THE

Oldham Almanack.

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The Oldham Hulmeian.

Vol. II. (New Series). JUNE, 1910. No. 16.

Athletic Sports.

OWING to the death of His Majesty King Edward VII. the Sports day was postponed from May 11th to June 10th.

The Swimming Sports took place at the Hathershaw Baths on Tuesday, May 3rd, but the entrants for the swimming events were not as numerous as usual. This was probably due to the fact that the Sports took place earlier this year than any other year, and thus boys had been unable to get any training for swimming events. It has been suggested that next year the Swimming Sports should count as a separate item, having no connection with the Field Sports.

The Competition for the Senior Championship was very keen, but of the many entrants Gill was generally expected to be the winner.

Like the Senior Championship, the entrants for the Junior Championship were numerous, and no two persons seemed to fancy the same competitor as the winner of the Junior Cup.

On Saturday, May 7th, the Mile and Half-Mile Handicaps were run. There were many entries for the Mile, and Horsfall, Hodgkinson, Gill, and Hilton were all strongly fancied for the race. Gill ran well all the way and made a very fine finish, Hodgkinson finishing 2nd, and Hilton third. In the Half-Mile Schofield A. finished first, followed by Ashton H. and Wild N., all three being rather close together.

The High Jumps were not so successful as was expected. The Senior Jump was only 4ft. 6ins., while the Junior Jump was a tie at 4ft.

The 100yds. Open Scratch was the fastest race of the day and was run well throughout.

Assheton House did not do so well in the Tug of War as was expected, and Platt House deservedly won first place in this event.

SWIMMING EVENTS.

Open Scratch (5 lengths). 1 Hilton; 2 Hall.
Senior Handicap (2 lengths). 1 Hall; 2 Clynes.
Junior Scratch (2 lengths). 1 Rowley; 2 Cooling.
Two Lengths Handicap (under 15). 1 Hilton; 2 Carter.
Diving Competition. Slater, J. W. Length of Dive 37ft.
Beginners' Race. 1 Schofield; 2 Ingham.
Squadron Race. 1 Platt House; 2 Assheton House.
Neat Dive. 1 Ashton, J.; 2 Slater, J. W.

FIELD EVENTS.

Half-Mile Handicap (under 14). 1 Schofield, A.; 2 Ashton, H.; 3 Wild, N.

One Mile Handicap (over 14). 1 Gill; 2 Hodgkinson; 3 Hilton.

High Jump (under 14). Schofield and Sankey tied for the first place; 3 Desden. Height of jump 4ft.

High Jump (open). 1 Swales; 2 Gill. Height of jump 4ft. 6ins.

220 yds. Handicap (under 14). 1 Sankey; 2 Wild, N.; 3 Smith, E. D.

220 yds. Handicap (open). 1 Clynes; 2 Hilton; 3 Gill.

Throwing Cricket Ball (under 14). 1 Wild, N.; 2 Noble, W.; 3 Desden.

Throwing Cricket Ball (over 14). 1 Singleton; 2 Hodgkinson.

100 yds. Handicap (under 12). 1 Bovill; 2 Mills; 3 Booth, F. R.

100 yds. Handicap (under 14). 1 Mills; 2 Wild, N.; 3 Sankey.

100 yds. Handicap (over 15). 1 Clynes; 2 Gill; 3 Hammersley.

100 yds. Handicap (under 15). 1 Hilton; 2 Carter; 3 Thomas.

100 yds. Scratch (under 14). 1 Sankey; 2 Desden 3 Schofield.

100 yds. Scratch (open). 1 Hammersley; 2 Gill; 3 Clynes.

Egg and Spoon Race (under 12). 1 Barlow; 2 Smith; 3 De Courcy.

Quarter Mile Handicap (Junior). 1 Wild, N.; 2 Bovill; 3 Sankey.

Quarter Mile Handicap (Senior). 1 Gill; 2 Horsfall; 3 Hammersley.

Long Jump (under 14). 1 Schofield; 2 Wild, N.; 3 Desden.

Long Jump (open). 1 Gill; 2 Hilton.

Steeplechase. 1 Horsfall; 2 Ashton, H.

Tug of War. 1 Platt House.

Old Boys' Tug of War. 1 Hutchinson's Team.

The Senior Championship was won by Gill C. with 38 points, Hilton F. A. being second with 20 points.

In the Junior Championship Schofield A., Sankey, and Wild N. obtained the same number of points, and a deciding race of 220 yards was run by these three competitors, resulting in Sankey first, Schofield second, and Wild third.

For the House Championship Platt House scored 352 points (average 7.3), Lees House 326 points (average 6.9), Assheton House 256 points (average 5.3). Platt House therefore hold for this season the Athletics Championship Shield, which was presented to the School by Dr. H. T. Gill.

S.S.H.

Athletics.—An Ideal.

