



BASIL WALLIS.

The Leightonian.

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EDITORIAL.

THE fact that the LEIGHTONIAN balance-sheet for 1916 shows a deficit of some eleven pounds; has compelled the Editor to reduce the size of the Magazine, and, under ordinary circumstances, to dispense with illustrations. Two friends of the School have however very kindly come to the rescue, so that we are able to reproduce two photographs in this issue.

The meeting of the O.L. Club was of necessity poorly attended, but two appointments were made of more than passing interest. J. E. Hodgkin undertook the duties of Treasurer and Secretary for the duration of the war, and has already done much in keeping the old boys in touch with one another and the School in this abnormal time. The election of Anthony Wallis as President for the next three years will be received with unanimous approval.

The new President entered Leighton Park at the half-term in May, 1890, being under eleven years old, a small boy, but a welcome addition to what was at the time a tiny public school of four pupils. These were the days of Benjamin Townson and Edmund Catchpool, both now deceased, men of character and formative influences.

Surrendering to the attractions of Leonard Lancaster, then a grave lad already showing promise of genius, A.W. kept and illustrated a natural history diary, and collected lepidoptera so indefatigably that eventually there were few species left to take within a radius of ten miles; and, sighing for fresh worlds to conquer, he turned to the study of plants, an epoch in his career. Almost simultaneously

NEW OLD BOYS.

L. S. Penrose, Oxney Grange, Watford.

E. G. Grace, 197 Redland Road, Redland, Bristol.

W. W. Pollard, 343 Hagley Road, Edgbaston.

A. Percival. The Pyghtle, Northcourt Avenue, Reading.

A. P. Cotterell, Newlyn, Gerrard's Cross, Bucks.

BASIL WALLIS, B.A., M.B.

1881—1917.

THE subject of this memoir went up to Leighton Park in September, 1892, being then a little dark-eyed, black-haired boy of eleven. He ran less to muscle than to brains, and seems seldom to have had difficulties with any study in which he took interest. Natural science made less appeal to him than mathematics, for which he inherited a bent which might possibly have been turned to more account. It is recalled that, as a child in petticoats, he discovered for himself a method of bringing fractions to a common denominator, and could work it in his head, and retained for three months in memory, and suddenly put into practice the formula for adding a series which he had casually overheard.

Enjoying, but hardly excelling in games, he went easily up the School, made a genial and wholly successful prefect, and failed from want of classics to enter the Indian Civil Service. After enjoying a year at Dalton Hall, he went up to Trin. Coll., Camb., made many friends, rowed, not unsuccessfully, in one of the College boats, and went down with a 1st Class Honours degree and a heart full of happy memories.

Choosing medicine, he worked at Addenbrooke's, later at Guy's, and took his M.B. Serving as ship's doctor, he made a delightful voyage to Vancouver by way of Colombo and Hong Kong, returning by Hawaii and Japan. In 1911 he married Alice Dodson, bought a practice in Helston, and worked hard for six years.

On January 29th, 1917, he died of apoplexy, in the plenitude of his powers and the ripeness of his scientific experience, mourned by the people of the town in which he had laboured, and by a wide circle of friends and old schoolfellows. He was an able man, a thinker and dialectician, of a handsome presence and winning personality, who seemed to those who loved him never quite to have arrived.

FOOD PRODUCTION.

THE experiments of 1916, in which boys gave a considerable amount of leisure time work to help about the estate, have developed this term into a more definite plan for increasing the production of food. Instead of the scheme of an hour's labour each per week, which the Prefects were asked to carry through last summer, or the more voluntary efforts in the autumn on the same lines, the Upper School has given up since the great frost broke the afternoons of Monday, Wednesday and Saturday to work on the land. There are three squads from the Sixth Forms, the Fifth and the Lower Fifth respectively, and details of arrangements are made through Form Masters. Each squad gives two days' work per week, so that something like twenty boys go out on any one day. The hardest work of all has been to break up the piece of land between the Sanatorium and the Fives Courts, and how much of this will actually be broken is uncertain. New land is also being broken up opposite Professor Bassett's house in Belle Avenue, but probably most interest is felt in the help given to allotment holders on Manor Farm. Groups of boys approached workers on the allotments, and offered their services, and have succeeded in making themselves useful to such an extent that they are made thoroughly welcome. In the garden Tovey has been helped to a very real extent in the spring digging, with which, with a depleted garden staff, he had found himself behind. A good deal of this garden digging has been done by a voluntary squad in addition to the squads mentioned above, and further than that, a voluntary

