

Mount House Record, Plymouth.

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No 2.

Editorial.

"'Tis time, descend, be stone no more." The Editor obeys the summons, and discards his attitude of Sphinx-like watching. He reveals the fact that he is true flesh and blood, and is ever noting all that is said and done, or left undone: he awakes to a consciousness that a short pronouncement must be made upon the happenings of the Summer term.

To begin with the War, which concerns us all more than ever, alas that we should have to mourn the loss of another Old Boy, who met a glorious death in the "Invincible," whose previous fighting record he had proudly shared. When we re-assembled in May, he was spending part of his leave in the house, and to see the healthy freshness of his boyhood, with the true ring of unaffected goodness about it, was to love him. His day is done, but the lead which he gave to others will last for all time.

A real sense of leadership is, in truth, somewhat conspicuous by its absence amongst the bigger boys of this present generation. It may by chance fall to the lot of many a one yet to die a glorious death, but it is open to all to do what is harder—to live a true and glorious life. No heroic surroundings are necessary for this, and the ordinary school routine offers a grand training for it. There are not enough boys who recognise the power of their own influence upon their fellows when they have reached a prominent position indoors or out, nor a sufficient number who give evidence of the grit that marks

them out for the leaders of the future. We trust that our kindly hint will come home to many and cause the something that is at present wanting to return to us and cheer us.

The work has been upon the whole good, but not remarkable for all-round excellence, while the Cricket has not been up to the level of last year. The Sports, on the other hand, were of a different order, full of go from beginning to end. But let the articles on the various subjects speak for themselves.

We have been spared epidemics, but have had a marvellous escape from mumps, and it speaks well for the general healthiness and arrangements of the School that we should have been able to limit that insidious foe to its first case in the house.

While we write comes the news that one of our boys, who has been very ill at his home for some time, has passed away. It is an occasion of more than ordinary sadness when a young boy's life is suddenly arrested—a sadness to which no words can give expression; but when we recall his recent investiture as a Scout, the manner of his giving the promise, his appreciation of the help in life to him that it offered, and his evident determination to abide loyally by its requirements, we feel in truth that for us Norman Blundell has not lived in vain.

In Memoriam.

Midshipman Douglas Alexander Colvin Birch
R. N. killed in action on board H.M.S. Invincible
at the battle of Jutland on May 31st, 1916,
aged 17 years.

We record very sorrowfully the death of Douglas Birch who, after 1 year and 10 months active service, went down with his ship on May 31st. He was the only son of Lieut.

in the knowledge that we were really going to have a good 'knock' at the enemy. He was a really plucky youngster." His Osborne tutor writes :— "He was a boy I had the greatest respect for. He was always so keen and reliable and a real tryer. " So speak those who came in contact with him continually during his all too brief career in the Navy. For ourselves it is hard to find words with hearts so full. His outstanding characteristic was perhaps that he was a gentleman in every possible meaning of the word. His kindness and generosity were only equalled by his inborn modesty and absolutely unaffected charm of manner. Of his manliness and courage others have spoken. Mount House School has given of its very best to the Country during the War, and we can only say that none could be more worthy than Birch of his place on our glorious Roll of Honour.

Bird Life in our grounds, 1915.

This is the sixth year that I have attempted some account of the happenings in our bird sanctuary, and it will perhaps be convenient if at the outset I compile a complete list of the tenants who have occupied the various nesting boxes during those years. This is particularly advisable now because on overhauling them at Christmas I discovered that many were in a very dilapidated condition. Outwardly they looked sound enough, because the birch bark which encased them is notoriously indestructible, but the wood in many places had simply rotted away inside. Nearly all these were originally 'made in Germany,' and so I set to work to see how they could best be replaced by home production. After some consideration I designed what appears to be a very practical and remarkably simple and cheap box, which I could turn out in about 25 minutes. At present it is only in the size suitable for blue tits, and it remains to be seen whether any of them will be fancied. The number has been considerably increased for 1916. I should add here that though boxes are evidently appreciated and often apparently remain 'in the family' for many successive years, there are several natural sites on the

premises which seem to offer even greater attractions and never lack a tenant. The position of a box is of course everything and one which remains untenanted for several years should be moved. Box 20 is no box at all but a piece of loose bark nailed against a trunk. In addition various cans and kettles are utilised.

Box	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
1.	starling	starling	starling	starling	starling (twice)	starling (twice)
2.	great tit	void	void	void	sparrow	*sparrow
3.	blue tit	void	humble bees	void	void	void
4.	void	flycatcher	void	flycatcher	sparrow	void
5.	void	wren	void	great tit (deserted)	void	blue tit
6.	void	great tit	sparrow	void	sparrow	sparrow
7.	void	void	starling	starling (twice)	starling (twice)	starling (twice)
8.		blue tit	blue tit	void	blue tit	blue tit
9.		starling	starling (twice)	starling (twice)	starling (twice)	starling (twice)
10.		blue tit	blue tit	blue tit	void	void
11.		void	void	blue tit	sparrow	sparrow
12.		sparrow	sparrow	sparrow	sparrow	sparrow
13.		blue tit	void	void	blue tit	nuthatch
14.		void	void	void	void	*sparrow
15.		void	void	blue tit	blue tit	blue tit
16.		void	wren	void	void	sparrow
17.		blue tit	blue tit	nuthatch	nuthatch	sparrow
18.		void	blue tit	void	void	*blue tit
19.	void	void	great tit	void	void	sparrow
20.	creeper	void	creeper	void	void	void
21.		void	void	wren	wren	wren

(cock's nest)

(cock's nest)

* Position changed.

It should be stated that I was away from home during most of April.

STARLING.—The winter roosting flight over the house, S.E. in morning and N.W. in evening, was of normal proportions during January but became larger in February especially towards the end of the month, decreasing very perceptibly in March though I noted them as still continuing as late as the 24th. Of the nesting birds there were the old tenants behaving in the same way in the roof of the Lodge, and in the stable, while in a very narrow hole in the gable of the gymnasium a new home was established. On May 8th box 7 contained five young birds and box 9 four,

all about ten days old. Box 1 contained three also about the same age. At this box, the most accessible, I succeeded by dint of much wariness and agility in catching each parent on the nest; the male bird was caught bringing food in the daytime and marked with a mauve ring on the left leg, the female was far too awake and could only be captured after dark; even then I paid two visits before I discovered that she was hiding herself *under* her nestlings! She was ringed blue on the right leg. By this means I hoped to obtain some statistics as to the second brood if any, for last year it may be remembered I was inclined to believe the second occupation of the box to be by a new pair of birds. This year things were later. The fledglings left boxes 1 and 7 and the stable on May 23rd. On that day I watched 8 adults working within a few yards in the field feverishly digging out 'leather-jackets,' and I noticed that a first capture was deposited on the ground when probing for a second. On this same day I was watching the Lodge nest through glasses when to my astonishment I saw it twice visited by the ringed female from box 1; she did not however feed the clamouring young but, presently returned to the copperbeech and uttered her favourite 'come on!' ejaculation. Eventually I satisfied myself that the ringed pair did re-occupy box 1, where the first egg was laid as soon as May 30th, 4 eggs completing the clutch. After sitting nearly the full time the female became very restless and was so continually coming off the nest that I thought the eggs must be hatched, but on my looking on June 19th no bird flew out and the contents were 3 deserted eggs; next day they were decreased to 2. In box 2 a second brood of five were hatched, and box 7 also had a second brood, but all were eventually deserted—almost certainly in consequence of the long drought and the difficulty of obtaining a plentiful food supply. By October 2nd I noticed the beginnings of the winter roosting flights, but they were very desultory and the direction was not at first established. About this date box 7 was being relined by the starlings, but three weeks later it was stuffed with hay by sparrows.

ROBIN.—The pair behind the stable, always the first, kept up their record, and the first egg was laid on March

14th. The next, in a tin suitably placed, was begun early in February. 4 eggs were laid, but on March 30th nest and its contents had been pulled out by a cat. Curiously enough a second nest was built there later on (the 1st egg on June 6th) and a brood successfully reared. Early in May a robin brought its young family to the hospitable Red House and frequently went indoors for food. On May 23rd I noticed a robin feeding an adult—a sure sign of a second nest in view.

BLACKBIRD began to sing here Feb. 22nd; I heard one twelve days earlier singing *sotto voce* in Tavistock Road. On March 4th I witnessed a very interesting fight between two pairs. It started between two cock birds, then one was joined by his spouse and together they were giving the single bird a very bad time when *his* mate came to the rescue. On May 26th I watched a blackbird very busily feeding on something which proved to be ants! On Dec. 25th two cocks were fighting fiercely at the S.W. corner of the field. During the last fortnight of the year they were very numerous—the sexes about equal—during a spell of boisterous weather.

THRUSH.—Just after seeing the fight described above, I saw at the same spot a fight between thrushes. The two birds were facing each other, flattened out along a bough and one was singing very rapidly and quietly, then they sprang at each other; a second bout was started in just the same way, when the non-singer was driven off. As is well known, a thrush habitually breaks open a small shell by swinging it violently against a stone; and where stones are scarce and snails plentiful one comes across piles of broken shells together. Thus in April I found a sacrificial stone among sandhills (when away on my holidays) and counted no fewer than 230 shells around it! In May I repeatedly noticed a thrush whose favourite phrase might well be rendered by the old refrain 'go to bed, Tom! go to bed, Tom! go to bed, go to bed, go to bed, Tom!' Occasionally the 'Tom' would be omitted.