ATHLETICS should have wider and deeper effects than the mere physical ones. By most people they are looked upon as a source of pleasure and recreation, and while I am far from condemning this view of them, I am trying to show in this article that it is only partial. If we understand them rightly they offer opportunities for religion to be learnt in action, although most people would not admit that there is room for religion in Athletics. If a man is able to lose his wicket without losing his temper, then we have an instance in which Athletics bring before us a gain other than physical. Take for instance a man who is naturally hasty tempered, and we will say he plays cricket. Every time he loses his wicket without losing his temper it is a sign that there are other benefits attached to games than the mere physical. What really matters in games of every class is not whether we win or lose, so much as whether we do our very best. The true athlete is not merely contending against an opponent, but against his *own* past standard of skill, endurance, or good temper. This is genuine competition; on the surface it is against an opponent, but in reality against self. On this point a well-known athlete says, "Again and again I have been deceived into thinking that I was going to play against someone, and that the important thing was to beat him fairly. As a matter of fact many of my victories have been failures. I have beaten my opponent, but I have not done myself justice. There rises up to condemn me sometimes an opponent who beats me, but always the player that I might have been had I trained myself more sensibly and perseveringly. This is the only opponent whose superiority in games I need really mind." It is the same in morals and religion, each person has certain capacities and opportunities, his chief concern should be not whether he is better or worse than another man, but how much he falls short of his own standard of "best." This is what we want to realise—this individual

standard—the superior opponent within ourselves. Take by way of contrast the reply to a criticism of the English army by a highly-placed official. The defence of the army was, firstly, it was not inferior to other armies; secondly, it was not inferior to some other English institutions; and thirdly, it was not inferior to the English Army a hundred years ago. These things might be true, but still there would remain the fundamental error of comparing the actual English army with anything but the ideal English army. It is as true that the kingdom of competition is within, as to say the kingdom of heaven is within. The real tragedies of Athletics are not the failures of duffers, but the results of successes of experts. The vicious habit of resting on one's laurels, of looking to cups and other trophies of victory, in the end spells failure. The chief value of any achievement in Athletics or Religion is its power to help us to attain unto things higher and nobler than any to which we have hitherto attained. T. G. S.

Football.

Dec. 4th, 1909. v. MANCHESTER GRAMMER SCHOOL II.—At Home. The ground was very soft after heavy rain and snow. The team was at full strength with the exception of Midgley, whose place was taken by Scawthorn. The game was a very good one in spite of the bad state of the ground. Manchester led at half-time by two good goals. In the second half we had the wind in our favour. Our forwards played well, Hartley scoring a good goal after beating two men. Bradbury being fouled in the penalty area, Hodgkinson scored with a good shot. Slater had now to save one or two shots which were difficult. The forwards got going again, and Hodgkinson scored the winning goal. Result: School 3, Manchester Grammar School II. 2.

Dec. 15th. v. STAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—Away. The School had a very weak side out, Gill, Hilton, Mellor, and Singleton being absent. We had to take the field with ten

men, as one of the eleven missed the train. The first half was very even, and our defence was good. Our opponents scored first from a long shot, and School were unable to equalise. In the second half we had all the play. Hammersley obtained a good goal, and Hodgkinson also scored from a penalty. Result: School 7, Stand Grammar School 1.

Feb. 9th, 1910. v. BOLTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—We were far from being at full strength for this match, and we went with very little hope of victory. From the outset Bolton attacked, but the defence kept them out; play ruled even for a time, but after some scrambling play in front of goal, the Bolton centre forward opened the score with a fast ground shot. Our forwards got going now, and Hartley and Bradbury had hard lines in not scoring. The fog, which had been bad, now became very dense. Just before half-time Bolton again scored after a good passing movement. In the second half School did much more attacking, but failed to score. Just before time Bolton got a corner, and the centre forward scored. Only six of the School team were able to play, and the result reflects great credit on those who filled the vacant places, as we were not beaten disgracefully. Result: Bolton 4 goals, School 0.

Feb. 19th OLD BOYS.—For this match Hartley, Bradbury, Hodgkinson, and Midgley were all out of the team through illness, and we had little hope of winning. The conditions were very much against good football, a terrific gale blowing from goal to goal. School had the fortune to win the toss, and, assisted by such a wind, did most of the pressing, but accurate shooting was impossible. After a time, one of the Old Boys' backs handled in the area, and Hilton, who had been brought from full back to centre forward, opened the score with a good shot. Shortly afterwards the same player got another after some good play by the forwards. The Old Boys now attacked with vigour,

and opened their account with a splendid goal. School were not to be denied, however, and before half-time further increased the score, Hilton completing the "hat trick." In the second half Hilton was brought to his own position at full back, and continued to play a good game. This half was a period of constant defence for School, and before time the Old Boys had drawn level. The last ten minutes of the game were most exciting, but the conditions practically saved the School, as good shooting was impossible in such a gale. Hilton was undoubtedly the player of the day, and of the rest Haigh and Clynes were the pick. Result: Old Boys 3, School 3. Scorer: Hilton 3.

Feb. 26th. v. MANCHESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL 2nd XI. At Manchester. We had a full side out with the exception of Singleton, whose place was ably filled by Horsfall. School won the toss, and pressing from the opening, scored at the end of five minutes through Hodgkinson. The halves played a great game and held the Manchester forwards in check. Shortly before half-time Hartley was fouled in the penalty area, Hodgkinson failing with the kick. The second half was fairly interesting, our forwards beating the opposing defence by long swinging passes. Hartley brought off a good shot, and after he had put in another good one, which the goal-keeper cleared, Midgley returned the ball into the net. We came out with a clean sheet for the first time this season. Result: School 3, Manchester 0.

