his address, said he hoped that possibly some future "colporteur" was sitting amongst the boys at that moment. The meeting broke up with three hearty cheers for Mr. Taylor.

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THE EDITOR begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following:—"Leodiensian," Whitgift Magazine, "Boltonian," "Manchester Hulmeian."

THE EDITOR regrets that from lack of space he is obliged to hold over a contribution by "H.M."

WE have heard that much can be said in Latin in a few words. How do the following "20 lines" strike our readers as a translation (*sic*) of the school motto?

Fide { BEWARE the trustless mood; the easy sneer.
The thought that all men have their price.
As cattle have, and may be bought. 'Tis false.
Hearts still beat true; warm blood leaps yet
Itself to spill at friendship's call. To Baal
Not all have bowed. Yea! Right hath champions yet.

sed { But have a care. Self-seeking knaves abound
To lure into the net the trusting fool.
cui { With features twisted into seeming smiles,
And bursting forth with frothy fawning words
The charlatan protests and hides a heart
As black as night, and foul as sinks that reek
With filth of city slums. Of such beware.

vile. { Before another's worth thy hope inspires.
Regard him well. Make sure his gold rings true.
Brave deeds should follow, if bold words precede.
And pious utterance lead to gracious act.
So if when weighed they wanting shall be found.
Seek not to share the choicest gifts of heaven
With souls that dwell in kennel or in sty.

J. G. G.

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Oxford Letter.

MICHAELMAS TERM, 1903.

SIR,—It has been well said that Oxford is a place of contrast. But to how great an extent this is true can only partially be gauged even by those who have resided within its confines as members of the University. It is pretty safe to say that the "Freshman" on "coming up,"

if he be altogether strange to Oxford, is at once impressed by the contrast between the picture which in imagination he had formed of it and its reality; for no doubt invariably those who are coming up for the first time have unconsciously a preconception as to what the city is like. And because of the very character of the place it inevitably follows that such preconceptions are not realised. No one who has not been in Oxford can form any real idea as to what it is. For Oxford is essentially cosmopolitan.

We think, perhaps, of such cosmopolitan places of past history as Antioch, Ephesus, Philippi, Athens, Corinth, or Rome; and we are proud to think of London as our representative in the succession to the "primacy of honour" (if the term may be used here) in these days.

Yet Oxford, in many respects, has long ago come into this line of succession, particularly to a city like Athens. Indeed, it has been said that Oxford is the *most* cosmopolitan town in England. But here, again, is a contrast. If anyone enter Oxford from the railway and expect to at once perceive how cosmopolitan it is, he will be disappointed.

He will find himself within surroundings very similar to those of many of our cathedral cities—surroundings which would almost make him imagine that he was in some small market town. But of this he would soon be disillusioned, for very soon he will emerge into the centre of the city. Here is the outward embodiment of the University itself; here are the Colleges, whose grey and dark-coloured walls betray the effects of age and of the restoration work of different periods. The Colleges are by no means all in one part of the city. Yet there is not one which is any great distance from any other.

Perhaps it is the day before the majority of 'Varsity men have come into residence for the term. There is barely a sign of this cosmopolitan life we speak of; the "Quads" of the Colleges receive scarcely a sound which the walls may reverberate. Near the Colleges the streets also are silent (so

silent, they might well be the streets of the London of the Great Plague!) except for the rumbling of the wheels of the conveyances which carry men to their respective Colleges, and close behind these wheels run men who are anxious that your luggage shall be safely deposited at the College Lodge, but more particularly eager for any *stray* cash you may care to part with.

Yes; the University at this time is apparently almost totally silent. But how different in the morning of the first day of Term! Now you see something of the life within the University—that stirring, busy life. But to really know what it is you must live amongst it in your College life in the terms of three years. What of the men of the University? For it is they who form it. The Freshman on arrival has been shown by the Porter to the rooms which he is to occupy for at least his first year. And then, perhaps, it is that he thinks of a greater contrast still—how that there have been men in residence there during generations—nay, centuries before; how that now he is a link with the past and the future. From the moment he goes through the Matriculation ceremony before the Vice-Chancellor his life enters on a new phase. He is now a member of the University; he and the men of his year are enjoined by the Vice-Chancellor to keep the Statutes of the University (a copy of which is given to each). Thus does he admonish them:—“*Scitote vos in matriculum Universitatis hodie relatos esse, et ad observandum omnia statuta hoc libro comprehensa, quantum ad vos spectent, teneri.*”

But University life is a contrast within itself. The writer saw it stated in an illustrated guide to Oxford that the present-day Undergraduate spent most of his time at athletics, scarcely ever worked; and often would only attend one out of three lectures in a morning; or possibly not attend any. Such statements show the ignorance of the writer of them. For the Undergrad. *does* work and works hard, too. Indeed, it is not the merely serious who read hard. There

are exceptions, of course. But a man who is not in some measure faithful to this part of University life generally soon drops out of it.

At this time of the year much time in an afternoon is spent in football (there are Inter-Collegiate Cup Ties in the Michaelmas Term); there is also hockey played (but more particularly in the Hilary Term), and lacrosse. The work at the river chiefly consists in tubbing, which must be explained is the coaching of two, or possibly four, men in each boat sent out; each College usually having races, viz., "The Fours," in this term.

