



EDWARD V. BALLARD, Editor of *The Leightonian*, 1905-1918.

The Leightonian.

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EDITORIAL.

THE name of E. V. Ballard has been so long connected with the editorship of "THE LEIGHTONIAN" that it is difficult to realise that he is no longer responsible for its production. We believe that it was he who first proposed to the Union Committee that the magazine should be started, and he has been editor of it for thirteen years. No one could have worked more steadily for the paper, nor have been more conscientiously desirous of meeting the right claims of various sections of LEIGHTONIAN readers. Courtesy and punctuality have marked his regime.

Mr. Ballard's resignation of the post of editor will be the first intimation, to some O.L.'s at least, of the fact that he is about to leave the staff of the School. Owing to ill-health he was granted leave of absence for the current term, and after a visit to Horace Walpole in the holidays, he was offered, and has accepted, a post with a business firm in Ireland; this he will take up early in 1919. We congratulate him heartily on the improved health that makes this possible, and trust that freedom from the call of the 7 a.m. prep. bell, and from the long hours of whole-day duty, may help him towards a long period of useful business life. The outstanding feature of his long service in the School would seem to be the capacity he has shown for uniting past and present. He was the authority in the School to whom points of tradition were referred; he kept in touch with old boys, not only officially as editor, but by private letters, which he shared with his colleagues and others in the School; O.L.'s returning to Reading have known the welcome of his home. Both Mrs. Ballard and he

will take with them the good will of all ; in their new surroundings they will doubtless prove to be still, as opportunity offers, a centre for Leightonians.

After one term with us, Mr. G. A. F. Wallis has passed on to Clifton College ; his place as classical master is taken for the term by Mr. R. P. Dutt, of Balliol, who has helped us, in addition to his teaching, by a masterly speech in a debate and by a staff lecture on Bolshevism ; Mr. R. B. Graham, of Magdalen College, Oxford, (at present teaching at Bishop's Stortford College) will follow him in January. The geography teaching of Mr. Ballard is now taken by Mr. Littleboy ; the singing and much of the piano teaching by Miss Bowman-Smith, of Reading. It is an innovation, and a pleasant one, to have a lady on the full-time teaching staff, in the person of Mrs. Lyn Harris. We found on returning this term that Mr. W. M. Bailey, who came to us temporarily as chemical master in June, had been married in the holidays, and that Mr. and Mrs. Bailey had been fortunate enough to secure as a house the pretty lodge-bungalow in the grounds of The Wilderness.

The influenza epidemic is dealt with at length elsewhere ; our thankfulness for the comparatively small amount of really serious illness that it brought us must not make us forget others less fortunate. The thoughts of Leightonians will turn with true sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Ridges in the loss of their daughter, Frances, who will be remembered by many O.L.'s.

Before ourselves, there have been but three editors-in-chief of "THE LEIGHTONIAN," Harold Morland, Edward Little, and E. V. Ballard holding the office in turn. The fortunes of the magazine are now controlled by a Leightonian Council (see last page of cover), with three members sharing editorial responsibility. This was originally meant as an interim arrangement for this term ; it is by no means certain that it will continue. We look to our readers to give us help, especially by criticism, of the present number ; we know it might be better, and shall be glad to learn just how to make it so.

 PREFECTS.

T. Lawrie (Senior Prefect).	appointed	May,	1917.
W. A. Norbury	"	"	"
C. W. Gillett	"	September,	1917
G. D. March	"	December,	"
A. D. Jennings	"	"	"
F. W. R. Gibbins	"	March,	1918.
R. C. Taylor	"	July,	"
V. H. Merttens	"	"	"
G. A. Cole	"	"	"

 NEW BOYS.

Lower Va.

N. E. Davies, Penarth.
 I. Hardy, Sheffield.
 R. L. Jacobs, Hampstead.
 D. Kemsley, Woodford Green.
 P. O. Parfitt, Oaversham.
 E. T. O. Slater, Oxford.

Lower Vb.

H. A. March, Reading.
 A. P. Nunn, Watford.
 T. H. Rogers, Penarth.
 A. B. Smith, Witham.

IV.

R. Grimshaw, Boscombe.

III.

D. C. Cadbury, Worcester.
 I. Cadbury, King's Norton.
 M. H. B. Gilmour, Hampstead
 L. M. Hamel, Tamworth.
 M. H. H. Ponsonby, Haslemere
 H. E. Richmond, Catford.
 J. G. Smithson, Alvechurch.

 NEW OLD BOYS.

H. D. Fry, Hillside, Grays, Essex.
 R. H. Penrose, Oxhey Grange, Watford.
 W. Elverston, Fulshaw Hall, Wilmslow, Cheshire.
 A. Kitching, The Grange, Great Ayton, Yorkshire.
 H. A. Rink, 18 Gardnor Mansions, N.W. 3.
 J. G. Enock, 12 Heathland Road, Stoke Newington, N. 16.

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OBIERUNT.

FRANCIS S. BRAIN was at the school from 1908-1912, and was quietly to the fore in many ways, in schoolwork, in games, in music, as prefect and as sub-editor of *The Leightonian*. He gained an entrance scholarship for law students at Trinity Hall, and was doing extremely well at Cambridge when war broke out. He was gazetted in 1915 to the Royal Berks Regiment, but for the whole time, nearly two years, that he was in France, he was attached to the Dorsets. He went through heavy fighting in the Somme district in 1916 without being wounded, and was recalled to the Western Front in May, 1918, after six months' home duty. On 3rd October, as he was advancing through the barrage to the attack, a shell dropped at his feet and killed him instantly. A curious coincidence is that only a few weeks before his death he came up to the chateau at Ennemain, which, in the Spring of 1917 his brother, Lieut. J. A. Brain, and Capt. Whittaker had officially named Chateau Leighton Park. Between the two visits the chateau had again been in the hands of the Germans, but the notice board naming it was untouched. As one of three brothers who are all Leightonians, and as a member of a well-known Reading family, F. S. Brain's death is naturally very keenly felt ; but his personal charm, recognised at school, at the university and in the army, was a stronger bond still ; it would seem as if all men who got to know him were attracted to him.

