

# The Leightonian.

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[No. 70

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## EDITORIAL.

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Yet again the Imp has visited the Editor's sanctum. This time his face was wreathed in smiles, and his talk punctuated with merry laughter.

"Good evening Mr. Editor, all is going well I hear, in fact everything is "top hole."

We rebuked him for using slang.

"Well, never mind that, anyhow the school is full, and you'll require another House in September. T. F. Fox has obtained a Science Scholarship, and Redmayne an Exhibition in History at Cambridge, so, in conjunction with the results of the test exams of last term, I conclude that the standard of work is higher than ever. And this isn't all."

My dear Imp, this won't do for the Editorial. All this is common knowledge.

"It is to you, but not to all your readers. You've just got to put down what I dictate, so buck up."

And we bucked.

"Just try and remember something about the Hobbies Exhibition. Wasn't the quality of that good, with the Art and Photography A1?"

Ye-es—but—but there wasn't as much as usual.

"Oh! you pessimist, how can you expect it in War-time, with the fellows putting their spare hours in war-work. You're never satisfied."

We apologised and timidly asked the perky little beggar if he had finished.

"Not by any means."

We sighed, and again took up our pen.

"Why you've said nothing about the games."

Of course we haven't, don't all writers of public school stories and budding dictators condemn the system as being the cause of the ineptitude that has brought about and prolonged the war?

"Don't be an ass," he squeaked in his shrill treble voice.

This was too much for our dignity, so we flung an ink-pot at his head, with the result that there is a horrid splodge of red ink on the wall opposite our desk.

"Well then, just say that we have started Hockey as a school game for the first term of the year, that it is going strong, and that we have done jolly well in matches; and that we finished the football season in a very satisfactory manner, and mention too, that the training for the Sports is in full swing, and that I, even I, with my supernatural knowledge, don't know which House will win the Shield."

We bowed, did as we were told, and agreed that prophecy is a dangerous pastime.

"Well, good-night. Mind you put in all I have told you, though I believe you think the style is far too frivolous for your dignified magazine."

We again did obeisance, again agreed, and promised to be obedient. Then the high and mighty one jumped off the chair, hopped across the room, and disappeared through the window, leaving the Editor humming "I have finished with this job, and a good job too."

## PREFECTS.

P. B. Redmayne (Senior Prefect), appointed May 1917.			
T. Lawrie*	"	"	"
W. A. Norbury	"	"	"
C. W. Gillett	"	September	1917.
W. Elverston	"	"	"
R. A. Penrose	"	November	"
G. D. March	"	December	"
A. D. Jennings	"	"	"
F. W. R. Gibbins	"	March,	1918

\* appointed Senior Prefect when Redmayne left.

## NEW BOYS.

Lower Sixth :	S. C. Morland	Glastonbury.
Fifth :	J. H. Richmond,	Catford.
Lower Fifth :	J. H. Nickalls,	Stowbridge.
	A. R. N. Whitlow,	High Wycombe.
Lower Fourth:	W. F. Hudson,	Hither Green.
Third :	H. Milne-Redhead,	Bath.
"	P. S. N. Whitlow,	High Wycombe.

## NEW OLD BOYS.

- R. D. Buchanan, 24 Amherst Avenue, West Ealing.  
 T. F. Fox, Beech Shade, Beaconsfield, Bucks.  
 B. C. Bunting, 38 Moorside, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

## AKAMBO.

“ Little maid with the serious face,  
 Bundle of laughter and love and grace,  
 Daintiest hope of a dainty race—  
 What is your name ?—Akambo ?

There, little one, you need not cry !  
 I cannot hurt you, though I try ;

Only a big, rough man, am I—  
And you, are an angel, Akambo !

A little angel in raiment bright.  
Shaming the sun in his noonday height :  
See now, I kiss away your fright ;  
Give me a smile, Akambo.

I was coming along the road, you see,  
And I knew you at once, for it seemed to me  
That you were what God meant *me* to be—  
But you can't understand, Akambo !

You're four years old, and your round, frank gaze  
Tells of a life in sunlit ways ;  
God keep you for ever from rainy days—  
'Twere better to die, Akambo.

The world is a simmer of sin and fret,  
And hardly worth saving, my child—and yet  
There are visions of good we can never forget  
If we look in *your* face, Akambo.