March 5th v. BURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—At Home. The conditions for this match were ideal, but School had again to turn out with a weak team. Bury brought a much improved side, and we had little hope of victory. It was very hot at the commencement, and School could not settle down, Bury being two up in the first quarter of an hour. After this School played up, but the heavy Bury backs proved the masters. Before half-time Bury again scored, and School changed over three goals behind. The second half was much more even, but early on Hilton was

disabled, and though playing pluckily, was practically a passenger for the rest of the game. The School forwards at this period were playing up well, and from a splendid centre by Hartley, Cave scored one of the best goals we have got this season. The rest of the game was very fast, but Bury managed to put another to their total from a corner. For the last match this was a disappointing result, as our forwards had some very hard luck. Result: Bury 4, School 1. Scorer: Cave.

March 9th. THE MASTERS v. THE DOCTORS.—This match was played on the School ground in rather bad weather. The Masters were assisted by several members of the School eleven. The Doctors opened strongly with the wind in their favour, and almost scored on several occasions. Hodgkinson opened the score for the home team with a good long shot. The Doctors now attacked strongly, and Dr. Parker equalised with a good shot. The game now became very keen, the tussles between Dr. Lowe and Mr. Cockell being especially prominent, the latter having hard lines, in not scoring on several occasions. Just before half-time Hilton scored from a scramble after the goal-keeper had twice saved splendidly. The second half was evenly contested, each side scoring a goal. Bradbury scoring for the home team, and Dr. Robertson for the Doctors. In the latter stages of the game the Doctors tried hard to equalise, but the home backs were sound, Gill especially playing a good game. Result: Masters 3, Doctors 2.

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HOUSE FOOTBALL.

As in previous years the House football was exceedingly keen, and considering the very bad weather which we had for House matches the football was generally good. Platt House, the winners of the shield, were certainly the best House, but the result was in doubt till the last match.

First XI Matches.

	First Round. Assheton	Platt	Lees		Second Round. Assheton	Platt	Lees		Total
Assheton ...	*	0	5	.....	*	0	5	.....	10
Platt	10	*	5	.....	10	*	10	.....	35
Lees	5	5	*	.....	5	0	*	.....	15

Second XI Matches.

Assheton ...	*	0	4	.....	*	4	4	.....	12
Platt	4	*	0	.....	0	*	4	.....	8
Lees	0	4	*	.....	0	0	*	.....	4

Final result: Platt 43, Assheton 22, Lees 19 points.

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REMARKS.

The results in the second part of the season have been fairly satisfactory, and might have been more so, but for the home matches against Stockport and Warrington being cancelled on account of frost. The result of the matches is as follows:—Played 13, won 6, lost 6, Drawn 1. The best results have been two wins against Manchester Grammar School 2nd XI, and a draw against Old Boys.

Slater, J. W. (captain) Goal. Has been excellent all through the season, and has proved himself to be a very capable captain.

Gill (Right Back). Has improved greatly since last season. Uses his weight to advantage, and is a very sure kick. Must practice more with his left

Hilton (Left Back). Has played splendidly this season, and has well filled what has previously been a weak spot. Must not get too far up the field.

Haigh (Left Half). Undoubtedly the best half in the School. Has been a constant source of trouble to opposing forwards.

Mellor (Centre Half). Has not been as good as last season, but has played some good games. Must use his head more.

Clynes (Right Half). Without doubt the surprise of the season. Must not kick into the centre so much.

Midgley (Left Outside). Has been at a constant disadvantage through lack of weight. Centres and shoots well.

Hodgkinson (Left Inside). A good shot and dribbles well. Must shoot more often and practice regularly.

Hartley (Centre). A very good centre. Opens out the play well, but must practice shooting.

Bradbury (Right Inside). A very fair forward, but in common with the other forwards must shoot more often and more accurately.

Singleton (Right Outside). Has not been able to play regularly through illness, but his place has been well filled by Horsfall.

Among others who have assisted the team Hammersley and Rome deserve special mention. J. W. S.

Debating Society Notes.

WE may fairly say that the 1909-10 session of the Debating Society has been successful. We deplore, however, the fact that very few new speakers have made their voices heard in debate. A Debating Society must continually have new speakers added to its ranks, or it will inevitably decay.

Though, in previous sessions, the average attendance at meetings was smaller, the percentage of speakers approximated sometimes to 100, while the greatest percentage attained last session was 32. It is extremely desirable that the members, especially new ones, should make an effort to alter this, and enable the society to achieve its object—that of educating its members to express, by means of suitable and elegant language, the thoughts and ideas which are in their minds.

Nov. 15th, 1909. THE HEADMASTER'S PAPER.—On this date was held the first meeting of the Society for the session. A large number of members had assembled to hear a paper which the Headmaster had kindly prepared on the subject of "Tramps." He gave an interesting description of many country walks which he had taken upon various occasions, interspersed with amusing anecdotes of events which occurred on the tramps. He also gave good descriptions of the cathedrals, and other places of interest on the journey. The paper was fully appreciated by the audience, and the Headmaster received a hearty vote of thanks at its conclusion.