J. MAITLAND DOWNIE (1906-1911), Captain R.A.M.C., died of pneumonia, following influenza, on 28th October, at Basra, Mesopotamia. After leaving L.P.S., he took his medical course at Cambridge, becoming first exhibitioner, and then scholar of Christ's College. This was followed by further work at Glasgow University, until in July, 1916, he obtained his commission in the R.A.M.C. He was posted to Mesopotamia, and since Christmas, 1917, he had been O.C. of a hospital at Qualet Saleh, on the Tigris, where his work lay greatly among the Arabs. He had the faculty of making the most of his surroundings and of getting enjoyment

from the country, the people and the language. ("He was such a lover of children and of nature; his pets in Mesopotamia included a wild cat and an owl.") For his latest post he had to pass an exam. in Arabic, and had recently also learnt Persian, and had applied to be transferred to Persia. Leightonians will remember a captivating personation of the Fool in "Twelfth Night," by J. M. Downie, in his last year at school, and the quiet humour which enabled him to do this, combined with fine courtesies, made him a delightful companion and an excellent letter-writer. A letter to the Headmaster written a short time before his death recalls all these qualities vividly; in it he speaks with feeling of O.L.'s killed this year, and shows in more ways than one how closely in thought he was keeping in touch with the work of the school. By those who knew him, few men will be more missed.

The last week of war claimed an O.L., for, on November 8th, CLIVE H. THORPE was killed by a shell as the British troops were entering Tournai. The year after he left school (1903), C. H. Thorpe had entered the West Kent Yeomanry, and thus had obtained his long service medal before the war began. He went through the campaigns of Gallipoli and Palestine before serving on the Western Front; all this time he retained his post as Company Q.M.S., declining to take any steps towards a Commission. He preferred to remain with his chums of the West Kent, and to continue the work he knew. He is buried in the Belgian Cemetery at Tournai.

OLD LEIGHTONIAN NOTES.

R. L. NISBET has been a prisoner at Mainz, but is now believed to be on his way home; his father reports him as asking for books on mining during his imprisonment. The armistice has already brought Alan Gilford home after $3\frac{1}{4}$ years' imprisonment in Germany, and 9 months' internment in Holland. He has come well out of the ordeal, and can speak well of his treatment, except

for one period, when surroundings made things nearly intolerable. Dennis Gilford is doing orderly work at a hospital in Leicester ; he has not yet thoroughly recovered from nerve shock.

A. S. Hampton visited the school after being in hospital in France ; he is still in hospital in the Midlands. R. K. Wilson, wounded in both legs, is in hospital in Birmingham, and is in a fair way towards complete recovery. W. I. Holmes makes progress in an orthopedic hospital in Newcastle.

Howard R. Smith is in charge of Ambulance Train No. 17, under the F.A.U. ; he was in Reading at the Autumn Quarterly Meeting, and gave a most interesting account of difficult ambulance work during the retreat of the Spring of 1918. O.L.'s in France dined together on the 21st July ; there were present L. Doncaster, L. J. Cadbury, P. S. Cadbury, O.S. and R. B. Hopkins, LL. H. Fox, J. E. Goodbody, H. B. Darby, and G. L. Ford. E. C. Russell was in hospital, and so prevented from being present. At the latest, and we hope the last, Camp of the F.A.U., at Jördans, G. R. Harris, N. Kitching and J. S. W. Richardson took the training ; the two last named came over to the school, although no general visit was feasible this time. N. Kitching is since in France ; J. Richardson in Ireland, with the possibility before him of doing work next Spring with the F.W.V.R.

The Group of Cambridge O.L.'s is now so large that in future we hope they will once more send us a special report for *The Leightonian*. We believe it includes this term W. Elverston, P. B. Redmayne, D. S. Newbegin, N. L. White, A. K. Gordon and L. B. Cole. Next term they will be joined by J. B. Fryer, whom King's is ready to receive if " his discharge is in order." Fryer is still working at the Wallingford Training College, helping them at football among other things. He has lately sent a baker's dozen of books for the school library.

M. H. C. Topham has recently been in Reading attending a course in dairying at the University College, thus getting once more into touch with L.P.S. after several year's silence. He was in the H.A.C., at Mudros, and has sustained such injury to his

feet, that riding will always be easier for him than walking. He is now starting again for Uganda, to take up farming once more. It was curious that two days before he left Reading his chum, Stanley Hodgkinson, should write to the Headmaster to know if he had news of the whereabouts of Topham.

S. Hodgkinson (at present Lieut. in the A.S.C.) was married on March 8th to Miss E. M. S. Laycock, of Keighley. Congratulations are also due to R. C. Ford on his marriage to Miss H. B. Byles, of Settle; to Henry Malcomson on his marriage to Miss Flemyng, daughter of Canon Flemyng, of Portlaw; to C. S. Richmond, on his marriage to Miss E. M. Walker; to Lloyd H. Fox on his marriage to Miss G. Bigland; and to Arthur Wallis on his marriage to Miss Burberry. (The Editor desires to offer apology to A.W. for a mistake in the July *Leightonian*.)

Births.—To Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Holmes a daughter, in November; to Mr. and Mrs. MacLean a son; and to Mr. and Mrs. F. Ion Richardson, of Canterbury, N.Z., a son.

The *Croix de Guerre* has been awarded to H. MacLean, who has been running his own car in France under the French Red Cross; to Bonville Fox, who has been wounded while working with the F.A.U. in France; and to Capt. G. R. Brockbank (attached to the 2nd Loyal North Lancashires). Brockbank was decorated on the field by the British General at the request of the French, and two days after an exchange was made for the higher decoration of the *Croix* with Palm Leaf.

