

# THE ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE

## RUGBY SCHOOL.

BY JUDGE HUGHES AND H. LEE WARNER.

With Illustrations by C. O. MURRAY.

I.

1567 TO 1842 A.D.



It will remain amongst doubtful historical questions to the end of time whether that worthy citizen and grocer, Laurence Shireff, only escaped the fires of Smithfield by the death of Queen Mary. Although a believer in the myth myself (it was the orthodox faith in my day—"consule Planco") I must own that the best authority I can quote for it is an *obiter dictum* of Arthur Clough in the *Rugby Magazine* for October, 1835. There are however two quite certain facts about him: first, he was "sworne servant to the Lady Elizabeth" when that princess was at Hampton Court, under pressure to marry the Prince of Savoy and to become a Romanist. Shortly after Wyatt's rebellion, one morning in 1555, "Laurence Shiriffe, grocer," as Foxe reports,<sup>1</sup> finding an old acquaintance, one Robert Farrer, haberdasher, in the Rose Tavern "falling to his common drinke, as he was ever accustomed, sate doune in the seate to drink with him." But Farrer, "being in his full cups, began to talke at large, and namely against the Lady Elizabeth; and said, 'that jill hath bin one of the chiefe doers of this rebellion of Wiat, and before all be done she and all the heretikes her partakers shall well understand of it. Some of them hope she shall have the crowne; but she, and they I trust that so hope, shall hop headlesse, or be fried with fagots before she come to it.'" Whereupon Laurence said to him, "Farrar, I have loved thee as a neighbour, and have had a good opinion of thee; but hearing what I now heare, I defye thee; and I tell thee I am her Grace's servant, and shee is a Princesse, and the daughter of a noble King, and it evill becometh thee to call her a jill: and for thy so saying I say thou art a knave, and I will complaine upon thee." "Doe thy worst," said Farrer, "for that I said I will say againe." So "the said Shiriffe" went before the commissioners, who "sate then at Boner the Bishop of London's house beside St. Paul's," and there declared the manner of the said Robert Farrer's talk. Boner answered, "Peradventure you tooke him worse than he meant," and Stone, another commissioner, declared that "there was not a better Catholike in the city of London." But the sturdy grocer persisted. "Well, my Lord, she is my gracious lady and mistresse, and it is not to be suffered that such a varlet as hee is should call so Honourable a Princesse by the name of a jill: and I saw yesterday in the Court that my Lord Cardinal Poole, meeting her in the Chamber of Presence, kneeled downe on his knees and kissed her hand: and I saw that King Philip, meeting her, made her such obeysance that his knee touched the ground; and then me thinketh it were too much to suffer such a varlet as this is to call her jill, and to wish them to hop headlesse that shall wish her Grace to enjoy the possession of the crowne when God shall send it unto her, as in the right of her inheritance." "Yea, stay there," quoth Boner. "When God sendeth it unto her let her enjoy it. But truly (said he) the man meant nothing against the Lady Elizabeth your mistresse and no more do we: but he like an honest and

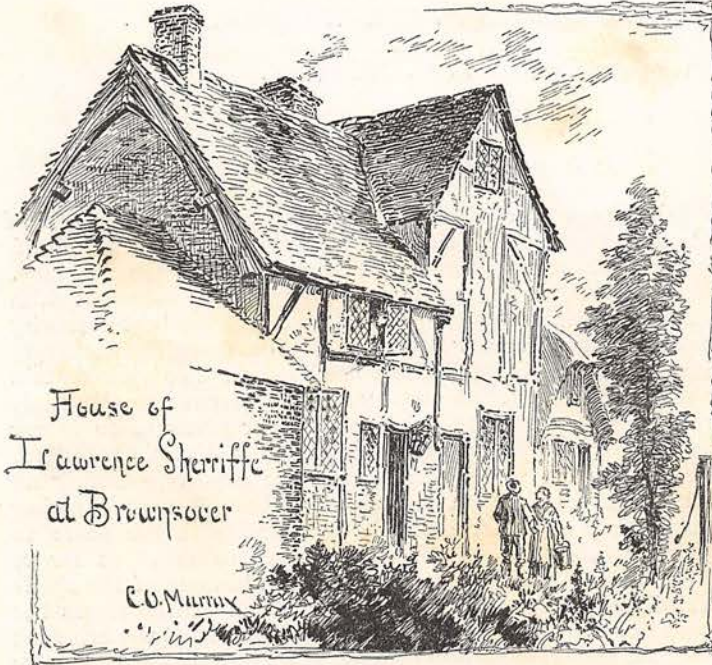
<sup>1</sup> Foxe, Vol. iii.

zealous man feared the alteration of religion, which every good man ought to feare : and therefore (said Boner) good man go your waies home and report well of us towards your mistresse, and we will send for Farrer and rebuke him for his rash and undiscreate words."

So Laurence went home and prospered in his business, becoming in due course a warden of the Grocers' Company; and when his princess became queen, the Herald's College at her suggestion granted him a crest and coat-of-arms, which may be seen duly blazoned any day in the headmaster's hall at Rugby. I should think Queen Bess, who had a keen sense of humour, herself suggested the branch of dates which are held in "the lion's paw erased," for was he not in the habit of presenting her with specimens of his craft? On New Year's Day, for instance, 1562, in the inventory of gifts occurs, "By Laurence Shref, grocer, a sugar loaf; a

box of ginger; a box of nutmegs; and a pound of cinnamon," to which her highness replied as appears in the list of her presents, "To Laurence Shreff Grocer, oone gild salt with a cover, 7 oz."

The second fact is that by his will he left his farm and parsonage at Brownsover with all his "mansyon house" at Rugby, £50 for building, and £100 for additional land whereon to build and maintain "a fair and convenient School House" and four alms-houses; and by codicil dated August 31st, 1567, two months before his death, he added one-third of his Middlesex estate. This third produced then about £8 a year, but now upwards



House of  
Laurence Sherriffe  
at Brownsover

E. O. Murray

of £5,000, an endowment which preserved Rugby from sharing the fate of so many Tudor schools.

For more than an hundred years the school has no history, though the names of the headmasters are preserved from 1602. In 1674 Robert Ashbridge, M.A., began the school album, or register of admissions, which for the next hundred years was kept in Latin. In this album is duly entered the name of "Henricus de sacrâ Quercu," otherwise Henry Holyoake, the son of an Oxford Fellow whom Charles I. had made a doctor of divinity in consideration of his services in raising and commanding a troop of horse amongst the scholars while the royal headquarters were at Oxford. The son became headmaster in 1687, and held the post till 1731, by far the longest and otherwise the most noteworthy reign before the present century. For he was not only a friend of Addison, who lived when out of London at Bilton Hall, but introduced to him his pupil Cave, the "diligent poor scholar," projector and editor of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, and the friend of Johnson. Moreover Holyoake drew to the school by his reputation not only Fieldings and Cravens from the neighbourhood, but Mordaunts, Cecils, Grevilles and Greys from distant counties. One rather wonders how these aristocratic young gentlemen fared in Laurence Shireff's old "messuage or mansyon house," with the timber school attached, and no playground except the churchyard. A few years later, 1748, the Trustees obtained an Act of Parliament under which they bought the old manor house of Rugby, which stood on the site of the present headmaster's house, and added to it a large schoolroom with dormitories above, not beautiful indeed, but with a character of their

own which makes one sorry that they were not saved and incorporated with the present buildings. These were begun in 1808, when the trustees obtained leave from the Court of Chancery to raise money on the London property for the purpose. They cost £35,000, and were finished in 1810, in the reign of John Wooll, D.D., which lasted till 1827, when he resigned. He came from Winchester, and it is not easy now to fix with any certainty the character of his rule. Amid conflicting testimonies we have Lord Lyttelton's "Much cry and little Wooll" on the one hand, and the *Amores omnium singulari quadam suavitate sibi conciliavit*, on his epitaph in the school chapel on the other.

My own belief is that he was a kindly gentleman, and a good scholar and teacher, but a choleric as well as exceedingly vigorous little Hercules in black tights, who brought from Winchester the faith that the *argumentum bacculinum* is a necessary supplement to "manners" in the making of men who are to construe Greek plays and write Latin longs and shorts. As for the rest—the discipline of the school and boarding-houses, and any kind of supervision over the boys' life and habits—there was really none, except that missing a "calling over" entailed a certain flogging. They

were left to themselves, with the inevitable result. As specimens of the condition of things which his successor had to deal with, I may mention that beagles and guns were kept by the sportsmen amongst the big fellows; and that those whose tastes turned that way had private cellars in the studies.

That successor was Arnold, who also came from Winchester, and found on his hands, I am bold to say, as rough



ENTRANCE TO THE HALL OF RUGBY SCHOOL IN 1829.  
From a print in Harris Nicolas's *History of the Town and School of Rugby*,  
Northampton, 1826.

and turbulent a place of the higher education as it has ever fallen to the lot of any man to take in hand. The most recent writer on Rugby tells us (with a judgment and taste not uncommon with persons who call themselves "we") that he "combined with divers excellences the weakness of being a prig; and the breeder of prigs, and the sort of person whom prigs of all succeeding time will be lamentably prone to deify;" also that consequently, "Arnold has been considered a bugbear and a nuisance by many generations of Rugby boys!"—(*The Scots Observer* for August 23rd, 1890). I propose to show from personal knowledge, for I was in the school house for eight and a half years, or considerably more than half of the time that this master prig ruled Rugby, the value of this anonymous criticism. This will be best tested by one or two examples of how Arnold dealt with the problems with which he found himself face to face. As one of the "prigs" whom he bred I may perhaps be a one-sided witness on the second position of this Scotch critic; but at any rate I have known as much in the last half century of Rugby men as any one except a master, and have never met with one man (of "many generations" it takes a Scotch "we" to speak) who, whether he liked him or not, did not own him to be a strong and straight ruler, without a shadow of affectation or self-importance, the typical qualities of a prig—at any rate south of Tweed.