WREN.—Not so much to report as usual about this interesting little bird. On Feb. 23rd when there was snow I discovered a party of from 8 to 10 wrens roosting in an old nest. In a hole in the wall behind the Red House

there has invariably been an unused 'cock's' nest. In the second week of May I noticed that for the first time it was lined with feathers—a sure sign that it would be occupied. Five eggs were laid and on June 9th were just beginning to hatch, having been incubated sixteen days. I did not note when they were fledged but they were still in the nest on June 25th. On May 20th box 21 contained a 'cock's' nest; it was later filled up with hay by sparrows, and later still completely emptied again. On May 15th a nest begun by swallows under the staging of the gymnasium was deserted by them, and some wrens used it as a foundation but in turn abandoned it. On Dec. 27th I discovered a party of wrens roosting there, as to which I carried out some careful observations in 1916.

HEDGE SPARROW.—I have notes of three nests in 1915, and judging from the dates and from the fact that they were all within some 15 square yards I am pretty sure that they all belonged to the same pair. I have once before proved by the closest possible observation that they will not only rear three broods, but go straight on to build a new nest the next day after one brood is fledged. On May 17th a nest which had contained 3 eggs was robbed. On June 7th I found a nest beneath the copper beech containing 3 young and on June 30th a 3rd nest with eventually 4 eggs. I have several times commented on the fact that both young birds and eggs have a way of disappearing unaccountably from hedge sparrows' nests, when human intervention is most improbable. As regards this third nest I watched developments closely at the end of the incubation. On June 11th they were still unhatched. On June 12th at 9 a.m. 2 hatched and 2 eggs, at 9 p.m. ditto; on June 13th at 9 a.m. ditto, at 9 p.m. 3 hatched and 1 egg; on June 14th at 11 a.m. 3 nestlings and no egg.

MISTLE THRUSH.—No notes except that by Feb. 11th it was singing everywhere and by December 28th it had resumed singing—and quarrelling—preparatory to another season.

HOUSE SPARROW.—A good deal more in evidence than desired as far as nesting boxes went. At several of the boxes new material was taken in during the autumn for roosting purposes; at box 11 there was nearly a tragedy,

for a sparrow somehow got entangled in a long rootlet which it had taken in, and was as nearly as possible hung. It swung about a foot below the hole for some seconds before it managed to free itself.

BULLFINCH.—A pair about all the last week of January in the lime trees and in Whiteford Woods. They reappeared late in the year and might be seen or heard almost any day in October and December.

CHAFFINCH in full song everywhere by Feb. 11th. No note of any nest. On June 20th I saw a cock bird very busily feeding a young one on the drive; using my glasses I found that the latter was simply being filled up with *grit*. The amount consumed was prodigious, and I counted 30 doses after it had been going on already for some minutes! On July 11th I witnessed exactly the same thing happening again—but of course this time it was another father and child.

GREENFINCH reappeared in the garden March 15th. In May they were very numerous, but as usual nested just beyond our boundaries; one I saw building in the hedge of the quarry field.

WOODPIGEON.—On May 23rd one was building in the top of the cedar on the drive.

NUTHATCH.—Always about. Box 17 had been daily inspected and visited during the winter, but in February they began to lose interest in it partly because of the persistent attentions of sparrows, who after a siege lasting off and on for some years forced an entry on March 1st for the first time; it was a very tight fit, but they gradually eased it off and took possession. The nuthatches meanwhile were overhauling boxes 2 and 14 both of which I had recently raised to higher positions—only eventually to be seized by sparrows. At last the nuthatches occupied box 13 and in the first week of May were making the nest of bark from various trees—Scotch pine and poplar being chief favourites. The bird was sitting on May 8th, and on May 20th I found 3 young ones about two days old. Between each inspection the parent birds plastered down the lid firmly. I saw them stand on the edge of a jam-jar filled with water for the fowls and drink from it. I watched the young being fed ten times in as many minutes or

June 6th, on which day they left the nest in the evening.

CASUAL VISITORS.—Green-woodpecker heard March 23rd, June 13th and Oct. 3rd. Noted raven passing over Feb 14th and Oct. 20th. Crows heard in Whiteford woods at beginning of February, but soon disappeared. Curlew, as usual about that date, passing inland March 5th at 11 a.m. Two kestrels flying very low among the trees and calling shrilly as they played—or fought—with each other Oct. 21st. Pheasants about off and on, and magpies continually.

GOLDCREST.—Usually few if any seen early in the year. On March 15th they reappeared. In May they were occasionally heard, but did not nest here. The autumn immigration brought large numbers by Sept. 20th which began to decrease about Oct. 14th.

PIED WAGTAIL. On May 9th I noticed a pair very busy running about the field catching insects in the air a few inches above the ground and flying off with great mouthfuls; I tracked them down to a nest in the old quarry on our west boundary. The curious thing was that this continued almost without intermission for as long as seventeen days. On Oct. 1st a party of 5 or 6 were seen in the field.

GREY WAGTAIL reappeared for the winter just at the end of September in the yard, and as usual chiefly affected the greenhouse roof and Mount View garden, while its pied cousin preferred the gym. roof.

BLACKCAP.—On May 15th was singing frequently in the kitchen garden and in Mount View, but I did not hear it at all a few days later.

SWIFT first seen May 6th.

HOUSE MARTIN—Two or three seen July 9th rather unusual.

SWALLOW.—On May 7th they were skimming about the gymnasium, and on the 9th began a nest under the stage. Two mates were furiously chasing each other about, closely accompanied by a female. By May 15th the nest was discontinued, but they were always in and out of the open windows of the gymnasium till about the middle of June.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER.—A pair seen by the Red House

May 17th. Later I noticed a pair frequenting the top of the kitchen garden and at last on June 6th located the nest containing 4 eggs. It was on the stump of a bough about 10 feet up in the ivy-covered cedar, and curiously enough was placed so that a clothes-line was left hanging against it when not in use. I saw a bee taken to the nest once or twice, and once a white cabbage butterfly; on the last occasion no wings were carried away, and I at once went up to inspect the nest, but found no remnants of them. On June 25th they were ready to fly, and a second family was that day fledged from somewhere behind the Red House.

CHIFFCHAFF.—None heard in March. In the middle of May a pair were so persistently round the Red House that I suspected a nest, but found none.

WILLOW WARBLER.—As usual chiefly along our west boundary.

WOODWARBLER.—A most welcome and surprising addition to our list. On June 16th I heard one, if not two, singing very persistently in Whiteford Woods just over the wall. And on June 19th I actually heard, singing at the same time within 20 yards of me the three cousins—wood-warbler, willow-warbler and chiffchaff. Doubtless nested there.

COAL TIT.—Seen and heard most days in February. On March 1st—and also previously—I saw two courting very prettily and playing a sort of ‘touch last’ for a quarter of an hour on end; a blue tit tried to interfere. In May they were seen pretty frequently.

MARSH AND GREAT TITS seen and heard at intervals, but not specially noted.

BLUE TIT.—The following are brief notes about nests.

Box 5. May 9, 1 egg half covered; material being added.

May 31, just hatched. June 12, took several nestlings out and photographed parents feeding them on an apple tree.

Box 8. May 9, 1 egg half covered.

May 21, 9 eggs. June 1, hatched.

Box 15. May 8, tit on nest. May 9, nest empty and not ready. May 16, 6 eggs. June 12, young about 7 days old. (In December I found 6 addled eggs covered up in the old nest).

Box 18. After being examined and probed constantly proved on May 15 to contain 8 eggs in the cup of the nest and a ninth hidden in the lining.

School Notes.

We wish to draw the attention of all concerned viz. : the parents and boys and staffs of both houses in the school to the fact that a branch of the National War Savings Association will be started in the school at the beginning of the Christmas Term. Any sum may be deposited from 1d. upwards, and when 15/6 has been saved by a member the sum will be exchanged for a Government War Savings Certificate. It is hoped that many boys will practise thrift in this way; "many a mickle makes a muckle", and it is astonishing to realize that soon after the N.W.S.A. was started £1,000,000 was lent to the Country in one week by small contributors alone. It must be remembered that the money may be withdrawn at a fortnights notice if necessary, but it is hoped that all who can, will lend some part of their substance at least, to help the country to win the War.

Since our last number went to press we have received further details of the death of 2nd Lieut. W. Brooking R. F.A. attached R.F.C., who was killed whilst acting as Observer on a biplane in an air battle whilst flying over the enemy's lines in France. He was wounded whilst in the air, fired a few shots and then collapsed, death was instantaneous. The pilot of the biplane was taken prisoner by the Germans, and has been well treated; the enemy also accorded to Brooking a military funeral. These facts we know will interest all who knew Brooking, and we feel thankful to learn that he was spared suffering.

Congratulations to Rees, who as a preliminary canter has taken an exhibition of £35 at Worcester College Oxford. He is still at Dover College and we confidently expect to hear of further triumphs when he goes in for the Scholarship groups next December.

Once more we offer congratulations to an Osborne Candidate on passing his exam, and wish G. Payn the best

of luck in the Naval career which now lies before him. Hodgess was not able to show what he could do at the literary exam owing to being unable to pass the colour tests at the medical which was very hard luck on him, however we hope that he will distinguish himself in some other career.

C. Picken was successful this term in obtaining a Scholarship of £21 a year at Kelly College. This does him great credit as he has been obliged to miss a certain amount of school each year. He will be much missed here though all rejoiced at his success.