E. Cadbury has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for attacking and destroying a large airship on August 6th, and damaging a second. The services, says the official account, were of the greatest value, and the risk very considerable as the aeroplanes were a long way from land. Cadbury was awarded the D.S.C. in December, 1918, for his services on the occasion of the destruction of a Zeppelin off the Norfolk Coast.

Bryan Jeffreys is engaged (says E. V. B.) to a lady resident in Dublin; E. Jeffreys has received his commission; and Guy Jeffreys has joined up.

Norman Goodbody is in Egypt, and Eben Goodbody in Palestine. Each has a Commission, and is serving in the Transport Service. Jack Goodbody is engaged to an English girl resident in Argentina. Conrad Pim is head of the War Pensions Committee for Munster, Leinster and Connaught.

Lyn Harris, in Winchester Gaol, has been kept in close touch with L.P.S. affairs by the monthly visits to him of Mrs. Harris. Sewell Harris, just released from Canterbury Prison, has again been court-martialled, and is awaiting promulgation of sentence. E. P. Southall was among the men recently sent to the Wakefield Works Centre, apparently with the intention of endeavouring to get their acceptance of the Home Office Scheme under conditions that they could not accept ; Southall is back again in prison. B. C. Bunting is serving a sentence of 112 days in Wormwood Scrubs, after refusing agricultural work on the ground that in effect that was sending another man to fight for him.

J. F. Braithwaite, writing in August, asks for French novels for use in a Dutch village for interned Belgian soldiers, where he is working ; he has a troop of scouts about evenly divided of French and Flemish speaking boys.

J. A. Brain, now well recovered from severe wounds, is at work in London on an official diary of the War ; it will be among the attractions of next O.L. Gathering to endeavour to extract news from him. Another of the minor frivolities of that looked-for time will be to discover by what gifts of language R. A. U. Jennings made his nationality known to his rescuers, after he had been lying out for 16 hours under Wytschaete Ridge. Jennings has been in hospital at Plymouth (where he was visited by G. R. Harris) and at Ascot, and has now very nearly recovered.

Harold Fox, Capt. (16th Devons) was wounded in Palestine, and has been awarded the M.C. Sidney Weston, recently quartered in Suffolk with his battery, is now in France in command of a big camp. W. N. C. Fosbery, R.A.F., has been at work in a quartermaster's store in Norfolk, and recently met Davis, the

former school porter. Raymond J. Heelas (Capt.) has had charge of a siege gun in Northern France.

F. J. Edminson was to have stood as a Liberal Candidate against Mr. Austen Chamberlain in West Birmingham. All Leightonians will sympathise with him in the fact that his nomination was dis-allowed owing to the technicality that his nomination fee was tendered by cheque instead of cash.

Gerald B. Lloyd has had pneumonia, following influenza, but was reported as recovering towards the end of November.

CRICKET.

THE cricket season finished much better than it began, and by the end of the term we had not been beaten. The first match with King Alfred's School was our low-water mark, after that the team registered three victories.

A. D. J.

June 22nd, v. King Alfred's School, at Wantage.

L.P.S., 125. King Alfred's, 106 for 4 wickets.

June 27th, v. Douai Abbey, at Woolhampton.

L.P.S., 128 (Jennings 29). Douai Abbey, 76 for 4 wickets.

July 3rd, v. Wallingford Farm Colony, at L.P.S.

Wallingford, 78 (Jennings, 3 wkts. for 6 runs). L.P.S., 113 for 3 wkts. (W. Elverston, 68 not out).

July 6th, v. King Alfred's School, at L.P.S.

L.P.S., 148 (W. Elverston 39, M. Messer 42). King Alfred's School, 47 and 86 (M. Messer, 1st innings, 3 wkts. for 11 runs; A. D. Jennings, 2nd innings, 4 wkts. for 18 runs).

8th July. School v. Grove.

School: 1st innings, 129 (N. Kitching, 38; Messer, 32).

2nd innings, 46 (G. D. March, 4 wickets for 15 runs).

Grove: 1st innings, 32 (D. A. H. Knott, 3 wickets for 11 runs).

2nd innings, 178 (G. D. March, 86 not out).

13th July. *v.* R.A.F. (Henley), at Henley.

L.P.S., 102. R.A.F., 63 (M. Messer, 4 wickets for 12 runs ;
Mr. Robson, 3 wickets for 9 runs).

1ST XI. BATTING SUMMARY, 1918.

First 6 Places.

	No.	Innings.	Runs.	Times not out.	Aver.
W. Elverston	..	7	162	1	27·
Jennings	..	7	151	0	21·6
Fry	..	3	39	1	19·5
Merttens	..	6	59	2	16·75
Messer	..	5	63	0	12·6
Kitching	..	7	74	1	12·3

Highest individual score, W. Elverston, 68 not out.

BOWLING SUMMARY.

	Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wkts.	Aver.	
Jennings	..	25	4	65	11	5·9
Messer	..	37	4	114	15	7·6
March	..	28	1	119	12	9·9
Elverston	..	5	0	27	2	13·5
Kitching	..	28	6	115	3	38·3
Nickalls	..	33	6	85	2	42·5

AQUATIC SPORTS, 1918.

9 LENGTHS.—Brockbank (3 min. 47 $\frac{2}{5}$ secs.), March, Holmes.

4 LENGTHS.—March (1 min. 29 $\frac{4}{5}$ secs.), Brockbank, Hockin.

1 LENGTH.—March (15 $\frac{3}{5}$ secs.), Jennings, Holmes.

1 LENGTH ON BACK.—March (18 $\frac{3}{5}$ secs.), Brockbank, Holmes.

PLUNGE.—R. A. Penrose (47ft. 4in., RECORD), Norbury, March.

DIVE.—Jennings, Brockbank, Pitt.

TEAM RACE.—Grove House (1 min. 15 $\frac{1}{5}$ sec.).

JUNIOR EVENTS.