squad of juniors under Mr. Elliott's direction has been doing excellent work in light digging on allotments and garden ground near the Park. Tools were at first provided by Mr. Whitley from the National Relief Fund, but these have now been passed on to the boys of the Serbian Hostel. L.P.S. boys have themselves bought forks and spades to the value of £6 (mostly by public subscription, to some extent by boys buying tools for private use). If more money is required it will now be got from the payment for work which is asked for in certain cases. There seems to be plenty of work available. Boys may find themselves breaking up part of Dr. Gifford's tennis lawn, and also digging a garden a mile the other side of Caversham Bridge. Much of the work is really hard ; so far it has been done in good style and creditably. We are greatly indebted to Mr. Whitley for putting us into the way of finding the first work ; incidentally he probably did us excellent service in setting the first squad that went out to an almost impossible task among dumped clay—anything undertaken after that seems comparatively easy. Miss Osmond, too, who is the centre of work done voluntarily in other people's gardens, has helped us to a good deal of work.

C. I. E.

THE TERRIBLE FLAG.

AN ALLEGORY OF THE PRESENT WAR.

Saul Simms had bought flags for the duration of the war. He had supported the British & Foreign Bible Society, the F.F.M.A., the S.P.G., the Balkan League, the V.O.D.C., the A.B.C., the Pan-German League, the R.N.L.I., the B.R.C., the V.A.P., the S.O.S., and the R.S.V.P., etc.

"Won't you buy a flag?" inquired a fair damsel for the hundredth time.

He mechanically bought one and walked on. His reason was slowly giving way after a succession of flag-days. Would it always be like this? No, he would escape to London, and there take refuge from this curse.

That night he sallied forth in stockinged feet and took a train to London.

* * * * *

The next morning saw him strolling along the pavement. How good it was to be alive.

But in the distance he saw the dread tray with its usual load of abominations. He looked behind him but retreat was impossible—there was another flag-seller. He bought a flag in aid of the fund to provide bedsocks for interned Turks, then fled all round the great city looking for a refuge. In pursuit of this will o' the wisp, he generously supported all subjects, ranging from German Jews to the Society for the Propagation of Sedition after the war.

He fled to Southampton, and before nightfall was in a small yacht, braving the U boats and other marine monsters, well on his way to the Pacific.

* * * * *

He was approaching Coon Island. Here would he end his days in peace. But no, as soon as he landed, an army of flag-sellers surrounded him.

“Massa buy a—” began one.

“No!” he raved, and made for his boat, hurling, like the Saul of old, his umbrella at them, and sailed due south.

* * * * *

A month later he had landed at the arctic circle and was making for the south pole. Here at least he was safe. At that moment an Esquimaux, mounted on a polar bear, came on, slithering on the ice towards him. On the bear's head lay the fatal tray.

Saul slowly drew his revolver.

* * * * *

A few minutes later, Mephistopheles stepped out to meet him, his face held a sinister smile.

“Won't you buy a flag in aid of the disabled tormentors?” he said.

F.S.-J.

K.P.

MY CANOE.

I yearn to be afloat now within my slim canoe
 Upon the gleaming river, where the stately willows rise :
 To lie there in the shadow where no noonday sun peers through,
 With willow leaves to lull me with soft sighs.

And I should see the fish leap, and the gorgeous dragon fly
 That hovers in a burnished line above the swaying reed,
 And the king-fisher, flame breasted, like a glittering jewel go by,
 And fleet-wing'd swallows with their giddy speed.

When moonbeams flood the midnight my silent course I'd steer,
 And creep behind the looming piles, to watch the sweeping flow
 That curves in one long curling wave, and tumbles o'er the weir
 To join the tangled water snakes below.

Then back I'd steal in silence along the moonlit reach,
 When night mist veils the willows, and low sounds fill the air ;
 And I should know that strangeness, that charm beyond all speech,
 When thought is lost in wonder and in prayer.

All this is but a dream-life, and not for every day,
 For I would work with others until the toil is o'er ;
 But when the hours are dreary, my thoughts will often stray
 Where my canoe is waiting by the shore.

E.P.S.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER FROM ALFRED BACKHOUSE,
 WHO IS DISTRIBUTING RELIEF IN ARMENIA.

(The Editor offers his apologies in advance for possible misspelt names of towns.)