Amongst the King's Birthday Honours this year was the name of Sister E. Wimbush Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. who was awarded the Royal Red Cross Medal 2nd Class for "valuable services in connection with the war." All Miss Winbush's many friends in the school are delighted at this Royal recognition, and hope soon to hear that she has received the Cross at the King's hands.

The Navy is not to be out done by the Junior Service in the matter of medals at Mount House, and we extend our congratulations to Mr. C. Bullen at the Lodge who has been awarded the beautiful silver medal for "good conduct and long service" this term.

We have to thank Wall for the gift of part of a Turkish Cartridge belt to the museum picked up by his father in Gallipoli.

Old Garfield boys will be proud to hear that Lieut. R. B. Vinter (at one time head of Garfield House and later head of Sherborne) has been awarded the Military Cross for services in France.

Another old Garfield boy Nixon Morris has just won the Warneford Scholarship of £25 a year at King's College, London. For the last seven years Morris has been at Plymouth College, and has done extremely well there.

Lieut. Humphrey Woolcombe, (also Garfield though known to many at Mount House) spent his 21st. birthday

in the trenches in France this term. The men in his Company presented him with a silver teapot and hot water jug and a silver cigarette holder. Many happy returns if not too late !

Congratulations to C. W. M. Cox on being awarded the Wilson Scholarship of £50 a year open to boys in the School under 17 at Clifton College, and also on winning the President of Magdalen's Prize of £5 for Classics open to the Lower Sixth Form.

H. W. Picken has been playing cricket for his house at Clifton this year, and went to Marlboro' as 12th man in Clifton V. Marlboro' Colt's Match. Oddly enough Jerram ii of Garfield days was 12th man on the Marlboro' side !

R. Burke was awarded the Lord Russell Scholarships of £25 at Easter. He entered Castle Knock College in September of last year from Mount House, and the Scholarships was awarded to the best new boy of his year. We also congratulate him on winning the Bronze Medal for Music in an examination open to all Ireland at the same time.

We must record that an airship was first seen over Plymouth on July 11th. The boys were let out of School half an hour earlier than usual in honour of the event.

We wish to acknowledge gratefully letters from various old boys received this term, also from two 'old' masters (now serving). Owing to lack of space we regret being unable to publish the letters in full as we should like to do, but it is always a very great pleasure to receive them, and to hand on the main items of news.

Wimbush i is leaving us this term and going to Burkhamstead where we confidently expect to hear of him as doing well. We shall miss him next term, but hope that his name will be added to our list of correspondents !

Midshipman W. P. Bennett is now on board the "Centurion". He passed 3rd out of Dartmouth last Christmas.

We have to thank Wimbush i, Hodgess and McDonnell for gifts of beautiful and interesting books to the library this term.

The prizes this term were in the form of Certificates, and a War Savings Assoc : Card entitling the holder to a certain number of coupons, instead of the usual books. The winners were :—

Form VI. Lewes I. 2nd Cocks I.
Form V. Brownlow. 2nd. Ware.
Form IV. Macpherson II. 2nd. Radford II.
Form III. Knowling II.
Form II. Bolt.
Form I. Petts.

Collections this term :—Universities Mission to Central Africa 8/10. Waifs and Strays £1 0s. 9d. Y. M. C. A. Huts £1 0s. 5d.

Cricket Season of 1916.

With only Payn, Yonge, and Norman remaining of last year's XI, the search for new talent was a serious matter, and not made easier by the fact that six other players who had a trial last season had left. Taken as a whole the season of 1916 produced an unusual number of players of some promise but rather a monotonous succession of disappointing performances in the batting line. It is not altogether easy to suggest any one reason for such a state of affairs. In the St. Gabriel's team, it is true, we had to face some exceptionally good bowling, but there were many occasions when the side succumbed in surprising fashion to an attack that was anything but formidable. Some individuals suffered from nerves, and others from over confidence, and the two extremes did not tend to happy results. Something must be put down to inexperience. but this would not apply to Payn and Yonge, captain and vice-captain respectively. Payn himself, while working hard to improve the fielding, has been far too loquacious in the games instead of checking one or two notorious offenders, and the effect is inevitable ; a general

happy-go-lucky style is affected at the expense of serious effort. One seldom sees any attempt to acquire a new stroke or to think out and apply the advice given at the nets. Keeness and interest there have been in plenty but hardly the enthusiasm that keeps pegging away to master a detail and overcome a weakness.

Characters of Cricket XI.

* Colours.

*PAYN. With plenty of natural gifts it will be surprising if he does not eventually develop into an excellent all round cricketer. At present his temperament seems against him; he leaves too much to chance, and appears to be a fatalist about getting out. As a bat he has great hitting powers, and is capable not only of a perfectly orthodox and well-timed forward stroke but of unusually strong back play. He has a tendency however to put a ball up unexpectedly either by following a rising ball with the end of his bat or by not keeping the handle of his bat well forward. If he had met with any early success in matches he would probably have been responsible for some long scores; as it was, he never made double figures. Came on greatly as a fast bowler with a good high action. He keeps a good length, and can send down an excellent yorker, which however he would be wise to use more sparingly. A first-rate field and of great service to his side.

*YONGE. Returned to all his old faults in batting and in addition could never manage to keep his feet from straying in the direction of square leg. As a result he has lost confidence in himself and in only one match reminded us of his last year's form. He always uses his wrists, but keeps his arms much too far from his body in making a stroke, and pays no regard at all to the important matter of balance. As good a judge of a run as ever. At the wicket he has often been disappointing, and has missed many chances as well as depending too much on the services of the longstop. He is rather unlucky as a cricketer, and is often in the wars.

*NORMAN I Much the most dependable all round player again this year, with a useful confidence in himself. Last

season's 'character' might be repeated almost verbatim. His back play strikes one as more sure, and he is stylish without being in the least showy. Still loses his wicket by cutting the wrong ball. At times a little expensive as a bowler through overpitching the ball but generally very destructive. A safe pair of hands.

***MACPIHERSON I.** Gained his colours very early as the result of consistently good all round form in games. Unfortunately it cannot be said that he has quite fulfilled expectations. Both in batting and fielding he has seemed lately to be much handicapped by his sight. As a round-the-wicket bowler he puzzles many batsmen, and usually bowls a capital length, though occasionally he loses it altogether and sends down nothing but long hops.

***KNOWLING I.** Possessed of a good deal of grit, there is no irresolution about his batting whether he is playing the stonewall game or 'having a go.' Considering his short reach he gets very well over the ball and can drive with power. He never draws away, and indeed is inclined to get in front of his wicket. He goes to extremes in the matter of aggressiveness or passive resistance, but always watches the ball. As a change bowler he sends down so many loose balls that he looks harmless, but the fact remains that his analysis generally compares well with anyone else's. Does not shape particularly well in the field, but assiduous practice has made him fairly dependable.

***CHILCOTT.** A determined batsman, who hits hard and has learnt to play with a much straighter bat. He watches most balls well, but generally throws his wicket away by sudden recklessness and a blind 'swipe' at a good length ball. His slipshod fielding nearly kept him out of the team.

***PICKEN II.** He has hardly improved in his batting this year. All his strokes are crisp wrist shots, the best being a forward cut in front of point, while he gets many balls away neatly to leg. He has not yet developed a drive. He still fails to take a good grip of the handle, and does not swing his bat up correctly, often being bowled in the middle of a spasmodic flourish. At longstop he is a very clean fielder and throws in hard and without hesitation.

***WALLACE.** A new discovery. As a bat he has some

very good points. He stands with a good balance and does not shuffle about unnecessarily. He generally plays his stroke well through with a straight bat, though he hardly throws his left leg far enough scross to an off ball. He has strong but hardly supple wrists and his style has a tendency to be too mechanical. He never recognises a 'yorker,' and has no back play. A fairly good field, and may come on as a bowler next year.

*LEWES. He can hit loose bowling hard and often, but has not much idea of dealing with a good length ball otherwise than by letting it hit his bat. He is too fond of jumping in front of his wicket in an attempt to score on the leg side. Naturally a very uncertain catch, but he has improved considerably and can throw in hard and quickly. He did not succeed in impressing anyone with his bowling powers until the last week of the term, when he suddenly came out as quite a promising fast bowler.

MACPHERSON III. An indefatigable trier. His batting is a little too exuberant, and his right arm does all the work. He has a good eye, and ought to come on well next year if he learns some restraint. He may train on to bowl a useful ball. As a fielder very good on his day, but not yet safe.

BLUNDELL. Too nervous to do himself justice as a bat, though he shaped well. Always the keenest of all at fielding practice. By his tragic death we have certainly lost the best wicket-keeper of those training on.

BAILY I. He really possesses some hitting power with little defence. He puts up a very poor resistance to good bowling and bats as if he owed the bowler an apology for troubling him. As a field he can make a neat catch, but is quite as likely to drop it.

RADFORD I. Almost the ditto of the above. He would do better to hold his bat with a shorter handle. Resolution is what is lacking.

PICKEN I. A good field, and might perhaps have been tried earlier in the season if he had been here more. As a bat he has everything to learn, but would probably respond to coaching.

*RIMINGTON. Hardly worth a place in the team this year, but has begun to come on well. Watches the ball fairly well and has more determination than many better bats;

he has some hitting power, but is inexperienced as yet. A fair field.

WIMBUSH II. Has all the makings of a cricketer. Shapes well as a bat but rather too mechanical in style, playing forward regardless of length and not watching the ball closely enough. His lob-bowling in games has proved very destructive sometimes. A neat field but hardly to be depended on, and very apt to wander out of his place.