4 LENGTHS.—Penny (1 min. 38 $\frac{1}{5}$ secs.), Russell, Grimshaw.

1 LENGTH.—Penny (19 secs.), Scanlan, Grimshaw.

1 LENGTH ON BACK.—Grimshaw (23 $\frac{1}{5}$ secs.), Scanlan, Penny.

PLUNGE.—Grimshaw (38ft. 4in.), Mounsey, Penny.

DIVE.—Petrie, Grimshaw, Priestman.

House Points : School House, 40 ; Grove House, 85.

Lister Harrison Cup : March.

Barrow Cadbury Cup : Grimshaw.

FOOTBALL.

THE outstanding feature of the season so far has been influenza. Ten members of the 1st XI, and nine of the second have been laid low by this scourge. At the beginning of the term the season promised well, as there were 7 of last year's colours left; however, so far we have only played 3 matches, and have not had a victory. Wallingford Farm Colony were stronger than usual, and beat us. The other two matches v. The R.A.F., at Henley, and the Y.M.C.A., on our own ground, were both Club matches. Owing to the existing circumstances, both senior and junior House matches had to be postponed.

The team on the whole tries hard and contains several good individual players, but there has been a certain lack of unity and combination throughout, which has lost us several goals. The shooting on the whole is not good. We are very grateful to Messrs. Littleboy and Unwin for their help and coaching in practice games.

ANALYSIS OF THE TEAM.

*M. MESSER (vice-captain). A good centre-forward and an excellent shot. He is quick with the ball, and his passes are usually well placed.

*G. D. MARCH (left back).—Clears well, and has much improved in kicking. Inclined to keep too far up.

*G. A. COLE.—Tackles very well and has improved in passing. He is rather slow, and often does not keep by his opposing centre-forward.

*C. W. GILLETT.—A fast wing-half. His passes are usually not well placed. Is weak at tackling, but marks his wing man well.

*V. H. MERTTENS.—A very hard-working player. As a wing-half he feeds his forwards well, but is distinctly slow.

*A. M. BROCKBANK.—Has changed from outside left to outside right, and seems to be more at home. He centres on the whole well, but should get up his wing quicker with the ball. Uses his weight to advantage.

E. J. H. NICKALLS.—A light right back, but clears quite well. Kicks too high on the whole. Is quick at tackling, but lacks experience.

E. W. BRAIN.—A very promising goalkeeper, but as yet is not very reliable. Saves ground shots well, but is rather at sea with high ones.

P. HOLMES.—Naturally left footed and fairly fast, he has done quite good work as outside left. Wants more judgment in centring.

R. PRIESTMAN.—Through light and small, shows much promise at inside left, and combines quite well with the rest of the line. A weak kick as yet. Passes moderately well.

F. H. GILLETT has played in goal a little. Saves hard shots well, but is not very reliable and not quick enough with the ball. It is probable that his true football vocation will be found out of goal.

W. A. NORBURY and S. C. MORLAND have also played.

* 1st XI Colours.

The Second XI have only played one match this season v. the Newton and Redlands Schools. Their opponents were much too young and small for them, although some played very well. We won quite easily. Maidenhead and Abingdon both had to be scratched.

Second XI : F. H. Gillett ; Norbury and Poad ; S. C. Morland, M. Elverston and Wilkinson ; Lawrie, Hockin, Sherborne, Walker and Braithwaite.

A. D. J.

Oct. 16th. L.P.S. v. The Farm Colony, Wallingford, at Wallingford.

We won the toss, and played up hill first. Right from the beginning the play of all members of the team was poor, and they seemed to be much handicapped by the field, which was very uneven. About 15 minutes from the start our opponents scored their first goal through a mistake of our defence. The play after that was even, and Leighton Park made several rushes, which were all unsuccessful. Our opponents' goal was in great danger two or three times, but luck was on the side of their goalie, who played excellently. By half-time the score was 3—0 against us. In the second half L.P.S. played a much better game, and were pressing a good deal; we scored once through Messer, after they had added another to their score. The final score was 4—1 against us, but the game was much more equal than the goals would imply.

Oct. 19th. v. Henley R.A.F., at Henley.

For this match Cole was inside right, and F. A. Gillett in goal, instead of Brain. The game throughout was fast and well sustained. The R.A.F. scored first, and soon afterwards we equalised through a good shot by Messer. After this the R.A.F. had most of the game, during which they scored three times. By their quick, neat passing, they mastered our defence on several occasions, and would have scored more times, but for many remarkable saves by F. H. Gillett. In the second half L.P. scored once more through Brockbank, and many times looked like scoring again. Towards the end of the second half our opponents did a good deal of pressing, and netted 3 times. Our XI played much better all through than in the Wallingford match. We were greatly helped by Mr. Littleboy, who played magnificently at centre-half.

Oct. 23rd. v. Y.M.C.A., at L.P.S. Lost 3—4.

At first the play was even, and in both halves of the field, but about a quarter of an hour from the beginning our opponents scored through their inside left. For the rest of the first half the score was unchanged. On resuming play the Y.M.C.A. went off with a couple of rushes, which were both successful. Shortly

after this we scored through a wonderful dropping shot from Mr. Littleboy, who was playing centre-half. After this we had most of the game, and the forwards had many opportunities, only one of which was successful in a goal. The Y.M.C.A. scored once more, and five minutes from the end, Cole scored a good goal for us from a free kick in their goal area. The game was a good one, but we ought to have done better. This is probably accounted for by the fact that three members of the team were away, and about five more went down with influenza that night. The forwards were weak in front of goal, and did not combine well together. Nickalls played quite well at back. A. D. J.

ATHLETIC SPORTS, 1918.

STEEPLECHASE.—Merttens (21 min. 42 sec.), C. W. Gillett, R. A. Penrose, Jennings.

MILE.—C.W.Gillett (5 min. 7 $\frac{2}{5}$ sec.), Merttens, R. A. Penrose, Jennings.

100 YARDS.—Messer (13 sec.), Nickalls, Fry, Morland.

LONG JUMP.—Fry (18ft. 2in.), Enock, Sharman, Cole.