The sporting difficulty may come first, as it was the most pressing. I never quite learned how the beagles and guns were put down, but from hints let drop by old Thomas—the school-house head porter, and the Doctor's right-hand man, who became confidential with me in my last years—I believe it to have been thus. Every boy had a "spending house" as it was called at one of the confectioners in High Street—where he left his books, bat, fishing rod, &c., to save a journey to his boarding house—and spent his spare cash. It was in the back yards of these houses that dogs and guns were kept, and Thomas quietly intimated to each that any house which harboured either dog or gun would be at once made "out of bounds," a penalty involving almost certain ruin. The cure was perfect. In all my time there was no dog kept that I ever

heard of, and only one gun, a double-barrelled sporting rifle, which had been given to the owner by a returned Indian uncle, and which it took him all his time to keep hidden away.

The horsey section of our boy sportsmen took much longer to deal with. Rugby is in a famous hunting country, and at Dunchurch, three miles off, on the great high road, were large stables at which hunters and hacks could be hired. Moreover every vet. and inn-keeper in Rugby itself kept some kind of cross-country horse, so that the temptations to youth that way inclined were numerous; and now and again some gentleman hunting in the neighbourhood would give a boy he knew a mount. Now it happened that in the school house was a boy full of brag of all kinds, but above all, about his horsemanship,



STUDY, TRADITIONALLY SAID TO BE "TOM BROWN'S."

who boasted that he could beat any other boy across country, giving him the choice of all the available Rugby hacks. At last he was taken up by a boy (still happily alive, and who has allowed me to tell the story, a Cheshire squire, by name Uvedale Corbett), who chose as his mount Chater's chestnut, known to be the best fencer in the town. The challenger had to put up with a bay, belonging to another publican, a fast beast, but with a bad record as a fencer. The race came off after second lesson before a select circle, the secret having been well kept, with the result that the challenger was beaten, though his rival broke a stirrup at the first fence. He blustered that it was all owing to the immense superiority of the chestnut across country; whereupon Corbett offered to change horses and ride him again after dinner. So said so done, but as may be supposed the story got about at dinner, and there was a strong muster in the field under Bilton Church to see the start. It was agreed this time to have a genuine old-fashioned steeplechase, from Bilton steeple to Newbold steeple. This course crossed the London and Birmingham Railway line, then just marked out by the engineers with stiff postern rails on each side. To this point also

flocked many fags, hoping, I fear, to see the school-house champion, who was a bully, come to grief. How the two hacks got over those rails is a mystery to this day, the school house champion on the chestnut leading, as he did over every fence. The fact was that he was showing the way to his opponent, who followed steadily, never allowing his horse to refuse as it had done with his rival in the first race. So they came into the last field, the big pasture below Newbold Church, the chestnut still leading. Then the bay was called on, passed his rival with ease, and won by some lengths.

A row was looked for next morning, as no one thought that the Doctor would not get wind of it; but nothing happened. This so elated the riding community that they determined to have a big race, and some seven entered, and were now to ride horses from the Dunchurch stables over a longer course. It got so far that the intending jockeys, with the umpires, were actually walking over the proposed course when they met the Doctor, who, however, passed with the usual salutation, they being all sixth or fifth form boys, and not bound to "shirk." That evening, however, Corbett was sent for to the Doctor, who addressed him almost in these words:—"Corbett, I know all about the match you rode the other day. If I had taken any public notice of it I must have expelled you both publicly. This would probably have ruined your career at Oxford, where you have just matriculated, and I hope will do well. But I have written to your father to tell him of your flagrant breach of discipline. And now let me warn you and your friends. I know what you are intending, and I will expel every boy who rides, or is present, and will have the roads watched to get the names." That race did not come off, or any other during Arnold's time. But a few weeks later there was a great national steeplechase at Dunchurch. How this master prig handled this awkward business I will show from a letter of Clough's to Arthur Stanley, which lies before me:—

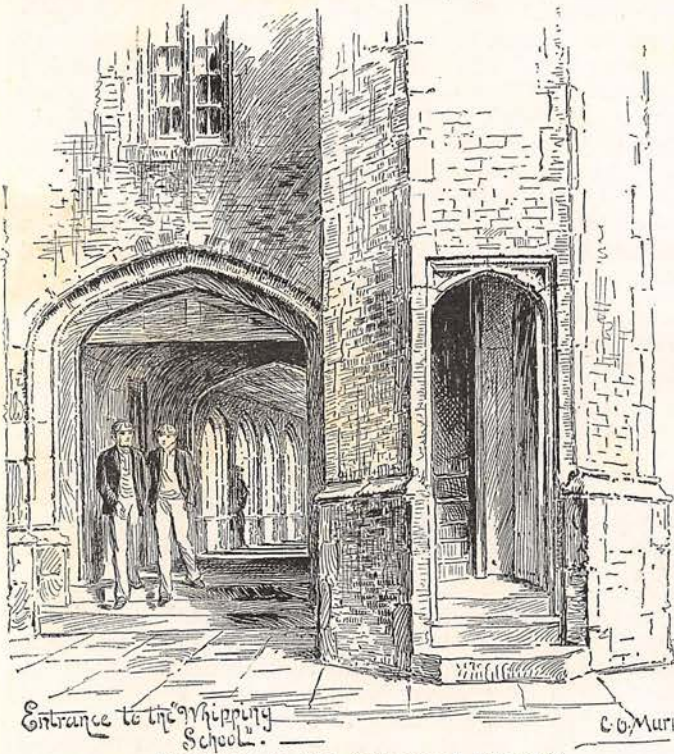
"I went with them" [Arnold's two youngest boys] "to a grand steeplechase which took place near Dunchurch. Arnold very wisely and indulgently altered the hour of calling over, and took off the Dunchurch prohibition for the day, so at least nine-tenths of the school were there, indeed I don't know that more than twelve or twenty were absent. As soon as Arnold left the school-house hall at dinner (he just comes in, you remember, to hear the names called over) the whole house, with the exception of myself and seven others, started off, leaving their dinners for us, and the empty tables. And in ten minutes more we were all after them except three. The most remarkable animal there was the Marquis of Waterford, who was riding his horse himself in jockey attire. Lee" [master of the fifth, afterwards Bishop of Manchester] "set a vulgus on the subject, and, amongst other curiosities had the following verse shown up to him, 'Primus erat Vivian jerry secundus erat.'"

The fishing difficulty remains, which proved the hardest to master. We all knew that the school paid a good rent for the fields on the Rugby side of the Avon, where were the bathing places, and assumed that this included the right of netting the river. This was disputed by the owner of the Brownsover bank, and many squabbles and collisions arose between the boys and Mr. Boughton Leigh's watchers and keepers. At last the crisis came when a keeper tried one day to seize the nets, and the boys ducked him in the river. Complaint was at once made to Arnold, who appealed to the sixth to find and give up the names of those concerned, but nothing came of it. So at the next calling over the Doctor appeared, with the squire and the keeper to identify the boys who had ducked the latter. Probably Arnold's power of ruling was never put to so severe a test, for the whole school was against him, and the præpostors of the week—the four sixth form boys in rotation—instead of stilling the tumult, walked up and down the big school calling out "S-s-s-s-ilen-sse." However, he prevailed; the names were at last called, and as the boys passed out the keeper identified five, who were then and there expelled. After fifty years the names may be safely given: Rose-Price, Torkington, Wynniatt, Peters, cock of the school, and another I have forgotten, unless it was Gaisford, son of the Dean of Christchurch—names treasured as those of heroes for following generations! A tremor ran through the school as Oswell, handsomest and most renowned of athletes, passed out; but he was not recognized, and stayed on for some two years, accomplishing before he left a feat which I can scarcely now believe, though I saw it done myself forty-eight years ago. This was the throwing of a cricket-ball from little side ground over the elm trees into the school house garden. Parr, the famous cricketer, some years later threw a ball upwards of one hundred yards each way, an unrivalled feat as it was thought, but I am convinced that Oswell would have beaten it. He was however then in Africa with Livingstone,

shooting elephants on foot, and sharing the ivory with the great missionary. After this crisis there was no more netting, but the suppressed fire of the disputed fishing rights smouldered on, and was the cause of many a flogging all through Arnold's time.

I have never been able, I own, quite to satisfy myself whether he was right or wrong in his view of the duty of the sixth on this and other like occasions. He gave them great powers, leaving the discipline of the school to a great extent in their hands, in return for which he undoubtedly looked for support, assistance, and information from them when trouble came. The difficulty was to draw the line, and the old tradition of the place drew it at one point with ruthless strictness. The sixth were, after all, boys, not masters—so they might thrash boys or punish them in other ways themselves, but never report them, or "blab" as the phrase went, any more than a boy below the sixth. This tradition, or prejudice, Arnold could never weaken, and in the

rare instances when it was braved, though he stood loyally by boys who had reported others to him, I can remember none in which caste in the school was recovered. As Arnold never would have a "marshal" or other quasi-detective, no doubt the difficulty of governing was greater than it might have been with another system. A characteristic story of some eighteen years later date shows that the tradition, spite of many changes, survived in its full strength. A boy who had been saddled with a serious offence wrote to his father, "You will have me at home next week. I didn't do this, and I know who did it, but of course I can't blab. Of course the Doctor is a beast, but I believe he is a just beast, and if he knew I shouldn't have to leave." The father sent



Entrance to the Whipping School.