Even now with the sunlight asleep on the trees  
There is borne to my soul on the ghost of a breeze  
A whisper that bids me be 'like unto these,'  
Which means 'like unto *thee*,' my Akambo.

But come, let us play ! such talk is too deep,  
I'll teach you a lovely new game, called Bo-peep ;  
No wonder your eyelids are heavy with sleep,  
But—you've taught me a lesson, Akambo."

A. HAROLD RICHARDSON (1895-1901)

#### THOUGHTS ON HOCKEY.

THOUGH as yet in its childhood, modern hockey is old for its age. The game as we know it has developed during the last 30 years, from a rough-and-tumble style of play, where the end in

view sanctioned the employment of any means, and where teams drew up their own code of rules, always supposing that they were fastidious enough to attend to such details. Some recent games, or rather, some players one has watched lately, have given a vivid picture of what an afternoon's sport must have been like about the middle of last century, and also led one to place greater credulity in the legend concerning the true origin of hockey. The word itself appears to be derived from the battle cry (partially preserved in the German "Hoch" !) of the Huns who, with other Asiatic hordes, swarmed over Europe in a bygone age clubbing all who resisted, which bloodthirsty sport was for many centuries in great vogue, until a sage uprose and suggested the substitution of a wooden sphere for the human head, and so for us entirely changed the character of the game, though unfortunately some continental nations prefer still to play under the old rules.

The popularity of the game in its christianised form is evidenced by its rapid development, for previous to the war, fresh clubs were continually springing into existence, and the number of schools that played hockey for one term in the year was ever on the increase. The writer has little doubt which of the two winter games would obtain his support if they were put to the vote, but at the same time is certain that there is not only the room but the need also for the hockey game as well as football, and given the right conditions he can see no reason why hockey should not take its place alongside football and cricket, and in this way cater for those persons who never seem to experience the exhilaration of the former, nor appreciate the grace and skill of the latter; and that there are many such is shown by the fact that at the Universities, hockey claims as many supporters as either association, or rugby football. And here is the great obstacle to the more rapid progress of hockey—that the right conditions are comparatively seldom met with. The hockey player is much more particular than the footballer about the ground upon which he plays. Not only must the surface be

free from roughnesses, but the subsoil must be such as facilitates the most rapid drainage possible after rain. Generally speaking, the quality and speed of play, and the enjoyment of the game, are in direct proportion to the nature of the ground, but though the ideal ground is admittedly a rarity, there are very many grounds that with a certain amount of labour, can be brought to a state not so very far short of this ideal. In one sense, hockey may claim the premier place among outdoor games, by which is meant that it is pre-eminently the game for the amateur as distinguished from the professional ; for there is a delightful absence of that element of professionalism which has done so much to poison what should be the purely sportive and emulatory spirit of football.

For the beginner, the first month or so will be taken up in acquiring a superficial knowledge of how hockey is played, and a more or less thorough familiarity with the rules, but after that, he will be well advised to study the science of the game, though for the experienced footballer there will not be much to learn.

The keynote of a good team is combination, for which quickness of foot, eye, and accurate passing are essential. In both stopping the ball, and in getting it away, slowness will often prove disastrous. The safest method of stopping the ball is with the hand, but it is also the slowest. On most occasions, time allows the use of the foot, but undoubtedly the ideal way and the one that needs most practice, is to receive the ball on the stick ; and in this connection, I may mention that I often find the rubber ring a great nuisance, and am inclined to dispense with it altogether, and trust to a stout glove to protect the right hand. For quick passing and clearing from the circle, a wrist stroke must be cultivated, but when there is ample time and for all corner hits, the "mow-stroke" will be found the more reliable.

In its line of forwards lies the chief strength of a team, for after all, as far as hockey is concerned, attack is the best means of defence ; but they must work as a line and not as five units. The passing among forwards should be short and frequent, and

above all must they master the art of taking the ball on the run. Wing men must be speedy, and if these who filled these important positions were always as fast as one would like, they would never have to complain of lack of work or need to trespass beyond the five yards line in search of it, for they would be given as much as they could manage. The half's position, as in football, is a very strenuous one. When attacking his place is close behind his forwards, though at any moment if the ball is cleared, he may have to race back to tackle his opposing forward. The most frequent mistake of halves is the failure to draw a man before passing, and for this some power of dribbling is necessary, but the half whose nomadic tendencies are too pronounced, must be firmly reminded of his place. A great deal more use can usually be made of the roll in, which indeed, should have the value of a free hit, especially if the direction of the roll is made as unobvious as possible. Of the backs one at least must be very speedy, and then they can follow the game close behind their halves, as it is a much better policy to break up the attack of the opposing forwards before they get into their stride, than to wait for them on the 25 yards line. The backs may be allowed more use of the hand, but their clearing must always be smart and not lacking in direction, and as a general rule they should keep to the centre of the field, leaving the wing forwards to be tackled by the halves.