THE valley of Hayotz-Dzor is a fine fertile stretch of country, surrounded by high hills. It used to be one of the most prosperous parts of the Van "vilayet," but now a large proportion of the houses of the villagers have been destroyed, and not many of the population have returned after the second retreat. We visited two villages, in each of which there were less than fifty

people, nearly all men. They had still got the cattle that Mr. Gracey distributed in the district in the summer, and had managed to get a little land ploughed and sown. The houses in these villages are very simple and primitive affairs, with mud walls and hand-covered roofs, and would be easy enough to rebuild or repair, if it were not for the great difficulty in getting timber for the roofs. There is no wood in this district except in the irrigated gardens, and not a little destruction of the houses has been caused by the roof timbers having been taken for fuel during the time that the houses have been deserted.

The castle-rock at Van is most picturesque and impressive, and extraordinarily interesting from an archæological point of view. I think I have mentioned the great tri-lingual inscription on the face above the walled city, which records the victories of Xerxes. Now, only last summer, a most interesting discovery has been made by Professor Mar, of Petrograd, at a place where the Turks had never allowed anybody to dig. Near the base of the rock, on the north side, away from the city, two niches about thirty feet high have been uncovered, and in one of these stands on a square base about 4 ft. 6 ins. by 2 ft. 6 ins. high, the lower half of an obelisk, the top of which has been broken off, about ten feet remaining. The obelisk and the base are of hard black basalt, and are covered on every side with cuneiform inscriptions in absolutely perfect condition. Every cut is as sharp and clear as if only just finished. I believe the date is about B.C. 600, and the site is supposed to be a place of sacrifice, probably to Baal or Astoreth.

The Turks had a magazine on the top of the rock in which they kept great stores of arms and ammunition, much of it very antiquated. This magazine was blown up, and now the ground below the rock is strewn with cartridge cases, iron and stones, cannon balls, old bombs, etc. A number of old cannons have been thrown down the cliff and lie embedded in the grass, among them a much-ornamented old gun of great size, which the Turks believed used to come out of its house and fire itself off by itself. One afternoon

we visited the top of the rock, and explored the chambers which have been cut out of it in ancient times. At the end of the rock there are two series of these chambers, the only approach to which is along a narrow ledge with a sheer drop below of 150 ft. or so. All round the entrance, the rock has been covered for many square yards with cuneiform inscriptions. The chambers are lofty and spacious and open one into another, and have niches in the walls, for what purpose I don't know.

In my last letter I mentioned the mice at Bayazidagh. When we left there for Van we promised to try and bring them back a cat, so on the return journey we brought along the one that had adopted us, and had apparently no other owners. It hadn't been let loose in the "Cities Union" but for more than a few minutes before it had got a mouse, and two more soon met the same fate. In the morning we were told that pussy had caught at least twenty during the night, and we found her lying asleep under a pile of brushwood, apparently not feeling very well.

OLD LEIGHTONIAN NOTES.

THE Stockton Parliamentary bye-election possessed unusual interest for Leightonians in that one of the candidates was Edward Backhouse (O.L.). Both the Liberal and Conservative parties united in supporting the Coalition candidate, as they regarded Backhouse's candidature as a serious challenge to the policy of prosecuting the war to a successful military conclusion. In the course of his address Backhouse said, "I am convinced that negotiation would lead to a satisfactory peace within a very short period," and in interpretation of the phrase "a satisfactory peace" he insisted upon the evacuation and restoration by Germany of all the territories she has occupied—Belgium, Northern France, Serbia and Roumania. He would inter-nationalise the Dardanelles, and recognised the impossibility of handing South-West Africa back to Germany, and looked to a league of nations as being a

most hopeful proposal for the maintenance of peace in the future. In the present temper of the country it was not to be expected that Backhouse would be returned, but our readers will, we think, unite in congratulating him in his courageous attempt to bring about "peace by negotiation."

Alan Gilford, whose portrait is given, is, we believe, the only O.L. who is a prisoner of the Germans. He was captured just at the beginning of the retreat from Mons when he had been in France ten days only. In his two and a half years' imprisonment he has spent three months at Munsterlager and six months at Soltau. From June, 1915, to January, 1916, he was engaged in farm work from Steinhorst Camp, and has now been over a year at Frankfort. He had very distinct privations early on, especially at Soltau, but the clothes, books and food sent him have reached him with unflinching regularity. The work on the land near Steinhorst consisted in breaking up moorland that was very like the country round Wellington College. The villagers behaved well to him, and the farm people with whom he came into close contact were perfectly friendly—in another case known to Mrs. Gilford the English prisoner's birthday was even remembered by the farmer's family. At Frankfort he has been working on cargo boats on the Main, probably as an engine cleaner. He got this work on the application of a friend of Dr. Gilford, who asked for Alan Gilford by name. In the photo he is shown, with a French fellow prisoner, with part of one of the barges in the background. He writes to his mother that, in spite of the cigarette in his fingers, he still does not care for smoking, but is holding it there because the photographer did not want him to.

