

THE

Oldham Quilmerian.



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The Oldham Hulmeian.

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No. II.

In Memoriam.

ROLAND ELLISON, B.A., Lond.

Died 19th November, 1907.

Aged 30 years.

MR. ELLISON lived at Greengates, near Bradford, and was educated at Bradford Grammar School, at which School he became a Junior Master. Hence he proceeded, as Assistant Master, to Moulton Grammar School, and then to Newport (Mon.), from which School he came to Oldham in September, 1903; succeeding Mr. Greenhalgh as Mathematical Master. Besides taking a considerable and very successful share in the mathematical teaching of the School, Mr. Ellison has taken English and Latin Forms. All his work was characterised by energy and thoroughness. He expected equal diligence from his boys, and was firm in maintaining a high standard of work, he certainly made his boys work, and almost as certainly they passed their examinations. Mr. Ellison took a prominent part in School games. He came just after we had established the "House" system, which has been so effective and popular in improving the School games. This enthusiasm has stimulated that active interest of the staff in the games, which is so important a factor in School life. He was seldom absent from the field, and was always keen. The "Masters and Doctors" elevens, which he got together, were always a source of enjoyment to all of us, and we hope that they will not be abandoned.

He took an active interest in the Debating Society, of which he was a Vice-President, and he was also a Vice-President of the Old Boys' Association.

To those of us who were charged with the inner management of affairs he was a most valuable colleague; wise in counsel, faithful and energetic in execution.

It is a good record. A record of years of true and simple work, of willing and devoted service to the School. He "played the game," and we are all the poorer by his death.

To the boys he was a firm master and a loving friend. His punishment list was light, but his boys worked well, for he was firm and just, and his tale of services rendered was heavy.

Mr. Ellison was teaching on the Thursday, and the news of his death on the Tuesday morning came as a shock to all, for it was not until Monday evening that the doctors gave up hope. His last hours were marked by quiet fortitude and simple faith; he gave us affectionate messages to friends, and he sent his love to the boys.

The Headmaster and Assistant Masters attended the funeral at Calverley, and wreaths were sent from the Staff, the School, Lower Fifth, Remove, and Old Boys, and also many from friends in Oldham, as a last tribute of affection and esteem.

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School Notes.

WE welcome H. I. Bradshaw, W. L. Caldwell, T. N. Church, J. M. Cook, J. H. Clynes, A. W. Davoll, A. Fitton, J. B. Gartside, V. H. Gartside, H. P. Hall, I. P. Holden, Harold Marsden, Herbert Marsden, C. Moore, W. Noble, F. Ratcliffe, H. R. Robinson, G. Ross, W. Sankey, W. K. Slater, L. R. Slight, F. Stott, H. C. Waddington, F. Whittaker, and W. F. Windle.

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Speech Day was held on Tuesday, November 5th, when the Dean of Manchester (Bishop Welldon) distributed the prizes and gave us a most enjoyable address. A full account will be found on another page.

Bishop Welldon is the Vice-Chairman of the Governors of the Hulme Trust, from which we receive our Endowment Fund.

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Congratulations to Mr. Pym and Mr. Edwards on the success of the English and French plays; and to Mr. Ingham on the singing.

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Our best wishes to a former master, Mr. Williams, who was married at Eastbourne on December 10th.

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The new Prospectus, with views of the School, is now ready, and a number of copies have been sent out.

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The Library Committee remind boys who are leaving School of the pleasant custom of presenting a book to the Library as a memento of their connection with the School, and the Secretary of the Old Boys' Association will be glad to receive their applications for membership of the Association, which all Old Boys should join.

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Editorial.

THE School Magazine for this term has at length made its tardy appearance. We believe that the first seven years of a child's life are usually considered to be the most critical ones. Yet after our Magazine has passed that age by several years it occasionally shows signs of fading away.

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We remember that six or seven years ago short essays by boys in the Third Form were published. Now none but members of the Sixth (and that to their shame be it said, "under pressure") contribute to its pages. It must be kept in the hands of the boys, because we are afraid that if it were left in the hands of the masters it would for boys' reading be like the works of the late Dr. Dryasdust.

There used to be an occasional appearance of the School Poet. Did the last one forget to leave his mantle behind him ?

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Mr. H. R. Parton having resigned last term, we offer a cordial welcome to Mr. H. S. Edwards, his successor as Modern Language Master. We understand that his previous School are regretting the loss of their best man at cricket.

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We very sincerely lament the death of Mr. Ellison. Coming suddenly as it did, in the midst of his work, and almost before we had realised that he was seriously ill, his death was a great shock to us all. His energy and thoroughness will be greatly missed, both in school and on the playing fields. We tender our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Ellison.

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The Debating Society is increasing in numbers, and it is rumoured that some very spirited arguments have been employed on various subjects. The meetings, we hear, are very well attended. Someone mentioned a Debating Society tea next term.

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The Natural History Society has made an expedition to Castleshaw to visit the Roman Camp there. There is something in the air about a tea and an exhibition of collections. We are sure all members will attend on this occasion.

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South House football appears to be in a hopeless condition. Perhaps the size and number of its members has something to do with it.

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Diabolo fever seems to have taken the School in its grip. It is leaving the Upper School, but is raging in its worst form in the Middle and Lower Schools.

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The Football Team made a journey to Bolton the other week, which lasted nearly eight hours. They were, however, unable to play on arriving, owing to the fog which had delayed them.