The goalkeeper must have a good eye, and a cool head, and if so he will be a very valuable member of any team. When there is time, the ball should be hand stopped, because that is the safest method, but in an emergency a lusty kick will save a goal while never on any account must the goalkeeper indulge in a blind swipe at the ball. When suffering from insufficiency of work, it is quite legitimate for the goalie to play as a third back, but otherwise he should remain between the posts. Given enough work there is a peculiar fascination about goalkeeping, which is unknown in any other position on the field,

Those who, looking forward to hockey in the future, are desirous of improving their powers of vision and control over the ball, will find that much can be learnt by knockabout practice in odd moments, especially by running the ball up and down, passing across from right to left, and reversing the stick ; and further such practice will keep the eye in form for the cricket season.

M. L.

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### THE MODERN SLAVE'S DREAM.

In an armchair asleep he lay,  
A novel in his hand.  
Prep was the time, that treach'rous time,  
When sleep falls on the land :  
Once more in mist and the shadow of sleep,  
He saw this vision grand.  
  
Far through the landscape of his dreams  
Ran a macadamised road ;  
Not a police trap was in sight,  
Not an obstacle showed.  
So he leapt on his champing motor-bike,  
Like Jehu of old, he rode.  
  
And then at a furious speed he went  
Along a river bank.  
He was sorry there was no one there to see ;  
He moodily kicked at the crank ;  
A tear burst from the sleeper's lids,  
And splashed on his petrol tank.  
  
The forests with their myriad tongues  
Shouted in their glee.  
And as they cried he prophesied  
“ They'll have police on me.”  
And off he sped half-swore, half-said,  
“ They'll wake the dead,” said he.

He suddenly heard a policeman roar,  
It put him out, that scream.  
His driving was rash, so he came a crash  
Right into the rushing stream.  
It soaked and disappointed him,  
And waked him from his dream.

F. S.-J.

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MEROS MEN TI.

(This beautiful fragment has recently been brought to light during the excavations at Oxythynchus. It is attributed to Voltaire in one of his less lucid moments.)

Then slowly answered Arthur from the barge,  
Moored in the slimy slough of vast canal,  
His face besmiched with dirt and camouflage :  
“ Blow this—— !”

And blew : Childe Roland to the dark tower came,  
Smart with the sweat of Black Boy and allotment,  
Steeped in the fulgour of an oriflamme,  
Asked what the sot *meant*.

I fled him down the nights and down the days,  
I fled him through the elms in Manor-road ;  
I fled him where the playful panther strays,  
And pads abode.

Yet once more, O ye laurels, and once more,  
Ye silvern poplar watching cads at play,  
Ye aged burberry, and oaks galore ;  
Save me to-day.

Here with a loaf of bread beneath the bough,  
The one small loaf allowed by cautious Rhondda,

I see him leap the ditch\* upon his cow,  
I sit and ponder.

The cowman homeward plods his weary way,  
The cow trots on, satirique et enragee,  
Her neck (where is the R.S.P.C.A.?)  
Smacked by the bargee.

And she forgot the stars, the moon, the sun,  
Watching the hind and I play hoky-poky,  
Until all three were trussed up one by one,  
And clapt in choky.

R. W. B. E.  
A. W. B.

\*That is "ha ha," Ha ! Ha !

#### DE VALEDICENTIBUS.

There was a young man of Carlisle,  
Who wore a most wonderful smile,  
His legs—they were sticky,  
His football—was tricky.  
This prodigious product of Carlisle.

We've lost the fanatic of Staines,  
Whose zeal for the war never wanes.  
His study—most foul !  
The sight made us howl !  
This amusing young patriot of Staines.

There was a young fellow called Cuthbert,  
Who wore an exceedingly rough shirt,  
His hair was " Bay Rummy,"  
His ideas were funny.  
That peculiar fellow called Cuthbert.