The work of G. F. Mounsey, who has a travelling commission, under the F.A.U. to visit men working under the Unit's General Section, has brought him to the School *en passant*. After his last visit he went on to Cheltenham and visited W. T. Clarke, the Headmaster's former secretary, who is doing excellent work as farm manager, where clean milk is the chief product aimed at.

L. P. Garrod has entered the Navy as Surgeon-Probationer.

Captain Whittaker has been mentioned in despatches.

P. Keen is a driver in the H.A.C. Horse Artillery.

At Beechfield, Hartley, Plymouth, on December 12th, the wife of C. Reginald Fox, of a daughter.

We regret that in our last issue we reported R. C. Ford as being with the F.A.U. in France. This is not so; he is still in the business in Low Bentham. We would take this opportunity of expressing the feeling of sympathy which all O.L.'s have with Ford in the loss he has sustained through the death of his wife.

George Cadbury, jun., has succeeded Mr. Neville Chamberlain as Chairman of the Birmingham Town-Planning Committee.

H. Lyn Harris was arrested as an absentee under the Military Service Act in January and posted to the City of London Rifles. He was sent to Newton Abbot, and in February, at his district court-martial, was sentenced to 112 days' hard labour, which he is now serving in Wormwood Scrubs prison. It is among the ironies of the situation that at one of the Friends' meetings held there his father appeared as chaplain.

A. H. B. Bilbrough has been gazetted captain, and is serving in Mesopotamia.

C. F. G. Bilbrough is acting captain with the 23rd Middlesex in France.

H. C. Barlow, Lieutenant Lancashire Fusiliers, paid a hurried visit to Reading in March, and is now training for the Flying Corps at Brooklands.

Congratulations to E. Cadbury on his marriage to Miss Mary Phillips, of Gorleston.

M. H. C. Topham, who has been in British East Africa, is now reported to be in Salonika.

Stanley Hodgkinson is with the 5th Army B.E.F. c.o. D.D.S. and T.

J. Rendel Ridges is doing his best to keep up the milk supply. He is working on a model dairy on a two-hundred acre farm, and is quite used to rising at five o'clock in the morning.

T. B. Barlow is at W.B.S., Westtown, Pa., in a co-educational school. He is going to Haverford in June.

J. D. Barlow is at Haverford studying Biology. He is trying to conduct some experiments in heredity with mice, but they will not breed.

At the East Kerrier Tribunal, J. S. Stephens was ordered to join a non-combatant corps. The appellant stated that he could not take part in any warfare, and that since the beginning of the war he had sought to render service to suffering humanity. Firstly, he was employed under the Emergency Committee for helping innocent alien enemies, later on he joined the relief party sent to France by the Friends' War Victims Relief Committee, and then he was transferred to work for the Aide Civil Belge in Flanders. He was willing to undertake farm work, with the provision that he might later on be called to join in relief work in France or Russia. A letter was read from a gentleman in Essex, showing that Stephens had been working from eleven to fourteen hours a day on work of national importance, but the Tribunal remained unconvinced.

F. Grone has changed his name to F. Pierce Grove, and is now a captain in the R.A.M.C.

Elliott Wallis has been gazetted second lieutenant in the 3/4th Berks T.

Sub-Lieutenant C. R. Attenborough has been posted to H.M.S. *Hilary*.

Howard R. Smith is back in England recovering from a serious accident which occurred while he was working with the F.A.U.

Hubert Ransom having experienced exciting times in S.W. and S. E. Africa, is at home on leave. We wish we could give some account of his voyage home, but refrain lest we give information to the enemy.

J. Rickman's M.A. degree has recently been conferred by proxy, as he himself is in Russia. It is to be hoped that the revolution will confine itself to the centres and not add to the difficulties of relief workers in the provinces, for Rickman is the only medical man in a population of 60,000. He begins work at 5.30 a.m., and leaves off (when fortunate) at 9.30 p.m. He has a perpetual hunger for solitude and cannot obtain it !