The Speech Day went off very well, and, after the plays, mothers and sisters could be seen congratulating the actors on their success. For this our thanks are due to Mr. Pym, Mr. Edwards, and Mr. Ingham for the pains they took in the preparation. Bardsley and Greaves are to be complimented on the way they designed and painted a new pediment for the Stage.

Speech Day.

INSTEAD of celebrating Guy Fawkes on November 5th this year, we held our Speech Day, a much more prosaic function. Still, those of us who received prizes were not heard to grumble, and very many others had no time to do so even had they wished. Mr. A. Emmott, M.P. (Chairman of the Governors) presided, the Dean of Manchester (Bishop Welldon) distributed the prizes, and Mrs. C. E. Lees, the Rev. Canon Rountree, Alderman Schofield, J.P., G. W. Needham, Esq., J.P., H. Wilde, Esq., J.P., and J. W. Taylor, Esq., J.P. (Governors of the School), were also on the platform.

The HEADMASTER, in his report, had pleasure in recording a very satisfactory year's work and progress. The work throughout the year had shown marked diligence and ability. Keen interest had been shown in the social and athletic life of the School, and boys, prefects, and masters had united to maintain a high tone of manners and morals throughout the School. After the Cambridge Local Examination the supervisory examiner had requested him to tell the boys that he had never, in many years' experience, conducted an examination under such pleasant circumstances. The Governors had recognised it was the duty and privilege of the School to provide a full and complete secondary education for the boys of Oldham and the neighbouring parts of Lancashire and Yorkshire. Increased laboratory and workshop accommodation had been provided, and the working arrangements of these had been found to be thoroughly satisfactory.

Boys use the workshop out of school hours under the supervision of the instructor; the library and reading room are in constant use.

Under the new scheme the leaving age has been extended to 19, the special fee for Greek abolished, and greater freedom given in other directions. Accordingly, whilst considerable attention continues to be paid to scientific and practical subjects, which must always be of special importance in a great industrial centre, increased facilities have been given for classical studies, and arrangements made whereby Upper School boys may devote greater time to Greek and Latin, to mathematics, to science, or to English and modern languages. The provision of these opportunities at a much lower fee than is usually charged in a first grade grammar school has been rendered possible by the increase in the endowment to be received from the Hulme Trustees, amongst whom Bishop Welldon, as Dean of Manchester, occupies so important a position.

By the same scheme the Governors obtain power to establish a preparatory department, and the Headmaster is making a careful study of the special conditions and requirements of such a department.

In the Cambridge Examinations twelve boys obtained the Senior Certificate and fifteen the Junior Certificate. Being most anxious that all boys shall receive attention, and not only the cleverest, the Headmaster presents for these examinations all who are old enough, although it is unfortunately the case that a number of boys come to the School with little or no knowledge of Latin, French, mathematics, &c., at such an age that the task of preparing them in the limited time is rendered unnecessarily difficult.

Most excellent results are obtained, however, for which the School and the Headmaster owe much to the Assistant Masters, who are unsparing in their services in all departments of our School life, services rendered often at great sacrifice of private time and energy.

Mr. A. EMMOTT first congratulated the School on the success won by present and old boys, and expressed the pleasure he felt on the greater elasticity of the curriculum under the new Government regulations, the value of which had been enormously increased by the enlarged income from the Hulme Trust. He wished, however, to speak mainly upon a question which he had discussed only a few weeks ago when he had the honour of presiding at a similar function in connection with the Girls' School. On that occasion he had mentioned the effect which the new regulations of the Board of Education with regard to secondary schools would have upon the Hulme Grammar School. The Governors, on the afternoon of the day on which he spoke, had passed a resolution asking the local education authority to request the Board of Education to waive the proviso that the majority of the Governors should be appointed by representative public bodies. He was happy to say that the local education authority had, so far as the present year was concerned, fallen in with the wish so expressed, and there for the moment the matter rested.

There was a tendency for schools to come under the control of local education authorities, but he rather deprecated the attempt on the part of the Board of Education to force the pace in an artificial way. In the Hulme Schools there was, so far as the matter of financial principle went, no particular cause for any increase of public representation. Speaking roughly, half of the funds—and here he was thinking of the capital sum in the building, &c., as well as the annual income—was derived from the Hulme Trust. One-third came from the fees paid by parents, and the remaining one-sixth, if the full grant was obtained, came from public sources.

What they wanted to do in this matter surely was to get the best Board of Governors they could. He had always been against one part of the Education Bill of 1902, not approving of putting both elementary and secondary education all at once under the new authority, because he felt convinced that many of the local authorities had in matters other than

education quite as much work as they could comfortably manage. Nowadays it must be the opinion of many people who had a keen interest in education that in many towns there were at any rate a large number of members of the local authorities who could not, from force of circumstances, have had the time or training to enable them to give real attention to the difficult problems of secondary education, while in the larger counties the work of education was so vast that it tended to be really controlled not so much by members of the local body as by the permanent officials.