ENTRANCE TO THE "WHIPPING SCHOOL."

the letter as it stood to the then Doctor, who is now the Bishop of London, with the result that no one had to leave for that business.

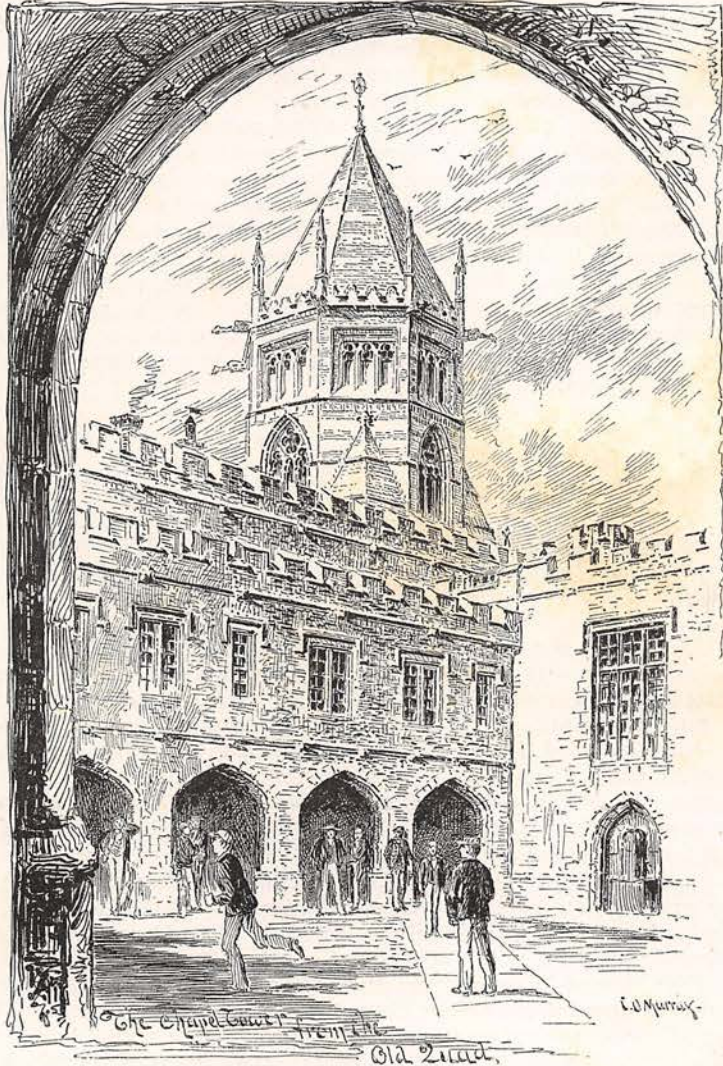
I will give one more instance of Arnold's patience before reforming bad customs, and promptitude in seizing and using the chance when it occurred—the change he wrought in the school law of single combat. Up to 1834 casual quarrels were fought out at once in the close, but whenever a duel *à l'outrance* was necessary, as in the case of rival houses or forms, the principals with their seconds and the usual following adjourned to a field out of bounds, generally near Butlin's mound, where the chance of interference was as slight as possible. In the spring of that year a difference of this kind occurred in the school-house. At that time the French, German and mathematical classes were unconnected with the ordinary school classes, so that a boy might still be only in the fourth in classics, but in the upper fifth in modern languages or mathematics. As the upper fifth was a privileged body of course the question arose to what extent the outsiders shared these privileges. Now in the school-house there was a separate sitting room for the sixth and fifth, into which no other boy had the right of entry; and, as it was by no means too big for the regulars, they resolved that these French and other inferior fifth form boys should not be allowed to enter.

These latter, of course, backed by public opinion of the whole school under the fifth, resented this as an insolent assertion of the aristocracy of intellect. One day a stout mathematician or Frenchman, I forget which, invaded the fifth form room which was at the time occupied by only one "regular," a much smaller boy but of courageous temper. Resolved that the fifth should suffer no shame through him, he at once ordered the big intruder out of the room, and received and accepted a challenge to fight. Next morning, after first lesson, the battle came off near Butlin's mound, with the result that after more than half an hour's gallant stand, the small "regular" was carried back to the sickroom in the school-house half dead, and the doctor became aware of the whole business. He at once ordained that in future all battles must be fought out in the close, a breach of which rule would incur the penalty of expulsion by all concerned.

This at once put an end to all dangerous fights, as his own study overlooked the whole close, and junior masters were passing to and fro at all hours. From that time I can recall no fight which was not either finished in about a quarter of an hour, or stopped by the doctor or some passing master; or, more rarely,

by some sixth form boy with a higher sense of duty than common. As a rule the sixth could not be depended upon for this service, and either looked on from outside the ring, or as they passed could not see what was going on inside.

Did space permit I could give other examples of Arnold's method, both in school and out, in work-time and in play-time. High-handed it was no doubt, and high-handed in a way which angered many influential people. "The first, second, and third duty of the master of a great public school is to get rid of unpromising boys," he wrote in his first year, and acted on throughout. Now in my day three-fourths of us, including myself, were unpromising boys, but at the same time strongly attached to the school and dreading having to leave. What was the result? We knew that



THE CHAPEL TOWER FROM THE OLD QUAD.

however disagreeable, and, as we held, useless, Greek and Latin might be, if we wanted to stop at Rugby we had to observe and obey rules loyally and promptly in play-time, and in school hours to get a remove a year, which could not be done without a certain proficiency in these dead (we wished they had been buried) languages. So we got it; stayed on till we were high enough in the school and old enough, to appreciate the invaluable lesson of strong, fearless, and just rule; and at the end of half a century are, I believe, thankful that we learnt it so early—at any rate I can speak for myself.

“I should like to try whether my notions of Christian education are practicable,” he wrote a year before he got the chance of trying them. He got it before he was thirty and the experiment lasted for fourteen years. Before it had lasted one year he admitted “that a low standard of morals must be tolerated amongst them, as it was on a larger scale in the boyhood of the human race. I hope to make Christian men; Christian boys I can scarcely hope to make.” Often and often he was inclined to doubt whether the English public school system—severing home ties and home influence so early, and leaving boys such a free hand to make their own laws and govern their own lives—could stand the test of time, and prove itself the best for the training of English men. Since his day I suppose that most of us who have watched the astonishing development of that system, and its bearing on the nation’s life, must have been haunted by the same doubts. But I cannot but believe that, without shutting our eyes to its obvious dangers and shortcomings, we have on the whole come to Arnold’s own conclusion that “the character is braced amongst such scenes to a greater beauty and firmness than it can ever attain without enduring and witnessing them.”

T. HUGHES.

## II.

1842—1891.

To do justice to the next fifty years of Rugby history in the few words allotted me is impossible. I can only hope to indicate the bibliography for such a purpose, to sum up the results, and to sketch the life of to-day’s Rugbeian. When Arnold died, Archbishop Tait succeeded, and continued for eight years his great predecessor’s work, breaking indeed the bounds which had restricted the school to 300, but otherwise showing rare loyalty in keeping to the same lines of work. The life of the school is depicted with exquisite gracefulness in the *Memorials of Catherine Tait*, and it was no small addition to Dr. Tait’s own good sense that he secured as helpers such men as Lord Lingen, the present Dean of Westminster, the late Professor Shairp, Canon Evans, late of Durham, and the able Civil Service Commissioner, Theodore Walrond, besides Bishop Cotton, who soon after his appointment was promoted to the Headmastership of Marlborough. Each of these men did as much for Rugby as they gained from it themselves. No wonder that when Dr. Tait was promoted to the Deanery of Carlisle he left the school healthy, efficient, full of piety and of life. He in turn was followed by Dean Goulburn, whose work in the school is best symbolized by his well-known *Thoughts on Personal Religion*, which recall to his old pupils the pulpit of Rugby Chapel. The period of his life at Rugby coincided with the Crimean War, and the numbers of the school fell, but he had the rare good fortune to appoint Berdmore Compton as first natural science teacher in the days when science-teaching was new in our public schools, and Archbishop Benson as tutor of the school-house. Those who heard the present Archbishop discourse on Plato’s *Apology* or translate Herodotus look back on those days as among the most stimulating intellectual treats of their lives. But the numbers of the school dwindled to below 300, and Dr. Goulburn resigned, and was succeeded by the present Bishop of London, Dr. Temple. Of all the masters who were appointed before Dr. Temple’s headmastership, there remains on the present staff only Mr. Bowden Smith, the cultivated and able modern language master. One other figure remains, dear to old Rugbeians—the school marshal, Mr. Patey, a man who for years has sustained a most difficult position without reproach as reporter of breaches of discipline and general assistant of the masters in school routine. No history of Rugby would be complete without a tribute to his constant tact.