440 YARDS.—Sharman (61 $\frac{2}{5}$ sec.), March, Fry, Merttens.

HIGH JUMP.—Fry (4ft. 9in.), Kitching, Messer, Braithwaite.

HURDLES. Fry (22 sec.), March, Holmes.

CRICKET BALL.—Brockbank (85 yards), Enock, Fry.

880 YARDS.—C. W. Gillett (2 min. 18 $\frac{2}{5}$ sec.), Merttens, Penrose, Brockbank.

WEIGHT.—Fry (25ft. 2in.), March, Brockbank.

TEAM RACE.—Grove House (1 min. 55 $\frac{4}{5}$ sec.).

TUG.—Grove House.

JUNIOR EVENTS.

100 YARDS.—Priestman (13 $\frac{3}{5}$ sec.), Wertheimer, Sherborne, and Whitlow.

LONG JUMP.—Priestman (15ft. 9in.), Sherborne, Wertheimer.

440 YARDS.—Priestman (68 $\frac{2}{5}$ sec.), Rawson, Whitlow.

HIGH JUMP.—Walker (4ft. 1in.), Priestman, Gibbins and Wertheimer.

220 YARDS.—Priestman (30 $\frac{4}{5}$ sec.), Wertheimer, Sherborne.

CRICKET BALL.—Sherborne (56 $\frac{1}{3}$ yards), Cox, Brain.

880 YARDS.—Priestman (2 min. 33 sec.), Scanlan, Sherborne.

HURDLES.—Priestman (23 $\frac{2}{5}$ sec.), Sherborne.

GODLEE CUP.—Fry.

HEELAS TROPHY.—Priestman.

O.L. CHALLENGE SHIELD.—Grove House.

SOCIETY MEETINGS.

L.H.A.—At the first meeting of the Society this term, R. W. B. Ellis, P. F. Scanlan, N. D. Ellis, C. B. Taylor, J. H. Richmond and P. H. Fox were elected members. This meeting was devoted to the reading of John Galsworthy's play, "Strife." Parts were taken by nearly all the Society, and a few visitors. We managed with as little acting as possible. On the whole the evening was quite a success, and much enjoyed by those who took part and those who watched. Mr. Robson, as "David Roberts," and W. Norbury as "John Anthony," were among the best of the cast. M. Elverston as "Wilder," and Messer as "Scantlebury," provided much amusement, while Sefton Jones, as the Welshman, mastered the accent well. It was not possible to hold any discussion afterwards owing to the lateness of the hour.

We are hoping to have Mr. C. E. Keyser down for the December meeting to lecture on "Norman Architecture in Berkshire." The second meeting this term had to be cancelled on account of influenza.

A. D. J.

SENIOR ESSAY SOCIETY.—Our one meeting of this term to date consisted of two essays on political subjects, which were both largely prospective. A. D. Jennings dealt with the probable trend of events two years after the war, and F. Sefton Jones with the formation of a Conservative-Liberal League, to combat the increasing activity of the Labour party. Mr. Dutt, the president, took a prominent part in the discussions which followed.

A. W. B.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY REPORT.—This term two meetings have been held, on October 21st and November 18th. At the first a good deal of time was spent on reports, and then papers were read by G. K. Talbot, entitled "The Prehistoric Men of the Thames Valley," and by L. B. Pitt, entitled "Some Commercial Uses of Plants." At the second meeting A. R. N. Whitlow read a paper on "Freshwater Fishes," and then Mr. H. A. King gave a most interesting talk entitled "An Entomologist with a Camera." He showed a number of lantern slides (including some fine colour ones) of various insects and their life histories.

R. C. T. ; G. A. C.

(Is Natural History really so dull as this?—Eds.)

DEBATING SOCIETY.—This Society, like its fellows, has suffered from the influenza plague. The first and only meeting so far this term took place on the first Monday of the term, and was devoted to a "Sharp Practice Debate." A. W. Braithwaite argued ineffectively that a hot bath was preferable to a boiled egg in the coming winter. The majority of the House preferred eggs. M. Messer unburdened his soul on the subject of crime being caused by reading "Penny Dreadfuls." The House, possibly owing to a guilty conscience, supported him. A. D. Jennings thought that "it was better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all." The House on the whole had the same opinions, but did not know how to express them. Finally, L. B. Pitt decided that a good school story was not always fictitious. The qualification of a "good school story" was not, or could not be, properly defined. "Eric" and the products of Talbot Baines Reed met with well-merited, and sometimes abusive, criticism. The motion was carried on being put to the vote. At this meeting W. A. Norbury, E. J. H. Nickalls and G. N. Fox were elected members of the Society.

A. D. J.

ART FELLOWSHIP.—In the first meeting of the Art Fellowship this term a large number of holiday sketches were exhibited. The meeting was greatly helped by the presence of Messrs. Pearce and Seaby, who showed us some of their paintings, and gave many

very useful criticisms. Later on in the term a sketching party, with a very encouraging number of beginners, went to Goring Heath with Mr. Littleboy in order to sketch some of the autumn colours of the trees there. L. B. P.

CAMERA CLUB.—The only meeting this term was devoted to papers on portraiture. A paper by C. L. May, and R. C. Harris dealt with the making of sketch portraits; this was followed by a lantern lecture by Mr. Unwin on more advanced portraits. Both were useful and well illustrated. F. S. J.

MUSICAL SOCIETY.—We much regret Mr. Ballard's departure, for to him the Society owes its birth and life. The impetus he has given leaves it in a flourishing condition, with two new violinists this term. Mr. Daughtry has kindly taken Mr. Ballard's place, and we would warmly thank Mrs. Robson for her able help during Mr. Daughtry's absence at the beginning of this term. We are practising Purcell's "Golden Sonata" and German's "Shepherd's Dance" from the Henry VIII music. R. C. H.

INFLUENZA WEEK.