Bishop WELLDON, before distributing the prizes, gave an excellent address to the boys sat before him, first congratulating the Headmaster upon the School buildings and upon the successful report just read. He spoke to the boys of the practical utility of the School Debating Society. There was little or nothing that might not be discussed in a School Debating Society. He remembered that at Eton he first took part in a debate on the resolution "That this House bitterly regrets the abolition of the prize ring," a motion made by the captain of the eleven and carried by a large majority. (Laughter.) He went on to tell the boys that a prize won at school should be not the ending but the beginning of distinction. Nothing was sadder than when a boy who had been eminent among his school fellows altogether failed to realise the promise of his school days in after life. To the boys who had not won prizes he said—don't lose heart. If there was any lesson in life he had learnt it was that the judgments passed in school days by boys and masters were commonly subject to be reversed. It was not what the boys before him did in their school days that was the real test of the education given in the school but what they did in manhood. He urged them to cultivate the habit of application, of industry, and to be quick to seize opportunity. Then he quoted from Wm. Cobbett's "Advice to Young Men," with approval, the sentence: "To this more than any other thing I owed my very extraordinary promotion in the army—I was always ready. If I had to mount guard at ten I was ready at

nine. Never did any man or any thing wait one moment for me." They should also learn how to get on with the people with whom they did not agree. Tact went a long way towards smoothing the rough passages of life. But the great end of education is character. It is that which makes the great difference between boy and boy, between man and man. There were plenty of clever people in the world. What was wanted by the nation and by the empire was that their citizens, young and old, should be boys and men upon whom it was possible to rely with absolute confidence.

PRIZE-WINNERS.

The following is the list of winners of prizes and distinctions:—

Form I.—1, H. Rowley; 2, J. Ashton. Form II.—1, J. A. Bunting; 2, H. O. Newbould. Form III.—1, R. S. Haigh; 2, A. C. Horsfall; Form IV.—1, W. Booth; 2, H. Bradbury. Remove.—1, A. Buckley; 2, E. Brierley. Lower V.—1, W. R. Wilde; 2, J. W. Slater. Upper V.—1, S. Dawson; 2, W. Tonge.

Cambridge Junior Locals.—Pass 1st Division: R. J. Bardsley, J. Browne, W. W. Buckley, R. T. Ebrey, W. B. Leech, E. E. Mellor, S. Moore, E. Myatt, F. Thorpe. Pass 2nd Division: J. P. Crabtree, A. W. Gartside, J. H. Jennings. 2nd Class Honours: J. W. Slater, W. R. Wilde. 3rd Class Honours: J. Wrigley.

Cambridge Senior Locals.—3rd Honours: H. Buckley, W. Tonge. Pass: W. S. Booth, W. Claughton, S. Dawson, J. Greaves, P. C. Jones, F. Kempsey, C. R. Phillips, T. G. Taylor, J. M. Underwood.

Drawing Prize.—R. J. Bardsley.

English Prize.—H. Hassall, and a leaving exhibition of £25 per annum for three years.

French Prize.—F. Kempsey.

German Prize.—J. Greaves.

Science Prize.—H. Buckley.

Mathematics Prize.—W. S. Booth.

Classical Prize.—W. H. Hall, and leaving exhibition of £50 per annum, tenable for three years.

Games and Athletics.—Football Shield 1906-7 won by Out-town (J. Buckley captain). Cricket Shield, presented by Mrs. Prodgers, Out-town (W. S. Booth, captain). Athletic Shield, presented by Dr. H. T. Gill, North House (H. Hassall, captain). Junior Championship Cup, presented by Mrs. Lees, won by C. Gill. Senior Championship Cup, presented by Mrs. Emmott, won by J. Buckley.

Successes of Old Boys.—L. St. G. Wilkinson, B.Sc. Victoria University (3rd honours in engineering), silver medal. B. Laycock, B.Sc. Victoria University (1st Division, ordinary). W. Hibbert, B.A., Victoria University. J. E. Whitehead, B.A., Victoria University, teacher's diploma. H. Whitehead, Final M.B., Victoria. C. W. Fort, 2nd part of 1st M.B. A. C. W. Hutchinson, 1st examination for P.D.S. and prize for practical dental surgery. John Robinson, Deputy Town Clerk of Rochdale.

After the distribution of prizes a pleasant entertainment was given, the choir, who had previously sung "Ye Spotted Snakes" (*Stevens*), giving the glees "Three Voices" (*Brahms*), "Gentle Zephyr" (*Bennett*), and "Drake's Drum" (*C. Taylor*) with excellent effect. The other part of the night's entertainment was dramatic, and, as on previous occasions, the boys acted very creditably. First they gave scenes from "Le Voyage de M. Perrichon," and next from "The Merchant of Venice."

"VOYAGE DE M. PERRICHON."

Perrichon, W. H. Hall; Marjorin, J. Parker; Jean (a servant), W. S. Booth; Madame Perrichon, C. Phillips; Henriette, W. Claughton; Railway Porter, R. Bardsley; and Ticket Clerk, T. P. Robertson.

M. Perrichon has just retired from business, having made a fortune by coach building. Accompanied by his wife and daughter, he prepares to take flight, "Swift as the arrow of William Tell," for Switzerland. The trunks are packed, and the travelling party repair to the railway station of the

Paris-Lyons and Mediterranean Railway at Paris. Here is laid the scene of the first act. Perrichon is discovered with his carpet bag in one hand, his alpenstock and umbrellas in the other, and a knapsack slung over his shoulders. He arrives running, gesticulating, struggling, asking questions, rushing from the booking office to the luggage department panting, puffing, and flurried.

In the next act we find Jean getting everything in order for the return of the Perrichon family from Switzerland. Perrichon arrives, and at once informs Jean that whilst climbing a Swiss mountain he had the good fortune to save a man's life. Jean rather rudely expresses his doubt. Marjorin (friend of Perrichon) pays a visit, and Perrichon informs him that he bought a beautiful present for him, but that the customs house officers had unfortunately taken possession of it.