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Nov. 22nd, 1909. RAILWAYS SHOULD BE STATE-CONTROLLED.—J. W. Slater, who proposed the motion, said that if the railways were nationalised we should get smaller fares and better pensions for the employees; that whereas at present railways were worked for profit and private interest, under state control they would be managed for the good of the public. He showed in many ways that the present system was mischievous. A. Buckley, in opposing, said that if we had state-controlled railways the result would be inefficiency and inertia. He quoted eminent men to show that on the Continent the system of state-control of railways was a failure. He also said that the good management of the Post Office could not be cited as showing that the State could manage the railways as well, for the two services were not analogous. A good debate followed, in which J. H. Noble, W. K. Slater, Ross, Wrigley, Hammersley, and Harrison took part. The motion was defeated by 16 votes to 9 votes.

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Nov. 30th, 1909. IMPROMPTU DEBATE.—The motion that "Doctors, while trying to strengthen, merely weaken," was proposed by Park and opposed by Harrison. Park said that some doctors entered the profession for the pleasure—of amputating limbs and the like—which they

could get out of it. Harrison objected to this, and showed that doctors were useful. The debate was continued by Hammersley, Swales, and A. Buckley. The motion was defeated by 17 votes to 9.

W. Noble proposed the motion that "Sunday Schools are beneficial to the Nation," saying that going to Sunday School kept many people out of mischief. A. Buckley, in opposing, said that the scholars were not taught to reverence the Bible as they ought. A good discussion followed, which was participated in by Bradbury, Hammersley, Davoll, Caldwell, J. W. Slater, Ross, Lees, and Harrison. The motion was carried by 23 votes to 3.

J. H. Noble proposed that "The actions of the Suffragettes in Strangeways Gaol are greatly to be deplored." He expressed his disapproval of their actions, showing that the Suffragettes were a lot more trouble than they were worth. Church opposed, saying that their actions were not so bad as sometimes painted. The motion, after being discussed by J. W. Slater, Swales, W. K. Slater, Hammersley, Park, and Ross, was carried by 22 votes to 4.

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Dec. 6th, 1909. A BARBARIAN IS HAPPIER THAN A CIVILISED MAN.—D. Park, who opened the debate, said that a Barbarian's wants were few and simple, and easily satisfied. He lived in pure air and not in murky atmosphere, and had none of the many and various diseases which are caused by filth and bad sanitation. J. Kershaw, in opposing, said that the Barbarian's pleasures were few as well as his wants. The civilised man had the pleasures of knowledge and art; civilisation increased capacity for enjoyment, and had uplifted many barbaric races, such as the Japanese and the Goths. W. K. Slater, A. Buckley, W. Noble, J. Clynes, G. T. Lees, and Harrison also took part in the debate. The votes being equal, 14—14, the Chairman gave his casting vote in favour of the motion.

Dec. 13th, 1909. SPORT OCCUPIES TOO GREAT A PORTION OF OUR LEISURE HOURS.—Slater, W. K., in proposing stated that we must restrict the definition of Sport to those exercises which involved the competition of brute strength against brute strength. He shewed first that some sport needed more energy than was good for the body, thus having a deleterious effect upon the constitution ; and then the time spent in sport could be spent to more advantage in other pursuits. Bradbury, in opposing, defined sport as any kind of out-door exercise which required exertion and invigoration of mind and body. He stated that a healthy body was an essential accompaniment of a healthy mind. Sport was unquestionably the best means of filling up our leisure hours. In the debate G. T. Lees, Harrison, Wrigley, Noble, and Hammersley offered their opinions. The motion was defeated by 23 votes to 9.

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Dec. 20th, 1909. IMPROMPTU DEBATE.—Slater, W. K., proposed the motion that "Fagging in Schools ought to be Prohibited." He said that the fagging system often caused the older boy and the fag to waste time. The older boy often bullied the younger one. G. T. Lees opposed, showing that fagging was beneficial to the fag, and in other ways useful. J. W. Slater, Hammersley, A. Buckley, and Church spoke, and on the motion being put to the meeting it was defeated by 8 votes to 6.

W. Noble proposed that "We should have more Holidays." Confident of success, he limited his address to an exposition of the use of some extra holidays. J. W. Slater thought we were selfish to want more holidays. We had already as many as were good for us. The discussion was continued by Radcliffe, A. Buckley, Hammersley, and W. K. Slater. The motion was then carried by 11 votes to 3.

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Jan. 24th, 1910. CAPITAL PUNISHMENT SHOULD BE ABOLISHED.—T. N. Church, in proposing, said that the fear of death would not prevent a murder that was done in the

heat of the moment, and as very few death punishments were meted out, the chances were that the murderer who premeditated his act would think it likely that he should escape. In Holland, Portugual, and parts of the U.S.A. capital punishment had been abolished with beneficial results. Swales, J., in opposing, said that life should be protected by imposing a severe penalty upon the murderer, and no punishment was so deterrent as death. There were some tolerably secure guarantees under the present system against the infliction of the death penalty upon the innocent. The debate was continued by J. W. Slater, A. Buckley, Hammersley, and W. K. Slater. The motion was carried by the Chairman's casting vote, the votes being 10—10.