There was a young man from the East,  
Whose wonderful name never ceased.  
During A(w)lgebra time  
His answers were prime.  
The optimistic young man from the East.

There was a tall Irish Sinn Feiner,  
On everything else he was saner,  
But on Ireland we fear,  
His views were not clear.  
This curious tall, Irish, Sinn Feiner.

THE BOOZY-OOZY ONES.

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REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

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SENIOR ESSAY.—We have held two meetings since the last report. The first, on December 10th, was occupied by the expounding of some chemical doctrines by A. D. Jennings, under the title of "Poisons and Poisoning;" and a description in narrative form by R. A. Penrose of a Morrisian Utopia. The only meeting held so far this term was on February 11th. W. Elverston read an essay on "Heroes," containing much hero-worship and some original conclusions; notable perhaps was his scorn for Aeneas. Redmayne's essay on Orthodoxy led, in some mysterious way, to a fierce biological controversy about Progress. In both meetings the discussions have been lively and sustained, and the President's criticisms especially merit the gratitude of the whole Society. We greatly appreciate also the assistance of Mr. Braithwaite in our meeting this term.

A. W. B.

CHESS.—Progressing favourably. We have been holding a handicap tournament this term, but this is not yet completed.

A. W. B.

NATURAL HISTORY.—Three meetings of the Society have been held since the last report. The first was on November 19th, at which several papers were read and a discussion took place on the subject of "The effect of Winter on Animal and Plant Life." The whole of the second meeting, held on January 19th, was devoted to a lecture by Mr. H. M. Wallis on "Animal Camouflage. The school was invited to attend. The third meeting took place on February 18th. Papers were read by J. Richardson, on "Weather Forecasts;" J. H. Moorhouse on Berkshire Cattle Breeds;" A. E. Cooke on "Sea Birds;" and J. Hockin and R. Priestman on "Jupiter and Venus." Cookes' paper was made doubly interesting by his showing a few of the birds from the collection recently presented to the school by Mr. J. B. Crossfield.

R. C. T.

G. A. C.

DEBATING.—Since our last report we have had three meetings, two of which have afforded excellent debates. At the first, we decided by a majority of one, that the savage man is happier than the civilised; at the second meeting, we debated as to whether the King was an unnecessary figure head to the British constitution and decided, again by one vote, that he was not. But at the third meeting, we failed to get such a good discussion, the motion was "that Russia is doing more for the progress of civilisation at the present time, than any other nation;" nevertheless for a third time the motion was lost only by one vote.

R. A. P.

L. H. A.—The three meetings that have been held since the last Leightonian report have all been very successful. The first of the three, which was held last term, was devoted to papers on R. B. Sheridan, and Oliver Goldsmith. Essays were read by W. A. Norbury on Sheridan's Life; A. M. Brockbank on "The School for Scandal;" R. C. Harris on "The Critic;" and M.

Messer on Goldsmith's life, and F. W. Sefton-Jones on his works. Readings were also given by Mr. Robson and some of the essayists. At the first meeting this term, Mr. Evans gave us an extremely interesting lecture on "Christ Church." The lecture was illustrated with lantern slides, and was held in the Library. In addition to dealing with the well-known Priory—which would afford a matter for a lecture in itself—Mr. Evans described the surrounding countryside, its legends and its history. The third meeting we devoted to acting. We chose Sheridan's play "The Critic," and all the members, a total of twenty, were able to take part. Over 200 were present, including 100 visitors. We are glad to welcome five new members.

W. E. for P. R. B.

MUSICAL.—We have been practising Schubert's Symphony in B minor (unfinished) for a Schubert evening next term. The Band is to accompany a performance of "Trial by Jury" (Gilbert and Sullivan) on March 30th. S. Tyagaraja (flute) has joined the Band this term.

R. C. H.

JUNIOR ESSAY.—We have only had two meetings since the last report, one last term and one this. The latter was given up to essays—by C. W. Gillett, Messer, and Pitt—and a discussion on "Utopia." The membership of the Society is now 24, but several members will be leaving at the end of this term.

R. C. H.

CAMERA CLUB.—The two meetings this term have yielded a nett catch of five new members. The first meeting was purely a business one, but at the second papers were read by various members on "Copying," and "Animal Photography;" the meeting concluded with an exhibition of "The use of Platino-type Paper," by Mr. Unwin.