In the last act we see Perrichon making preparations to fight a duel with a certain commandant whom he has insulted. Madame Perrichon and Henriette do not seem to be at all upset at the idea of his fighting a duel, for the simple reason that both of them have warned the police. Perrichon, too, has written an anonymous letter to the Prefect of Police

All the parts were well acted, and nobody seemed to be troubled with nervousness. The only fault to be found was that one or two of the actors did not speak loudly enough, and so prevented some of the audience from understanding what they were saying. Hall played the part of Perrichon exceedingly well, and did not seem afraid to speak out. Phillips, as Madame Perrichon, though not very ladylike in some of his movements, was also very good. Parker spoke very clearly, and acted a rather uninteresting rôle quite well. Bardsley amused the audience with his luggage barrow and his rough manner of pushing people about. The other parts were well acted, but the words were often rather indistinct.

“THE MERCHANT OF VENICE.”

The “Trial Scene” was the portion selected for representation, and the characters were sustained as follows :—

Duke of Venice, J. Stopford; Bassanio, R. Bardsley; Antonio (the merchant), J. Greaves; Shylock, J. Buckley; Salerio and Gratiano (friends of Antonio), A. Swales and E. Myatt; Portia (wife to Bassanio), T. G. Taylor; Nerissa (wife to Gratiano), E. E. Mellor; and Clerk of the Court, J. T. Gartside.

The performance was a very creditable one, all the players entering well into the spirit of their parts. The usual faults of amateurs—the too rapid utterance and indistinct pronounciation—were not altogether absent, but were much less marked. The action was in many cases too stiff and mechanical, but there were notable exceptions to this.

During the whole scene Stopford's actions and attitude were thoroughly ducal, and his tone was that of authority. His phrasing and emphasis in some of the longer speeches left something to be desired.

Buckley, as Shylock, entered thoroughly into his work. His actions were free and suitable to his rendering of the part, but he should have remembered that Shylock was an old man, and a Jew, and would probably have been less vigorous of voice and more cringing in manner. Still, so well did he sustain his rôle that one young critic said he thought that "Buckley really wanted to kill Greaves (Antonio)," whilst a lady admitted that he had made her feel quite sorry that he should have been cheated out of his pound of flesh at the last.

Bassanio (R. J. Bardsley) brought out splendidly his love for his friend and his scorn and loathing of the Jew. Greaves well sustained the part of Antonio, and his voice throbbed with emotion. (One critic unkindly attributed the throbbing to nerves). Salerio spoke distinctly, but was far too mechanical in his movements. The shrill voice of Myatt well suited the witty and mocking Gratiano, and at least one of the audience was afraid that he would kill Salerio, who was stolidly preventing him from "getting at" Shylock.

As Portia, T. G. Taylor acquitted himself very satisfactorily. He would, however, have done still better had he allowed himself to show a little more animation. He spoke

clearly and distinctly, and with good emphasis, but his motions were too deliberate and stately to suit every phase of the part. His "Mercy Speech" was very well given, but the cadence of his voice was a trifle monotonous. Nerissa (E. E. Mellor) had very little to do, but did that little very well. How nicely J. T. Gartside read Bellario's letter could only be told by the front rows of the audience, but all might have seen how he accomplished the feat of writing out the deed *without dipping his quill into the ink.*

Cricket Notes.

THE Cricket season of 1907 was spoilt by the continued inclemency of the weather, but although several matches were postponed or abandoned, the team has had a fairly successful season.

Of seven matches finished 4 were won and 3 lost. The strength of the team lay in the bowling of J. Buckley and Bardsley. The chief feature of the batting was the consistency of Robertson.

The average bat was awarded to Robertson, and the ball to J. Buckley.

The following is the record of the two last matches of the season:—

SCHOOL v, "MASTER'S TEAM," at School,
July 24th, 1907.

MASTERS.—Mr. Earnshaw b Bardsley 0, Mr. Ingham b Bardsley 4, Mr. Kempsey c Bardsley b Buckley 1, Mr. Bamford b Bardsley 1, Mr. Webber lbw b Bardsley 0, Dr. Gill c Robertson b Jackson 26, Mr. Ellison c Underwood b Buckley 5, Dr. Lowe b Taylor 0, Dr. Potter b Taylor 0, Dr. McGowan c and b Bardsley 4, Dr. Lendrum not out 1, Extras 4. Total 64.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wickets.
Bardsley	9.2	3	13	4
Buckley J. ...	7	0	23	3
Taylor T. G....	8	3	13	2
Jackson	1	0	1	1

SCHOOL.—Bardsley c Mr. Ellison b Dr. Gill 1, Robertson b Mr. Webber 40, Buckley J. b Mr Ellison 19, Taylor T. G. lbw b Mr. Ellison 0, Booth c Mr. Ingham b Dr. Gill 11, Kempsey F. b Dr. Lowe 6, Kempsey H. not out 0, Hassall not out 17 (Hall W. H., Moore, and Underwood did not bat), Extras 6. Total (for six wickets) 100.

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SCHOOL v. OLD HULMEIANS, at School,

July 27th 1907.

OLD HULMEIANS.—Hirst Ht. b Mr. Helm 1, Birch P. b Mr. Helm 46, Brierley J. A. b Mr. Helm 40, Lowe J. c Hassall b Mr. Helm 15, Garfitt C. E. c and b Mr. Helm 25, Ward J. E. c Bardsley b Mr. Helm 1, Stockdale P. b Mr. Helm 6, Robinson T. not out 13, Whitham J. lbw b Buckley 1, Fitton H. E. b Buckley 0, Schofield F. b Buckley 0, Extras 8. Total 156.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Overs.		Maidens.		Runs.		Wickets.
Mr. Helm	21	...	3	...	85	...	7
Bardsley	13	...	3	...	46	...	0
Taylor T. G. ...	6	...	2	...	12	...	0
Buckley	3.2	...	1	...	5	...	3

SCHOOL.—Mr. Helm c Hirst b Brierley 3, Robertson c Birch b Brierley 5, Buckley J. b Brierley 14, Bardsley c Tetlow b Brierley 1, Taylor T. G. b Hirst 10, Booth b Hirst 0, Kempsey F. c and b Hirst 3, Kempsey H. c Lowe b Birch 9, Hassall b Whitham 5, Hall W. H. lbw b Hirst 2, Moore not out 0, Extras 9. Total 61. F. K.