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Feb. 3rd, 1910. THE STANDARD OF MODERN ENGLISH LITERATURE IS DECLINING.—E. E. Mellor, who proposed, defined modern literature as commencing with Pope's writings. Dealing first with the poets who wrote in the first half of the defined period, he spoke at length upon the beauties and excellencies of the poetry of Pope, Gray, Goldsmith, Wordsworth, and others. Then turning to prose writers, he eulogised the works of Addison, Swift, Lamb, and Thackeray. He claimed that these were better than the writings of 1850 to the present day. S. S. Hammersley, opposing, said that newspapers and periodicals represented a large portion of present day literature. He thought that to say one thing is excellent, as the proposer had done, did not show that it was better than another. He recommended his audience to read some recently written poetry and they would see that it was as good as Pope's or Wordsworth's. After a debate in which W. K. Slater, A. Buckley, G. T. Lees, and W. Noble took part, and on the motion being put to the meeting it was carried by 19 votes to 12.

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Feb. 7th, 1910. Mr. PYM'S PAPER.—The subject, which Mr. Pym treated in his usual interesting way, was 'Boswell's Life of Johnson." Mr. Pym first reviewed the

lives of Boswell and Dr. Johnson, giving a few criticisms. He then read extracts from several works about the book, finishing up by many lively stories of Dr. Johnson, whose Englishman's contempt for Scots and Scotland gave great amusement. At the close of the paper Mr. Pym was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

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Feb. 21st, 1910. MODERN DRESS SHOULD BE REFORMED.—W. W. Buckley, who opened the debate, made many exceedingly hostile and humorous criticisms of the present form of clothing. He remarked upon the uselessness and ugliness of several points in our dress, while eulogising the beauty and comfort of the dress of Eastern nations, supporting his statements by quotations from well-known authors. J. Clynes, in opposing, said that our present style of clothing had been slowly attained by development from the primitive dress of ancient times. It had the sanction and approval of convention and custom. Modern dress was useful for wear in smoky cities, and was not at all as costly as Eastern clothing. The discussion was maintained by J. W. Slater, A. Buckley, Ross, W. K. Slater, Hammersley, and Church. The motion was defeated by 22 votes to 16.

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Feb. 28th, 1910. ALL BACHELORS SHOULD BE TAXED.—The debate was opened by H. Hall, who, using for the purpose several quotations from the Bible, maintained that man ought to marry, and if he would not, then he ought to be taxed. He shewed how useful this taxation would be as a source of revenue. J. Wrigley, who opposed, said that the taxation of bachelors was unjust, as the bachelor already paid more than his share of taxes upon luxuries, of which he consumed more, as a rule, than a married man. Taxation probably would make many unfit persons rush into marriage to escape the extra burden. The motion was discussed by J. W. Slater, W. K. Slater, A. Buckley, Ross, and Caldwell, and defeated by 26 votes to 14.

A. B.

Natural History Society Notes.

THE society has made a most important advance during the last two terms. The long-cherished idea of periodical meetings for all sections of the society has stepped out from the dim shadow of hopeful improbability to the clear sunlight of accomplished fact. The Meteorological section holds weekly meetings which are productive of much helpful information about this most important branch of the society's work. Each fortnight the Photographical section conducts a meeting, at which instructive papers on photographical subjects are read, and difficult points raised and discussed to the mutual advantage of the members present. Following the lead set by the Meteorological and Photographical sections, the Microscopical and Field sections hold regular meetings at intervals of about three weeks. So far almost the whole of the work done at the meetings of these latter sections has been done by Mr. Pym, but the increased interest shown in the subjects justifies us in concluding that soon the work will be more equally divided, and the boys will contribute more to these meetings. The society has now a membership greater than ever before in the annals of the school, which together with a greatly extended field of work, and activities in a most flourishing condition, warrants us taking this opportunity of complimenting the society on the results obtained.

The Natural History Society Tea took place on December 7th. The proceedings commenced with an exhibition of interesting specimens brought by the members and exhibited in the school hall. Tea was then partaken of, after which enjoyable function a hearty vote of thanks was given to Mrs. Pickford for her kindness in preparing the tea; proposed by Hammersley, S. S., and seconded by Slater, J. W. After tea the members went to the hall, where games were played till seven o'clock. Dr. Potter then gave a lecture, illustrated by lantern slides, on "Places of Interest in Germany." At

the end of his very interesting lecture he was accorded a vote of thanks on the proposition of Park, D., seconded by Hammersley. Games were then played until 9 o'clock, at which hour the proceedings terminated. S.S.H.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC SECTION.

The Photographic society has been very active this year, and many meetings have been held. The first was on Tuesday, January 25th, 1910. It was decided at this meeting to have fortnightly meetings in future, to be held on Tuesdays. Dr. Potter announced that he would give a prize for the best print of the year, prints sent in for album being eligible. Dr. Potter then gave an interesting paper on "The Camera and its Component Parts." He explained focus in box and folding cameras, and how the lens effects this by its shape; double and triple extension; footscale; apertures and their effects on the plate. Questions were invited and answered.

The next meeting was held on Tuesday, February 8th. Queries sent in by members were answered. W. Thompson then read a paper, "Colour Photography" (with Lumière Autochrome Plates). He explained how and why the Lumière Plates photographed colours; in what light to load or unload plates; how to give the correct exposure, and what it is; the solutions for developing; reversing; positive developing; developer destroying; intensifying; cleaning; fixing; varnishing; and where to use the solutions. Questions were invited and answered.