With our batsmen still in the making or persistently failing to come off, the matches were saved from disaster by some really good bowling backed up by keen, if not smart, fielding. Any shortcomings indeed in this last department cannot be traced to lack of keenness, and it was not for want of constant practice that some members of the XI. have failed to get rid of a natural awkwardness and inability to hold a catch with any certainty. It will be necessary to unearth some more bowling next year, as we shall have only Norman to reckon on, but several people are training on and in other respects one does not have to look far to find promising material for future cricketers. But let the criticisms both of 1915 and 1916 be taken to heart by those who would excel.

V. ST. GABRIEL'S CHOIR.

Played on May 27th, 1916. Won by 9 runs.

The first match of the season called for several experiments on our part, as only three of last year's 'colours' were available and rising talent was not very readily forthcoming. Macpherson i however had already been awarded his colours on the strength of many good performances in games, and Knowling i had the distinction of winning his by his large share in pulling off what, at the end of an hour's play, looked like a badly lost match. As a new departure the game was not started till 5 o'clock, to enable Payn, who had been up for his Osborne 'interview,' to take part. The start was very disastrous for us. Winning the toss Payn sent in Macpherson i and Norman. The former after a lucky snick for two was bowled by a fast full pitch which he drew away from. Norman unluckily played on in the next over. Payn and Yonge made a few good strokes before another full pitch from Hill shattered Payn's wicket, and Yonge and Chilcott were bowled by consecu-

tive balls from Rickard who was bowling in great style Picken ii, like the others, was beaten by the pace, and also clean bowled. Knowling and Lewes stood up resolutely but the latter was soon thrown out by a fine return. At this stage 7 wickets had fallen for 18 runs, but Wallace helped Knowling to make a very timely stand and the total. Radford i also added a few when every run was of value. Knowling after playing very coolly and pluckily succumbed to the inevitable fast full pitch and our innings closed for a modest 40.

St. Gabriel's started as badly as we did, losing Vosper to Norman's first ball, who in his second over also bowled Perks (2 for 5). Then Rickard and Hill got together and the bowling was quickly collared. Payn, who had been very erratic, went off for Macpherson i, but he and Norman came in for very severe punishment, Hill in particular running out again and again and hitting very fiercely. At last when our total had been already passed, Macpherson bowled Hill (3 for 42) and with Payn resuming at the other end four more wickets fell at the same total. Norman held a skyer at point with the sun in his eyes, and Macpherson finished off the innings. The bowling never became quite demoralised, but had not quite its usual sting.

With nearly an hour and a half left for play we had still a chance of retrieving the position. As it happened, our second innings was almost a repetition of the first, Knowling again saving a collapse. He made many good strokes, and deserved one or two pieces of luck which came his way. He nearly lost his wicket once through Blundell obstinately declining to run when called for a long one. On the other hand Knowling ran out Picken. It will be seen that our first four batsmen, on whom alone runs were expected, averaged only a little over two runs apiece in the match. The ground fielding of our opponents was exceptionally good, and, though their long stop gave away in all 20 byes compared with 6 in their two innings, he was really very smart and had a far harder task with the fast bowling. There were fifty minutes left for play when St. Gabriel's went in again with 41 to win. Except while Hill was in and hitting with great determination, we always looked to have the match in hand, although the bowling was not

backed up with good fielding. Catches were dropped in succession all round the field, Norman being the bowler to suffer most. Chilcott, Lewes, Radford and Knowling all missed chances, of which Knowling's was the only difficult one. The last-named however eventually was responsible for running Hill out by a good piece of fielding. Yonge had a hand in each of Norman's wickets. After 4 wickets had fallen for 2 runs, the 5th fell at 12, the 6th at 19, the 7th at 27, and the 8th, 9th and 10th at 31, amid great excitement. Payn bowling down the hill was in great form; in all he took 10 wickets for 35 runs, Norman 5 for 21 and Macpherson 3 for 14. Picken's alertness in the field deserves a word of praise; the fielding of St. Gabriel's was superior to ours, and their bowling in the first innings had more sting. Score :—

MOUNT HOUSE SCHOOL.

Norman i	b Rickard	0	b Rickard	7
Macpherson i	b Hill	2	b Rickard	0
Payn	b Hill	5	b Rickard	0
Yonge	b Rickard	4	b Hill	0
Chilcott	b Rickard	0	b Hill	6
Knowling i	b Rickard	13	b Hill	16
Picken ii	b Hill	0	run out	3
Lewes	run out	1	b Rickard	1
Wallace	c & b Rickard	4	c & b Rickard	2
Radford i	c Ham b Rickard	4	not out	0
Blundell	not out	0	b Hill	0
Extras		7		15
		<hr/> 40		<hr/> 50

ST. GABRIEL'S CHOIR.

Perks	b	Norman	1	b	Payn	0
Vosper	b	Norman	0	c	Yonge b Norman	0
Rickard	b	Payn	16	c	Radford b Payn	2
Hill	b	Macpherson i	22		run out	14
Kemsley	b	Payn	2	st	Yonge b Norman	0
Pulsford	b	Payn	0	st	Yonge b Norman	1
Ham		run out	0	b	Payn	5
Hoskins	b	Macpherson	0		not out	4
Chaffe	c	Norman b Payn	3	b	Payn	1
Dawe		not out	3	b	Payn	0
Byfield	b	Macpherson i	0	c	Knowling b Payn	0
Extras			3			4
			50			31

V. PARENTS.

Played on June 6th, 1916. Lost by 19 runs.

In these days it is not an easy matter to raise a team of fathers, and as rather short notice was given, only seven qualified parents could be mustered, the eleven being completed with Bullen (fortunately available from H.M.S. Impregnable) and three substitutes from the boys. The Parents won the toss, and went in to bat on a rather soft wicket with more rain threatening. A few showers interrupted the play which did not last quite as long as sometimes. In Payn's first over Picken at long stop let the first ball go for three (this proved to be the only extra of the innings), while the last ball bowled Mr. Freeman. Mr. Lampard obstructed his wicket to the first two balls he received from Norman, but the latter was bowling round the wicket and appealed in vain. Bullen went all out for a smite, but should have been easily stumped more than once off Norman before Payn bowled him (2 for 13). At this stage Col. Finlaison joined Mr. Lampard and the pair hit about freely. Mr. Lampard who often had the ball in the air was perhaps lucky in giving no actual chance. One of his hits was a fine straight drive which hit the wall at the bottom of the field. Payn did not show much judgment in the arrangement of his field and though the ground fielding was much better, there was a lack of general smartness. A change of bowling might not have been amiss. Once Norman should easily have run out Mr. Lampard, but threw in very wildly—a very unusual thing for him. When the total about 30 Col. Finlaison jumping out to drive missed the ball which rebounded from Yonge's pads onto the wicket; strangely enough no appeal was made and the batsman continued his innings. At last Mr. Lampard after passing the 20 limit had to play left-handed, and almost at once was easily stumped. (3 for 47). Col. Finlaison, whose play was a good example of the value of a straight bat and a watchful eye on rather a tricky wicket, succumbed at last to a shooter from Payn. The rest of the innings was finished off rapidly and closed for 56 runs. Payn securing 6 wickets for 20 runs and bowling very well after a few loose overs. When the school began to bat it was very soon evident that they were unlikely to reach this

total. None showed any confidence in playing Col. Finlaison's left-handed bowling, which was so accurate that when he took himself off his analysis read 7 overs 6 maidens 1 run 2 wickets. Norman was bowled by a shooter, and Macpherson i who began very timidly was just settling down when he failed to keep an off ball down and was well caught—a fate which afterwards overtook Knowling and Picken ii. Payn and Yonge were bowled without scoring by good balls. A short stand was made by Picken ii and Chilcott, but though some easier bowling was sent down, the batsmen seldom succeeded in getting the ball away from some very vigilant fielders. Chilcott took out his bat for a modest top score of 8, and the total of 37 included 12 extras. Mr. Lampard took 7 wickets for 21 runs. The scoring was slow, 27 overs in all being bowled in this innings. A word of praise must be bestowed on the fine wicket-keeping of Bullen, who spurned the use of pads or gloves!

PARENTS.

Mr. P. Lampard, st Yonge b Norman	24
Mr. Freeman, b Payn.	0
C. Bullen, b Payn	4
Lieut-Col. Finlaison, b Payn	17
Staff-Surgeon Townsend, b Norman	3
Macpherson iii, (sub.) b Payn	0
Fleet-Paymaster Jones, c & b Norman	3
Rev. C. B. Yonge, b Norman	2
Dr. Lindsey, b Payn	0
Jones, (sub.) not out	0
Radford i (Sub.) c Chilcott b Payn	0
Extras	3

56

M. H. S.

Norman, b Finlaison	3
Macpherson i, c Yonge b Lampard	2
Payn, b Lampard	0
Yonge, b Finlaison	0
Knowling, c Freeman b Lampard	0
Picken ii, c Yonge b Lampard	6
Chilcott, not out	8
Lewes, b Lampard	2
Wallace, c Finlaison b Freeman	3
Baily i, lbw Lampard	1
Blundell, b Lampard	0
Extras	12

37

v. ST. GABRIEL'S CHOIR.

Played June 10th, 1916. Won by 52 runs.