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Football.

October 4th. v. HUTCHINSON'S XI.—Home. In this match, the first of the season, we were assisted by Mr. Ellison, but lacked the services of H. Kempsey and J. Buckley. Slater and Young filled the vacancies, the former making a good substitute. A strong breeze prevailed, and up to half-time rain poured down, rendering accurate play impossible. Our combination being poor, the opponents, a heavier team, had the better of the game. The first half, however, was evenly

contested, both sides scoring twice. In the second half the visitors scored three goals to our one. Scorers: T. G. Taylor 2, Roberts 1.

October 9th. v. BURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—Away. This match was played on an ideal afternoon. The School Team was without the assistance of H. Kempsey, Slater again taking his place. School won the toss, and decided to take advantage of a slight wind. During the first half we were always attacking, but owing to the bad shooting of the forwards were unable to score. Throughout the second half the game was very keen, the play being mostly in mid-field. After a good run Buckley was tripped in the penalty area, Bardsley scoring from the penalty. Shortly afterwards, however, Bury made the score even. The combination of the van was better than in the previous match, but there is plenty of room for improvement. Parker, a recruit, played well at left half, and gives hope of a useful future. Scorer: Bardsley.

October 15th. v. STAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—Away. In this match Hall took the place of Jackson at full back. Many years have elapsed since our 1st XI. met Stand at football. We won the toss, and took advantage of the slope. It was a surprise to us when half-time was called with the score only 1—1. We were unable to judge when to kick the ball, owing to the peculiar gradient of the ground. In the second half we adapted ourselves much better to the conditions, and had more control over the ball. Our efforts were rewarded by Buckley scoring a good goal. Two more goals were then added by Bardsley and Robertson, and the match resulted in the School winning by 4 goals to 1 goal. Scorers: Bardsley 2, Buckley 1, Robertson 1.

October 18th. v. MASTERS—Home. Our XI. turned out at full strength against the Masters, and we were hoping to win easily, since we had done so well against them last season. The teams were evenly matched, the weight of our opponents making up for their lack of combination. Our defence had decidedly an off day, and the forwards were unable to make headway against our opponents' backs. Early

in the game Dr. Parker scored for the Masters. After this we commenced to attack, and were awarded a penalty, from which Bardsley scored, leaving the score at half-time 1—1. In the second half the Masters surprised our backs by a sudden rush down the field, which resulted in Mr. Ellison scoring. We now worked hard to beat the Masters, and were lucky to have another penalty awarded us, from which Bardsley again scored. Towards the end of the game we pressed the Masters hard, but were unable to score the winning goal, the match ending in a draw 2—2. Scorer: Bardsley 2.

Oct. 22nd. v. MANCHESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL 2ND.—Away. As usual, we had a keen struggle with the Mancunians. We greatly missed the services of Bardsley at centre, Roberts taking his place. The game was very fast throughout, the backs of both sides playing an excellent game. Slater, in goal, saved many difficult shots, and in the first half saved splendidly from a penalty. The second forty-five was just as fast as the first, and J. Buckley made several individual efforts to break through our opponents' defence, but unfortunately always finished by shooting wide. Among the backs, Booth played notably well. The match resulted in a draw, neither side having scored.

November 9th. v. WARRINGTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—Home. The forwards combined far better in this match than they had done previously. Davenport, on the right wing, sent in some grand centres, both Buckley and Taylor being at their best. In the first minute Buckley scored. Urged on by this repulse, Warrington began to press, and scored twice in rapid succession. The good combination of our forwards, who were well fed by the halves, proved too much for the Warrington backs, and we drew ahead before the interval. In the second half we did most of the pressing, but did not again score. Towards the end of the game our backs grew slack, and allowed Warrington to obtain a soft goal. The match ended in a draw 3—3, making the fourth draw this term. Scorers: J. Buckley 2, Bardsley 1. T. P. R.

Natural History Society Notes.

THE summer season of 1907 may be said to have been one of the most successful the Society has had. In spite of the state of the weather throughout the whole term, two rambles were held, which were very well attended.

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The first was to Holden Clough, beyond Parkbridge. Although the date was the 4th of May, everything was very backward, as the east winds had lasted very long into the spring. The trees were only just breaking into leaf, and there were few flowers. The objection to rambles so close to the town is that all the nests have been robbed, and frequently smashed eggs are found on the ground. Besides the commoner birds, a tree creeper, willow wren, and blue tit were seen. Frequently we heard the harsh spring call of the greenfinch. Several magpies' nests were noted. The flowers in bloom were the butterbur, crowsfoot, and marsh marigold. Large quantities of wood sorrel were seen. Although we had very poor tackle, in our pond investigations we procured water fleas (*Gammarus pulex aquaticus*), water measurers (*Hydrometra stagnorum*), and a common or smooth newt (*Triton punctatus*).

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The second ramble was to the district round Woodley. A large number of members, accompanied by Mr. Pym, Dr. Potter, and Mr. Parton, enjoyed a splendid walk. The ramble was not successful in finding specimens, but a large number of members had cameras, with which some good photographs were taken. Dr. Potter offered a prize for the best set, which was won by T. G. Taylor.