The next meeting was held on Tuesday, February 22nd. Dr. Potter read a paper, "The Exposure and Development of Plates." He explained the advantages of using an exposure meter, as it prevented both under and over exposure; the advantages of using the developer given with the plates, and also using it slightly diluted, because if the plate had been over exposed development could be stayed any moment

by plunging into an acid fixing bath, which could not be done with ordinary strength solution, as the image would flash up too quickly.

The next meeting was held on March 8th. This was a criticism meeting, members' prints were brought in and criticised by the meeting. Dr. Potter also brought some good prints.

The next meeting was held on March 22nd. Dr. Potter told us how to reduce and intensify negatives and prints. Photographs taken during the ramble on the preceding Wednesday were brought in and criticised. J.S.

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METEOROLOGICAL SECTION.

This section has great pleasure in reporting a term of very satisfactory work. Since the last issue this society has been doing good and useful work. The instruments now read daily are the barometer; maximum and minimum, wet and dry bulb, ground thermometers; rain gauge; and wind vane. The ground thermometer has only just been added, but already several interesting readings have been taken, and the readers are waiting for the winter frosts to get still more interesting ones. The weekly meeting of readers, which formerly took place on Tuesday, has been transferred to Saturday, and made open to all members of the society. Considerable interest is now taken in the forecasts and readings which are posted daily on the society's notice board. We are pleased to welcome Clynes as a new reader, and wish to thank all to whom we are in any way indebted for the society's prosperity. W.K.S.

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MICROSCOPICAL SECTION.

An increased interest has been taken in this section during this last session. Mr. Pym gave an explanation of the construction of a modern microscope, and the method of mounting the specimens for observation under the microscope.

The lenses and the formation of the image were first explained, and this was followed by general instructions how to use the microscope so as to obtain the bests results. Altogether the additional interest shown in the Miscroscopical section has been very satisfactory, and we hope that it will continue.

H.B.

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FIELD SECTION.

No very great amount of work has been got through lately by this section owing to the bad weather. The only ramble held as yet, viz.:—to the Wessenden Valley (of which an account will be found elsewhere), was spoiled by the rain, the members who turned out being soaked long before they reached their destination. The favourable weather which we had during the holidays has been productive of many interesting records being inserted into the Natural History Society Record Book. This section, like the other sections of the society, has fallen into line, and now has periodical meetings. Appended is a brief account of a very interesting lecture given by Mr. Pym at one of these meetings.

FROG SPAWN AND TADPOLES.—Mr. Pym commenced by describing and exhibiting some frog spawn. It is a jelly-like mass of small balls, in the centre of each of which is a small black spot, a construction analogous to that of an egg. The spawn rapidly swells, and the shape of the little tadpoles could be easily seen by us through a magnifying glass. When hatched, the tadpole is a fish, with a large head and long tail, by which it wriggles more than swims through the water. It does not remain a fish very long though. A great change comes over it, its gills gradually give place to lungs, a pair of hind legs grow near the tail, and then a pair of fore legs, the tail gets worn out, and the 'tadpole' comes out of the water to breathe, being now a properly formed but miniature frog. It now leaves the water, and lives in the grass close to its birth place. Its food consists of insects, which it catches in a unique manner. Its tongue is fixed at

the front of its mouth, and lies pointing down the throat—just the opposite way to our tongue—and when an insect flies near 'froggie' he darts out his tongue to which the fly sticks and then draws it in. The action is so sharp that you cannot see it done unless you watch very closely, as 'froggie' does not move a fraction of an inch during the whole time. Since the lecture, we have watched the series of changes from the spawn, through the tadpole stages, to the tiny frog. J.K.

Natural History Society Ramble.

THE first ramble of the year, held under the auspices of the Natural History Society, took place on Wednesday, April 13th. The route chosen was by train to Marsden, thence through the Wessenden Valley to Isle of Skye, where tea was to be provided; after tea walking to Greenfield, and from there travelling by train to Oldham. Unfortunately, the weather conditions were by no means favourable, and the small crowd of boys, headed by Dr. Potter, heartily hoped, though scarcely expected, that by the time the train arrived at Marsden the rain would have ceased. However, on alighting there we found that the whole place was being gradually soaked by a steady drizzle, which though it had subjected the town to a much-need washing, was not sufficient to damp our somewhat exuberant spirits. After about a quarter-of-an-hour's exploration of the place we succeeded in arriving on the correct road, and set off on our tramp over the moors. Had the weather favoured our outing, the views from the road, which was bordered by the Huddersfield Water-Works, would have been truly delightful. As it was, the tiers of reservoirs nestling in the valley between gaunt, bare hills, capped with rolling mists, formed a picture which excited the admiration of us all. The road gradually trailed off into a mere track, and some dexterity was needed to keep on the path, so slippery had it become by the continued rain. The photographers amongst us were very disappointed in not