As this work progresses the coaching of "The Eights" for the Torpids Inter-Collegiate Races in Hilary Term is begun. The chief interest in Oxford in the rowing is in the Summer Term, when the "Summer Eights" are rowed off.

In the Michaelmas Term it is wonderful to see how the Freshman is in great requisition. He must turn up in the "Rugger" or the "Soccer" squash at the same time that he is practically told he is compelled to present himself at the river for "Coaching."

Men are much split up into sets. The policy of the poor Freshman is to "lie low." There is hard and fast division between "years," and woe betide the one who does not respect it. In course of time much of this is levelled down.

The three representatives of the School by this time are in their "third year," and one, at least, nearing the time when he will—if all go well—enter upon yet another phase of life outside Oxford. The others promise to do well in their respective schools whenever they come on—one in "Science," the other in "Greats."

So it may be said that they know Oxford pretty well by now. It is a wonderful thing to think that in the Michaelmas Term there are possibly five hundred Freshmen. Ambition, after all, is what has brought them to the University. It is sad to think of one side in this matter, viz., that some, from

the want of character or from the training of bad environment, are going to be "Hooligans" of the sphere in which they move. May there be few! We leave this side of Oxford life. It is well, however, to point out that that side exists.

May many of the Old School have the ambition to come up to Oxford! And may there be realised the ideal which has been so often held before us in the School—that of keen loyalty to our School, both in study and athletics! For that is the truest prelude to University life.

Yours sincerely,

Wadham College, Oxford.

H. C. W.



Library.

THE following new books have been added to the library this term:—

- The larger Temple Edition of Shakespeare, 12 volumes.
- Scott's Works (Border Edition), 24 volumes.
- "The Story of the Nations," 4 volumes.
- "Glengarry Days" by Ralph Connor.
- "The Sky Pilot" by Ralph Connor.
- "Count Hannibal" by Stanley J. Weyman.
- "Stories from English History" by A. J. Church.
- "Heroes and Hero-worship" by Thomas Carlyle.
- "Past and Present" by Thomas Carlyle.
- "The Prince's Story Book" edited by G. L. Gomme.
- "Tales of Greyhouse" by R. S. Warren-Bell.
- "Both Sides of the Border" by G. A. Henty.
- "Dash and Daring" by G. A. Henty.
- "A Final Reckoning" by G. A. Henty.
- "Wild Animals of the World," 2 volumes.
- "Chums," 1 volume.
- "The First Men in the Moon" by H. G. Wells.

O.H.G.S. Boys' Clubs.—Season 1902-3.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.
Balances forward—Games	33	4	6	Games as per Statement below	45	17	2
Library	2	12	7	Library " "	3	14	11
	35	17	1	Cheque Book	0	2	6
Fees, Dec., 1902	17	12	6	Balance in hand, 29th July, 1903 :—			
" April, 1903	16	1	3	Games	28	13	10
" July, 1903	15	8	9	Library	5	2	6
	49	2	6	Reserve Account	1	8	8
	£84	19	7		35	5	0
					£84	19	7

A. G. PICKFORD, Hon. Treasurer

Examined and found correct, RICHD. PIMM and R. H. PICKFORD.

Library Account.

Received from Hon. Treasurer	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
	3	14	11	May 15, Mr. W. E. Clegg for Books	3	0	6
				July 11, " "	0	12	5
	£3	14	11	Sundries	3	12	11
					0	2	0
					£3	14	11

RICHD. PIMM, Librarian.

Examined and found correct, A. G. PICKFORD.

Games Account.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Sale and Hire of Football Shirts	2	4	6			
Sundries	0	12	10			
			<u>2</u>		17	4
ATHLETIC SPORTS, 1903.						
Donations from Governors	10	18	0			
Boys' Subscriptions	7	15	0			
Sale of Programmes, &c.	1	17	0			
Sale of Running Costumes	0	10	6			
			<u>21</u>		0	6
PAYMENTS—FOOTBALL & CRICKET.						
Footballs, &c.	4	1	10			
Two New Dies for School Medal	4	1	6			
Football Shirts	3	9	9			
Engraving Medals (1902)	0	14	6			
Repairs to Mower	1	14	7			
Crickets Tackle	12	3	3			
Net (Roofed)	2	11	6			
Scoring Board and Numbers	2	1	3			
Groundsman's Wages	8	10	10			
Repairs and Small Tackle	1	5	7			
Stamps and Telegrams	0	9	3			
Printing Fixture Cards, &c.	1	10	5			
Travelling Expenses and Carriage of Parcels	2	18	0			
Painting Goals and Sundries	1	0	6			
			<u>46</u>		12	9
ATHLETIC SPORTS, 1903.						
Prizes—Medals and Champion Cups	8	4	8			
Second Prizes	4	19	0			
			<u>13</u>		3	8
Band	2	10	8			
Timber (Stakes and Laths)	1	7	0			
Horse and Man	0	9	0			
Kosettes and Tape	0	15	0			
Police Constables	0	10	0			
Printing Programmes	2	0	0			
Purchase of Running Costumes (for resale)	1	2	6			
Iron Pegs and Head to Mallet	0	9	4			
Cord Stamps, and Sundries	0	15	10			
			<u>9</u>		19	4
Received from Treasurer	45	17	2			
			<u>69</u>		15	0
£69 15 0						

Signed, R. HERBERT PARDOE, Games Treasurer.

Examined and found correct, A. G. PICKFORD.