

THE

Oldham Quilmerian.



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# The Oldham Hulmeian.

Vol. II. (New Series).

DEC., 1911.

No. 19.

## Natural History Society.

A GENERAL Meeting was held on Thursday, November 23rd, with Mr. Pickford in the chair. The business of the meeting was: (1) To decide regular evenings for the meetings of each Section during the winter. (2) To elect members to the vacancies on the various sub-committees. It was decided that the Field and Microscopical Sections should hold joint meetings on the Tuesday of each week, and that the Meteorological and Photographic Sections should meet on alternate Fridays. To the sub-committees members were elected thus:—Clynes to the Meteorological, Halliwell to the Photographic, Sankey to the Field, and Bunting and Ratcliffe to the Microscopical Sections.

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### FIELD AND MICROSCOPICAL SECTION.

On Tuesday, November 28th, Mr. Pym in the chair, a meeting of the Field and Microscopical Sections was held. Barlow read a highly instructive and well written paper on "Beetles." He pointed out the structure of the beetle, its habits and characteristics, and mentioned where and in what it differed from other insects. He concluded by giving full

and comprehensive details about the numerous varieties of beetles. A discussion then followed, during which Mr. Pym spoke a few words. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks proposed by Swales, seconded by Sankey, and passed with acclamation.

On Tuesday, December 5th, Harding read a paper on "Reptiles." He began with an account of the huge reptiles of the Liassic Geological period, and followed their history down to modern times. He showed that in the *Sphenodon* of the Southern Pacific Islands we have a representative of pre-historic times, and mentioned that it was the presence of the undoubted rudimentary third eye in the *Sphenodon* which first gave physiologists the clue as to the original function of the pineal gland, which is found in the brains of all vertebrates, and which formerly was supposed to be the seat of the soul. Mr. Pym, in moving a vote of thanks to Harding, took the opportunity of congratulating him on the excellence of his paper.

J.S.

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### METEOROLOGICAL SECTION.

The Meteorological Society has, this term, done much valuable and interesting work in the way of gathering records and information. We have had a record summer this year, and it is rather unfortunate that we were not enabled—owing to the School holidays—to take more detailed observations of general and particular weather conditions. Anyhow, the fact that the good weather came chiefly in the Midsummer Holidays compensates for most other things.

We are pleased to welcome G. T. Lees as a new reader, and also to say that we have recruited several novices this term owing to a most interesting Lecture given by Dr. Potter.

The meetings have been held regularly every Friday, and even a person uninterested in the Meteorological Section of the Natural History Society cannot deny that really sound progress has been made.

J.H.C.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC SECTION.

On Friday, December 1st, the committee called a meeting of all the members who were interested in photography. A fair number turned up to the meeting, at which it was decided, as there were several beginners, to give a series of fortnightly papers on the study of photography, commencing with "Exposures," and going through the various processes. Sankey, Halliwell, and Barlow volunteered to give papers on "Exposures," "Developing," and "Printing" respectively. Sankey's paper was read on Friday, December 8th.—C.I. C.G.

**Cricket Notes.**

**T**HERE were nine matches down on the fixture list. Of these two home matches were abandoned on account of the weather, viz :—Warrington G. S. and Manchester G. S. Of the remaining seven games, four were won, two lost, and one drawn. The most notable win was against the Old Boys, whom we had not beaten for some seasons. Unfortunately, the fixture with Stockport G. S. was discontinued, while Stand G. S. this year agreed to play our 2nd XI. instead of our 1st XI., consequently our fixture list for the season became rather depleted. However, next year, we hope to play other schools, and are already looking forward to visiting Macclesfield Grammar School. The scores in the matches were as follows :—

School XI., 72	Next XVI. 88.
School XI., 110	Manchester G. S. 2nd XI., 65.
School XI., 31	Warrington G. S., 52.
School XI., 126	Old Boys' XI., 41.
School XI., 165	Mr. Edward's XI., 160.
School XI., 115 for 5 wks.	Masters XI., 114.