The second fixture between these old opponents was keenly played throughout, but did not provide such exciting incidents as the first. St. Gabriel's again showed weakness when it came to batting, but were distinctly the better side in the field. Indeed but for their tendency to get badly out of position and to leave unguarded areas our run-getting must have been greatly curtailed, for there was little fumbling or bungling when the ball came to hand. We again had first innings. In the opening over Picken snicked a fast one and fell to a fine left-handed catch at slip. Payn and Norman then set to work merrily, though the latter was as nearly as possible run out before he scored. Both made some good strokes till Payn in playing back hit a ball hard and straight to 'silly point' and was caught. Yonge also looked like settling down for a score till he played rather blindly at a good length ball from Rickard and was bowled. The remaining batsmen (except Macpherson iii) suffered rather from excess of caution. Knowling succumbed to a shooter after a quiet beginning. Norman was at last bowled by another good ball from Richard. He had played good confident cricket, though he had his share of good fortune, being once missed at the wicket, while if an appeal for l.b.w. had been made by Perks he would have been given out. Rickard took 7 wickets for 25 runs. The St. Gabriel's innings did not present many features; it lasted about as long as ours but yielded only 29 runs. Payn, who did most of the execution, (taking 5 wickets for 10) was rather erratic in length and direction, and obtained two of his wickets with indifferent balls. Rickard for instance playing horizontally at a long hop was well caught at long stop! In this position Picken ii did excellently throughout, and no byes were given away in either innings. Hill opened cautiously and seemed puzzled by Norman who eventually bowled him. Macpherson's three overs were mostly long hops, but these are often deadly to a certain type of batsman and he secured two wickets for three runs. Norman had 3 for 14. With plenty of time still to lose Mount House played with more confidence in their second venture. Hill, who had kept wicket in the first innings, now bowled. Norman

drove him well to the off boundary twice in the first over but Picken it was all at sea with the last ball—a slow half volley—and was dismissed for the second time without scoring. Payn put up a soft catch from a bumping ball and Yonge and Knowling were clean bowled by Rickard. Norman made a half-hearted stroke off a long hop from Hill and was easily taken at point for another useful innings. With 7 wickets down for 38, Chilcott and Wallace made our position more secure till Chilcott spun round like a teetotum at a good ball from Rickard and was bowled all over his wicket. Wallace carried his bat out for 12 which included several capital strokes. The bowling was again very straight. Wanting 80 to win St. Gabriel's soon lost Rickard's wicket through a good piece of fielding on the part of Baily i. Norman who took 5 wickets for 12 runs in spite of a damaged finger bowled very steadily, and it will be seen from the score what a large part he played in the victory. Yonge, who had kept wicket quite well in the first innings, was also handicapped by a thumb which was badly crushed when he was batting. Payn took the gloves and soon made a good catch at the wicket to dismiss Thorn, who had been stonewalling successfully. Hill was bowled in letting out at Norman. Knowling's slows finished off the innings, Norman after dropping one easy catch making two others. Our fielding though safer on the whole, was still often at fault. Score:—

M. H. S.

Norman i b Rickard	21	c Rickard b Hill	13
Picken i c Perks b Rickard	0	b Hill	0
Payn, c Vosper b Perks	9	c Rickard b Hill	4
Yonge, b Rickard	5	b Rickard	4
Knowling i, b Rickard	2	b Rickard	4
Macpherson i, b Rickard	0	b Hill	1
Chilcott, b Perks	0	b Rickard	8
Wallace, b Rickard	3	not out	12
Baily i c Vosper b Perks	1	lbw Perks	4
Macpherson iii, b Rickard	4	c & b Rickard	0
Blundell, not out	0	b Hill	2
Extras	5		6
	50		58

ST. GABRIEL'S		CHOIR	
Kemsley, c Baily i b Payn	2	c & b Norman	0
Vosper, b Payn	3	c Payn b Macpherson i	3
Rickard c Picken b Payn	5	run out	1
Hill, b Norman	5	b Norman	8
Perks, b Norman	2	c Knowling b Norman	2
Wade, c & b Payn	1	b Norman	0
Thorn, b Macpherson i	3	c Payn b Norman	2
Ham, c & b Macpherson i	4	c Norman b Knowling	9
Hoskins, b Payn	2	not out	2
Chaffe, st Yonge b Norman	1	c Norman b Knowling	0
Byfield, not out	0	b Knowling	0
Extras	1		0
	<hr/> 29		<hr/> 27

v. MR. COX'S XI.

Played July 4th, 1916, Lost by 28 runs.

A good deal of rain fell during the afternoon, beginning with a fine drizzle which became more and more uncompromising as the game went on, so that no attempt was made to play more than one innings. In the school innings the earlier batsmen started with some confidence, but the ball was too often in the air. The fielding was too good to take liberties and several very indifferent balls secured wickets owing to good catches. Chilcott put up a ball which Mr. Lampard at the wicket did some strange juggling with, at last securing it after several attempts and a long run; another catch was taken by the longstop. Mr. Cox made no invidious distinctions in utilising his bowlers, each being given three overs regardless of success or failure; the lobs of the Rev. E. E. M. Cox were particularly deadly. Again lots were drawn to decide the order of going in, after the school had been dismissed cheaply for 36. For a time things went all in favour of the fielding side. Payn's had obtained four wickets for as many runs, and the total was only 18 for 5 wickets, when Mr. Burnard and Mr. Lampard got together and very quickly put the issue beyond doubt, being particularly severe on Payn. At last Knowling, coming on as second change, finished off the innings quickly with some straight and rather innocent-looking bowling. On the wet ground 'shooters' were the order of the day. Score:—

MOUNT HOUSE SCHOOL.

Norman i, c Mr. Burnard b Rev. W. Delahay	8
Macpherson i c Mr Burnard b Rev. E. E. M. Cox	4
Payn, b Rev. W. Delahay	9
Chilcott, c Mr. Lampard b Rev. E. E. M. Cox	0
Knowling i, b Rev E. E. M. Cox	0
Picken ii, b Rev. E. E. M. Cox	1
Radford i, c Rev. C. Sewell b Burke ii	1
Baily i, c Burke ii b Rev. W. Delahay	0
Wallace, b Rev. W. Delahay	5
Wimbush ii, c Rev. C. Sewell b Burke i	3
Lewes i, not out	0
Extras	5

 36

Mr. Cox's XI.

Rev. W. Delahay, b Payn	0
Mr. Freeman, b Payn	2
Rev. C. Sewell, b Payn	0
Mr. Cox. lbw b Norman	7
Mr. Burnard, retired	21
Rev. E. E. M. Cox, b Payn	2
Mr. Lampard, not out	20
Cel. Edwards, b Knowling	0
Burke i, b Knowling	0
Burke ii, b Knowling	3
Fleet Paymaster Elliot b Knowling	0
Extras	9

 64

V. THE STAFF.

Played July 11th, 1916. Lost by 38 runs.

The Staff were this year so lacking in the male element that what is generally regarded as rather the 'picnic' match of the term was intentionally fixed on a day when Payn was absent. The School, as it turned out, felt the lack of his bowling, though Macpherson i gave Norman good support. It was in batting however that they broke down so strangely, despite the fact that Mr. Rhodes was ruthlessly taken off when his lob-bowling was proving very destructive. The sorry exhibition was on this occasion undoubtedly due to over-confidence. The composition of the 'staff' was rather nondescript, and Radford i was included as a wicket-keeper. 12 aside took part. The weather conditions were far from perfect, and there were several interruptions.

Score :—

STAFF

Mr. Rhodes, b Macpherson i	6
Miss Glenday, b Norman	0
Miss. Newman, b Norman	5
Mrs. Cox, b Norman	0
Matron, b Macpherson i	0
Mr. Cox, not out	37
Miss Pearce, b Macpherson i	0
Radford i, b Norman i	3
Mrs. Delahay, b Knowling	4
Mr. Butler, h w, b Norman	5
Miss Howard, b Macpherson i	0
Miss Phillips, b Macpherson i	1
Extras	3
	<hr/>
	63

MOUNT HOUSE SCHOOL

Knowling i, c & b Mr. Cox	7
Norman i, l, b. w , b Mr. Rhodes	1
Yonge, b Mr. Rhodes	5
Macpherson i, c Mr. Cox b Miss Newman	4
Chilcott, b Mr. Rhodes	0
Picken ii, b Mr. Rhodes	0
Wallace. run out	1
Wimbush ii, run out	0
Macpherson iii c Mr. Cox b Mr. Rhodes	0
Lewes i, b Miss Newman	0
Rimington, not out	3
Lampard, c Mr. Cox b Miss Glenday	0
Extras	4
	<hr/>
	25

v Mr. Cox's XI.

Played July 18th, 1916. Won by 13 runs.

For the return match it was pleasing to secure Mr. Picken who was spending the day in Plymouth. The game was full of surprises and in the end was most creditably pulled out of the fire. In the first innings of the School no fewer than ten bowlers were sampled, and the fielding being very close runs came with difficulty. Miss Glenday and Mrs. Everman particularly distinguished themselves. Mr. Cox's XI, who drew lots for the order of batting, put together 66 and secured a lead of 20 runs in a much shorter space of time. The scoring was pretty even, but only one batsman reached the total of 15 at which he had to play lefthanded. In the second innings the school batted in more lively style, and some of the lob bowling which had a tendency to be too short was very severely dealt with. At

one time four 'short legs' were vainly endeavouring to save a very short boundary! Payn was rather late in declaring, only 25 minutes remaining for play. Two of the visitors however had gone away, and the rest scorned to play for safety, though there was only a slight chance of knocking off 57 runs. The order of batting was reversed, but Norman was on the top of his bowling form, and the turning point was a wonderful catch of Payn's. Mr. Burnard had sent up a skyer, and Payn who had to run across a long way for it held the ball as he fell. The same fielders secured the last wicket with another smart catch very close in. Score:—

MOUNT HOUSE SCHOOL.