Of Bishop Temple and his twelve years at Rugby it is hard to speak as one would wish. He enlarged the whole curriculum of teaching on a system which implied for



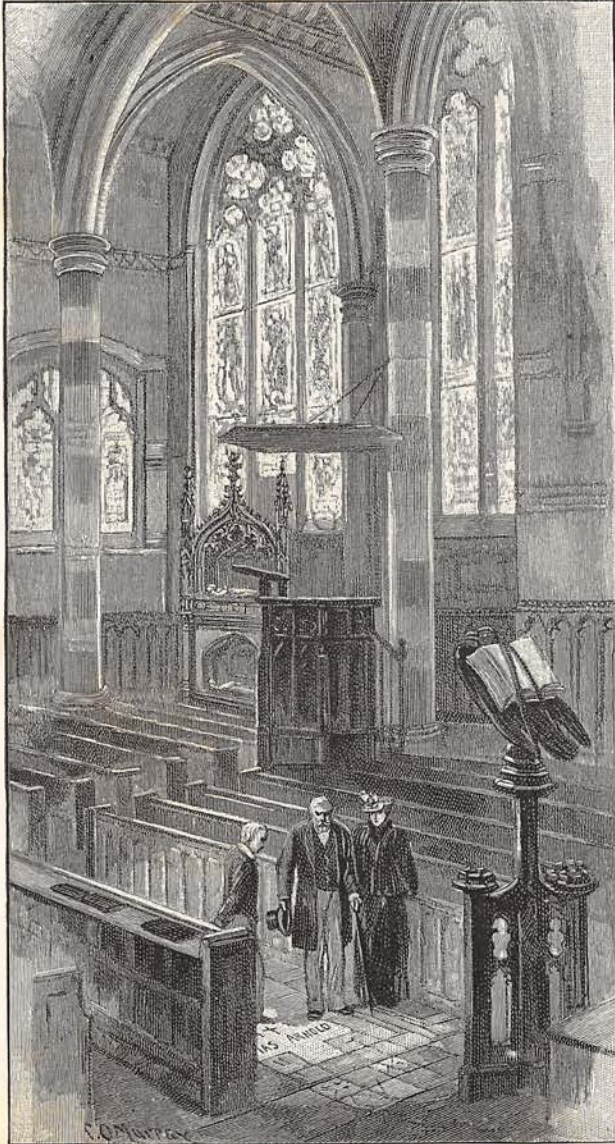
every lesson an hour's preparation out of school, an hour's teaching in school. His lessons in history and such subjects as Tocqueville's *Revolution* or Guizot's *Civilization* recalled Arnold's best work. He made every boy feel that his promotion depended entirely on his own endeavours. He introduced the system of superannuation which carried out the Wykehamist's motto, *Aut discere, aut discede*, without the somewhat coarse accompaniment of the *sors tertia, cædi*. He started entrance examinations; he induced his masters to subscribe for new schools, to submit to sacrifices of income, such as might well form a model for redistribution of Church patronage nowadays, to discuss problems of education in a way that trained them to start new schools elsewhere, as the wider demands of the Victorian age began to test the capabilities of Elizabethan foundations. He sent a Butler to found Haileybury; a Benson to aid the Prince Consort in his plans for Wellington College; a Percival to make Clifton College, where he was afterwards succeeded by another Rugby colleague, the late able Headmaster, Archdeacon Wilson; a Potts to carry English education to Scotland at Fettes



GENERAL VIEW OF THE SCHOOL.

College; a Phillpotts to widen the scope of the great Harpur charity at Bedford; a Kitchener to ensure the success of Newcastle High School. He secured the services of scholars like Mr. Arthur Sidgwick, now lecturer at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and Mr. Whitelaw, who happily still remains at Rugby, a tower of classical strength. He was radical in his determination to make education thorough; conservative in his patient toleration of minor abuses till he could secure the good that lingered round them for better ends. His extreme care not to meddle with the abuse of goals as described in *Tom Brown's School-Days* till he could secure the co-operation of the boys in making "Little side" as popular as "Big side" on half-holidays is a good instance of this. The letters of "Cosmopolitan" in the pages of the *Meteor* year after year are another sign of how in small matters he allowed the school to keep up restrictions, such as the wearing of hats, which the rigid discipline of the elder boys imposed on the new comers for their first term. The strong personality which Dr. Temple lent to Rugby society was felt indeed at the time, but not fully realized till it was withdrawn. Always in the midst of his boys and of his masters, he knew all their secrets; he shared their work and their play; he diffused joyousness and strength, so that boys grew up unconscious of themselves, and masters solved difficulties that they had never felt. Of the training of Rugby at that time the report of the Public Schools Commission will be sufficient testimony. They reported that "the general teaching of *literæ humaniores* was absolutely unsurpassed; that Rugby School was the only one among

those within their purview in which physical science was a regular part of the curriculum; that Rugby and perhaps Harrow could be excepted from their otherwise universal criticism that not much was done to awaken a general interest in history." Dr. Temple stayed long enough to see the school through its tercentenary, and to put the building of new schools, the enlargement of the chapel, and the erection of a



ARNOLD'S GRAVE IN THE CHAPEL.

gymnasium into Mr. Butterfield's hands. It was Dr. Hayman's task when appointed in 1870 to see this work completed, and his delight to move the daily services from an overcrowded big school to the chapel where still rest undisturbed the remains of Thomas Arnold. When in 1874 the new governing body after some litigation appointed Dr. Jex Blake to the Headmastership, he succeeded to the Headmastership of a school which by its very successes had somewhat spent its strength. Neither Rugby nor Harrow has the same wealth of scholarships to attract clever boys as Eton or Winchester, and the Bradleys and Butlers, Bensons and Percivals that had gone off from the parental hearth had not gone in vain. An excellent governing body and a patriotic staff did what they could to make the most of their means, but, happily for English education, competition among public schools is greater than it was. Dr. Jex Blake enlarged the scholarship system; he amazed old Rugbeians by the appeals that he made to their purses for help, and, himself an old Rugbeian, he set them an example by building a splendid bath, when the growth of the town drove the school gradually to the reluctant abandonment of the bathing-place at the confluence of the Avon and the Swift, celebrated by the prose of Blunt and the poetry of Landor. The result of Dr. Jex Blake's efforts is that the school

is simply unsurpassed among schools in its appointments. The art museum, built, and furnished, on the top of the Temple reading-room; the new Big School and additional lecture-rooms; the infectious house to supplement the sanatorium; the Caldecott field to supplement the close—these and others are the substantial memorials of his great building age. In 1887 he resigned, and Dr. Percival stepped down from the ease and dignity of the headship of an Oxford college to take up at Rugby the work he had done so ably at Clifton. His army class and Indian Civil Service training show that he is not afraid of trying to meet the needs of parents by specialization, and there is a general impression that the inhabitants of

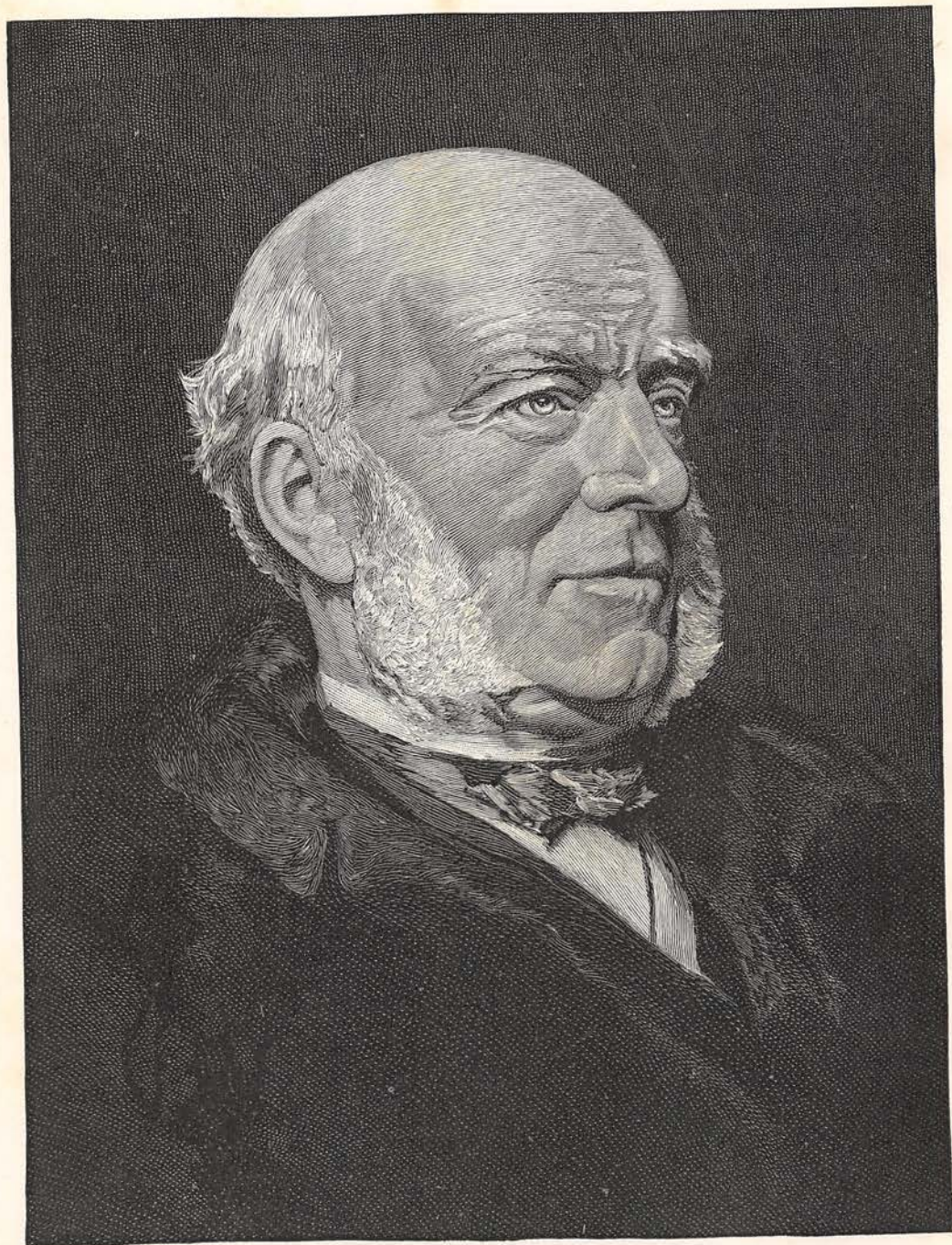
Rugby, whether sojourners or natives, will be admitted on freer terms, if deserving, to the benefits of the foundation of Laurence Shireff. It is evident too that Dr. Percival shares the feeling expressed by "Tom Brown" in his life of George Hughes against costumes and upholstery. The numbers of the school show that the public has full confidence in its future under his care.