## CRITIQUE.

- Mellor E. E. (Captain)—A good, sound, and reliable batsman, and a keen fielder. On the field has proved himself a very capable captain.
- Gill—Has performed very creditably behind the wickets, has made some good scores, and has a very useful leg stroke. Should practice off-driving more.
- Midgley—Undoubtedly the most accomplished batsman of the team, having a greater variety of strokes than any other player. As a bowler has been most useful, but he still displays a tendency to send the ball down faster than he should.
- Haigh—A quick scoring batsman, whose chief fault lies in playing the ball into the air too much. A very troublesome bowler, and a smart fielder.
- Davoll—Has experienced hard luck throughout the season. Certainly the best bowler of the team.
- Taylor, R. E.—An ideal first-wicket man, with plenty of confidence in himself. A good medium-pace bowler. He sometimes puts too much energy into his bowling which occasionally becomes erratic.
- Halliwell—Has, through consistent practice, become quite a good player. With further practice he should get over his fault of lifting the ball.
- Ashton, J.—A rather pretty batsman, who puts plenty of force behind his strokes. Should keep the ball more on the ground.
- Noble, J. H.—A fair batsman with a rather good forward stroke. Should be more alert in the field, and practice throwing in.

Roseblade—A fair batsman, bowler, and fielder, who would do better if he would practice more.

Mellor, D. H.—A fairly good batsman, who has improved during the season. Should play more freely. A safe catch.

Upon the whole the batting of the XI. seems to have kept at a pretty good level, while the bowling has been invariably good. The fielding has also been fairly good, but the captain would like to see every member of the team turn out for fielding practice at least once a week.

#### 1ST XI. BATTING AVERAGES.

NAME	No. of Innings	Times not out	Most in an Innings	No. of Runs	Average
Midgley	6	1	61	121	24.2
Mellor, E. E.	6	1	32	78	15.6
Halliwell	5	0	21	63	12.2
Gill	6	0	25	67	11.1
Haigh	6	0	47	63	10.5
Taylor, R. E.	5	0	16	42	8.4
Noble, J. H.	5	0	28	38	7.6
Ashton	6	0	12	35	5.8
Davoll	5	4	3	4	4.0
Mellor, D. H.	5	0	5	12	2.4
Roseblade	5	0	4	9	1.8

#### BOWLING AVERAGES.

NAME	Wickets	Runs	Average
Taylor, R. E.	18	96	5.33
Midgley	16	110	6.8
Haigh	11	93	8.4
Davoll	17	153	9.0
Ashton	—	4	—

Having escaped defeat throughout two seasons the 2nd XI. lost to Stand G. S. 1st XI, at Stand, by 9 runs. Previously our 2nd XI. had only played Stand 2nd XI., so that a

defeat by so narrow a margin must be accounted a credit to the team. The return match with Stand was won by School by 75 runs to 57. Of the remaining three matches two were won, while the other was abandoned. The following were the results of the matches :—

School, 83	Victoria Park School, 35.
School, 70	Stand G. S., 79.
School, 88	Mr. Edward's XI., 80.
School, 75	Stand G. S., 57.

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### THE HOUSE MATCHES.

The Cricket Shield was for the third time in succession won by the Platt House. The latter obtained 44 pts., Lees House came second with 22 pts., while Assheton House was placed third with 18 pts. The games were very keenly fought, and the rivalry between the various Houses is still strong. Appended are the results of the House matches :—

#### FIRST ROUND.

1st XI.—Platt, 151	Assheton, 21.
Assheton, 30 & 24	Lees, 73.
Lees, 53 & 24	Platt 92.
2nd XI.—Platt, 41	Assheton, 63.
Assheton, 49 & 4 for 1	Lees, 78 & 23.
Lees, 91	Platt, 30 & 25 for 3.

#### SECOND ROUND.

1st XI.—Platt, 198	Assheton, 83.
Assheton, 56 & 65 for 3 dec.	Lees, 22 & 93.
Lees, 45 & 70 for 8	Platt, 87.
2nd XI.—Platt, 79	Assheton, 31 & 40.
Assheton, 47 & 29	Lees, 34 & 21.
Lees, 91 & 56 for 4	Platt, 56 & 29 for 5.

E. E.M.

## The Library.

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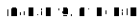
**T**HIS term's work in connection with the Library has been most interesting and encouraging. The number of boys availing themselves of the use of the books in the General Library has largely increased during the term ; while boys in the Upper Forms are taking great interest in the books in the Reference Library.