IN spite of modern scientific research, our phagocytes still remain prone to attacks from the virulent influenza cocci.

A visit of the 1st XI to Henley, on Saturday, 19th October, provided the necessary strategic opening for the microscopic depredators, who followed up their advantage, and with insinuating attack penetrated the Hindenburg line of Leighton Park's physical fitness. In a week-and-a-half the School was abed, and our minute assailants had successfully diverted the course of school activities. Not a sound was to be heard in the corridor; not a voice broke the stillness of Biological Laboratory; Echo slumbered unwooded in vestibule and class-room, and in the ha-ha, unjarred by discordant interlude, the frogs strummed the harp of undiluted peace.

No Bolshevik rising was ever so sudden and complete as our overthrow ; in ten days no less than 82 per cent. of the boys had gone down before the storm, and the red flag (refer to last metaphor but one) flaunted its fever-full folds over the fair fields of the Park.

Nor was the coccus in any way a respecter of persons ; its shadow fell equally on Merttens, Milne-Redhead and Miss Long ; it ravaged equally the fields of Gallic learning and the culinary atmosphere of the Elizabethan domains. Not content with its capture of Mr. and Mrs. Unwin, it completed its triumph by subduing two trained nurses within 48 hours of their arrival. The entire kitchen staff of both houses fell from our hands, but during Grove's simultaneous loss of head and staff, enough obsession remained to fill three of the survivors with the delusion that they and they alone individually held the helm of the house.

The adaptability of those who yet survived was subjected to the severest tension, but the way in which they rose to the occasion was beyond all praise.

The captain was conspicuous for the success of his apple-pies, the games-master proved as versed in the technique of the cuisine as of football, while the sedulous care of the dish washers ensured a minimum in the casualty list of the washed. The Headmaster prepared inventories of this "minimum of broken crockery," and combined the duties of porter, newsboy and general organiser in Grove.

Mrs. Hannay and Mrs. Harris as emergency nurses filled the breach admirably, though the assiduity of the former in compelling patients to perform their ablutions rankles still in the memories of the peace-desiring sufferers.

Dr. Gilford, though his cheery and affirmative manner served as a stimulant to the patients, yet insisted on a more concrete tonic in the form of quinine thrice daily, which seemed by its depressing effect to defeat its own ends, since those who evaded Miss Clark's vigilance could invariably be detected by their cheerful expressions.

Though some of the cases were at the time serious, all the patients are now on the high-road to normal health, a few going home for a week's recuperation. Two, however, Marriage and Norbury, contracted the more serious illness of pneumonia, and gave much cause for anxiety. Norbury has been removed to a nursing home, where he progresses favourably, and Marriage's case is more satisfactory than was ever expected a week ago.

No account of our experiences would be complete without mention of Miss Clark's devotion to the patients and her additional duties, due to lack of domestic service. Without her untiring support and encouragement, it is inconceivable that we should ever have pulled through so successfully.

A. W. B.

T. L.

RHYMES OF THE TIMES

There was a fat man from the East,
 Whose nose bled a gallon at least,
 When they tried it to stop
 With a towel as a mop,
 It increased, it increased, it increased.

The boy still had an appetite,
 When all the rest's had fled;
 And what he couldn't finish up,
 He put between his bed.

How do the little orderlies
 Fill out their shrunken shapes?
 Of course you know the answer well;
 With malted milk and grapes.

The Ultimatum came full clear,
 "Would you like a wash?" (Ave Maria!)
 And each sweating infant quakes with fear,
 When Mrs Hannay's voice they hear.

What rotten luck,
 Quinine ! what muck !
 What muck ! What truck !
Invisum magnis dis !
 Moorhouse ! I blench
 That I should quench
 (Oh ! what a stench !)
 My thirst with this.

F. S. J.

ORDERLIES' SONG.

Revised Edition, November 1918.

A stranger came within our gates ; from small beginnings grew,
 'Till it o'ershadowed all the school : the swift and silent Flu.
 It reigns supreme o'er common-room, o'er class and kitchen too ;
 Of Leighton's noble youth the flower has fallen before the Flu.

Chorus.

Oh, orderly, orderly, tooralay, ooralay, oo, —
 All day long and every day, tooralay, ooralay, ooralay oo.
 Dishes and beds and fires and all, till the day of your birth you rue,
 Oh, who would be an orderly, when he might have taken Flu ?
 Nor staff domestic does it spare. Whatever shall we do ?
 For all the Betties have gone down before the conquering Flu.
 The few survivors are called out,—a sore depleted crew,
 To fill the breach occasioned by the devastating Flu.

Chorus : Oh, orderly, orderly.

We wait at meals, we set and clear, cut bread, and fingers too !
 Relentlessly he drives us on,—our task-master, the Flu.
 Of cups and plates, of knives and forks, a long unending queue ;
 We wash ; and still our scanty band grows less because of Flu.

Chorus Oh, orderly, orderly.

We've beds to make, we've fires to light, and kindling wood to hew;
 We carry hot drinks up and down for victims of the Flu.
 For eight-hours' day we never strike ; our rests from work are few ;
 Even the war news at its best is second to the Flu.

Chorus : Oh, orderly, orderly.

At last to us at ceaseless toil, the long-wished dream comes true,
 Our work is shared by convalescents free at last from Flu.
 Rewards are not prolific, but of thanks we've had our due,
 And we feel we're much superior to those who took the Flu.

Chorus : Oh, orderly, orderly.

T. L.

SCHOOL NOTES.

THE latter part of last term saw a very exciting cricket house
 match, a rather less exciting Special Week, and an exceptional
 number of successes in the Life Saving examinations.

In the house match Grove began to bat in the fourth innings
 with 145 runs to make, and when the last man came in had still
 21 to make. Owing very largely to March, who made most of the
 score, Grove managed to win by one wicket.

