

grand time, and in fact the best time, for going yourself to the woods and cutting or getting up your own stocks. This is, though, certainly very rough and fatiguing work, and would hardly be undertaken by most of us; yet if you notice along country high-roads, you will see at times some tired-looking labouring man returning in the evening with his long row of fresh-acquired stocks over his shoulder. These he plants out, and in the following July he will bud them himself. You will see that he puts them all in rows, and some three or four feet apart from each other; and he will either put them so as they can be supported by a rail, or else—which is more often the case, as a rail is seldom handy for use—he will, midway between each stock, drive a good stake well in, and then with a strong cord all along, he will secure the stocks firmly to the stakes, so as to prevent them from being injured by the violent gales, which might otherwise destroy them. There is much work of a heavy character which is not only *suitable* to this month, or to December in the absence of frost, but which positively *cannot* be done at any other time of the year, as much earlier than November the sap is not down, while in the frosts of January we are afraid to move our trees. Hence, we still, and as early in the month as may be, continue putting in our bulbs, or finish any alterations that we began to make last month in the shrubbery; while any changes in turf-laying, or variety in the shape of our beds, must also be finished this month.

The changes among the good old perennials should also be finished off now, and all the beds and borders got into winter order. By the middle of the month all the leaves will be down, and you will therefore, after a good heavy gale, be able to look for final order in your garden. Under no circumstances, however, pull off leaves from, for example, any of your fruit-trees;

although it may be safe to carry your broom quite lightly over them for the purpose of facilitating the removal of the foliage; but where you find any decided resistance, and that the leaves still remain on, desist at once from your experiment.

Speaking of fruit-trees, see that all the young and strong-bearing wood is well nailed in its place, and remove all those shoots that you see intend to grow directly perpendicularly from the wall. Indeed, it may well answer your purpose this month to unnaill any branches of your wall-fruit that seem disposed to get in one another's way; while old wood that is destitute of any lateral branches may be cut out altogether, when you see at the same time that you have some young branches to supply its place.

The raspberry-canes must be thinned so as to leave some few of the strongest, while the rest should be cut down, the old shoots removed, and the ground dug and manured. And in the kitchen garden have some heavy trenching done, so as to be ready to let your soil gain all the benefit of the frost. A row of peas may be got in, but be careful to choose a favourable aspect. Of course you cannot guarantee their success, but in a mild winter—such as last was—or with some pains taken to protect them from frost, you may succeed in obtaining an early crop in the following season. As for the winter spinach, keep it clear of weeds, and only gather outside leaves. And very soon the real winter will set in, and, perhaps, drive you for a day's work under your glass. Indeed, though we are fond of speaking of the "old" garden, there is always something new to be done in it—some new experiment to make, some new flower to rear and watch—so that "the daily task, the common round" of our craft is not only an unfailling source of pleasure, but, with management, can be made one of domestic economy as well.

COLLEGE CLUBS.



THE Long Vacation is over at length. The swallows have sped their graceful flight to the sunny South, the lawyers have returned to their dusty chambers, and the light-hearted undergraduate tribe is once more thronging its accustomed haunts by the swift-flowing stream of Isis, or the muddy banks of Cam. Very pleasant are the classic

shades of our ancient University towns in the long days of the summer holiday. As you wander along the banks of the river, you find that every sheltered spot has its occupant. Reclining on the bank in luxurious ease, the heated "undergrad" relieves the sultriness of the afternoon in the pleasant company of a trusty pipe and the latest novel; and, later in the day, you know that he will probably explain to a chosen few what desperate work the day has brought, while the company makes the most of one of those cheering late teas that are an institution among the few residents during the Long Vacation.

But, somehow, "the Long" is not like term time. It has its advantages certainly; the evenings are longer, the number of men in residence is fewer, and social intercourse cosier than in term. But one misses the familiar sight of troops of men in cap and gown, and altogether there is more or less an air of dulness in the place. But the Long is over in October,



A CLUB MEETING.

and Oxford and Cambridge will have resumed their normal state by the middle of the month. A busy time is the October term, busier in some respects than either of the others. Every college has sustained an invasion of "freshmen," and there is much curiosity evinced as to their merits and capabilities. Moreover, in the October term, all college societies and clubs are in full swing, and there is plenty to do in every department of life.