With regard to this latter section of the Library we have been most fortunate. At the beginning of the term the Governors made us a grant of a substantial sum of money for the purpose of buying new books, and as a result of this we possess the handsome volumes which may now be seen on the Library shelves. The selection of the books has been made with the assistance of all the Masters, so that there are now books which will be of interest to almost every class of reader. Lovers of poetry and the drama will be pleased to note that a large number of volumes of the works of the English poets and dramatists has been added. We might also say that in addition to the new classical books which we have obtained, we hope that by the time this magazine appears before the public we shall have in our possession the "Companion to Greek Studies," and the "Companion to Latin Studies." To members of the Meteorological Society the book on "Forecasting Weather," by W. N. Shaw, which has only recently been published, will be of special interest.

The following is a list of new books added to the Library this term :—Common Sense of the Exact Sciences, Clifford ; History of Mathematics, Ball ; Mathematical Recreations, Ball ; History of Mathematics, Cajori ; Forecasting Weather, Shaw ; Illiad of Homer, translated by Lang, Leaf, and Myer ; Odyssey of Homer, translated by Butcher and Lang ; History of Tacitus, translated by Church and Brodribb ; Works of Horace, translated by Lonsdale and Lee ; Works of Vergil, translated by Lonsdale



and Lee; Socratic Dialogues of Plato, translated by Jowett; Republic of Plato (2 vols.), translated by Jowett; Antigone of Sophocles, edited and translated by Jebb; History of Rome, Shuckburgh; Latin Grammar (2 vols.), Roby; Constitutional History of Rome, Taylor; Companion to Greek Studies; Companion to Latin Studies; Social Life in Greece, Mahaffy; Companion to School Classics, Gow; City State of the Greeks and Romans, Fowler; French Literature, Saintbury; Compleat Angler and Lives, Walton; Myths of Greece and Rome, Guerber; Myths of the Middle Ages, Guerber; Plays, Marlowe; Plays (3 vols.), Jonson; Plays (2 vols.), Beaumont & Fletcher; Plays, Sheridan; Essays, Bacon; Essays of Elia, Lamb; Selections, Macaulay; Political Economy, Mill; Poetical Works of R. Browning, Arnold, E. B. Browning, Southey, Keats, Tennyson, Shelley, Goldsmith, Wordsworth, Cowper, Spenser, Gray, and Chaucer; English Poets—Chaucer to Donne, edited by Ward; English Poets—Ben Jonson to Dryden, edited by Ward; English Poets—Addison to Blake, edited by Ward; English Poets—Wordsworth to Tennyson, edited by Ward; Shakespeare's Characters and English Poets, Hazlitt; and French Dictionary (2 vols.) F.W.



## Old Boys' Association.



### TENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

**T**HE Council is glad to record an increase in the membership, and continued interest in the Association. The total membership is 151, an increase of six upon that of the previous year. Of these 23 are hon. members, being past and present members of the School staff.

The Tenth Annual Dinner was held on the 13th December last, at the Union Club, the number present being 45, which included as guests a respected past member

of the School staff, Mr. Pardoe, who journeyed from Birmingham to be present at our Annual Re-Union; also Dr. Gill, who is well known to our members from the keen interest he has taken in the school, especially with regard to athletics. The toast of "The School" was proposed in a humorous style by Mr. L. St. G. Wilkinson, and responded to by the Head Master, Mr. Pickford. Mr. Pardoe, who was very heartily received, proposed the toast of "The Association," and the reply was made by Mr. J. A. Brierley, who suggested that the members ought to be seriously thinking of the advisability of having a club-room of their own.

The Third Annual Dance was held at the Greenacres Hall on 27th February last, but was not as successful as the two previous ones held under the auspices of the Association, the number of our members present not being so large as was expected.

Three Billiard Matches took place during last winter, two with the St. John's Church Institute, which were won by our opponents, and one with the Oldham Deaf and Dumb Institute, which was won by our members.

The usual Annual Cricket and Football Matches with the School have been played during the year.

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#### OLD BOYS' DINNER.