The Special Week was devoted to the study of the Reading
 water supply, and included a visit to the Waterworks, under the
 supervision of Mr. Walker, the Borough Water Engineer. Mr.
 Walker not only devoted a morning to the work, but afterwards
 asked to see the notes written, and gave three valuable book prizes
 to the writers of the three best sets.

The Life Saving examination results were :—8 Awards of Merit,
 3 Hon. Instructor's Certificates (the first to be obtained in the
 school), 11 Bronze Medallions, 17 Certificates.

Early in this term Miss Rhoda Backhouse very kindly gave us
 a much-appreciated violin recital, in aid of the fund for providing
 pocket-money for the F.A.U. The piece most generally enjoyed
 was Kreisler's " Liebesleid."

We were all glad that it was possible for a swimming match to
 be arranged with the Serbian refugees who are in Reading.

Several of the races were very close, and though the School won the majority of the events, the Serbians got the first place in the one length and plunge.

The lower end of the second game football field has at last been drained, owing to the combined efforts of A. D. Jennings and M. Littleboy.

On the day the Armistice was signed, bells were rung wildly, but not for long, as we all had to go into school and "get on with our Marvin," or whatever else our hand found to do.

In the evening there was an impromptu social, which consisted mainly in shouting and listening to Messer's sentiments, when "Sally looked out of the window." At the end the headmaster made a few remarks, most of which were received in puzzled silence by the school.

The next day, a R.A.F. balloon dropped from the blue into the Park. Many of the School assisted in gathering up the fragments ready for their return journey, and a crowd collected from nowhere bringing with them two policemen. The guardians of the law had great difficulty in discriminating between those who should and should not be on the Park; they attempted to remove a member of the staff, and left several street urchins. Poor fellows! The policeman's lot is not a happy one. Incidentally the Good Samaritans stayed out of collect and fifth period, saying nothing to any man, for which they were dropped on.

The Thursday of the following week was made a whole holiday, in celebration of the Armistice and of Mr. Bailey's marriage. From 9 a.m. till about 5 p.m. was devoted to excursions, the chief ones being to Hardwicke House, near Mapledurham, to "Cæsar's Camp," and Finchampstead Ridges, and rather longer ones to the Downs near Newbury, and to Blewbury ("that Mecca of all Leightonians").

Those who went to Hardwicke were very kindly shown over by Lady Rose. The house is very old (the original one being mentioned in Doomsday Book), and possesses everything one could hope for—old oak-panelling, a bedroom "where Queen Elizabeth

slept," etc., etc., not to mention a swimming bath and three ten-thousand pound tennis courts. Lady Rose apologised for there being no family ghost, but explained that it was impossible to keep one owing to the servant problem.

Those who walked from Goring to Blewbury will not forget the glamour of the downs in the early morning, as sun and mist struggled for mastery. The walk on the top, in bright sunshine, and with wind behind us, had surprises that included ripe (and edible) blackberries, a three-cornered pinewood, with a flock of ewes and their guardians, farms tucked away in sheltering hollows, and, finally, an entrancing view of Blewbury 200 feet and more below us, with Blewburton Hill and its fine camp (which we afterwards visited) in the distance.

Some thirty boys trained to Bracknell, and from there started off to walk to "Cæsar's Camp." With the aid of compasses, maps (and one or two mistakes) this spot was eventually reached. After going through some fine (though decidedly moist) country we reached the village of Crowthorne; here drinks were obtained, and the inner man satiated. From there we went on to Finchampstead Ridges, where the view was unfortunately rather spoilt by mist, and then back to Wokingham, and so home by train.

All the excursions were much enjoyed, as we were lucky in having excellent weather.

After tea, when "*amor compressus edendi*," we repaired to the playground, and there had quite a satisfactory bonfire. Some wit suggested that the Black Fence should be added to the conflagration, but there was None to back him up in his charming proposal.

Afterwards there was a social admirably arranged by Mr. Robson, of which those parts contributed by Jack Brain were very fully and vociferously appreciated. A good many of us were startled by an excellent recitation of "The Jackdaw of Rheims," by M. H. Hodgkin.

Throughout the day we were very literally cheered up by Mr. Robson, who did not let a single opportunity slip for leading us with his clarion—Hip! Hip!

The following "LEIGHTONIAN" exchanges have been received : "The Beckside" (Ayton School), "Stramongate School Magazine," and "The Lily" (Magdalen College School).

THE PREFECT'S EXCURSION.

THE nine prefects hurried away immediately after breakfast, and just succeeded in catching the 8.45 for London, whither they were bound.

An hour later they might have been seen struggling over Blackfriars Bridge in the direction of Pascall's Sweet Factory. The factory was discovered in due time, and one of our number hastened in to make the acquaintance of a gentleman resplendent in blue uniform and brass buttons, while the remainder gazed in through the open door, and speculated loudly upon the significance of the ribbons which adorned his distended refreshment department.

We at length obtained admission, and were piloted around by a blushing damsel who discoursed learnedly upon everything from odoriferous and steaming cauldrons to clanking machinery. The rapidity of the employees and the cleanliness with which their labours were conducted impressed us favourably. Upon leaving we were each presented with a large packet of chocolate.

We took the tram from Blackfriars to Westminster, and visited the exhibition of the "Key Industries" at the Central Hall. These so-called "Key" industries are those which have been fostered by the war. The exhibition proved so absorbing to some of us, that, having lunched in Soho, we returned for further investigation.

The afternoon's amusement consisted in a visit to "My Four Years in Germany" on the film. All agreed that the film version was excellent, and specially interesting, for those who had read the book.

We returned home after a most enjoyable day to feast in our respective houses.

 NEW FOREST.

Round Beaulieu now the heather moors are brown,
 And purple-tinted in the haze of spring,
 Over the distant hills. Wet branches swing
 Whose leaves, green-glittering and twinkling, drown
 The foliage of the beech and oak, and crown
 The grass beneath. Soft woodland echoes ring
 Through those great silences where insects wing
 In sudden droning flight, while lower down
 The treacherous bogs dry-tinted quietly sleep.
 Would I could sniff the resin-scented pine,
 And see the birch trees white against the green,
 Beneath we feel the forest pony leap
 Along the rides ! How glad would I resign
 The palms, the colour of this eastern scene.

