



Photo by G. K. Talbot.

"A COLD SNAP."

The Leightonian.

VOL. IX.

APRIL, 1919.

[No. 73

EDITORIAL.

OUR frontispiece is an apt reminder of the term. Snow fell on January 27th and remained on the ground for 20 days. Further falls have occurred on four separate occasions since then, the latest being as we write at the end of March. The long spell of cold weather in February, though interfering with hockey, brought a recompense in skating. The pond was covered with skaters between dinner and tea on Sunday, 9th February, and subsequently boys went further afield for the sport—to the Loddon Meadows, to Bulmershe Lake, to Wellington College and to Bearwood.

May we offer most hearty congratulations—both to the School and to himself—to the Chairman of the Governors, W. S. Clark, J.P., on reaching his eightieth birthday in such vigorous mental health? Difficulty in active movement might easily be held sufficient excuse from a journey from Somerset in order to attend a meeting of governors, but the Chairman is so keenly interested in the school and its work that he seldom, if ever, fails to attend. His powers of sound judgment and his grip of educational problems mean very much to the school.

Mr. R. B. Graham has this term taken up the duties of Classical Master, and has already entered into the life of the school in other ways, being to the fore in games, in Woodcraft Chivalry, and in preparation for socials. It is a pleasure to feel that the classical

post is now more permanently filled than it has been since Mr. Attenborough left ; Mr. Attenborough, by the bye, is now demobilised and has taken a post at Glenalmond, where, however, his first term has been seriously interrupted by severe influenza, from which we are glad to say he has now recovered. Whether his present post is other than temporary, we are not sure, nor whether he has quite decided what his future career will be ; but from what we know of him it may be taken as pretty certain that he will wish to be among boys. Mr. Bailey will be leaving the School at the end of the term : one of his latest services is to help to run the temporary tuck-shop, and to lend the chemical laboratory for the purpose. Mr. J. L. Kitto has been re-appointed as Chemistry Master. After leaving the service of the Admiralty, Mr. Kitto took up work for the time as an educational organiser under the Y.M.C.A. in Hampshire. He may be sure of a welcome in May, not only from devotees of chemistry, but from all who were here with him.

The present interim Leightonian Council finishes its work with this number. The new Council is to be appointed this term by the Union Committee, and to hold office for four terms. It is to consist of six boys and one master, the latter being treasurer. Two members of the Council are to be from below the VI Form, and one must be from the Lower School. We resign the reins of office to the more constitutionally appointed Council with much goodwill, and with the hope that our experiments may have eased the way for the still greater success of the Leightonian.

Readers who wish to have their numbers of Volume VIII of *The Leightonian* bound in the same style as previous volumes should send the copies at once to the Manager of the Leightonian at the School, who will make the necessary arrangements. It should be stated whether cloth binding or half leather is desired. We are indebted to F. W. Sefton-Jones for compiling the index to the volume.

PREFECTS.

T. Lawrie (Senior Prefect)	appointed	May, 1917.
C. W. Gillett	„	September, 1917.
G. D. March	„	December, 1917.
A. D. Jennings	„	December, 1917.
F. W. R. Gibbins	„	March, 1918.
G. A. Cole	„	July, 1918.
E. H. Pease	„	December, 1918.
R. C. Harris	„	December, 1918.

NEW BOYS.

Lower Vb.

- H. Morland, Glastonbury.
F. H. Wright, Walkern.

IV.

- L. J. Turtle, Belfast.

III.

- H. W. Manser, Hoddesdon,
W H. Manser, Hoddesdon.

NEW OLD BOYS.

- V. H. Merttens, Bilton Rise, Near Rugby.
R. C. Taylor, 29 Rossllyn Hill, N.W.3.
A. M. Brockbank, 11 Stanton Avenue, W. Didsbury, Manchester.
M. Messer, Lemington-on-Tyne.
R. L. Cole, Broomsgrove, Milton Pewsey, Wilts.

OLD BOYS' GATHERING AND ANNUAL MEETING, 1918.