Norman i, c Rev. W. Picken.		c Burke ii b Rev. W. Picken	
b Mr. Rhodes	11		7
Macpherson i, c Mr. Freeman,		c sub. b Burke i	9
b Mr. Burnard	2	c Mr. Freeman, b Burke i	1
Yonge, c Mr. Freeman, b Rev. W. Picken	3	st Mr. Lampard,	
Payn, c Mr. Rhodes, b Mr. Lampard	1	b Burke i	4
Lewes, b Burke i	0	b Miss Glenday	13
Knowling i, c Miss Glenday		c Rev. W. Picken	
b Burke i	2	b Burke ii	2
Picken ii c Miss Glenday b b Burke ii	11	b Mr. Burnard	10
Chilcott, b Lampard	5	b Mr. Freeman	17
Wallace, b Burke ii	2	c Mr. Freeman	
		b Mr. Burnard	2
Picken i not out	3	not out	0
Macpherson iii, b Mr. Cox	2	not out	3
Extras	4		8

46 (Innings declared closed) 76

Mr. Cox's XI.

Burke ii, st Yonge b Norman i	2	run out	1
Mr. Cox, c Payn b Knowling	16	not out	11
Mr. Lampard, b Knowling	3	c Payn b Norman	1
Mr. Freeman, b Norman	0	b Payn	4
Bullen, b Norman	12	ab-sent	0
Miss Glenday, b Payn	7	b Payn	6
Rev. W. Picken, c & b Norman	8	b Norman	6
Mr. Burnard, c Lewes b Payn	7	c Payn b Norman	0
Burke i b Payn	0	b Norman	2
Mr. Rhodes, b Payn	2	absent	0
Mr. Lampard, not out	2	b Norman	5
Extras	7		7

v. ST. GABRIEL'S CHOIR.

Played July 19th, Lost by six wickets.

This match, the last of the season and the third of the rubber with our old sporting opponents, produced a very keen struggle. After winning on the first innings—we lost the toss and were sent in to bat—we had improved our position in the second, till we appeared to have the game well in hand. Then in the last twenty minutes the bowling became erratic and the fielding rather loose, so that a determined stand by Rickard, Hill and Ham enabled St. Gabriel's to snatch a well earned victory. Hill's fast bowling was deadly throughout; he captured 13 wickets in all for only 28 runs, 11 being clean bowled—generally the leg stump. Our batsmen stood up to the bowling better than before, and several—notably Knowling i who played the stone-wall game—kept out many good balls without being able to get them away for runs. It was gratifying to see Yonge playing in something like his last season's form. Payn, as usual, was twice just looking nicely set and playing confidently when he put up a soft catch unaccountably. Norman shaped very well in both innings and was unlucky in being caught at the wicket off a rising ball in the first, but he still keeps the ball in the air too much. Twelve extras were included in our first innings of 38. Norman and Payn divided the wickets in the St. Gabriel's innings of 36. The latter was bowling very well, and also made a fine catch at 'silly mid-on.' Norman, who was hit for 10 runs in the second over, was hardly as steady as usual and inclined to overpitch the ball. Yonge gave Rickard more than one life at the wicket and worked his longstop, Picken ii, very hard. With two hours remaining for play we started our second innings by losing two wickets for 5, but Norman and Yonge played steadily and with several skilfully stolen runs a more respectable total of 51 was put together. The whole question now turned on whether Hill and Rickard could rise to the occasion; both are hard hitters with a good eye but a very crooked bat. Rickard was missed at the wicket almost before he had scored, and Chilcott and Rimington were also sad offenders in the field. 3 wickets were down for 11 when Hill and Rickard got together. The former began hitting fiercely and Knowling relieved Norman. He sent down in

his first over a succession of balls which made one shudder (they are semi-officially stated to have been leg-breaks ;), but they did the trick, for Hill after smiting very hard at the air ran out and was bowled by the last. 4 for 28 was still quite hopeful for us, but as it turned out we met with no further success and the field became slightly demoralised by a succession of short runs, the returns being very erratic. Rickard made some hard drives, one of which should have been in Payn's hands if he had not come in too close. Score :—

MOUNT HOUSE.

Knowling i b Rickard	3	c Rickard b Hill	0
Norman i c Vosper b Rickard	5	b Hill	11
Payn c & b Hill	3	c Hill b Rickard	1
Macpherson i b Hill	3	run out	5
Yonge not out	8	b Hill	10
Chilcott b Hill	0	b Hill	4
Wallace b Hill	0	c Hoskens b Rickard	1
Lewes b Hill	0	b Hill	1
Picken ii b Rickard	0	b Perks	4
Macpherson iii b Hill	3	not out	0
Rimington b Hill	1	b Hill	1
Extras	12		13
	38		51

ST. GABRIEL'S CHIOR.

Perks l.b.w b Norman	4	run out	2
Thorne b Payn	1	c & b Norman	0
Rickard b Payn	8	not out	20
Hill b Payn	3	b Knowling	12
Vosper b Norman	4	b Norman	4
Ham b Payn	7	not out	9
Hoskens st Yonge b Norman	1		
Pethick, b Norman	0		
Byfield not out	2		
Bailey c Payn b Norman	1		
Byfield jun. b Payn	0		
Extras	5		7
	36	(for 4 wkts)	54

The Sports.

The Sports were fixed for Thursday, June 22nd, or if very wet Friday 23rd ; it certainly was very wet, so that no attempt to hold them on the original day could be made. This was very disappointing in that some parents were prevented from attending, but in other respects we were rewarded, as the Friday was quite fine, and the evening turned out most beautifully sunny. Mrs. Edwards, wife of Lt.-Colonel Edwards, very kindly distributed the prizes, and crowned the "Victor Ludorum" with a laurel wreath at the end of the proceedings. We wish to thank her, and also all those who, by acting as judges, contributing to the Prize Fund, and assisting in the preparations generally helped the headmaster to make the sports a success. Last but not least amongst these must be mentioned the Rev. E. E. Machell Cox, to whom we are indebted, amongst many other things, for the excellent account of the events given below —

EVENT I. *Throwing the Cricket Ball.* This event was very easily won by Payn, with a throw of $66\frac{1}{2}$ yds which has been beaten only by Yonge, 5 years ago. Norman i secured the 2nd prize, but did not quite reach the standard of 55 yards

EVENTS II and V. *100 yards (open).* The winners of the four heats were first past the tape in the final ! Payn winning a good race, Lillingston securing the 2nd place, being closely followed by Yonge and Macpherson i.

EVENTS III and VI. *100 yards (under 11).* The final of this event quite upset the result of the heats. Radford ii who only ran 2nd in his heat secured the 1st place, whilst his previous conqueror, Perowne, could only finish fourth after Andrew and Price.

EVENTS IV and VII. *100 yards (under 9).* The winners in the 2nd heat carried off the prizes in the final ; Hodge, who ought to make a good runner, coming in first, followed next by Bolt.

EVENT VIII. *High jump (open)*. Payn jumped well, clearing 4ft. 1in., this being equal to the best school jump previously recorded. Wallace, who secured the 2nd place, with a jump of 3ft. 9in., was only 1 inch below last year's winner.

EVENTS IX and XII. *Linked Hopping Race*. This somewhat trying event was won by Kelly and Macpherson iii who had only hopped 2nd in their heat, whilst Payn and Baily i were a good 2nd.

EVENT X. *The Bicycle-Donkey Race* produced an interesting contest, the first prize being awarded to the competitor riding up the 100 yards course, between the strings, in the slowest time. A wheel touching the strings was sufficient to disqualify, and very shortly more than half the competitors were obliged to retire on this account, including Wallace i who had seemed the most likely winner in the trials. Picken i rode very steadily, and finally had quite 15 yards to spare when Duhan ii, his nearest rival, had reached the winning post.

EVENTS XI and XIII. *Three-legged Race (under 10)*. This event was fairly easily won by Kelly and Perowne, followed by Dymott and Bolt. Many of the competitors showed lack of practice, whilst difference in height was too much of a handicap for various couples.

EVENT XIV. *The High jump (under 12), (Handicap)*, was won by Macpherson ii, who cleared 3ft. 6in., and secured 1st place without the help of his handicap. Duhan ii was next with a jump of 3ft. 5in.

EVENT XV. *Long jump (open)*. This event was somewhat easily won by Yonge, who cleared 13ft 3in., and jumped over 13ft at each attempt. Macpherson i was 2nd with 12ft. 7in. which beat last year's winner, but he seemed to waste quite a foot when taking off. The other competitors jumped well; Payn 12ft. 4in., Norman i 12ft 2½in., Wimbush i 12ft. 2in., all beating the winning jump of 1914.

EVENT XVI *The Quarter Mile (Open)* as usual produced a fine and even struggle, Pedrick just beating Marescaux by a narrow margin, and Macpherson iii being 3rd.

Yonge was well in the running until he lost a shoe in the last lap.

EVENTS XVII, XIX and XXV were *Pebble-Picking Competitions* for those over 10, then for Visitors, and lastly for those under 10. A large number of nuts were scattered over the field before the eyes of the competitors who anxiously lined the ropes at different points, waiting the signal to begin their search. During the three minutes allowed for the "picking," Brownlow and Rimington proved to be either the most fortunate or the most expeditious amongst the seniors, whilst Pitts i and Bennett were the best pickers amongst the juniors.