J. E. Bellows has twice visited the School recently in his work for Serbian boys. The work progresses well. Many Oxford colleges are receiving one each of his protegés, but for the most part the boys are of school age and are being placed in groups in towns where there are universities, or university colleges. In Reading a hostel for 36 of the boys has been provided ; their education is undertaken in the George Palmer Senior School, where Mr. E. J. Andrews (who will be remembered by most O.L.'s) is headmaster. It would be pleasant if L.P.'s could help in this work of J. E. Bellows by initiating Serbian boys into cricket. As the Headmaster is on the Consultative Committee of the Serbian Hostel, this or something similar may perhaps be arranged.

We have good accounts of Julian Fox, who is up in the Argonne at St. Menebould. His brother Lloyd hopes to go out next month. We congratulate him on his engagement to Miss Griselda Bigland.

As THE LEIGHTONIAN is going to press, Mr. Evans has received a letter from E. P. Southall, who is expecting a further court-martial, and a third term of imprisonment, this time in Dorchester Gaol. He has been in Wandsworth and Wormwood Scrubbs, but "prison is prison anywhere." "It is probably much easier for us," he continues, "than our friends outside think. Treatment here (Weymouth) is splendid so far ; no censorship of letters, and the men and N.C.O.'s are very nice to us." To quote further extracts : "I am hoping Leightonians in the future will turn out pacifists. It should be a tradition that every boy should make it a point of honour to find out the best thought on both sides and then decide. Anyone taking up the C.O. point of view need not fear lack of

discipline. Did one lack faith and strength of purpose, solitary confinement might be a nightmare and a time of great difficulty and temptation, but we find it is not so at all when the devotion to an ideal is with one. . . . The attempt to live squarely to a particular issue does seem to bring the rest of life into order and discipline." Southall says he has always been an absolutist, and as things have gone on has seen very clearly how fatal it is to compromise. A hobby like writing poetry or inventing chess problems is, he says, invaluable in prison. He himself has had a great resource in writing verse, and finds the sonnet the most interesting form and best suited to prison life. We print, however, a poem of his, written in the same metre as "The Lake of Innisfree."

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

THE DEBATING SOCIETY.—The first meeting this Term was held on January 29th. F. W. Sefton-Jones was elected a member of the society, and P. B. Redmayne was elected secretary on the resignation of T. F. Fox. R. K. Wilson then proposed "that in the opinion of this house the terms suggested by the Allies in reply to President Wilson are a suitable basis for a lasting peace." A. W. Braithwaite seconded, whilst I. C. Bell and F. R. Merttens opposed the motion. After a rather dull debate the proposition was carried by 11 votes to 8. The second meeting was held on February 12th, and consisted of three sharp practice debates, the subjects being as follows:—(1) That this school should play hockey in the Spring Term in place of football; (2) That this society justifies its existence as a debating society; (3) That the inclusion of an umbrella in a group of statuary is an offence to good taste. The meeting was dull at its commencement, but improved during the evening.

P.B.R.

MUSICAL SOCIETY.—The Russian evening at the end of last Term was quite a successful one. The Band took no part in the programme, which included songs, piano solos and a duet, and a

talk from Mr. Ballard about some of the Russian composers. This Term we have been practising Bach's Concerto in D, for flute, violin and piano, and also a selection from "The Gondoliers," (by Sullivan), which has made a pleasant change from the more classical pieces. Miss Grace has joined us with her violin, and A. E. L. Cooke with his viola. We have much enjoyed Alan Bell's help on Thursday evenings, and are pleased to have his brother back with his flute. R.C.H.

L.H.A.—The L.H.A. has held two meetings this Term, at the first of which papers were read by R. K. Wilson, R. A. Penrose, B. C. Bunting, P. B. Redmayne, and R. A. U. Jennings, on "Just Peace Terms"; at the second, papers by D. S. Newbegin, F. R. Merttens, W. Elverston and N. Kitching on "Some problems after the war." Newbegin chose "Ireland and the Home Rule Question" for the subject of his paper. Merttens "Industrial Labour," Elverston "An Imperial Parliament," and Kitching "Our social life after the War." Both the meetings were successful in point of discussion. Views were expressed freely and well. We are expecting a lantern lecture from Mr. Henry Corder on "Mediæval Walled Towns"; later in the Term. D. S. Newbegin has joined the society this Term. P. B. Redmayne has been elected secretary. R.A.U.J.

CAMERA CLUB.—This Term we have been holding a series of technical meetings on taking, developing and printing photographs. At the time of writing we have held two, on one of which we took photographs, while on the other we developed the same. We were blessed with the finest day this year has brought forth, for the first, so that matters were much simplified for those who had no stands, since they were able to give "snapshots." As an example of a "near object," "Peter" most willingly posed: the sight of nine or ten people bowing their heads to a bulldog was not a little amusing. The development meeting passed off quite normally, and some of the results were among the best that divers members had produced. We hope soon to have a gaslight printing meeting, possibly followed by one on enlarging. A.K.G.