being able to obtain any records of our journey owing to the bad light prevailing, but those whose bent was in the direction of natural history fared better, and obtained or observed several specimens during a half-hour's walk off the beaten track. It was with a feeling of relief that the Isle of Skye Inn was at last sighted, and the view of a roaring fire, round which we were soon seated, did much to enliven our drooping energies. We enjoyed a hearty tea, and we all noticed that whatever other effect the rain might have had, it had not impaired our appetites in the slightest. Tea over, we prepared again to face the elements, and as we turned round the corner of the Inn we were met by a fierce wind, which blew straight in our faces, and we felt, rather than noticed, that the continuous drizzle had given place to a steady downpour. The sudden change from the warm room to the storm-swept moor chilled us to the bone, and with a sharp injunction to walk quickly, in order to get warm, our tramp to Greenfield had begun. The pouring rain, which surrounded us like a wall, prevented our seeing any scenery, if indeed there were any to see. We strode quickly along, with swinging arms and heads down, seeing nothing but the few square yards of road immediately at our feet, and half blinded at any attempt to look up, so fierce had the storm now become. We continued this way for miles, and it was with some surprise that we noticed how well the younger members of our party bore up under the ordeal. By the time we reached Greenfield the attempts at conversation, which had tended to enliven our journey from the Isle of Skye, had utterly ceased, and the buoyant stride which accompanied our setting out had given place to a stolid trudge. Just before we entered the station, with a heroism worthy of a nobler cause, we managed to raise a song, and the spectacle of about a score of boys splattering through the dirty pools and teeming rain whilst singing a song, seemed to afford the inhabitants some amusement. The train had not arrived at the station, and though we were extremely tired, we tramped up and down the platform, for had we stood still we should have been half-frozen, seeing

that we were drenched to the skin. It was only when we stepped into the train that it dawned upon us what a ludicrous appearance we all presented. Each looked at his neighbour and laughed, but when he caught sight of himself in the glass it was peculiar to notice how the smile wore off. The only description that at all fits the circumstances is to say that we looked like a collection of the proverbial drowned rats. Yet cold and wet as we were we all felt that though the outing had not been in any way excessively enjoyed, it had not been unpleasant, and as we wended our way to our several homes we felt some recompense for our endeavours in the additional sensations and experience gained. And so, "something attempted, something done," earned us our "night's repose." S.S.H.

Old Boys' Notes.

WE understand that at the School Sports, held this month, the Old Boys were requested to produce their membership cards of the association before gaining admission to the grounds. We consider this a very good idea, as there are now so many old boys, it cannot be expected that invitations to the Speech Day, Sports, &c., will be sent out to each one, and we wish it to be made known that although an Old Boy may not have received a formal invitation, he can always depend that the production of his membership card will be a passport for all such functions. We hope that this will meet the wishes of our members.

Will members of the Swimming section please note that arrangements have been made for them to join the Oldham Gentlemen's Swimming Club, which has the exclusive use of the large swimming bath at the Central Baths, Union Street, every Monday evening from 7-30 p.m. Subscription, 3/-

The following New Rules were passed at the Annual Meeting held 30th November last.

RULES.

1. That this Association shall be called the OLDHAM HULME GRAMMAR SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION.

2. The objects of this Association shall be:

(a) To provide means of keeping Old Boys of the School in touch with each other, and with the School and its teaching staff.

(b) To assist the formation of sections within the Association, consisting of groups of its members united in the pursuit of some common interest.

(c) To maintain an official organ, either in conjunction with the School Magazine, or otherwise, for the dissemination among the members of items of interest concerning the School, the Association itself, its sections, or any of the members.

(d) To undertake or support any movement in which the Association may properly concern itself, for the good of the School or of the town.

3. The Association shall consist of members and honorary members.

4. Members shall be Old Boys who have been at the School for one year, such Old Boys must have left from the Upper School, or at the time of admission to membership of the Association have attained the age of 16 years. This rule may be waived as regards Old Boys who left School prior to 1902.

5. Honorary members shall be elected by the Association in General Meeting from the governing body, past and present members of the teaching staff, and other persons who have rendered distinguished services to the School or to the Association. From the number of such honorary members the Association may, at the Annual General Meeting, elect Honorary Vice-Presidents for a year or other period.

6. The management of affairs shall be in the hands of a Council consisting of the President, the two Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, and the Treasurer of the Association, and fifteen ordinary members, who shall be elected in accordance with Rule 7.

7. *(a)* The President and the two Vice-Presidents shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

(b) The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting, from the members of the Association.

(c) The fifteen ordinary members of the Council shall be members of the Association, five shall be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting for a period of three years, but the retiring members shall be eligible for re-election. Of these five, at least one shall be an Old Boy who has left the School within the preceding three years. If any person ceases to be a member of the Council before the expiry of the three years for which he was elected his place shall be filled up by the Council for his unexpired term of office.

8. Seven members of the Council shall form a quorum.

9. The annual subscription for members shall be half-a-crown (or such other sum as the Association may in general meeting from time to time determine), and such subscription shall be due and payable in advance, and no person shall be registered as a member of the Association whose first subscription shall not have been paid. Any member may compound as a life member by a single payment of thirty shillings (or such other sum as the Association may in general meeting from time to time determine).

10. If any member shall be twelve months in arrears with his subscription his name may be removed by the Council from the list of members after one month's notice has been given to him by the Secretary.

11. The financial year shall terminate on the 31st of October in each year. The accounts shall be audited by an auditor elected by the Association in general meeting, and the balance sheet shall be submitted for approval at the Annual General Meeting.