EVENTS XVIII and XX. *The Heats and Final of 220 yards (Handicap)* produced some excellent finishes in all cases but two. D'Arcy, through an error, had too much start allotted to him, and, making excellent use of it, was an easy winner, both of his heat and the final. Brown, who, with 40 yards start, ran much better than in the trials, easily won his heat, and easily secured 2nd place in the final. The rest of the handicapping was a great success, and the remainder of the competitors finished very close together, led by Mareseaux, Payn and Courtney.

EVENTS XXI & XXIV were the *Relay Races* for the Juniors (under 10) and the Seniors, in each of which 5 teams competed. The Juniors shewed more knowledge of what was required of them than last year. The *Yellow Team*, consisting of Hodge, Rundall, Pitts and Kelly were the winners, whilst the *Reds*, Crebbin, Knowling ii, Hutchison and Clark ii secured the 2nd place. The Seniors produced such a close finish between the *Red Team*, consisting of Lillingston, Wallace, Cocks i and Maurescaux, and the *Yellow* made up of Rimington, Macpherson iii, Radford i and Hodge, that the judges pronounced it a dead heat, without any appeal to the referee.

EVENTS XXII & XXVI. *The Obstacle Race.* As usual proved the most popular on the programme, both to visitors and competitors. This race was run in 4 heats this year instead of 2, with the first 3 in each heat taking part in the final. The Monkey Puzzle under the tree was again a splendid obstacle, with its swinging ropes, poles

and ladders, which proved a good test for the more athletic. A fresh obstacle had been added this year almost at the last moment, which had to be negotiated before reaching the previous obstacle, consisting of a Maze, constructed with short bamboos and twine, over a space of ground 20 x 9 yards, with 7 entrances and only one exit. This proved a great check to many of the competitors, especially the more impetuous, and in some of the heats we noticed a few poor unfortunates still wandering amongst the strings when those in the next heat were about to start. In addition to other usual obstacles, two formidable erections of scaffold-poles, builders' trestles, etc., had been erected towards the end of the course, which severely tested the staying powers of those that reached them, and the final trial consisted in walking up and down a seesaw whilst balancing a tin plate on the head. An extra obstacle, introduced for the first time last year, was again added for the final, namely the entanglement of stout twine, firmly laced between two upright posts. This, having been specially strengthened, proved a rare stumbling-block, and entirely altered the positions of the runners. Picken i, who had won his heat last year, but was only 5th in the final, not only again won his heat but also easily came in first this year amidst much applause. Lewes i deservedly gained the 2nd place, whilst the next in order were Knowling i, Payn, Yonge and Jones.

The *Tug of War*, originally arranged between teams of Boarders v. Day Boys and Daily Boarders, 12 a-side, again proved too great a strain upon the rope provided, and necessitated the test being limited to 6 a side, when the Boarders, after winning the toss for choice of ends, finally proved successful by winning 2 pulls out of three.

The Ashby Challenge Cup was won somewhat easily by Payn, with a total of 9 points, whilst Yonge and Pedrick were next with 4 points each. The winner was crowned with a wreath of laurel leaves, as *Victor Ludorum* by Mrs. Edwards, who kindly distributed the prizes to the successful competitors at the close of the proceedings.

Table of results for the last 7 years of the 5 principal open events, for which points are given for the Ashby Challenge Cup. This was first competed for in 1912.

	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
Cricket Ball (Standard 55yds)	G. B. Yonge	G. B. Yonge 68yds 2½ ft	Lakeman 49yds 18 in	Geake 58yds 7in	Elliott 53yds 6in	Elliott 60yds 26in	Payn 66yds 18in
High Jump (Standard 4 ft)	Page-Wood	Pethick	Wakeham 4 ft 1 in	Harvey 4 ft	H. W. Picken 3 ft 11 in	Jones i 3 ft 10 in	Payn 4 ft 1 in
					(stand'd 3ft 8in)		
Long Jump (Standard 12ft)	Page-Wood	R. B. Picken	Wakeham 13 ft 6½ in	Geake 13ft 10in	H. W. Picken 12ft 1½ in	Pellew i 12ft 6in	D. Yonge 13ft 3in
100 Yards	Page-Wood	Eveleigh	R. B. Picken	Hitchins	Harvey	Elliott	Payn
Quarter Mile	Page-Wood	Birch	R. B. Picken	Hitchins	H. W. Picken	Jones i	Pedrick
Victor Ludorum			Wakeham 11	Hitchins 7 Harvey 7	H. W. Picken 12	Jones i 10	Payn 9

Scouting.

It is hardly necessary for the S. M. to address any words to the boys themselves in the pages of the Record, for they have perhaps had too much to endure from him in that way in the course of the past term, and they know well what he thinks upon the subject of a Troop established in a School. But it must be remembered that the magazine meets the eyes of parents and others who are interested in the well-being of the Scouts, and they it may be hoped will second the efforts that are being made to bring to full fruition the educational power of all that appertains to Scouting. The more it is studied the more does its value for character-making become apparent, provided that the spirit as well as the mere letter of the law prevails. The Summer Term, with the demands of Cricket and Sports upon its limited time, is not one which lends itself so freely as the other terms to this particular branch of effort; but it is the very one to look to for proof of the discipline and self-control which is the end and object of the Scout Law. The Schoolboy shares with the leopard the difficulty of changing his spots; but he possesses a *will* to be called into play, which makes all the difference, and where there's a will there's a way. United effort will do wonders, and this has not been much in evidence; hence the shortcomings which have considerably marred our real progress during the past three months. Let us put our shoulders together for a true British 'push' against the foe of slackness in matters of every-day duty.

But now for a record of what has been done. Of life, activity, and willingness to do anything for anybody (if only we are specially asked) we are full to bursting point. We have done all that is possible to supply the place of Long Tom, who has gone off at his Country's call, and garden, field, and fowls have all had a generous share of our attention, with but a reasonable number of faults of omission. Boys are apt to reserve for later days a strictly methodical way of doing what they undertake, and fail occasionally in observing all the rules and regulations which are given for their guidance, so that the fowls have perhaps not benefited quite so much from their

attentions as might have been expected. There has been at times a little undue chasing of erring bipeds (yet after all, is there anything more stupid and obstinate than a hen?) doors have occasionally been left unclosed at night, and food left exposed, with dire results. For instance, an open glass jar containing meal was left on the ground one night, and in the morning two chicks were found in it, legs uppermost, gorged and defunct! But, apart from such tragedies, good work has been done by the various squads employed, and the failures must be overlooked. Some failures there must be where boys are concerned, things will be left about &c, and careful attention to detail must be patiently trained, like other virtues. The time will come.

We have exercised our ordinary Scouting energies in various ways during the term.

On May 11 we began by saluting our Flag in the playground, and marching with it round the field—a little manoeuvre that was very well executed. We then had a march out by the Compton Tram terminus, round to Eggbuckland and Fort Austin. After a game of flag-raiding in the Bowden Fort field, we returned by Crown Hill Road and Linkity Lane, reaching home at 5-30.

The following Thursday we trained to Plym Bridge, and indulged in Patrol drill in the well-known ground between river and railway. A course was marked out, and four passed the Scout's pace mile. In the quarry close by two passed in firelighting and four in cooking. Home by 6-45.

On Empire Day we attended the Evening Rally of local Troops at the Mill Bay drill ground, where some 800 Scouts were inspected by General Sir Richard Harrison, the County Commissioner. The Rally was in every way successful, and the March Past exceedingly well carried out. Home by 9-15.

On June 8 we started off into rather unknown country, and must have eventually covered some ten miles. Our course was by Crown Hill, Tamerton Road, Roborough Road, Plym Bridge, a road passing 'Estover' and 'Rock,' to Eggbuckland. Thence home, fairly tired, but none the worse.

June 29 was a day for smiling and whistling. We

were just on the point of starting when the rain began, and the afternoon proved hopeless. So cricket, marching to music, and charades in the Gym, took the place of outdoor exercise.

On July 6. 2nd Lieut. Metcalf came up to put candidates through their tests for Cyclist, Engineer and Missioner Proficiency badges. The Cyclist Examination took a considerable time, and had ultimately to be postponed, together with 'Engineer.' Three Missioners were passed, Mr. Metcalf kindly arranged to come again a fortnight later, but to our disappointment he failed to make his appearance. We afterwards learnt that he had met with a bicycle accident, and was in Hospital for repairs! The badges concerned therefore stand over for next term.

Various engagements (connected with School work in the case of Forms III and IV) occupied a number of the Scouts on July 13th, so that only a small party was available, who marched out beyond the Cemetery towards Fort Efford, where three more passed in the Scout's mile. The return journey was made by Eggbuckland.

In response to a request from the War Savings London Committee, on July 17 and 18 we distributed some 2000 leaflets at houses in the part the town round about us.

On the 20th the Troop trained to Tamerton Folliot, where, by kind permission of Mrs. Radcliffe, we enjoyed two hours in the beautiful woods. Home by train.

On the 22nd nine Scouts went down to Headquarters as candidates for more Proficiency badges, and all were successful.