WEATHER REPORT (Dec., 1916—March 9th, 1917).—The winter has been as severe as any since the famous winter of '94/'95. The average temperature for the three months, December, January, and February, being 34.5 deg.; 7 deg. below normal. The coldest period was from Jan. 21st—Feb. 10th, when the average temperature was 29.9 deg. During this period on several nights the thermometer recorded more than 15 deg. of frost. Skating on the school pond (first time since 1912), lasted three weeks, ending on Feb. 16th. The ice in places was 9 inches thick. The bitter east winds of the last week of January will long be remembered. We did not realise that on the exhibition day last Term the thermometer did not rise above 25 deg. during the day, falling to 13 deg. in the evening. The average temperature for the day was the coldest for many winters past. So far March has not brought in spring, 11 deg. of frost being recorded two nights ago, during which a high wind was blowing, and 14 deg. last night. Both rainfall and sunshine have been deficient during the winter. A. D. Jennings has become the "Old Moore" of L.P.S. His weather forecasts are surprisingly accurate, and have given some amusement to the School.

J.S.W.R.

CHESS CLUB.—The Chess Club has met regularly this Term on Saturday evenings. The following openings have been played: Ruy Lopez, Danish Gambit, King's Gambit, Guioco Piano, Scotch Gambit, Evans Gambit, French Defence. The club suffered a great loss at half-Term in the departure of its president, Mr. Attenborough, to whom its foundation was largely due, and who has upheld its honour at first board in every match so far played by the club. We are fortunate in having Mr. Elliott to step into the breach, and much appreciate the way in which he has given up his time to do so. The secretaryship has also changed hands, R. D. Buchanan succeeding L. S. Penrose, who left last Term. The latter's ability for blindfold play and construction of problems will probably never be surpassed by a boy of this School. M. Messer and D. S. Newbegin have joined the club, whose total membership is now 16.

R.D.B.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.—The first meeting of the society this Term was held in the first week, and was entirely devoted to reports, on account of the short notice. The most important communication was by Mr. Unwin, on the woodlice of the Park. He has been able to find several uncommon species, one of which is very rare. There were fewer reports than usual. The next meeting, held on February 19th, was opened by R. K. Wilson with a short account of "The Zoological Position of Man." He was followed by N. L. White on "Man and his relation to Monkeys." Mr. Evans then gave the society a lecture on "Prehistoric Man." He described the various evidences of the existence of men in Britain in prehistoric times, but dealt chiefly with their tools and weapons, showing a large number of implements of the stone ages, and also of the bronze age. He explained how to distinguish worked from unworked flints, and the difference between eolithic, palæolithic and neolithic implements. The society much enjoyed this very able lecture.

R.K.W.

N.L.W.

SENIOR ESSAY.—So far this Term we have had one meeting, which was held on February 26th. T. F. Fox resigned his position as secretary on account of work, and I. C. Bell was elected in his place. B. C. Bunting read an essay on "Blake," whom he admired as a prophet rather than a poet, and whom he considered to be a genius of the type that creates, as opposed to that which perfects. The essayist showed a great command of language. The secretary read a short and unconvincing essay on "The relation of coincidences to the Law of Probability," quoting largely from the Tales of Edgar Allan Poe. It was followed by an interesting discussion on "Chance," from the tossing of coins to the roulette table at Monte Carlo. The society deeply regrets the loss of their president, Mr. Attenborough, whose execeptional knowledge of literature rendered his criticisms on the essays especially valuable. I.C.B.

JUNIOR ESSAY SOCIETY.—The society has only had two meetings since last November. Last Term's meeting was the most successful

and was devoted to essays and a discussion on machinery. R. C. Harris opened the meeting with his essay on "The Benefits of Modern Machinery." N. Kitching wrote in opposition to Harris on the disadvantages of modern machinery. The essayist reminded us of all the ills arising from town life and working in factories, but J. S. W. Richardson supporting Harris, pointed out that machinery tended to increase means of communication and to make warfare less frequent. H. A. Rink opposed Richardson, and thought we should be much happier without our newspapers and other products of machinery, but D. S. Newbegin opposed him strongly. Essays were also read on "Water Inventions," "Great Mechanical Inventions," and "Machinery and the War" by C. W. Gillett, H. G. Sharman and P. S. Newbegin respectively. This Term's meeting was not so successful as its predecessor, but Mr. Elliott interested us all in his "Reminiscences." J. S. W. Richardson compared the dialect of Ulster to-day and that of England about 1600, and showed that Shakespeare's English was very similar to the Ulster tongue of to-day.