1910-16.

 THE NOVEL.

Outside the hut the wintry afternoon
 Grew bleak and chill as the white mist crept down,
 Lights glimmered out beneath a frosty moon ;
 Spurred heels clinked by and noisy shouts were blown
 Across the square. The sudden bugle blared
 Till its clear ribbon sound died in the night.
 Before the stove whose embers glowed and flared,
 I crouched and read with dreamy, quiet delight
 Of love, who smiled before the door of death,
 Yet struggled on through scorn and ridicule
 And hate, until he won his laurel wreath
 And his sweet bride—their cup of joy was full.—
 I closed the novel with an empty thrill,
 The powdered ash was grey, the hut was chill.

1910-16.

THE FIRST L.P.S. CAMP.

THE camp started at the end of the summer term and lasted three weeks. Mr. Porter, of Lincombe Farm, near Stourport-on-the-Severn, undertook to find work for us, and it was in his orchard that we pitched our tents. The campers numbered twenty-three, including Mr. Robson, who undertook the general supervision of work, Mr. Littleboy, who did everything others left undone (and it was much) and Mr. Elliott, to whose lot fell the cooking.

We worked hard eight hours a day, and were paid at the rate of 5d. an hour (the usual rate for women). Pea-picking, at which we spent two or three days, was more lucrative than this, for we received 1/- a sack of 40 lbs., and a good picker could pick 8 sacks a day. The work was of the most varied description, cabbage planting, thistle cutting, sheep dipping, carting, clearing the orchard of wood, collecting and stacking pea-haulms, mixing chemical manure, and, lastly, harvesting, perhaps the most interesting of all. The demands for further labour squads, which flowed in upon us after the first week, testified to the good quality of the work done, and showed that it would have been easy to employ a much larger number of boys.

From the financial point of view we have every reason for satisfaction. Every boy paid £1 towards a working capital, with the definite expectation that it would be possible to refund some of the money. We earned in all £29 18s. 2d., despite the fact that during the last week we numbered only ten. Our total expenditure, including hire of tents, came to £39 15s. 6d., of which £27 was spent on food. Thus we were able to refund 12/7 to each boy.

The Food Controller treated us with kindness and liberality, so much so that we lived on what seemed to be a pre-war scale. Moreover, the generous gifts of vegetables from Mr. Porter, eggs from a neighbouring farm, puddings and other provisions from various well-wishers, lightened the work of the commisariat

department. We tender our most hearty thanks to those who helped us in this way, and also to those who so kindly lent tents and other equipment.

Our record would not be complete without a reminder of all that campers owe to Mr. and Mrs. Porter, who, with a whole-hearted interest, and a generosity which never flagged, contributed so largely to the success of the camp. We thank them most sincerely for all that they did for us. Finally we must not forget what we owe to Mr. Littleboy, on whom fell most of the very heavy work of general organisation.

CAMP MEMORIES.

IN thinking of the first L.P.S. Camp, there steals over one a gentle pity for those who did not share with us the joy of the pioneer. The scene comes vividly to my mind. Upon the hill the sleeping camp, bell tents and marquee; down below in the orchard the green awning of the fire, the chimney standing out against the sky; to the left the square store marquee; to the right the "pyjama" tent, bright, but leaky.

The clash of billy cans comes insistently to your unwilling ear as you lie curled in your blankets, and before long the cry of "Grub!" brings you hurriedly out for breakfast. Washing is a superfluous luxury, and five minutes later you are pushing your way, plate in hand, into the crowd around the steaming billy of porridge. The bacon sizzles in the pans. Arrangements for the day are read, and by eight o'clock all have set out for the fields save the cook and his orderlies. The work is hard, but there is much variety, and by one o'clock, ravenous for lunch (potatoes and peas mashed in, and served from a bucket), you feel that the hardest part of the day is over. The thought of the bathe to follow makes the afternoon's work, from two to five, seem easier.

The patient old punt, leaky and unwieldy, lies waiting in the backwater. It will take twenty under protest, at twenty-one

it founders in disgust. With much hard work and some ragging it is encouraged to cross to the far bank, where its occupants strip. Some prefer to wade in, but the punt will let you dive from it, though it has a trick of slipping petulantly from under you before you are ready. Back again, and home for supper. Savoury stew, proclaiming itself afar off, simmers on the wood fire. You accept it thankfully, but investigate the contents with care, half fearful of making discoveries. "Hullo! I thought this was beef; here's a piece of bacon rind!" "Well, of all the appalling mixtures . . .!" The cook preserves a frigid silence. A pudding emerges from the second billy, swathed in an all-concealing cloth. As the anxious cook releases it, the tense, expectant silence is broken by a critic who informs him sadly that all his puddings are the same, they differ but in name. Consolation comes, for it is all eaten.

After supper, deep contentment, a stretching of limbs, followed by puddocks, or a rag amongst the sleeping tents. Winged taunts fly, challenges are hurled forth, battle is joined. Kelly goes mad and lets down the masters' tent. Rink digs a hole to sleep in—a fresh one every night. Candles gleam through the canvas. The more cleanly clean their teeth. The Commandant tells a fairy story. Belated talk dies away, and another day is over.

How can I tell of the fancy dress concert and its inharmonious orchestra? Of the farm donkey and its various riders? Of how Billy March tackled the rabbit low? How Rink took the punt home? How the salad dressing burnt throats and the chimney hands? How we threw mud at the Commandant? These things are for memories, for fireside chuckles and many a "Do you remember?" I cannot transfer them to paper.

More than all is it impossible to convey the spirit of the camp, the consciousness of useful work well done; the unfailing willingness and comradeship, the loyalty and cheerfulness. All these we had, meted with full measure, and had we our time again we could wish for nothing better.

T. C. E. ; C. W. G.