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The Society has obtained a permanent Record Book in which members may note anything of interest that has been seen in the district, also an Album has been procured for photographs by members.

F. K.

The Roman Camp at Castleshaw.

ON the 23rd of September, by the kind invitation of Samuel Andrew, Esq., the Natural History Society enjoyed an outing to Castleshaw for the purpose of seeing the recent excavations opening up the ancient Roman Encampment. Two brakes were chartered to convey us, Mr. Pym going with the first brake and Dr. Potter with the second, whilst a third contingent accompanied Mr. Edwards on cycles. The Headmaster hoped to come on later by train, but having been detained he missed the train and set out on foot, and reached the camp only some threequarters of an hour behind the first arrivals. The weather was warm and dull, not to say damp, so the drive was not as fully enjoyed as it might have been. Mr. Andrew met us on our arrival and kindly proceeded to explain to us all the discoveries which had been made up to that time.

The little eminence on which the fort stands is known as Castle Hill, and work in excavating was begun on August 12th. Intersecting trenches were driven across the hill and the camp was soon discovered. At first sight the plan suggests two distinct forts, one inside the other. This is supposed to be due to an increased garrison. The inner fort is enclosed by a rampart of piled sods about 25ft. wide. The outer fort on the N.W. side is protected by a wall of clay about 30ft. wide with a fosse outside about 11ft. wide. On the other sides, however, piled sods were used. At three corners of the inner fort strong foundations have been discovered, probably for engines of war. There are traces of stone paving at all the corners of the outer fort. No dressed stones or a stone rampart have been found. Up to the present nearly twenty postholes have been discovered, in some of which the remains of the oak posts were still standing.

We also inspected a few finds which were housed at Springhouse Farm. The ordinary types of Roman Pottery

were found, but the glaze had somehow come off. With these were found fragments of glass, lead, nails, and other objects of iron, and several blue beads. The best find was a Samian bowl, which was made of thin ware and shows excellent workmanship. It has a diameter of $8\frac{2}{3}$ ins. and 4 ins. deep. This style was supposed to have been made in 80 A.D. A coin of Vespasian was found in 1896, and two large brasses of Trojan. That this camp has been discovered before is certain, because some Georgian coins have been found dating to 1752. A few days after our visit a firehole and a hypo-caust have been found. The hypo-caust shews us the manner in which the Romans heated their rooms, the flue of the fire entering into an open space under the floor, which was supported on pillars. After Mr. Andrew had finished giving us a description of the fort the School thanked him in the usual manner by giving three hearty cheers.

H. N.

The Bible Society Meeting.

WE had our annual visit from Mr. Wolfendale, the representative of the British and Foreign Bible Society, early in November last. He gave us a most interesting address on the working of the society during the past year. He said that in the last two years the society had printed Gospels in 22 new languages, and that although the past year had been very successful, yet it was not so good as the one before, which had been a record year. Just to illustrate the expense and difficulties which the Bible Society have to endure, he said that last year a missionary in Lagos, W. Africa, had translated two of the Gospels in the native language. This missionary petitioned the Bible Society to have them printed, and as the Bible Society try to refuse no reasonable request they set about the work. There are 40 letters in the alphabet of that tribe, and these had to be sent to a designer, who had to cut out type corresponding to the letters. The difficulty in the case of this tribe was not so great as is sometimes the

case, for they had a written language, and so many could read. They write with a stylus on a palm leaf and all the words are run together without punctuation of any kind. Now the cost of printing 500 copies of the Gospel according to St. John in this language was £80, and this, together with carriage and cost of distribution, brings the price of each copy up to about 3/-. The Bible Society, however, try to bring these books within the reach of the poorest, and as 3/- represents a fortnight's wage to these people they are sold for 1d. or 2d., and it is to make up this deficit that the people at home are asked to help. In the past year the Bible Society printed five and a half million books in 409 languages, and of course this means a great expense. A man from a tribe in Central Africa who were having a Gospel printed in their own tongue was so eager to get a copy that he called every day for a month on the representative of the Society in Cap-town asking if the books had yet arrived. When at last they had arrived he took hold of one, and after reading a few pages said: "Yes, yes, this is the Koran in my people's language," and he rushed outside and brought twelve friends in to buy copies. Mr. Wolfendale went on to speak about the work in China. His brother, a medical missionary, is out there. China seems a country specially adapted for the work of the Society owing to its huge population and the fact that learning has been revered there as far back as is known. In fact the Chinese have a saying that the four most useful things are: pen, ink, paper, and inkstone, on which the ink is powdered. Their reverence for anything printed is such that if they see a piece of paper lying about in the street they will pick it up and carefully destroy it. Consequently China is above all things prepared for the distribution of Bibles. In China there are yearly examinations which correspond with our B.A. examinations, and three yearly ones which correspond with our M.A. examinations. The examination room is like a huge barn, and down this barn are streets of small cells. Each candidate is put into one of these rooms with a paint brush, ink, and inkstone. A paper of questions is given to him, and