W.E.

FOOTBALL.

ALTHOUGH the long frost this Term interfered considerably with the football, it was universally welcomed, as it provided a fortnight's good skating—far better than it was five years ago. The second week of skating brought with it a general craze for ice-hockey, and several games were played on the School pond, which however, only provided comfortable room for six a side. The keenest and most exciting of these was undoubtedly the match between the Old Downs' boys and the Rest; but unfortunately it had to be abandoned soon after half-time, each side having scored once. We have only had two football matches this Term. In

each case we were decidedly the weaker team, but neither result could be said to represent the game.

Jan. 27th, v. The F.A.U., at Jordan's.

For the first ten minutes L.P.S. took the offensive, but had little opportunity of shooting. Then, suddenly, the F.A.U. forwards woke up, and made a series of rushes for our goal, but only managed to score five times. During the second half the play was more even, but we only scored once—a pretty shot by Mr. Attenborough. Result—Lost, 9—1.

Feb. 17th, Grove v. School.

The House Match this Term was not an inspiring performance. School evidently had the stronger team, and consequently the play was less vigorous than usual, except for that of R. A. U. Jennings and Redmayne, whose occasional duels on the touchline created a pleasant diversion, and also of two or three of the Grove forwards, whose exceptional energy combined with an absence of studs on their boots proved, more than once, to be unfortunate. Perhaps Messer's play at right back deserves special mention.

Result—School Won, 5—0.

Grove House : Holmes, C. W. Gillett, March, A. D. Jennings, Braithwaite ; R. A. U. Jennings, Brockbank, T. F. Fox ; Wilson, Fry ; Hampton.

School House : Newbegin, Kitching, Buchanan, Penrose, Redmayne ; Cole, Bell, V. H. Merttens ; F. R. Merttens, Messer ; Smith.

Feb. 24th, v. Douai Abbey, at Douai.

In spite of its one-sidedness it was a good match, thanks partly to the spectators, who cheered, as usual, for both teams. At half time the score was 6—0 against us ; but we pulled ourselves together, and for the last part of the game the ball was frequently in their half.

Result : Lost, 10—3.

The chief feature of both these matches was our opponents' speed (as compared with ours) in getting on to the ball as well as

getting away with it. We hope that next football season some special effort will be made to improve the pace of the team. Perhaps each member might make several sport sprints every day, and those who have speed already might learn to obtain a better control of the ball.

I.C.B.

THE SECOND ELEVEN.—The only match which the Second Eleven has had this Term was against Douai Abbey. Owing to the snow and frost it had to be postponed from the 3rd to the 17th of February. The following represented L.P.S. : Goal, R. A. U. Jennings ; backs, Newbegin and W. Elverston ; halves, T. F. Fox, Brockbank and C. W. Gillett ; forwards, Braithwaite, Kitching, S. R. Jennings, Laurie and Holmes. A. D. Jennings gave L.P.S. the lead, but Douai soon equalised. In the second half our opponents scored three to our one. The final score was therefore 4 to 2.

E. S. SMITH.

SCHOOL NOTES.

Two entertainments, of a widely differing character, were given before the School last Term, after the LEIGHTONIAN went to press. The first of these was a concert given in aid of Miss Lena Ashwell's Fund for Entertaining Soldiers at the Front. The programme consisted in a violin-recital by Mr. Slocombe, who is well-known to some members of the School. He was assisted by Miss Lucy France (Mrs. Mauntzi) vocalist, Miss Vera Smith, elocutionist, and Miss Lilian Rudd at the piano. It is seldom that, as a school, we are given an opportunity of listening to such an accomplished violinist, and we fully enjoyed the opportunity. We are glad to hear that Mr. Slocombe has, during the Christmas holidays, been a member of one of the touring parties in whose aid the concert was given. Some £6 were collected towards the Fund.