A reference to the latest school-list reveals a staff of twenty-eight masters, not including drawing and music masters, to teach 320 boys on the classical, 150 on the modern, side. As the classical side often includes candidates for the Indian Civil Service, it is obvious that even within the classical side some special arrangement is needed. The modern side consists of two main divisions, army classes, in which attention is concentrated on mathematics, and general classes, in which special attention is given to modern languages, Latin, English, commercial and political geography, and history. The present headmaster has a genius for organization, and has already made his mark on the school in this respect. The governing body is fortunate in having as its chairman, Bishop Temple, and though the name of the late Bishop of Worcester, Bishop Philpott, is no longer to be found in the list of governors, the names of Lord Spencer, Lord Leigh, who is never known to miss Rugby speeches, Lord Norton, Lord Rayleigh, Lord Lingen, Dean Bradley, Professor Mayor, Canon Evans, Mr. Godley, and last, not least, the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, are each a sign that the old school can secure the services of the hard-worked politician, whatever his party, or the dignitary of the Church, or the scientific nobleman respectively. It would be tempting in like manner to review the names in the present school list as revealing the eternity of family connection from generation to generation, but boys should have no history till they have left their playing fields. Thus much may be said, that at no time in the school's history has the present work been harder, the promise of the future brighter.

H. LEE WARNER.

\* \* Next month's issue will contain "Games at Rugby School," by Lees Knowles, M.P.





HIS HONOUR JUDGE HUGHES, Q.C.

*Author of "Tom Brown's School Days."*

ENGRAVED BY O. LACOUR FROM A PICTURE BY LOWES DICKINSON.



## RUGBY SCHOOL.<sup>1</sup>

With Illustrations by C. O. MURRAY.

III.

GAMES.

By LEES KNOWLES, M.P.



To write about the games of Rugby School is to run the gauntlet of criticism and perhaps censure of many generations of Rugbeians past and present. In order to reduce that risk, I must state, in writing this outline, that there can be few old Rugbeians, or "old Rugs" as we call them, who know how many changes have taken place in the last twenty years, not so much in the kind of games that are played as in the internal character of those games, and not many boys, or "fellows," in the school who can realize what has been the effect of those changes. In the first place, I must allude to the decorations which are given to those who distinguish themselves in play. They have been much reduced and modified

under the present headmastership; but, until a year or so ago, a stranger visiting Rugby was at once struck by the ribbons and colours worn by the boys. "Who is that person with that exceedingly gaudy ribbon?" asked one of the masters, as a boy with a red, white, and blue ribbon round his hat brought him, while he was taking his form, a note from another master. We had a school heraldry with its rules so precise and so complete, that had a commission of visitation been issued and the Garter Principal King at Arms, provided that he had a nice knowledge of Rugby blazonry, attended, he would have been able to have assigned to each boy in the school his house, his rank, and his dignity.

I entered the school in April 1871. Then every new boy was obliged to wear a silk hat, or "topper," during his first term. My first term at school was the last term that that rule was in force, and very indignant were we boys, who had borne the heat and burden of the summer, that the new boys, who succeeded us, should escape from a similar ordeal. I well remember, the first night of my arrival, a new boy of the previous term coming into the bed-room with a straw-hat, or "straw," in his hand, which he regarded with rapture, admiring it as a sign of his emancipation. I remember too, that as he heard somebody coming down the passage, probably an older boy, he put up his finger to his lips for me to be silent; for in those days new boys were allowed only to be seen and not to be heard. For two years after his first term a boy wore a black and white speckled straw-hat with a black ribbon. Each house had its own

<sup>1</sup> Parts I. and II., written respectively by Judge Hughes and Mr. H. Lee Warner, appeared in the October number.

distinctive ribbon. Magenta and black was the School House colour. My house colour was yellow and black, the ribbon having a yellow stripe down the centre, or being some other mixture of yellow and black. At the end of his third year a boy could "take" his "white straw," but he was not expected to do this unless he were a "swell." Even a boy in the sixth would not take his white straw, except perhaps as the head of the school, without first distinguishing himself in the games. The word "swell" had an indefinite, but well understood, meaning in the school. A member of the school "twenty," or "fifteen" as it is now, or a member of the eleven was, for instance, a "swell." If a boy had won distinction in football and gained his flannels or his cap, as a general rule, he might wear his house-crest, worked in silk for the former, or in gold or silver-thread for the latter, on the ribbon of his straw.



THE LAST OF THE THREE TREES.

The School House crest is a skull and cross bones, and the crest of my old house is a double-headed spread eagle. These badges were worn only during the Christmas and Easter terms, that is to say, during the football season. In the summer term other distinctions were worn; for instance, if a boy were a member of the "twenty-two," he would wear a dark blue ribbon, or if he were a member of the "eleven" he would wear a light blue ribbon. However short a time he had been in the school, if he got into the "eleven" he would be obliged to wear a white straw, unless he were the captain, and the captain might wear, as a special mark of distinction, the speckled straw with the "eleven" ribbon—the pride of humility. A boy in the Wimbledon team wore a blue and white ribbon. Each house had two caps, one the football-cap and the other the house-cap. The former was a sign of distinction, and worn only by the few boys in the school

to whom it had been given. Everybody knows what a football cap is like:—a thing of velvet, fitting tightly the crown of the head, with a peak and a tassel. The football caps were made of velvet of one colour, and that colour for each house was generally the distinguishing colour of the house ribbon. The house-caps were of soft woollen material of a rather peculiar shape, fitting the head closely and with a peak. Around the edge was a band about half an inch in width, which was a noticeable feature. If a boy distinguished himself in cricket, he was allowed to wear a red band, or, as a higher distinction, a blue band. The caps of the school "eleven" and school "twenty-two" were of the same shape and material as the house caps. The "twenty-two" cap was a dark blue, and the "eleven" cap was light blue colour. Sometimes cricket and football distinctions were mixed together on the house caps. If a boy had distinguished himself in football, he might wear an edging of silver or gold on the band of his house cap, or he might wear a gold or silver braid down the centre of the band, in the one case to represent that he had gained his "flannels," or his first distinction in football, in the other that he had won his "cap." These distinctions might be varied in all manner of ways, according as a boy had won his red or his blue-band, his flannels or his cap.

Then again, he might wear his house crest, to represent his flannels or his cap, on the "twenty-two" ribbon. But the height of every boy's ambition was to wear the red, white, and blue of the school "twenty," or as it is now, the school "fifteen," on a white straw, and I fancy that few boys have felt greater pride in after-life, than a member of the school team, when he swaggered down town for the first time in his new colours. But recently, I am sorry to say, our school heraldry has, for some reason or other, attracted the attention of the authorities, and it has been much altered or suppressed, or perhaps I should say differentiated. Now a boy must wear his house ribbon for the first two years after entering the school. That no doubt is a useful rule to this extent, that it enables identification. But there are other alterations which it is somewhat difficult to appreciate. The shape of the house-cap, for instance, has been altered and, as many think, spoilt. The new shape is peculiar and cannot well be described; but it does away with the distinguishing band which I have mentioned, and now red-bands and blue-bands are signs of the past, though I believe that coloured house-ties, which cannot be worn by boys unless when dressed for cricket, have been substituted for them.

To turn for a moment to football. When I was in the school, beginners all wore "ducks" until they had gained some distinction in play. As soon as a boy distinguished himself, he was allowed to wear "flannels"; and instead of a blue and white striped jersey, he was allowed in some houses to wear a jersey with his house-colours. If he further distinguished himself, he was given his "cap," and then he might wear a jersey with broader stripes, and with an imitation of his house-crest, usually cut out of black cloth, stitched on his breast. If he further distinguished himself, and was given his school "twenty," or "fifteen," colours, he was obliged to wear flannel knickerbockers, instead of flannel trousers, and stockings to match his house colours. Those shortly were the rules when I was in the school. Then an alteration was made and ducks were abolished, and every boy was allowed to wear flannels; but "flannels," in order that they might have some distinction, were allowed to tuck their trousers into their socks. And now there has been a further alteration, and every boy may wear knickerbockers, and distinctions in colour only are allowed. Those distinctions are as follows: the members of the school "fifteen" wear dark blue knickerbockers and black stockings, the "caps," grey knickerbockers and black stockings, the "flannels" white knickerbockers and black stockings, and the rest of the school wear white knickerbockers and grey stockings. One useful result of these distinctions of colour is that during a game the players can see at a glance which of their opponents must be watched the most, and so they can prevent them from getting the better of the game. In my time, football distinctions were given in the different houses by the heads of the teams in those houses, but that system has been altered, and now they are given by school committees. Formerly too, football distinctions were given only in the Christmas term, but quite recently it has been decided by "Big Side," that not only "caps" and "flannels" but also "school fifteen" colours may be given in the Easter as well as in the Christmas term, and that all boys, except the captains, who play in the school fifteen or the school eleven, must resign their colours at the beginning of the next football or cricket term. This resignation system has also recently been adopted by Harrow. It is intended by these innovations to keep up the interest in football during the transition term, that is to say, the term between football and cricket, to keep good players up to their old form, and to create keener competition for places in the teams. Formerly, in cricket, just as in football, there were distinctions and privileges as regards dress. These have all been swept away, and now a boy may wear what costume he likes, pads, gloves, shoes with spikes, &c.; but the twenty-two and the eleven are alone allowed to wear jackets, or, to use a 'Varsity expression, "blazers." These are made of white flannel, for the twenty-two edged with dark blue ribbon, and with light blue ribbon for the eleven.