12. The Annual General Meeting shall be held within two months of the end of the financial year.

13. The Council may at their discretion call a Special General Meeting, and they shall do so within one month of a requisition being sent to them signed by not less than twenty members of the Association, such requisition to state the object for which the meeting is to be called; and the business to be considered shall be notified to the members.

14. At least seven days' notice shall be given of any general meeting.

15. Fifteen members shall form a quorum at a general meeting.

16. Rule respecting Powers of Suspension, &c. of Members.

17. No alteration of the Rules for the time being in force shall take place until approved by a resolution carried at a general meeting of the Association, at least seven days' notice having been given to the members of the proposed alteration, and confirmed at another general meeting.

How our Newspapers are Printed.

DURING the Easter Vacation the writer took advantage of an invitation to be conducted through the printing office of one of our newspapers. The first object of interest was the linotype machine, by means of which the compositors set the type. It is a wonderful machine, consisting of 700 parts, and is worked by one man. The

letters are arranged at the top of little slots, and can be set free by pressing a key on a board like that of a typewriter. Thus each letter falls into its place until a line of type is completed. This is then printed on the edge of a leaden rectangle by means of molten lead, which is forced through small holes, then by pressing a lever the line of letters is carried back to the top of the slots. The rectangles are then revised to see that all the lines are correct, and arranged in columns to form one page of the paper. This is covered with a special sheet of paper, and beaten with the bristles of a stiff brush to transfer the type to it. While in this position it is passed under a hot roller, which bakes the paper quite hard like cardboard. This cardboard, which contains the print of a complete page of the paper, is placed between two concentric cylinders and molten lead poured in the cavity. This lead is allowed to set, and by this means the type is transferred or "cast" from the paper to a semi-cylindrical leaden block. Blocks corresponding to the other pages are made in this manner and the edges smoothed by a special machine. These are now locked into position on rollers in the printing press, and the press is ready to print the papers. To describe the press in detail would take much too long, and it must be seen to be fairly appreciated. At one end is a huge roll of paper which is passed over a number of rollers, and in its passage encounters the "castings," which are inked by contact with the other rollers. The print being thus made, the paper is cut up into the right size, pasted together, folded, and delivered at the receiver counted out in thirteens. For a paper with twelve pages, like the *Weekly Sentinel*, two rolls of paper are used, one above the other at a distance of about a yard, and each paper is printed simultaneously in this manner. The press is about six yards long, two yards high, and two yards wide. The method by which stop press news is inserted is very ingenious, merely requiring the insertion of the type on a small cylinder in the machine. The press is run by motor power and can be started at a minimum

speed to see that all is right. When the maximum power is applied 30,000 papers can be printed in an hour. The paper arrives at the office in rolls four miles long, and weighing, perhaps, half a ton. To neglect an opportunity of visiting a printing works is to miss a very interesting experience. J.W.S.

Skyscrapers.

WHENEVER we hear of anything being done on a very large scale, we may be sure that the Americans have, almost invariably, been the originators by the scheme. The word "skyscraper" implies something tremendous, so when skyscrapers were first heard of it was concluded, and rightly too, that they were in America.

"A steel bridge standing on end with passengers cars running up and down within it," is the definition by an American architect. Some years ago a daring builder astonished the world by reversing the order of construction, and building the inner framework strong enough to hold the outside walls together. This invention was instantly successful. The idea of skyscrapers is said to have originated in Chicago, and has been given the name of "Chicago Construction."

The building of a modern skyscraper is a mighty task full of difficult problems, more difficult even than those concerning battleships. The engineer must know the character of the ground and how far down to lay the foundations. He must have a fairly accurate idea of the weight of the building in order to have equal pressure on all parts of the base. He must calculate the strain on the girders and columns, the pressure of the wind against the building. He has to make provision for supplying the top stories with water, and last, but by no means least, he must provide amply against possible fires. These are a few of the many problems with which the builder is confronted.

Perhaps it will convey the best idea of a modern skyscraper to relate some of the important facts concerning what is now the largest building of modern times—the Park Row buildings, New York City. It was designed by Mr. R. H. Robertson. To begin with, it has 29 storeys, and its height from the pavement to the top of the towers is 390 feet. The flag-poles on these are 57 feet high, and the foundations extend to a depth of 54 feet. Therefore the height of the building to the top of the flag-poles is 501 feet. From the windows of the restaurant—308 feet above the street—the surrounding country can be seen for a distance of 40 miles. What a vast amount of steel, stone, and glass must have been used! In fact the building weighs 20,000 tons, but when the weight of the maximum load which the 29 floors are calculated to carry, the weight would be about 64,400 tons.

There are 950 rooms in the building, and counting 4 persons to an office, thus making a permanent population of 4,000 people. These people are carried to their rooms by a perfect railway of "lifts." The cost of this building was £480,000. Naturally such large buildings as this have nearly all their own appliances, such as electric lighting plants for instance. I suppose that now the aeroplanes are becoming more in vogue some enterprising company will have aeroplane garages on the roofs of their skyscrapers.

I have endeavoured to describe the enormity of modern skyscrapers, but their size cannot be realised, I am sure, unless one sees the actual buildings and makes a tour of inspection of them.

T. N. C.

CHRONICLE PRINTING WORKS, OLDHAM