he is shut in for a day at a time. Mr. Wolfendale now showed us one of these question papers, which had a truly terrifying look, for it was quite two feet by nine inches, and was also made of thinnest paper. The paper on which they answer these questions—which are generally quotations from their sacred writings, which they have to continue - is squared, and each letter is printed on a separate square. These examinations are very popular, for Government officials are chosen from the successful candidates. As many as twelve thousand men compete at once, and of these only seventy or eighty can get through. It is considered a great honour to pass, and if a man passes very well a plate is put on his house to inform people that the man who lived in that house was first, second, or third, as the case may be, in the yearly examination. It was at the end of one of these examinations that Mr. Wolfendale took the opportunity of distributing Bibles. Some would not take hold of them. One man smelled at his. He said: "Foreign ink!" and then passed on. Many thousands, however, accepted them. The result of this is not seen at once, but a few years afterwards a man will come to the mission house and say he wishes to become a Christian. The missionary, seeing by his clothes that he has come from some province to which no Christian has ever been, asks him how he has heard of Christianity. He then explains that a few years ago he was at an examination, and there was given a Bible. He studied it and has now a desire to know more about it. In this way, by the distribution of Bibles, thousands are being led out of darkness. At a meeting of blacks brought from the South Sea Islands to work on the sugar plantations of Australia, a friend of the Society who happened to be there was told by one of the Negroes to "Thank the great Bible Company for the Gospels and Testaments they have sent." Mr. Wolfendale, at the close of his speech, left some collecting books and cards. These were distributed over the School, and we feel confident that good results will accrue, and the record subscription of seven guineas given by the School to the Society will this year be broken.

W. S. B.

Debating Society Notes.

THE Debating Society has so far this year had large and enthusiastic meetings. It is to be hoped members have derived, and will derive, great benefit from attending these meetings. A debating society trains one to speak fluently, giving one an opportunity of developing the art of speaking logically, concisely, impressively, and convincingly. It trains one to keep one's temper, to keep cool, and quickens one in finding out inaccuracies in other members' speeches.

When first I entered the Society I trembled as I spoke when addressing a meeting, although I had good matter to speak from, but now I can stand up and speak quickly and volubly about nothing. Now, mind, I am not saying this is a good thing for the debate, but still it shows that the nervousness has gone.

We soon find our level in debating, and instead of shining like a star one may be taught that he is only a meteor after all.

Now for a few don'ts for debaters (old as well as new) :—

DON'T call members by their names. Say "The hon. opposer," "The opposer's friends," or something similar. It will save a lot of trouble. Besides it is hard on a man to be blamed for his or his friend's slight mistakes.

DON'T call other members names, *e.g.*, liar, rotter, idiot. It is not good form. Besides they may be bigger than you, and object. It is, also, no argument.

DON'T get up unless you have something to say.

DON'T talk to your neighbour (the fellow in the next desk) when a member is giving a speech. If it is necessary to speak, do so between speeches.

DON'T be funny, sarcastic, or ironical. Most likely the other members will not understand you.

THE DEBATES.

LIFE IS NOT WORTH LIVING.—Nov. 18th. Greaves opened the debate with the quotation, "Life is as dull as a twice told tale, vexing the dull ear of a drowsy man," which is from Shakespeare. He said Shakespeare had as wide a knowledge as anyone, and life's disappointments did not compensate its pleasures. Slater opposed, saying inventors, men of science, &c., get much pleasure out of life, and that life is as we make it. God would not have given us life if it was not worth living. The debate was continued by Hall, Parker, Young, Phillips, Taylor, and Myatt. The motion was lost by 13 votes to 7.

CONSCRIPTION OUGHT TO BE ADOPTED.—Nov. 25th. Greaves, in opening, said England had a very small percentage of soldiers as compared with other powers. Conscription would prevent invasion, and also improve the health, body, and mind of the whole nation. Booth, in opposing, stated that we did not require a large army, but required a good navy, and enough men entered the navy, without conscription, to supply our needs. Besides conscription would be detrimental to trade and commerce. A debate followed, in which Stopford, Taylor, Phillips, Hall, Parker, Slater, Young, Ebrey, Claughton, Buckley, and Williams took part. The motion was lost by 13 votes to 23.

THE PULPIT HAS GREATER INFLUENCE THAN THE PRESS.—Dec. 2nd. Stopford opened by saying the newspaper is only a chronicle of the day's or week's doings, and all contained in it is forgotten in a year or two. The pulpit appeals to man's higher feelings, and a sermon has been known to alter for the better the whole course of a man's life. Young, in opposing, stated papers, *e.g.*, Hearst in America, influenced the people so much that the whole public opinion was sometimes altered by them. Claughton, Greaves, Taylor, Bardsley, Parker, Sladen, Wrigley, Varley, Wilde, Warhurst, and Swales also took part in the debate which followed. The motion was lost by 17 votes to 19. J. G.

Old Boys' Notes.

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT, 1907.

YOUR Committee has pleasure in stating that the membership is still satisfactory, but hopes that each member will, in the future, do his utmost to induce old boys to join the Association.

The sixth Annual Dinner was held at the School on the 11th December last, and, as usual, was a great success. The toasts were "The School," proposed by Mr. F. Collins, responded to by Mr. Pickford, and "The Association," proposed by Mr. Pym, responded to by Mr. J. Robinson.

A billiard match took place between a team of Old Boys against the members of the Oldham Deaf and Dumb Institute, the result being a win for the Old Boys by about 20 points, after some very good and exciting games.

Unfortunately the Annual Picnic which had been arranged for the 15th of June, to Disley and Macclesfield, was abandoned, owing to a continuous downpour of rain, but, notwithstanding, it was very gratifying to find six members at the station prepared to brave the elements.

As compensation for this disappointment the Cricket Secretary arranged a match for the Old Boys against the village team of Ashford-in-the-Waters, which was played on the 10th of August. After a tedious railway journey the team arrived at 3-30, and were met on the ground by Mr. Pym. The game was a very interesting one, the home team being the victors by 20 runs, just five minutes from time.