The Eleventh Annual Dinner and Re-union of this Association was held in the Café Monico, on Tuesday, December 11th. The chair was taken by the president (Mr. Pickford), the guest of the evening being Mr. J. G. Greenhalgh, who left the school about eight years ago for a position in Halifax, but who was one of the most popular masters with the Old Boys. After dinner the usual toasts of the "King" and of the "School," proposed by Mr. H. Kempsey, were drunk. Mr. Pickford, headmaster, replying

to the toast of the School, said that the School had not yet attained its majority. He saw with pride Old Boys taking important positions in town. It was to the Old Boys that the School looked for its reputation, as it was through them the School was judged. He was confident the Old Boys realised the necessity of taking their share in the work of maintaining at a high level the town life of Oldham, by their skill and learning, and by striving to live strong and pure lives.

In rising to propose the toast of "The Association" Mr. Greenhalgh, who had an enthusiastic reception, said he had great pleasure in proposing the health of an Association which he had assisted a little at its birth, though the chief work was done by Mr. Pym, who tended it through the dangerous period which follows all births. This Association was typical of the Oldham spirit of sympathy and spontaneous generosity. In some parts of the country the people were harder and had not that tender sympathy for which Lancashire people were known. Oldham people hated cynicism, pride, and spite, and were resolved to trust and rely on those around them. The boys of the Oldham Grammar School have the same characteristics, and meetings like the present one must serve to send forth to Old Boys all over the country the feeling of interest and friendship which the Association stood for.

Mr. C. H. Lee, in a humorous reply, wished Mr. Greenhalgh, on behalf of the Association, the health to drive his points into the Yorkshire heads as well as he had driven them into Oldham heads. He was afraid it had been hard work to drive anything in the heads of some of them. Speaking of the Association he thought the membership should be greater than 150, seeing that over 600 boys had passed through the School, but hoped the coming year would be one of gain to them, both as regards numbers and activity.

Mr. Collins, Mr. Roberts, and Mr. H. Mitton sang songs and duets, accompanied by Mr. Grime, who also gave



Finally, welcome to those Oldham Hulmeians who are shortly to join this college. F.K.

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### OXFORD.

Dear Sir,—To write of Oxford in the Michaelmas Term should be an easy task and a pleasant one, but so many are the glories of the city that it is hard to distinguish those which are of interest to the world at large, and those which afford peculiar joys to her sons.

Naturally, the first thing to talk about is the weather. Now this is not so formal and unimportant as it seems, because Oxford changes her beauties with the weather, just as young ladies do. It is one thing to see her basking in the mellow autumn sunshine, with the leaves of her trees glowing with a glorious russet; another, to see her in the early evening of a damp day, her wet streets glistening in the lights from her shops, and the glories of her architecture now emphasized, now obscured by the shadows. What town can afford more beauty than Oxford in a walk along the gleaming windows of the shops of the "Corn," with the Fine Tower of Christ Church looming against the sky, followed by the gloomy grandeur of University as it bends round the "High," with Magdalen Tower silhouetted in all its beauty against the moon-lit heavens?

Of course we ought to criticise teams, and forecast athletic results like a budding contributor to the *Sportsman*. But I am not going to do that, I am merely quite confident that we shall win the Rugger Match, and being quite satisfied that the trial eights are both excellent crews, the probable result of the boat race next year gives me no anxiety.

Of schools I say nothing; or, if anything, that, as competitors for a place in your interest, they "also ran."

The most important event that has happened here, and which had some interest to the world outside, was the ever-

recurring question of Greek in Responsions. This time a proposal came before Convocation that men who are going to read science should not be required to offer Greek in "Smalls," but that Latin alone should be sufficient. Convocation assembled in force; antique specimens of the country parson, modern men of the pale young curate type from the towns, and a number of London barristers, and others, flocked to the city and crowded the Sheldonian. Heads of Houses made speeches, and the Warden of Keble moved the rejection of the proposal in a speech full of humour. And Convocation supported him heartily, the motion being rejected by a large majority. The world outside has condemned the result to a certain extent, but those who can view the question with an open mind, unprejudiced by personal interest and inclination, will have no doubt that Oxford Conservatism has been acted in the time interest of the man of science. If the Greek for Responsions is not enough to educate a man, yet it gives a man of science what he usually so greatly needs, the means to educate himself.