The games recall to Rugbeians at once the beauty of the Close, and remind them of friendships, the germs of which were sown beneath its elms. A change has come over those games during the last twenty years. It has been however merely a change of an internal nature, and it has been a change, I think, rather for better than for worse. Referring, for instance, to football: hacking, scragging, mauling, tripping, which were in vogue in my day, have long since disappeared, and are now, among present Rugbeians, only a matter of history. To-day a "forward" in a game of football would be astonished were he to receive a kick on his shin, and he would be still more

astonished were that kick to be oft repeated. And a "half-back," running with the ball under his arm, would be at a loss to understand his position, were he to find himself suddenly brought to the ground by the foot of the first man among his opponents "on side," who in my days would have been entitled to take a flying kick at him; and, if he had been able to pick himself up after his fall, he would be astonished were an opponent to run before him and prevent him from following up the ball when it left his hands. A committee of the whole Upper School manage the games, and there are certain sub-committees. The School Committee is called "Big Side," and it holds its meeting generally after dinner in the "Old Big School," some such notice as the following being pinned on the door to summon the meeting: "Big Side Levée at 2.15, in *re* so and so." Football, which is compulsory, is the game round which the school thought of games centres. During the Christmas term it occupies, out of school, the chief attention of the boys, and next to it "Big Side" runs and House runs, to which I shall refer later. It is continued into the Easter term, but only for a short time; and then paper-chases and steeple-chases, which are brought to an end by the Athletic Sports, gradually replace it.

Cricket, of course, reigns supreme in the summer: but, cricket is not the only form of game. Then, the boys turn their attention to the Bath, the Gymnasium, the two Racquet Courts, the numerous Fives Courts, Eton or Rugby, hard ball or soft ball. Then too, I must not forget the Rifle Corps with its drills, its marches out, its camp, shooting for the Wimbledon, now the Bisley, team, &c. There is also bicycling, and there was lawn-tennis, but that has recently been suppressed in the interest of cricket. But of all the games and forms of sport, football is of most count at Rugby. Rugby School is the mother of football, and Rugbeians are, as it were, born and bred up to the game. During the Christmas term three annual matches are played, "the Sixth," "the old Rugbeian," and "the two cock Houses" against the School, and to these matches old Rugbeians are invited by the captains of the different sides. They are curiosities in football, just as the Wall-game is a curiosity at Eton. In those matches there may be upwards of a hundred players—for the invitations to old Rugs are not necessarily limited—and sometimes the ball remains so long in the scrummage that the players, especially those behind, seldom touch it or even see it. Until 1871 the whole school were expected to take part in those three games; but only boys who had their caps or flannels actually played. The rest were expected to keep goal, an old custom handed down from the times when the numbers of the school were not so high as they are now; and a curious sight it was to see the rush of small boys towards the ball when it came near, and threatened their goal. Besides those three great matches, the School used to play the Universities, and such clubs as Ravenscourt Park, Blackheath, Richmond, Manchester, Liverpool, Clifton, &c.; but, in 1876 the authorities stepped in, and on account of the alleged size and weight of the strangers, made a rule that the School might play only teams in which there were ten old Rugbeians, and now they have made a rule that the School may play only teams from the Universities.

In alluding to football, I must make an allusion to the peculiarities in the ground. In my time the touch-lines were much wider apart than now, and they have been once or twice altered since then. The ground included a flagstaff, a walnut-tree, an ash-tree, a row of full-grown elms, and a clump of three more elms known as the "three trees," and also one of the posts, and part of the cross-bar of an old goal, known as "Case's Gallows," the other part having been, before my time, the branch of an elm. The "three trees" formed a marked feature of the game, and many a wonderful feat could they have told of goals dropped from them and the like. Many a time has a side come up after a drop kick, while the ball has been falling slowly and jerkily down from the branches. Alas! two of them are gone, and one alone remains on the new touch-line, a shadow of their former greatness. During the Christmas term the Close is divided, without interfering with the best cricket-pitches, into about six football grounds, the chief one to which I have referred being known as "Old Bigside," which is used generally only for foreign matches, or for Big-Side matches, that is to say, matches between the Caps and Flannels; and the other grounds are used for small games, such as "Below Caps" or "Little Sides." Until 1875, football at Rugby School was always played with twenty players a side. A change was then brought about, accidentally, in this way. The captain of an Oxford team having failed to bring down more than fifteen men, declined to play the School unless they played only a like number. The condition was agreed to. From that time the



spell was broken ; fifteen became the recognized number of the School team ; but, it was not until 1888 that the houses reduced their teams to that number. I have already alluded to Caps and Flannels, but I have not yet explained what I mean by "Belows." Caps, as I said, are given by the School Football Committee ; the formula is : " You may take your cap ; allow me to congratulate you." After the "Caps" come the "Flannels," and then come the players without distinction. The "Caps" and the "Flannels" in each house go to make up the house fifteen ; the "Flannels," without the "Caps," go to make up the second fifteen in each house, which is called "Below-Caps," or, for brevity, "Belows." The next fifteen in each house are called "Two Belows" and so on, though it rarely happens that a house has more "Belows" than two. As I have already said, Case's Gallows, the flagstaff, the walnut-tree and the ash-tree are all gone, and the width of the touch-line has been twice reduced. The survivor of the "three trees" is no longer in the ground but only on the touch-line ; and the old football-ground, which gave scope to the fleet of foot to run round their opponents, has been reduced to modern dimensions, a progressive policy has been introduced, and the School now play according to the Rugby Union Rules, which they adopted in 1881. The game was rough, but it did no harm. During the years I was in the School no serious accident happened, and I believe that comparatively few accidents are really caused by the rough-and-tumble of the game. Certainly, football brought out the pluck and the manliness of boys, and induced that physical strength and endurance which in later years have stood so many of them in good stead. I should say that two of the best known of our football players at school were Messrs. Herbert Child and his brother (alas ! now no more) "Algy" Child, each of whom in his day was head of the school team. Perhaps I ought not to choose out of the legion of celebrated players, but I do so with an apology to Mr. J. F. W. Taylor, the present head of the fifteen. And in connection, I must not forget to mention the names of "Jim" Gilbert, and the Lindons, of world-wide fame, who kept for us a constant supply of the best footballs.

Next to football, the peculiar form of pastime at Rugby is running. There are bigside-runs, house-runs, paper-chases, and steeple-chases. Runs proper are peculiar to the School. Everybody knows the nature of a paper-chase. Well, a run is a paper-chase without obstacles : its course is along roads, lanes, and footpaths, and is known traditionally to the boys. Two hares carry bags and drop paper-scent, more or less as a matter of form. The hounds are generally kept together, except in Bigside runs, by one or two of the bigger boys, until about a quarter of a mile from the finish, when there is a race for what is called the "come in," the places of the boys and their times being taken, and marks being given, which score for the different houses towards winning the running Challenge Cup. The best runner in each house, as a distinction, holds his "house-bags," that is to say, the bags for holding the scent, and the best runner in the School holds the "school-bags." The paper for the scent is torn up by fags, and sometimes a little coloured paper is mixed with it, according to the colours of the houses, in order that the line of scent of houses which have runs upon the same day, may be distinguishable. Bigside-runs were formerly voluntary, they are now compulsory ; but boys must obtain permission from the authorities before taking part in them. The "Crick" is the most celebrated of all school runs. Everybody, I fancy, in the running world has heard of it. On a day at the end of the Christmas term—generally on the first Thursday in December—you may see all the School assembled at the "Quad gates." Towards half-past two a couple of boys, with a pair of bags strapped across their shoulders and hanging by their sides, will be told off as hares, and given a signal to start. Then the boys who are to run as hounds will begin to strip themselves, and give their overcoats to the fags of their respective houses ; and ten minutes after the start of the hares, they in their turn will receive a signal, and the whole field will soon be in full cry. The "Crick" is run only once a year. Its course is along roads and footpaths to Crick village, and then back by Hillmorton, the finish being a length of about a third of a mile along the Hillmorton road. From the railway one can see, on one side, Crick Church in the distance, and on the other side the School chapel, which give one approximately an idea of the length of the race. It is a race pure and simple ; and it is in this respect a race against time, that if a hare runs the distance in better time than the hounds, he wins the race. As a rule, however, the best runners are not sent as hares ; for, apart from other considerations, a boy who has to carry a bag of scent

is much handicapped. In running little is thought of catching the hares; at the same time in the "Crick" they are often caught, or at least passed, by the hounds. The length of the race is supposed to be about eleven or twelve miles, and the time in which it is run is generally between an hour and twenty minutes, and an hour and thirty minutes. Among the winners of the "Crick," of which a list from 1837 to the present time exists, are conspicuous the names of Dr. Jex-Blake, the ex-headmaster, and now the Dean of Wells, who won in 1850, and Mr. C. G. Steel, an old Rugbeian and a master, who won in 1871. In addition to the "Crick," there are perhaps about a dozen well-defined runs for the School and the houses, of which our records go back so far as 1832. These were fully described by Mr. R. S. Benson, a great runner in his day, who ran a record "Crick" in one hour, seventeen minutes, twelve seconds, in 1876, beating, if it can be described as beating, the record of Mr. C. W. L. Bulpett in 1870 by only nine seconds. Since that book was written more attention, care, and interest have been taken in the School running, and many of the records have been beaten. For instance, Mr. E. B. Kellett ran the "Crick" in 1890 in one hour, fifteen minutes, fifteen seconds; and second to him was Mr. E. M. Beloe, who ran it in one hour, sixteen minutes, thirty-one seconds, both of which times have eclipsed the performances of predecessors. Independently of the School runs, each house has its own runs and paper-chases. The best performers are chosen for the School runs, in which there is a competition for a Challenge Bigside Running Cup, representatives scoring so many points for their respective houses according to their places.