W. A. N.

## WEATHER REPORT.

WINTER 1917-18.

The late Autumn was unusually dry and not particularly cold. By far the coldest part of the winter was the four weeks of the holidays, when several minima of below 20° were recorded. December had the exceptional amount of sunshine of 67 hours. This term the weather has been dry, and on the whole, not cold, except for the last ten days, which have been a period of north-east winds. The first fortnight of February was very mild, especially during the nights; for ten days the average minimum temperature was 44°, that is, as warm, or even warmer than many nights are in May. On February 25th, the reading of the barometer, corrected for sea-level, was 30.81 inches, the highest reading recorded here for many years past, perhaps the highest reading since January 1896.

J. S. W. R.

## FOOTBALL.

The only changes which took place in the team towards the end of the season, were that C. W. Gillett took Brockbank's place as outside left, and Brain played goal instead of F. H. Gillett. F. H. Gillett and T. F. Fox each played half, once in the last two matches. On the whole, the season was a thoroughly satisfactory one, for we only lost one match.

<i>Match.</i>		<i>Ground.</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Score.</i>
Douai Abbey ..	..	Douai	Lost	2-3
House Match ..	..	L.P.S.	Grove	4-2
Wantage, King Alfred's School	L.P.S.		Won	6-1
Wallingford Farm Colony	L.P.S.		Won	2-1

## GYMNASTIC COMPETITION, 1917.

## OPEN.

*Squad Work.*

School House	17·57 points.
Grove House	18·43 ,,

*Apparatus Work.*

Boom	Pitt and Jennings.
Stall Bars	Pitt and Jennings.
Rope	Lawrie and Gillett.
Horse	Kitching and Pitt.

## JUNIOR.

*Squad Work.*

School House	10·8 points.
Grove House	10·8 ,,

*Apparatus Work.*

Boom	W. M. Elverston.
Stall Bars	W. M. Elverston.
Rope	W. M. Elverston.
Horse	Marriage.
Storrs Fry Shield	L. B. Pitt.
Peckover Cup	W. M. Elverston.
	W. H. S.

## HOCKEY TEAM.

G. D. MARCH.—Hits cleanly and clears well; a safe and most useful back. Every now and then meets a forward he cannot overtake.

H. D. FRY.—Is more at home with a football than a hockey stick. Still too slow at clearing, though his hitting powers have improved.

E. J. H. NICKALLS.—As a forward is too slow, but as a half is steady and very reliable.

W. A. NORBURY.—Tackles well and can use his stick on the left, but is very apt to get flurried, which leads to miss-hitting and failure to feed his forwards.

R. A. PENROSE.—Will make a good right wing man when he uses his speed to greater advantage and can hit the ball cleanly.

V. H. MERTTENS.—At times has shown himself an inside forward of considerable skill and with control over the ball.

A. D. JENNINGS.—A thrusting forward ; but the great form promised by his play at the beginning of the season, has hardly been fulfilled. Still clings to that objectionable habit of reversing his hands on the stick.

C. W. GILLETT.—Does not lack dash, but evidently his true vocation will be found in stone-breaking.

A. M. BROCKBANK.—Clears well, and with mere experience will make a very good goalkeeper.

#### MATCHES.

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Match.</i>	<i>Result.</i>	<i>Ground.</i>	<i>Score.</i>
Feb. 9	Staff Match . .	W.	L.P.S.	2-3
„ 16	R.F.C. (Coley Park)	L.	L.P.S.	3-1
„ 20	University College	W.	Reading	5-3
„ 23	R.F.C. Cadets	W.	L.P.S.	6-2
March 2	R.F.C. (Coley Park)	W.	L.P.S.	3-2
„ 4	Staff Match	L.	L.P.S.	0-2
„ 6	University College	D.	L.P.S.	6-6

Goals for 22, against 16.

Won 3. Drawn 1. Lost 1.

*Feb. 16th, R.F.C. (Coley Park) at L.P.S. Lost 2-3.*

This was our first "outside" match of the season—the first School Hockey Match. We soon found out that our combination and play in front of goal was weak. March played well as a back, and Mr. Littleboy, playing centre half, was splendid. "Percy," of the R.F.C., seemed to be a terror, both to his own side, and to us, but succeeded in doing more damage to the former, than to the latter. The match resulted in a loss for us, the score being 2-3.