July 25. Our final march out was one of sad and pathetic interest, for it was to pay the last honours to our latest recruit, who had passed away at his home. The boys are at their best when there is a call for special feeling, and their part was well and truly done. It was a moving sight when they were drawn up on each side of the Church path, with heads resting on staves. The Troop followed immediately behind the coffin (on which lay his Scout's hat and pole and the Troop Colours) in the long walk to the Cemetery, and, when it was borne to the graveside, the members of the Owls—the patrol to which

Norman Blundell was attached—acted as pall-bearers. It was the only occasion, since his admission, on which he was able to be numbered among his fellows. We shall long remember it.

The number of Scouts now in our Troop is 32, while many of the younger boys accompany us in most of our marches, as Wolf Cubs. Twenty two have passed the 2nd Class tests, while several others have all but done so.

The following twelve hold War Service Badges :—
Pedrick, Cook, Lewes, Croft, Macpherson ii, Macpherson iii, Marescaux, Wall, Macpherson i, Radford i, Hodgess, Carroll.

Thirteen Proficiency badges have so far been obtained, as follows :—

Missioner : Wall, Aikman, Macpherson iii.

Gardener : Pedrick, Rimington, Aikman, Radford i,
Radford ii.

Ambulance : Payn, Marescaux.

Naturalist : Gibson.

Entertainer : Pedrick, Croft

A considerable addition may be expected next term

To Payn, the old stager who has served us so well, we regretfully bid farewell, and wish him the best of luck at Osborne. No others, we are glad to think, will be lost to us.

I conclude my lengthy report with lines that are familiar to many :—

“ Fair before us lies the way,
Time for work and time for play,
Fill the measure while we may.

Up!—and On !

Life and Time will not delay,
Time is running fast away,
Life is *now* - to day, to day !

Up!—and On !

Foes in plenty we shall meet ;
Hearts courageous scorn defeat ;
So we press, with eager feet,

Up!—and On !

Ever onward to the fight,
Ever upward to the Light,
Ever true to God and Right,

Up!—and On ! ”

In Memoriam.

Norman Richard Hemer Blundell, who died
on July 23, 1916 at Lexdon, Hartley, Plymouth.
Aged 12 years.

We have sadly to record the death of Norman Blundell elder son of Major C. W. Blundell, Devon R. G. A. and Mrs. Blundell, at his home on July 23rd. He entered the school, (Form I) as a day boy in May 1911, and was in Form V at the time of his death. From the constant absence necessitated by ill-health he had no chance of taking a very prominent place, but that he possessed both grit and pluck there is no doubt. He was no "growser" and never bore a grudge, but was ever of a cheery and affectionate disposition which commended him to us all; and he had recently developed special keenness, both in work and at cricket. Scouting always held the keenest fascination for him. It was particularly touching that the last act in his school life was the taking of the Scout promise. In a sense it might truly be said of him that "nothing became him in his (School) life like the leaving of it" for, on being admitted "as one of the Great Brotherhood" it was evident how much he was affected by the ceremony, and we are sure that he appreciated to the full the meaning of the Brotherhood and its principles. Of this he gave further proof during his last illness, and we have every reason to mourn in him the loss of a true comrade.

Letters from Old Masters & Old Boys.

2nd Lieut Clay (2nd Wilts) writes from France—

I have been awfully busy for the last month or two, more especially this month and the latter half of last month. We have shown the Huns what stuff we are made of and some of our prisoners asked our men *if they were the Canadians*. I suppose it was owing to our dash and hard fighting that they said this. We have got the Germans beaten already and if it were not for their guns we should be right back miles, as it is we have got a large slice of the 2nd (and last) line of defences, and we will have them fairly on the run before long. I have been in two heavy engagements, and was in charge of a company in the second one. Our battalion took *The Wood* in the first place and cleared it of the enemy, and held it all the time we were in it; after being relieved it has changed hands fairly frequently. The men are splendid and go into action most cheerful, and just as calm and collected as if they were going out shooting rabbits, or out fox hunting. We are at this time resting and reorganizing, but we may be in it again at any time. I had a piece of shell stopped by my cigarette case and book, both of which it penetrated, but did no harm to me. Our battalion won the thanks of the C-in-C, Sir Douglas Haig, and also that of the French General on our right.

I could have got you plenty of Helmets as souvenirs, but the trouble is to carry them about to keep them until one goes on leave. I found in the wood a "Cat-o-nine-tails" but I do not know whether they are used for punishment or not. I also saw some explosive bullets. I also saw a packet of English needles and also English medicines.

If all goes well I shall be unable to come back to you après la guerre as I have got a Regular Commission. I did not let you know when I applied for it, as I did not know whether I should get it or not. I have now obtained it with date 27 May 1916, so you see although I have been in the Army since April 1915 yet I am junior in Regulars to a man who got his commission a year after me, but yet I may get antedated.

We had a Church Parade this morning at eleven o'clock and it was the first I have been able to go to this side of Christmas.

I have seen the observation balloons and aeroplanes brought down during this offensive, and we have the undisputed command of the air.

If I can get a chance at any time I will run down and see you all, as my heart is with you although I am absent in person.

I hope all the candidates for Osborne passed their exams this last week.

Midshipman Bennett writes from H. M. S. Centurion.—

We were of course in the action. It was simply "some" to use an Americanism. You know Milton is at either Osborne or Dartmouth now. He was at Osborne for two terms with me I think.

I suppose you saw Sir John Jellicoe's despatch in Friday's paper. It is an excellent account of what happened. I am very glad to see from your Record that you, the school and its scouts are doing so splendidly.

Nightingale writes from Marlborough College—

As you see by my address I have got into a senior house now and have left House A which is the junior house.

This is my third term in C House which is an old inn, the subject of Stanley Weyman's novel 'The Castle Inn.'

As an Inn it was very important being the largest stage between London and Bath.

We have started having vegetarian dishes instead of meat here once a week, it is an awfully good idea as much meat is not nice in summer, I expect you have started. I always look forward to Fridays now, because it is the day on which we have these dishes.

K. Edwards writes from Haileybury.—

I am settling down all right here now. We have a system of given half-holidays here by which in the last $\frac{2}{3}$ of the term when it is rather hot we have one of these 'given halves' every week distributed equally among all the days of the week except Saturday so that they do not all fall on whole school days or all on quarter-holidays. We go home on the first of August. I am glad I did a fair amount of drill at Mount House because here we have an awful lot and you get 'defaulter's drill' if you don't know your drill pretty perfectly.

T. E. E. Cocks writes from Westminster.—

The Confirmation took place on 5th April in King Henry VII Chapel. The Dean of Westminster, formerly Bishop of Exeter confirmed the candidates, forty three altogether. Everyone was in khaki.

The King's Scholars are allowed to go to the Houses of Parliament during the week to listen to the debates for an hour. I have been once to the House of Commons and am going to the Lords next term if possible.

One day during the term—I think it was about 22nd or 23rd of March, as far as I can remember—our O.T.C. took part in a big Field Day at Berkhamsted. I had not got my uniform then though I have got it now, but I borrowed that of another boy who could not go. We started at 8-45 in the morning, and arrived at Berkhamsted at about 10-30. Altogether there were nearly 4,000 troops taking part—the Inns of Court O.T.C., Eton O.T.C., Harrow O.T.C., Merchant Taylors O.T.C., Berkhamsted O.T.C., and our O.T.C. The Inns of Court were holding a hill, from which the rest of us had to try to dislodge them. It was very hot, and we were glad enough to halt and eat our rations at about 11-45. Then after this halt, we marched on again till we got to the river-bank at about 1-30, and after doubling about a bit, we finally took up our position on the bank. We fired some rounds at the enemy on the hill, to the great alarm of some motorists on the Road. Then after a long rest we dashed half way up the hill (the river ran round the foot of the hill), halted for a couple of minutes, hurried up the other half, which was too steep for doubling, and arrived at the top just in time to annihilate the enemy, who were leaving their position in column on the open ground with their right flank absolutely exposed. So the attackers won the day.

J. Pode writes from H. M. S. Conway.—

We get up here at 6-30 (5-30 now) and mess at 7-0 then lash up and stow hammocks and do deck work (I am a sweeper) till 'Divisions' at 8-30 and school at 9-0 till 12-30, Dinner quarter of an hour afterwards school again at 1-45 till 4. 'Tea at 5. 'Divisions' at 8-30 and Rounds at 9 p.m. Our Seamanship lessons are jolly interesting. I will tell you some of the catches which 'old hands' tell you. Have you fetched the key of the port watch, or have you whitewashed the "last post," or go to the sick bay to be measured for your bathing draws, or let down your hammock, this is a fine rag which is freely indulged in.

We have baths (freshwater) every Saturday night and wash when you feel inclined with hot water. As we are allowed to go to the 'galley' for more meat, potatoes etc. (this is called mustering), so we can get generally enough to eat.

At mess there are messman, assistant and mugman, which is the easiest job. I have been assistant and mugman different weeks.

We have a decent band here big drum all complete I am now getting used to the calls, though there seem to be heaps.

Younge writes from Berkhamsted—.

We are hard at cricket, there have been two matches, one against the officers of the Cambridge regiment, we beat them the score being 120 for 5 v 116 the other was against the masters, it was a draw, but really a win for us if we had had more time 129 for 7 v 131. We are playing Aldenham school on Saturday.

I managed to finish the canoe I was making last holidays, and had one trip in it, it behaved very well and only leaked a very little, I am going to try for Sandhurst in November next, I hope I shall get through, but I have a lot to do before then.

We have also had a few limes from Sergeant R. L. Sandercock 5th Devons from Port Said, and from R. Hawks from King's School, Bruton, both very welcome.