Towards the end of the Easter term, and as a sort of climax to the runs, come the various steeple-chases, school steeple-chases, and house steeple-chases. The School is very fortunate in being able to use Clifton Brook, a tributary of the Warwickshire Avon, for its sport. Anybody travelling from London to Rugby can see it, first winding on the left of the line, and then on the right, just before you reach Rugby station. It is not deep, and its breadth varies from perhaps fifteen to thirty feet. In the fields through which it passes, the hedges are all of a good consistency and a reasonable height, and there are plenty of them, so that the boys can have as many hedge-jumps, as well as brook-jumps, as they please. There are usually two School Steeple-chases just before Easter. One of them is open to the whole school, and the other to boys under five feet seven inches in height. The course of these races is marked out by the athletic stewards, and varies little, if at all, from year to year. As a rule, the course begins in the second field from the railway bridge and passes under it, where there is a water-jump of about twenty feet in width, known as the "big-jump," and then, crossing backwards and forwards over the brook, and taking hedges on the way, it ends with a stiff hedge and water-jump in the direction of the station, known as the "school-jump." The number of obstacles in the race may vary; but I remember that on one occasion there were as many as fourteen water and ten hedge-jumps in a course of perhaps a mile and a half. In my time we ran in what are called "shorts," and I have cause to remember the occasion to which I refer, because my extremities were so scratched with thorns, that without glycerine and flannel the cold sheets of my bed were unbearable at night. But I fancy life would be uncommonly dull without an occasional thorn, and one remembers Pascal's thought, "*Rien ne nous plaît que le combat, même non pas la victoire.*" Naturally, the School had its traditional performances at the brook; perhaps the most celebrated of them was "Butler's leap" from the Clifton Road—over a railing, with a deep drop over the brook—known to every Rugby boy, and stirring his ambition and exciting emulation. And that reminds me of one advantage of our paper-chases: each boy was noticed, the individual was not swamped. Each boy had the same obstacles as his fellows to overcome; each boy tried to follow his leader, and thus he learnt his own powers, and his spirit and pluck were brought out and put to the test. I must not forget to allude to "House-washing." That custom has ceased to exist. Formerly each house had generally a house-washing in the Easter term—a sort of compressed paper-chase, backwards and forwards in a short distance, over "the Brook." The name is quite sufficient to suggest that this was not a dry process. But "House-washing" and "Brook-jumping" are no longer in vogue.

The Athletic Sports are held after the steeple-chases and last two days. They are held in the Close, and courses for them are marked on the grass by the athletic stewards. A day or two before the sports the heats for the mile and the half mile are run off: they are an old institution, and the thought of them is strange to an

outside athlete, who would naturally think that there would be no crush in level races of such long distances. The School mile has brought out many good runners, and in thinking of the races which I have seen, such names as those of Messrs. C. W. L. Bulpett, E. R. J. Nicholls, W. F. Hawtrey, R. S. Benson, B. R. Wise, and their performances, naturally come to my mind. And not only did the mile bring out good runners and the staying qualities of the School, but also a good record—four minutes, thirty-nine and three-quarter seconds; a fine performance for boys at school. Among the open events in the School sports are a quarter mile, one hundred and fifty yards, one hundred and twenty yards hurdle, and a hundred yards race, and in my time there was a half-mile hurdle-race, with hurdles at long intervals, a peculiarity which has now been abolished. The idea of such a race again startles an outsider. Then there were jumps, long and high, putting the weight, throwing the cricket ball, &c.; so that running did not alone bring out the athletic qualities of the School. I well remember Mr. M. J. Brooks as a boy at school. We used to see him practising



BUTLER'S LEAP.

by himself or with his elder brother, backwards and forwards over the Clifton Brook; and some years afterwards I was proud, as an old Rugbeian, to see him win his event at the Inter-University Sports, with the magnificent leap of six feet two and a half inches, and to see him again, within a few days, win the amateur championship for high jumping. Again, putting the weight has produced some strong men. Knack alone did not enable Mr. Cowlshaw—who played this year for Oxford in the Inter-University Rugby football-match—to “put” thirty-one feet one inch, Mr. Wigan, thirty-three feet nine inches, or Mr. Jackson, thirty-four feet seven inches. Then, too, in throwing the cricket ball, Mr. E. L. Curry threw one hundred and five yards, two feet, and several throws of over a hundred yards are among our School records. These were really fine performances for boys at school, and show how their muscles were developed, and their manliness called into play. Besides the orthodox open events, we had an occasional tug of war, or a sack-race, or a pick-à-back race, and there were races for boys under a certain size or under a certain age. The next athletic sports will be subject to some alterations, which were passed by Bigside Levée in December 1890. In future, competition in the athletic games by height will be abolished and competition by age substituted; and in flat races every house will be required to run at least one representative in every open event, and two in every “below” event, viz., every event for boys below sixteen years of age; and no competitor who competes in the “below” events must be over sixteen years of age on the first of March preceding the sports. There is an Athletic Challenge Cup held from year to year by the winner of most points in the sports, and towards this cup points are scored, not only

by winners in athletics proper, but by the winner of the Crick and by the winners of school events, such as racquets, fives, swimming, diving, &c.

This calls to mind that the "Crick" to which I have referred is, except for the score towards the School Challenge Cup, a race without a prize—a race for honour and glory; and I am glad to think that the winners would think far more of beating a record than of gaining a score towards the cup.

If I may refer as a critic to our athletic sports at school I should say that we did not train enough, or perhaps I ought rather to say that we did not understand how to train. We abjured the pastrycook for a time—Jacomb, Hobley, Wells, Jeffereys or Grocock, were for us voluntarily out of bounds; but dieting is not the only consideration in training. We did not sufficiently specialize. Nowadays people must be specific rather than generic, and if we made a mistake, I fancy it was the mistake of not training for particular events. I remember when I was at Cambridge, a Rugby boy wrote to me two or three days before the School sports, and asked me to advise him as to training. What could I do? If I remember rightly I told him to wear running shoes with spikes, to learn to start, to carry corks in his hands, to keep his



THE "ISLAND."

hands down, to run on his toes and not flat-footed, to lengthen his stride, never to look back in the race, to remember the finish, and to run to win. My friend won; but I expect that he won rather upon his exceptional powers than upon the advice which I had given him.

Cricket, unlike football, was not compulsory when I was at school—I wish for my own sake that it had been—and now it is only partly so. One result of this has been that recently, until the last year or so, lawn tennis and bicycling have somewhat interfered with its excellence. In 1889 a motion was brought forward at Bigside Levée, that cricket, like football, should be compulsory throughout the School. Unfortunately, in my opinion, it was lost by one vote; eighty-six votes being given in support of the motion, and eighty-seven votes being given against it. Cricket, however, at the present time, is compulsory for members of the upper school during their first two years, and for members of the middle school during their first three years. That rule was made in 1887, and it ought to raise the standard of the School cricket, which, however, has improved since the purchase, chiefly through the energy of Mr. W. H. Bolton, of "Caldecott's Field." The late John Lillywhite was for six years the School professional, and then came "Alf" Diver, a straight medium pace bowler, who for upwards of twenty years, until his death in 1876, kept

Rugby cricket up to the mark. With Diver, one must associate John Fell, the ground man, who died in 1880, after serving the School faithfully for upwards of a quarter of a century. When Diver died Rugby School cricket seemed to decline; but now, owing no doubt largely to the exertions of a body of old Rugbeians, with Mr. S. P. B. Bucknill at their head, an improvement is being rapidly effected in the game. "Tom" Emmett, the Yorkshire professional, has been engaged permanently, and another bowler temporarily, to coach the boys. In respect of coaching—amateur coaching—without forgetting the name of Mr. David Buchanan—Rugby has not been so fortunate as other schools, owing chiefly no doubt to its longer distance from London. There is ample room in the Close for some seven or eight pitches, and when the matches and the "ends"—let-pass is now forbidden—are in full swing, the whack of the bat and the whirr of the ball are heard during the summer in all directions, and any one crossing the Close is sure to be startled by the cry of "Heads" or "Thank you, ball, sir." The rules of the School cricket have not been so completely changed as the football rules, but they have undergone many changes of a sort. For instance, leg-nets which took the place of fagging at the ends were not in use before 1871, when they were used for the first time. It is surprising that nets were not adopted long before then, and that, even now, head-nets, like those used at Lord's, have not yet been adopted, so as to stop the ball hit in any direction except into the bowler's hands. Then, in 1885, unnecessary discomforts and hardships in dress-distinctions were removed, and now boys who are in "belows"—*i.e.* below the eleven and twenty-two—may wear two pads, cricket-gloves, cricket-shoes, &c., with impunity; and properly, no doubt, the general policy of allowing distinction in colours alone, rather than in dress, has been adopted. Each house has its eleven and its "belows,"—in matches between houses called "counting belows"—"two belows," and so on; and through the summer term, matches between various teams are constantly played in the Close or in Caldecott's field—a ground purchased in memory of Mr. C. M. Caldecott, whose active interest in Rugby cricket is gratefully remembered by all old Rugbeians. "Pie" matches are a peculiarity of the school cricket. No doubt in days gone by, winners received the succulent dainties suggested by the name; but nowadays these matches, arranged between teams in one house, or in one form—and there are many of them—are followed by suppers, subscribed for by the players, or provided by the masters, which are the scenes of much amusement and conviviality. The great annual meeting of cricketers at Rugby is at the time of the old Rugbeian match. It is played between an eleven of old Rugbeians and the school eleven, and at the same time several other games are played between school cricketers, past and present. The school eleven also play many foreign matches, for instance, matches between college teams from the Universities, the Rugby club, the Free Foresters, the Butterflies, the M. C. C., &c.; but the match which is of most importance is the annual match between Rugby and Marlborough, played at Lord's on the first days of the summer holidays. It has for years been an annual match, and down to 1890 it has been won thirty-two times by Rugby, ten times by Marlborough, and three times it has been drawn. The eleven also used to play the M. C. C. in London, immediately after the Rugby and Marlborough match. Many a good cricketer has gained his reputation at the two London matches; and it was, I fancy, in the Rugby and Marlborough match at Lord's in 1877 that Mr. A. G. Steel met Mr. C. F. H. Leslie for the first time. Among celebrated Rugby cricketers I might refer to Messrs. H. C. Bradby, D. H. Brownfield, S. P. B. Bucknill, F. L. Evelyn, C. K. Francis, F. D. Gaddum, H. W. Gardner, E. T. Hirst, C. F. H. Leslie, B. Pauncefote, A. A. Pearson, F. Tobin, W. Yardley, and G. F. Vernon.