*Feb. 20th, University College at Reading. Won 5-3.*

In this match, Nickalls took the place of Gillett, as outside-left, and Norbury came left half. The whole match was hardly

contested. During the first half, the game was well spread out over the whole field, but towards the end of the second half, we pressed and showed up our poor shooting abilities. After a very good game, the final score was 5-3 in our favour.

*Feb. 23rd, R.F.C. Cadets at L.P.S. Won 6-2.*

In this match again the play commenced very evenly, if anything the R.F.C. were almost pressing. We soon pulled ourselves together, however, and by half time, the score was 4-1 in our favour. Unfortunately during the second half, the R.F.C. captain strained his leg, and had to go goal. After this, the play became much slacker, and although we were pressing fairly consistently, we seemed unable to score. The result was 6-2. Grove House was unwittingly honoured at the end of the match, when the "three cheers" were given in their favour.

*March 2nd, R.F.C. (Coley Park) at L.P.S. Won 3-2.*

For this, and the University match, we were strengthened by Mr. Unwin playing on the right wing. Our opponents again had "Percy," who after half time, played as half, instead of back, but this time he failed to score. This game was very evenly contested the whole time, but it was noticeable that we did not improve towards the end of the game, as much as usual. This was probably because we were only playing thirty minutes each way. The final score was 3-2.

*March 6th, University College at L.P.S. Draw 6-6.*

This last, was also the best and most exciting match of the season. The College commenced scoring at the very beginning. Then we gradually pulled up to 3-1. The hardest tussle, however, came during the last quarter of the match, when the score was 4-4. Then the College scored, and five minutes later we followed. Soon the score became 6-5 in our opponents' favour, and it was only just before the end of the match, that we were able to equalise. For this match, Mr. Evans played outside right, and Merttens, outside left, whilst Nickalls took Brockbank's place in goal. The match formed a very satisfactory end to our season.

## OLD LEIGHTONIAN NOTES.

We hear that the Old Leightonian Scholarship Committee are trying to form an Endowment Fund of £1,000, to put the scholarships on a more permanent basis. There are three candidates for the scholarship to be taken up in September, but the award has not yet been made. The present Old Leightonian scholars are unable to use their scholarships, owing to the Military Service Act.

On November 4th, at the Naval Church in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Lieut. R. Vigurs Ridges, to Miss Julia Hibbert, of Cahir, Co. Tipperary.

Captain Colin Smee, Middlesex Regiment, was slightly wounded last November. He is Lewis Gun Officer of the battalion, and captain of the battalion football team, which won the brigade cup, and were runners up in the final for the divisional cup.

Old Boys will be glad to hear something of J. Rickman, who is doing medical work in Russia. The following extracts from letters will help all to realise something of the difficulties of his work. He is now head of the Orphanage, Mogdlova House.

"Did you imagine your son would go into the wholesale meat business? You did not guess half of his activities! I suppose I have bought half-a-ton of meat since I have been here for the Hospital of this Orphanage. We have also bought over a thousand heads of cabbages, which will be chopped, salted and soured, for the famous cabbage soup. Hundreds and hundreds of big vegetable marrows, and three tons of acorns to find our farm yard. We are smoking our own bacon now, and shortly intend to make our own soap; your dear boy turning out now as a soap boiler!

All the animals killed here are inspected by me for disease, sometimes the same animals are treated by me for disease, and others killed. My veterinary work here has included horses,

cows, lambs, sheep, ducks, pigs, 2 cats, a dog, and a rabbit ; it has been one long succession of doubtful diagnosis and uncertain treatment, the success of all has been uniform—namely nil ! No, I am *not* a Vet.

The races and nationalities treated by me at the out-patient department, have included Russians, Little Russians, Poles, Prisoners of War from Austria, Germany, Hungary, Greeks, Turks, wandering tribes such as Tartars, Kurghiz, Kalmucks, Aboriginal people, etc., etc."

At the time of an outbreak of typhoid, the father and mother of a family died, two of the children suffering from the same complaint were taken into the Hospital ; the case was a very sad one. John writes :—

" Why do I write all this about that family ? Not to give you a picture of all the good I am doing for I have given no comfort to that family, the more shame to me. No, it is an instance it seems of a kind of utter blackness, of almost unrelieved dreadfulness, which needs all one's faith to see round, over, or through, loneliness, cold, half starvation, suspense.