It would be a great pleasure to me to end this contribution by telling of the doings of schoolfellows up here, but, alas, there are not any, and so all I can do is to wish that some day there will be numbered among old school dinners and smokers held here, one by Old Hulmeians, and that then, when my locks are grey, I, whose time here is now so fast running out, may renew my acquaintance with the haunts of pleasures which I shall never forget, and privileges I shall ever be thankful have been afforded me. W.H.H. (Keble).



### The Dream: A Fable.

“**W**HAT evil have I done against the gods,” moaned old Scrapion, “that they should treat me thus?” “O Chione, my daughter, live again—let me see thee smile once more! But smile that I may know

thou art happy, and that the gods have still some mercy in their hearts !”

But Chione lay cold and still, and answered not the prayers of old Serapion, who turned away—his eyes dim with tears, his heart heavy with grief. He sought his bed but found no rest until the grey dawn crept up from the east. Then he slept, and in his sleep he dreamed a dream which was to alleviate the grief of his soul.

When he woke the morning was far advanced, and he got up from his couch, but remembering his dream he roused himself, and was soon on his way to his friend, Peroastes. He found Peroastes at his house, and was hailed with gladness. Peroastes comforted him and was soon conversing smoothly with the bereaved old man. “I had a dream last night,” quoth Serapion. “Was it of good omen?” asked Peroastes. “Of very good omen, I think,” said Serapion, and proceeded to relate his dream.

“All is darkness; I see a grey, grey bank of cloud, dank and hopeless. I gaze around to see if any hope there is. Ah! my prayer is answered! A glimpse into heaven! The glorious light streams through, silhouetting darkly a strong high dome, and towers around it. I see the god, Hermes, poised on the dome summit, a glad messenger from the heavens. Such was my dream !”

Peroastes, after a thoughtful silence, said “’Tis of good omen, be assured; pray elucidate its meaning. Make the oracle speak, and your soul will be comforted.”

Serapion paid heed to the words of Peroastes, and, Chione having been laid in her last resting place, before many days had passed he had covered many weary miles, and had come to the famed temple at Dodona. There did the oracle speak, and in the sacred groves, through the leaves of the

lofty beeches and oaks, did great Jupiter rustle his message and clang the brazen vessels swaying from the branches. Then the aged priestess interpreted the message. And when Serapion heard the interpretation his heart was glad ; now was he assured that Chione, his daughter, was happy, for the priestess spake these words : “ Even though this world be grey, forget not that brightness is to be found in the beyond.

J. H. CLYNES.



## Reptiles.

*Summary of a Paper read to the Natural History Society.*

SINCE the reptile family is such an enormous one, as well as being the oldest in the world, it is totally impossible for me to deal very thoroughly with either its history or its individual members. I will, however, give a general idea of its history, and mention several of the most famous of its members.

There was a time, millions of millions of years ago, when all living creatures lived in the water, and the dry land was altogether desolate. These inhabitants of the seas were, many of them, utterly unlike any fish that exist to-day. There were great sea scorpions as big as a tall man, and fishes that had scales as formidable and impervious as armour. After a long, long time a change gradually came about, and there grew up great creatures which could live either in or out of the water. Then came enormous reptiles, some with bodies as huge as elephants, with heads like lizards, and huge teeth. Some could fly, and some could swim as well as they could walk. It is from these flying monsters, such as the pterodactyle, that we get our birds of to-day.

Reptiles belong to one of five great classes of backboned animals :—Fishes, amphibia, reptiles, birds, and mammals.



Now a great many reptiles have gradually lost their limbs, and have become very long and round, and at last taken the shape of snakes and serpents. But in their very first stages of development even these show that they are descended from creatures that once had limbs.

Our reptiles are poor and comparatively puny descendants of these horrors. In order to discover what the old ones were like we must dig far down into the rocks which were once mud into which the dying monsters sank, there we find their fossilized remains.

But, we have still living one reptile which seems hardly to have changed at all, called, most commonly, the sphenodon, a reptile which looks very much like a lizard but is not a lizard. Its length varies between 24 and 30 inches. It has many peculiarities, but the principal one is the remnant of a third eye found at the top of its head so that it could look up without turning its head. Traces of this "pineal eye" have been found in all animals with a backbone, but it is far the most plainly seen in the sphenodon. But even here it is now of no use as it is covered with a horny scale.