In connection with the games, I should speak of the Racquet Courts, the Gymnasium and the Bath, and I should say something of the School Rifle Corps and the Wimbledon, now the Bisley, "Eight." We have at Rugby two racquet courts and ten fives courts—Eton, covered and closed, Rugby and bat-fives. There are numerous competitions on these courts, and there are many prizes for the games played on them. For instance, there is the House Challenge Cup, given by Mr. T. S. Pearson, played for since 1873; and the headmaster gives a prize of a racquet by way of encouragement to the boys. Although the School has turned out some excellent players, we have not been so successful in the Public School Match at Prince's, or at the Queen's Club where the match is now played, as we should have wished, partly owing, no doubt, to natural nervousness on the part of our representatives, partly because our repre-

sentatives have not been chosen hitherto in the Christmas or early in the Easter term, and so have not practised much together, and partly because the old racquet court is four and a half feet longer than the court on which the match in London is played. There is a racquet club in the School, and any boy giving a fortnight's challenge, if he defeats a member, may take that member's place in the club—a rule which keeps every one on the *qui vive*. Joseph Gray, who with his brothers is well known in connection with the championship for racquets, has been for a long time connected with the School and its racquets, and many a good player has he turned out, particularly Messrs. H. W. Gardner and T. S. Pearson, who won the Public School match in 1870, and the sons of Mr. Bowden-Smith—the oldest master in the School, himself still a player, whose kindness and geniality are so much appreciated—who have, one after another in succession, shown the results of his teaching.

The School Bath, which is seventy-five feet long and twenty-five feet broad, was a grand present to the School from Dr. Jex-Blake during his headmastership: it bears the pithy inscription "Rugbiensibus Rugbiensis." There are prizes for swimming ten lengths and six lengths, and two lengths for beginners, long-diving and pence-diving, &c. In 1889 the time for the ten lengths was four minutes, thirty-nine and three-quarter seconds, and the winner of the pence collected five, five, and four, or a total of fourteen pence, in three dives. I remember in my time, when our swimming and diving used to take place at the river, a boy won the school diving by collecting under water twenty-four eggs in three dives, bringing up eight eggs each time—a wonderful feat; and the boy who was second to him brought up twenty-three eggs, an egg-shell and a stone. There is a race for "Belows" who cannot swim at the beginning of the term. The qualification for the "little" swimming is one of height and not of age, as size has more to do with swimming than age. I should mention, too, that the Humane Society give a medal for skill in the knowledge of the means of rescuing human life; and Dr. Dukes, the school doctor, gives a Challenge Cup for skill in the knowledge of how to try to restore the apparently drowned. In writing about water, I think I ought to mention that though we have no boating river at Rugby, yet among rowing old Rugbeians are conspicuous the names of Mr. J. C. Gardner and Mr. A. S. Duffield, who rowed last year stroke and five in the Cambridge boat. The former has won the Colquhoun Sculls, the Diamond Sculls, and the Wingfield Sculls, and he is now the amateur champion of the Thames.

I must not forget to allude to the School Rifle Corps, although my reference cannot come strictly within the subject of games. We have a strong corps, under the command of Captain Collins, one of the masters. There are constant drills and marches-out, and shooting matches. Sometimes there are sham fights with the town corps, commanded by Major Seabroke. These sham fights are not only interesting but also instructive. On one occasion, I remember we took the train to Naseby, and in imagination fought the battle over again. How we boys used to enjoy firing our own blank cartridges, and when we took prisoners, generally from the town corps, firing the blank cartridges of the enemy! We used to carry our provisions with us, and we were refreshed from a large coffee-pot, part of our baggage. Well do old Rugbeians remember during the cessations of hostilities the cry of Captain Phillpotts, now the headmaster of the Bedford Grammar School, "This way for coffee and buns." The School shoot for various cups. There is the Monthly Cup, five shots at 200, 300, 500 and 600 yards. Then we have the Denman Cup, the Wratislaw Cup, the Town Cup, &c. Matches are sometimes shot with Cheltenham, Clifton, Dulwich, Harrow, Marlborough and Wellington. There is a Challenge Shield, and a second prize for drill, and there is also a prize for dress. The uniform in my time was grey, but it has now been changed to red. In the summer we used to go into camp for two or three days, with the other Warwickshire regiments, and a fine time we boys used to have under canvas. The camp was held in Stoneleigh Park, near Leamington; but last year the corps did not go there, as it was not held until August. The School shooting "eight" are coached by Sergeant Bates, the well-known veteran shot, and they ought now to learn what is a good shooting position. They won the Ashburton Shield the first year in which it was shot for at Wimbledon, but they have never won it since, though their average has been exceedingly good. Many old Rugbeians, moreover, have distinguished themselves in shooting. Mr. J. B. Carslake won the Queen's Prize in 1868; Mr. A. P. Humphry won the Queen's Prize in 1871, and was in the English "twenty" and "eight" in 1872; Mr. P.

Richardson tied as Queen's Prizeman in 1886, and was in the English "twenty" in 1887; and Mr. G. Richardson won the Spencer Cup in 1889, and in 1890.

In connection with the Gymnasium, I must state that the School send up representatives to the Public Schools' Gymnastic, Boxing, and Fencing Competition at Aldershot. In 1889 they won both the Public Schools' boxing competitions; and in the three years during which they have sent up representatives, they have won five first medals out of a possible six. This is due, I believe, mainly to the excellent instruction of J. Hough. The gymnasium was built about twenty years ago, and opened under the headmastership of Dr. Hayman. It is a fine building, thoroughly fitted up, and beneath it are workshops, where the boys learn carpentry and make all sorts of furniture, useful and ornamental, especially for their studies. It supplied a distinct want, and caused a removal of the scene of gymnastics from the horizontal bar which stood among the trees on "the Island" in the Close.

As I mention "the Island," I must add that it is not an island in the popular sense of the word. It is a mound, or tumulus, which was used possibly for military purposes when the Romans marched along Watling Street, and when fire-signals flashed warning of approaching danger and strife. We used to speak of "the Island goal," and so on, and sometimes one wonders whether the games of Rugby are a survival of the sports and pastimes of those days, long gone by, when men fought hand to hand and the issue depended largely upon muscular development and bodily strength. Our old friend and antiquary, Mr. Matthew Holbeche Bloxam, used to speak to us of such times and try to link the present with the past.

But not only had we signs of war; we had also signs of peace in the Close. The monks of Pipewell used to draw their water from the spring which filled the old bath. The bath is now gone: the spot where it stood, near the railings by the Pontines, has been drained and levelled: traditions alone remain. In my time, it was little better than a dirty tank in a dark shed, visited only by an occasional sheep, which found its way through the broken doorway, and it was described at one of our triennial Old Rugbeian dinners in London (quoting from memory), as a spot "where a boy took a header, gave a shiver, caught a newt, and came out." Dr. Jex-Blake added, "I prefer new to old."

Those words "I prefer new to old," are a key-note of the progressive policy of Rugby School. The work of the School and the play of the School have improved with the times. I must, however, confine myself to the latter.

A society has recently been formed, under the name of the Old Rugbeian Society, with the object and purpose of assisting and promoting the games of the School, especially cricket, and also of forming a bond of union between past and present Rugbeians. The executive, with Mr. S. P. B. Bucknill at its head, consists of thirty old Rugbeians, whose names are well known in the athletic world; and a standing cricket sub-committee has been appointed with a view to assist the School in the matter of expenses for cricket and the like.

In conclusion, I must add that the success of Rugby in play, as well as in work, depends to a great extent upon the interest which the masters take in the games. The masters watch the games and encourage the boys in their play—a fact which is known and appreciated by the whole School. One headmaster in my time was a famous boxer, and another a famous long-distance runner. I remember on one occasion a friend, who had trusted in his ability rather than in his diligence, was "sent up" to the latter, and received, at the top of that spiral staircase which Rugbeians know so well, the following laconic reprimand: "H—, I think. H—, you run: so did I. You hold the school-bags, H—: so did I. You don't work, H—: I did. You must. Good morning." That was an appeal to the boy's manliness, and it has never been forgotten. I feel sure that it was more powerful than any appeal through the classics, Greek or Latin, with or without accents; and with that story, and the moral which it contains, I would conclude this brief outline of our games at Rugby School.