The second entertainment was given by the Sixth Form, and was of an irresponsible nature, not associated with the members of

what should, at least, be an august body. The two chief items were a patriotic melodrama and an imitation cinema; these were helped out in the intervals by songs and a conjuring exhibition of an intensely feeble nature. The songs were occasionally difficult to follow. The scene of the play was laid in a chateau behind the German lines in France. W. Pollard made an energetic if not a beautiful heroine, whilst W. A. Norbury saved the situation and won the final victory for British arms as a Boy Scout with considerable brilliancy. The *dramatis personæ* covered a large field. They included amongst others, Sir Douglas Haig, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Kaiser, and President Poincaré. The piece was of an impromptu nature, there being no written words. The cinema play which followed was of the conventional type. The plot involved a gang of criminals, headed by L. S. Penrose, who planned to poison the hero and thus steal the heroine and the "great Kung-Chu diamond." The rendering, aided by sympathetic piano-playing, was exceedingly effective.

For the first time for many years there was skating on the School pond during the three weeks' cold spell at the beginning of this Term. Practically everyone in the School had by the end of that time attained a certain proficiency in the art. For the first week skating was the only thing worth living for, but during the last the surface became very rough and only fit for playing ice-hockey. Excursions were also made to Wellington College and other places, and a great deal of very good skating was obtainable.

On Saturday, March 17th, a lecture was given by Mr. Edwin Bigland upon the work of the Bedford Institute in London. The lecturer did us a great service in that he helped us to realise in some slight degree the ghastliness of modern social conditions. It is hard for us to have any real conception of what is meant by life under the circumstances in which large numbers of English people have to live. Since the beginning of the war these conditions have become steadily worse, owing to the rise in prices of necessities and the lack of parental control over the children. It was with

the children that Mr. Bigland mainly dealt. He showed us a large number of slides which greatly added to the interest of the lecture. We hope that the School may be enabled in the future to help in a practical way in the work which he described. It is, as he said, essential that we should know something of modern social problems and of the way in which they may be solved.

The outstanding feature of the Term has been the decision of the Athletic Committee not to hold the Athletic Sports or any other competition for the remainder of the athletic year.

In the School as throughout the whole country, the Prime Minister's appeal has met with a ready response, and it was felt that the time had come to make some serious effort to increase food production. The scheme provides for work upon Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays for the whole afternoon, and for other work upon Tuesdays and Fridays. "Compulsory" is played on Thursdays. There is as much work to be done as we shall have the means to do; it includes digging up ground on allotments, in private gardens, and on the Park. The work on the allotments seems at present the most useful. Some doubt is expressed in many quarters as to whether the ground chosen for breaking-up on the Park will be suitable for potatoes, but we live in hope! It is also unfortunate that the only ground which is properly fenced is in such a public position. The work is, however, progressing satisfactorily, and we hope for good results. Efforts have also been made in the direction of food reduction. The majority of the School have abandoned the custom of buying or otherwise obtaining extra food, an economy which has clearly been needed for some time. The School is, we believe, now beginning seriously to fulfil its obvious duties in the present national crisis. "Green" and Town leave have been temporarily stopped owing to infection in the town. If the war continues for a sufficiently long time it will become worth while for someone to convert his study into a shop where necessities may be purchased. If this idea were extended, the School advertisement relating to the "business of life" might become justified, although we hope that this will never be the case.

This Term the study of Esperanto has been added to the number of already existing hobbies. About 16 boys have taken it up, and a weekly class has been held, under the direction of Mr. Haines of Reading, who has very kindly devoted much of his time to the classes and the preparation of exercises. The lack of time for private work has been the chief drag on progress, and many are conscious of being unable to take full advantage of the classes on account of this. Arrangements are being made for correspondence with boys of other countries (the Japanese are much in favour), but owing to the difficulties of postal communication during the war, no letters have yet been interchanged. Although progress has not been rapid, all appreciate the pleasures of studying a language which has no grammatical exceptions and which offers such scope in the construction of words expressing various shades of meaning. The beauty of the language is becoming more and more apparent, and as we get into closer touch with Esperantists of other nationalities we shall hope to prove for ourselves its practical value as a medium of communication. It is hoped that all will devote as much time as possible to work in the holidays.

The "Art Fellowship" was favoured towards the beginning of the Term by a talk on "Etching, from the Scientific Standpoint," by Prof. J. Percival, of Reading University College. He said that when he first took up etching he found that no one possessed any accurate knowledge of the various scientific processes connected with it. Accordingly, he first of all obtained a plate, showing the results produced by the action of a standard acid on the plate for definite lengths of time. He also told us the most satisfactory way of doing other processes connected with etching, such as coating the plate with wax and "biting." The meeting was extremely interesting, and it is hoped that others in the School will take up the process as being an enjoyable variation of drawing work.



A FRENCHMAN AND ALAN GILFORD.
(Prisoners of War in Germany.)