These remarkable animals once lived in thousands in New Zealand, but they have gradually been killed off, and now they only exist in little islands round about New Zealand, out of reach of man.

The most important lizard is the monitor, which lives in the rivers of India and Africa. We have one in our London College of Surgeons, which measures nearly seven feet. It gets its name from warning its comrades with a hiss whenever it sees a crocodile approaching.

There are two pretty little English lizards, somewhat resembling one another in habits, which are called the scaly lizard and the sand lizard. The sand lizard lays its eggs in the sand and covers them over, leaving the sun to hatch them.

There are two common lizards, called the glass snake and the blind worm, the latter of which is not blind at all. It is a relation of the skink's, which is 6 to 8 inches long, and lives in Africa. Some of these have excellent legs, and some have very weak ones, some have only pretences at them, and some have none at all

One of the most remarkable of the 1,800 sorts of lizards is the gecko, which runs up walls and along the ceilings like a fly.

Two more conspicuous members of the lizard family are the iguana and the basilisk. They are chiefly conspicuous for their extreme ugliness, in which, however, the basilisk excels.

Another remarkable lizard is the frightful-looking moloch, of America, chiefly remarkable for the extraordinary number of spikes and horny warts completely covering its body for its protection, as it is a very slow-moving creature.

Another lizard is the flying dragon, which has grown a sort of parachute along the sides of its body from which its ribs grow out straight, and a skin covers them all. It can glide over a distance of 30 feet, and can guide itself in any direction.

Another is the Australian frilled lizard, three feet long, which, when frightened or angry, runs on its hind legs with its mouth open showing an alarming array of teeth, and displays a great circular fan all the way round its head.

We now come to the most remarkable lizard, the chameleon, which is a sort of crawling rainbow. Its natural colour is grey-black, but beneath its skin are two layers of cells, one brilliant yellow and the other dark brown, and it can get the most remarkable results from the combination. These colours are its protection, as it suits them to those of its surroundings. It is only about a foot in length, including the tail, but the tongue is six inches long and is shaped like a cup

at the end, and is covered with a sticky substance. It eats flies and other insects when it can get them, but it can exist for months without food.

We now come to the kings of the reptile world, the crocodiles. The chief forms of these are the crocodile proper, which lives in Africa, India, Northern Australia, Cuba, and South America. The alligator, which lives only in China and America. And the gavial, which lives in India, Borneo, and Northern Australia. The head of the alligator is short and broad, that of the crocodile is long, and that of the gavial is the longest and narrowest of all, and it has an air sac over the nostrils, which it can inflate.

The crocodile eats fish when young, but later it eats animals and men and women. It seizes its victim in its jaws, draws it under water and drowns it. As the crocodile breathes through lungs he cannot remain under water for long without drowning, so his nostrils are at the tip of his snout, and he has a muscular arrangement at the back of his throat which he can close, thus enabling him to breathe with his mouth full of water. The crocodile does not masticate his food but bolts it, and in consequence, after a big meal, he is reduced to a state of torpor for a while. He has learned, however, that putrid flesh is more easily digested than that of a victim newly killed, and so he often buries his victim until its flesh becomes putrid, and then digs it up and devours it. This fondness of the crocodile for putrid flesh is of importance, as many dead bodies float down the rivers, and would poison the waters were it not for the crocodile. Crocodiles live for hundreds of years if not molested, and go on growing all the time. Some reach a length of upwards of thirty feet, and resemble huge logs.

There is a curious bird in attendance with the crocodile called the ziczac, which warns it of approaching danger, and also eats the flies on its body; and, more wonderful still, acts as its toothpick, running in and out of its wide-open jaws and

pecking off the torn flesh collected about its teeth. Enormous crocodiles once lived in England, but they have now got scattered far and wide, the only animal resembling them left in this country being the newt, an amphibian about three inches long.

W. E. H.



### **Acknowledgments.**

The Editors beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following contemporaries :—“ Leodiensian,” “Savilian,” “Boltonian,” and “Middlesbrough High School Magazine.”