It is in a way, now I come to think of it, not unlike the agony that Russia is in now, if your heart goes out to that old man, let it also go out to Russia ; the young Russia, but with a certain hope as well. For Russia will be made perfect through suffering. Now she is suffering as you in Europe little realise, but she will come through triumphant."

R. D. Buchanan is at Cambridge in the O.T.C.

T. F. Fox has joined the Friends' Ambulance Unit at Dunkirk.

Jack King has been made a Chevalier of the Order of Leopold II, by King Albert, and has received the ribbon of the 1914 Star, given to members of the Friends' Ambulance Unit, who were in France before 22nd November, 1914.

Congratulations to Cuthbert Fox on being awarded the Military Cross.

We hear that J. B. Braithwaite, at present working in the F.A.U. in Italy, has offered himself for military service.

On the 6th of February, at 6 Kimberley Terrace, Great Yarmouth, the wife of Egbert Cadbury, of a son.

E. S. Smith is gazetted second Lieutenant, and has joined the Labour Corps at Oswestry.

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#### SCHOOL NOTES.

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THE unexpected visit to the school of General Smuts on the last Saturday in March was a pleasure to all who saw him. He was on his way to visit Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gillett at Oxford (the work done by Mrs. Gillett, or Miss Margaret Clark as she was then, in reconstruction in South Africa after the Boer War will be known to several); we must thank the members of the class who were with him, for bringing him to the school. Those who saw him will hardly fail to retain a lively memory of a fine personality. He was so ready to be interested in all that he saw, putting the weight was in process when he arrived, and here he thought, rightly enough, that we took our pleasures sadly. He was shown the laboratories, and the central buildings, not forgetting the potato patch and the other work with which it is connected. But more remarkable still was the way in which General Smuts established an immediate relation with each person to whom he spoke: It was Mr. Robson who, greatly daring, asked what was on the lips of others to ask, and who elicited an enlightening sentence or so on the position of the Western Front as it was at the moment. I think that I shall always remember the enthusiastic way in which he took up a sentence of mine on his views of our relationships with the colonies. He said how ready we must be to accept new ideas

of Government to meet a relationship between mother country, and dependencies that is different from anything the world has ever seen before ; that we must look to advances in self-government that may go all lengths, but that we must yet preserve the practical experiment in a league of nations which is what our connection with our colonies comes to—at least that is my memory of what he said. Then, too, was his badinage with the small boys when he knew—~~and~~ the rather tragic incident that D. S. Newbegin's cab rolled away just as his great hero's car came to the door. But Newbegin, in a recent letter says he caught sight of ~~a~~ military figure (General Smuts, however, was not in uniform) as he left, and by a providential impulse exchanged goodbyes with him ; so Newbegin considers that he scores.

C. I. E.

An arrangement by which boys are placed in groups in their forms at mid-term, and at the end of the term, has this year superseded the former one of individual order. Those who obtain 75% or more are graded as "a," and classified as "very good." The following boys have recently gained this distinction.

EXAMINATION, DECEMBER 1917.—VI. T. F. Fox and Redmayne. V. Harris and O. C. Morland. IV. C. B. Taylor.

MID-TERM, MARCH, 1918.—IV. C. S. Taylor. III. P. S. N. Whitlow.

The Steeplechase was run on Saturday, 16th March. Sixteen boys faced the starter. On leaving the road, the order was Brockbank, Gillett, Merttens, Penrose. At the bottom of "Steeplechase Hill," Merttens (S. H.), was leading, followed by Gillett (G. H.), Penrose (S. H.), Jennings (G. H.), and Lawrie, and this order was maintained to the finish. The time 21' 42" was within two minutes of the record, quite a satisfactory performance. The afternoon was a fine one, with plenty of sunshine and no wind, and the ground was in good condition.

On January 15th, the term began with seventy four boys on the list, another record.

As soon as the weather permitted, the hockey was started,

and several enthusiasts were found among the staff, as well as the boys.

One evening, shortly after the commencement of the term, the school was startled by shouts of "fire," from Grove House reading room, and on enquiring, it became apparent that one of the studies was in flames. Very soon the newly formed fire brigade were on the spot, and tried their skill with extinguisher and bottle. We understand that one member was over-powered by the lawlessness of his machine, and so hurled it bodily into the flames to see what they could make of it. Happily it did not explode. Not many days after the glow on the sky of a rather more serious fire down in the town, excited again many during hobby time.