Clubs and societies are, indeed, an important feature of English University life. Every college has its clubs, their name is legion, and their occupations multifarious—sometimes indescribable. There are the recognised clubs that all colleges possess: boating clubs, debating clubs, football clubs, athletic clubs. And besides all these there are clubs of a more

exclusive character: glee clubs, dining clubs, social clubs of every kind and description. For, given a number of undergraduates who fall more or less into each other's tastes and modes of living, you may be certain that a club of some kind will sooner or later be evolved. To the new-comer, if he be not a public school man, the experience will probably be so novel as to be fascinating, and he is liable to hasten to join as many clubs as he can. But this is a mistake. Clubs mean meetings, meetings mean time, and to a University man very often time means Honours. But a moderate indulgence in such pastimes is beneficial to most men. Some prodigies, indeed, seem to be quite independent of any such common-place assistance to success as time. Indeed, there is one well-known instance on record in which a sometime Fellow of a

Cambridge college was first-boat captain, football captain, and cricket captain, as well as chairman of the College Debating Society and Musical Society, in the same year that he took his degree among the first four men in the Classical Tripos. But, without possessing the genius that enables a man to take the lead in everything, and win the highest honours as well, college clubs may afford many a pleasant and useful hour of relaxation to the average man.

There are many peculiarities that strike the uninitiated freshman as being remarkable in the conduct of such clubs. The earnestness and zeal with which their members enter into the objects for which the society exists are quite extraordinary. And the formalities with which all matters of club etiquette are observed is not less noticeable. Debating societies, for instance, are at once striking and somewhat amusing in these respects. At the first meeting in the term important business will have to be transacted. The "House" (usually a large lecture-room) will be crowded before the time of meeting arrives. Punctually to the hour the chairman—an undergraduate elected for the term—enters, followed by the secretary. These magnates have no sooner put in an appearance than every cap is removed from the head that appertains to it, and cries of "Order" are raised. Silence follows, and the chairman calls on the secretary to read the minutes of the previous meeting. These are duly confirmed. The next business is the election of new members, who are proposed by the chairman, seconded by the secretary, and usually elected *nem. con.* Then comes the debate of the evening, carried on according to the prescribed rules. The opener and opposer will each be allowed to occupy about a quarter of an hour, and other speakers will be restricted to half that time. All the proceedings are conducted on the model of the House of Commons, and if the decisions are not of equal weight, they are as interesting to those immediately concerned in them. Sometimes, indeed, the usual decorum may be disturbed. There may be a "boat supper" in prospect, and then the audience is apt to be less appreciative. It even happens occasionally that general disorder follows the rising of a particular speaker who is known to hold pronounced views on the subject of debate, but this is an unusual occur-

rence, and the eager rhetoric of the speakers generally receives its due meed of praise or censure at the hands of the critical audience. Such exercises are splendid training for future practice in a wider sphere. Many a statesman has first learned to tolerate the sound of his own voice in the college debating club, and, on the other hand, many a man has learnt in the same school that public speaking is not his forte. However, a failure is taken in good part, and it is something, at any rate, to have discovered a weak point.

But debates are not the only meetings that have to be attended. There is the boat club with all its absorbing interest for the aspiring oarsman, or the football club for him who is swift of foot and strong of limb. In these there is not so much opportunity for the display of oratory, but it is at the terminal meetings that the office-bearers in the various clubs are elected.

Offices in athletic clubs are naturally objects of the greatest desirability from the point of view of the athletic man, and the competition for them is sometimes considerable. All elections are conducted by a primitive kind of ballot. A number of names are proposed and seconded, the list when complete is read out, and each voter writes the name of the candidate whose cause he espouses on a slip of paper. The slips are then collected and the votes counted, the candidate who gains the highest number of votes being, of course, elected. Although offices are keenly desired they are by no means sinecures. In fact, in some clubs the strain on the time and physical strength of the officers is very considerable. But the honour of the post compensates for that, and indeed it is not small; for before a man can gain office he must be popular, and a man is seldom popular in such assemblies without deserving more or less to be so.

But, after all, the publicity of the large college clubs does not compare with the jollity of the smaller societies. It may not be so much the ostensible object of meeting that attracts, but somehow the compact party round the glowing fire, the merry sparkle of wit and joke, and above all the unconventionality of the whole, certainly go far to make up some of the pleasantest episodes in University life.

A STUDY OF A HEAD.

A SONNET.



STUDY of a head!—a simple face,

Unnoticed by the crowd, admired by few,

And yet withal so fair, and pure, and true,

And to your mind endowed with such strange grace—

Some subtle power you seek in vain to trace—

That you perforce must gaze, and gaze anew,

Until the sweet eyes thrill you through and through,

And you go seeking them in every place.

Years pass, and then, by what men call strange
chance,

You see a fair young face so pure and bright

That you are stricken dumb at her first glance,

And wondering friends cry, "Love, this, at first
sight!"

But you yourself are wiser, for you know

This is your ideal love of long ago.

G. WEATHERLY.