The Old Boys and Mr. Pym stayed the week end, and spent a very enjoyable time in this picturesque district of Derbyshire.

It has been decided, if possible, to arrange two similar cricket matches for next summer, when it is hoped that others than the playing members will avail themselves of the outings.

The usual cricket and football matches against the School have been played during the year.

It is with great regret that the death of Mr. Fred Kershaw has to be recorded. He was a very popular member of the Association, and had been a member of the Committee since its formation, and a regular attender at its meetings. He was one of the enthusiastic members, whose loss the Association will feel.

Your Committee has under discussion the desirability of inviting the Governors of the School and the Mayor of Oldham to its Annual Dinners, but it was decided that the matter be brought before you for your consideration at this meeting.

Your thanks are again due to the President (Mr. Pickford) for his advice and guidance in all matters relating to the well-being of the Association: also to Mr. Pym for the continued interest which he takes on all occasions."

* * *

It was with great regret that members of the Old Boys' Association heard of the death of Mr. R. Ellison, who was a Vice-President of the Association, being elected last year as a mark of esteem in which he was held by the Old Boys and for the general interest he always displayed on behalf of the Association.

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A Football Match!

THE 1st XI. of the School went to Bolton on Saturday, November 30th, to play the Bolton Grammar School, but, like the famous fleet that went to Spain, "When they got there they came back again." We were all, with the exception of Greaves, at Werneth Station at 12-30, the weather being fine and the sun shining, and it was not until Greaves arrived and gave us each a ticket bearing the inscription, "Pleasure Party," that our troubles began. We had

exactly an hour in which to examine Werneth Station. At 1-15 a train came slowly into the station. Nobody seemed to know where it was going, and it was not until we were all seated that a sleepy porter shouted out, "Middleton Junction only; change here for Manchester." So we changed, and waited until 1-30. This train was an express—as far as Hollinwood—after that it stopped 25 times before reaching Manchester at 2-30. We all ran as fast as we could in the hope of being able to catch the 2-20 for Bolton. We heard cheers on the next platform, which was filled with passengers who, we were informed, were (more or less patiently) waiting for the 12-10 train. We need not have hurried, as we had a quarter of an hour to wait before the 1-35 came in. From Manchester to Bolton we passed through thick fog, but in spite of this we reached Bolton at 3-50—only just over an hour from Manchester! It was nearly dark, and so we telephoned to the School to say we hardly thought it worth our while to go any further. Most of the team groped their way to a neighbouring bun shop, and returned in time to catch the 2-9 to Manchester! The 2-9 train left at 4-20, and reached Manchester at 5-20. We thought our troubles were nearly over, but found out that they were only just beginning. It was some consolation to know that the 4-50 train had not yet started, but our satisfaction soon changed to annoyance when somebody informed us that they were looking for an engine. It evidently took some time to find that engine, as the train did not make a move until twenty past six. We were one hour and forty minutes in getting from Manchester to Miles Platting, which works out at about one mile an hour—there was no cause for anxiety as to whether we should run off the rails or not. Punctually at 8-10 p.m. the train landed us once more at Werneth Station. The match is to be played next term.

H. S. E.

Vice Versa.

NOW Tommy was both short and fat,
 And Tommy was a twin ;
 His brother's name was Johnny, who
 Was very tall and thin.

Yet Tommy's plump and ample limbs
 Grew larger day by day ;
 While Johnny's thin and fragile form
 Seemed wasting quite away.

Till by their anxious Pa and Ma
 A ray of hope was seen—
 Two preparations advertised
 In Mudde's Magazine.

The first as Anti-Fat was known,
 The makers claiming that
 One bottle would remove for good
 Unnecessary fat.

The other, known as Anti-Lean,
 Was fully guaranteed
 To make thin people strong and fat
 With almost lightning speed.

The anxious father hurried to
 A chemist's shop quite close,
 And, reaching home, administered
 To each an ample dose.

But in his haste he made a slip
 Which no one had foreseen :
 He gave the thin one Anti-Fat
 And the stout one Anti-Lean.

And yet this dreadful error found
 For each an easy berth :
 They're now the LIVING SKELETON
 And the FATTEST MAN ON EARTH.

From "Young England."—W. N.

Boarding House Geometry.

DEFINITIONS AND AXIOMS.

- 1.—All boarding houses are the same boarding house.
- 2.—Boarders in the same boarding house and on the same flat are equal to one another.
- 3.—A single room is that which has no parts and no magnitude.
- 4.—The landlady of a boarding house is a parallelogram—that is an oblong, angular figure, which cannot be described, but which is equal to anything.
- 5.—A wrangle is the disinclination of two boarders to each other, that meet together, but are not on the same flat.
- 6.—All the other rooms being taken, a single room is said to be a double room.

POSTULATES AND PROPOSITIONS.

- 1.—A pie may be produced any number of times.
- 2.—The landlady may be reduced to her lowest terms by a series of propositions.
- 3.—A bee line may be made from any one boarding house to any other boarding house.
- 4.—The clothes of a boarding house bed, though produced ever so far both ways, will not meet.
- 5.—On the same bill, and on the same side of it, there shall be two charges for the same thing.
- 6.—If there be two boarders on the same flat, and the amount of side of the one be equal to the amount of side of the other, each to each, and the wrangle between one boarder and the landlady be equal to the wrangle between the landlady and the other boarder, then shall the weekly bills of the two boarders be equal also each to each. For if not, let one bill be the greater, then the other bill is less than it might have been, which is absurd.—*Extract from "The Alleyman."*

H. S. E.