War Work began early in the term, and squads have been going out regularly to dig allotments, and a considerable amount of work has been done. Also work has been done on the cricket pitch, and at the farm.

On January 30th, many boys enjoyed a Dramatic Recital given by Miss Hay and her pupils, at the Town Hall, entitled "The Women of Shakespeare."

In the first few days of February, Mr. Attenborough paid us another very welcomed visit, and showed us how to play hockey. He also gave us very interesting accounts of the Halifax explosion, having left the town only 36 hours before it happened, and returning a few days later.

Mr. Edwir Bigland, of Hoxton, addressed the school one Sunday evening, and again pointed out to us the need of Social Service.

In the early part of the term, a new departure enthralled certain boys; everywhere there was to be seen small groups of two or three boys engrossed in the bartering of stamp, stamp albums lay about in every corner, and sometimes there was almost a queue outside H. A. King's shop in Reading. However it seems the craze has somewhat abated.

On the last day of February, the F.A.U. camp, at Jordans,

payed us a visit, and to the delight of a few hockey reactionaries, played us at "footer" in the afternoon ; then spending the night in the Gym, they left next morning. We were glad to welcome T. F. Fox among them.

On March 1st, we had a deeply interesting lecture in the hall, from D. Tylor Fox, of the War Victims' Relief party in Russia, on "Russia and her need at the present time." He gave us a clear picture of the terrible sufferings of the refugees from Poland, and showed us the need for sympathy and help.

We have had another visit from Mr. Hind Smith, and have again responded to his appeal for money for Dr. Barnardo's Homes.

One morning in long recess, great excitement was caused by an aeroplane flying very low over the park ; so low that some felt quite anxious for the poplar and playground oak. We were not very surprised to hear a few days later, that the aeroplane contained an Old Leightonian, W. P. Southall.

On March 6th, a large portion of the upper school attended an interesting lecture in the College Hall, by Dr. Robert Bridges, on "The uses of Poetry." This was arranged by the Reading W.E.A., from whose lecture school, several boys have reaped much benefit.

This term, Woodcraft Chivalry has been started in the school. The movement has come entirely from the boys. Mr. A. T. Westlake kindly came down for a week-end, and talked to those interested in the movement. Those desirous of forming a Lodge, proceeded to do so by setting up a practical organisation. Activities have so far centred round passing the tests established for entrancehip by the Lodge. Numerous projects are afoot, and preparations for camping out when the weather gets warmer, are being made.

The Art Fellowship have had two meetings this term ; at the first, we met at Mr. Unwin's, and sketched Hudson ; at the second, Mr. Seaby gave us a very useful and interesting talk on "Colour."

We have had the pleasure of visits from John Henry Barlow and Henry T. Hodgkin, at our Sunday evening meetings.

The L.H.A. Society held an open meeting on March 9th, when they invited the members of the school, and a number of visitors to a performance of Sheridan's "The Critic." Whilst the costumes, wigs, and "make up" added much to our amusement, yet the main interest was naturally in the elocution and acting. W. A. Norbury as Puff, C. W. Gillett as Don Ferolo Whiskerandos, W. M. Elverton as Tilburina, and N. Kitching as Confidante, seemed to us the pick of a well chosen and capable cast. We congratulate Mr. Robson and the Society, on a thoroughly good show, that gave pleasure to all.

The King and Queen visited Reading on March 12th. By the courtesy of the Mayor, we were allotted places in the Station-road, and work was dispensed with after first lesson. Does this account for the change in attitude of some of the members of the Debating Society?

Mr. Ballard provided a very agreeable "Mid-Term Social" on March 30th. After a pianoforte solo by Enock, some of the junior members of the school acted the play scene from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (Act IV., Scene 1). This was followed by a well-executed flute solo by Tyagaraja, and then by a presentation of "Trial by Jury." This is the first time that such an ambitious effort as an opera has been performed in the school, and it proved a great success. Norbury as the defendant had the true Gilbertian air—with a touch of Charlie Chaplin thrown in. O. C. Morland as the plaintiff and the four bridesmaids played their parts well. Brockbank as the bucolic judge and Messer as the gentle usher and March as counsel also deserve special mention. The orchestra did fairly well under the difficulty of playing from a piano score; we should have preferred to hear more of the flutes and less of one violin. The jury acquitted themselves well. Altogether, however, it was a very meritable performance.