THOUGH Old Leightonians were few in number, compared with pre-war gatherings, yet there was the same warm welcome, the same generous hospitality so characteristic of these annual "invasions" of the school. As might have been expected, the "rally" as in the two preceding years, consisted

mainly of O.L.'s of the oldest and of the youngest generation ; nine were at school, or on the Staff, in the days of Benjamin Townson ; six were representatives of the modern régime ; linked up by three who may be described as belonging to the " mediæval " period of the School's history. Compared with 1916 our numbers were just double ; compared with 1917 they showed an increase of 50%. This in itself is gratifying and hopeful for our future meetings.

Tennis was found to be impossible, but a scratch cricket team, styled the " L.P. Wanderers," acquitted itself creditably against a scratch XI of the School.

The combined XI's, the Staff, the visitors, and all " Old Boys " joined in the usual " high-tea " meal, after which the customary speeches were made by the President (Anthony Wallis) of the O.L. Club, and the Headmaster. The prevailing note was one of optimism as to the present and future position of the School, and a sense of reverence for those (27 in all), whose faces will be seen no more. An interesting letter was read by the Headmaster from an O.L. " somewhere in France," and it was agreed that a message of greeting should be sent by " Old Boys " present to all O.L.'s serving abroad, either in the army, or in the Friends' Ambulance Unit, or working on behalf of War Victims.

The annual business meeting was then held, at which Anthony Wallis was unanimously re-elected President of the Club, followed by a " Schubert evening," given in the Peckover Hall by the Musical Society, when many Reading Friends were present. The music and the singing were very much appreciated, the only regret, and that a very deep one, being the absence of Mr. Ballard from the conductor's chair. Mr. Daughtry most ably filled his place.

For those of us who are able on these occasions to remain over the week-end, the Sunday evening meeting, now held in the

Peckover Hall, forms perhaps the climax of the gathering—an opportunity not to be missed, if possible.

“ Though nevermore in one place all may gather,
 Though in life's battle we struggle apart,
 One be our Saviour, and one be our Father,
 Bind us together in faith and in heart.”

We are already looking forward to our next meeting in July, when our numbers, no doubt, will equal, if not exceed, the “ record ” of the past.

F. J. E.

OLD LEIGHTONIAN NOTES.

THESE notes have been obtained from various sources. It is the hope of the Editors that, in future numbers, O.L. Notes may be edited by an O.L.

From an F.A.U. Correspondent :—

O. S. Hopkins was often to be seen in Brussels where we understand he found the lace shops a great attraction.

G. L. Ford. It is rumoured that he was, by the time he left France, fast becoming an expert on the French drainage system. He was often to be seen with his head down an inspection chamber cleaning. This work, we also understand, was done as a leisure occupation to censoring letters.

E. C. Russell spent most of his time in Dunkirk feeding the hungry mob at H.Q. And at Xmas, 1918, excelled himself in deceiving some that veal was not really turkey ; on the morning after the F.A.U. Headquarters were hit by a bomb he was seen shedding tears over his lost stores and wondering how he could feed 100 men.

J. E. Goodbody. A man of all work, or shall we say, a driver of all cars from the O.C.'s touring car to an old lorry collecting food supplies on the docks or, even worse, on a “ coal stunt.”

Paul Cadbury. after a varied assortment of occupations from Hospital train orderly to searcher on the aristocratic section known as the “ Search Party ” with H. B. Darby as O.C., ended

his days in trying to make himself understood, not to mention heard, on the French telephone system.

T. W. Hopkins, after many both exciting and dull experiences as an ambulance driver at Dunkirk, was in the last few months in France to be found absorbed in trying to unravel the costs accounts in the Motor Stores. We are given to understand that his hair is now quite grey.

R. B. Hopkins having become tired of garage work, went to Courtrai as Hospital Orderly, where he narrowly escaped "Dip."

L. J. Cadbury. We should like to meet the man who could make L. J. tired. Nothing seemed to do so in France. We understand he is now salvaging old cars from various parts of France.

Ll. H. Fox. After being married and having returned to the blissful sea-side resort of Malo le Bains, found the eight months' stay in France between leaves rather longer than he cared to be separated from his "better half."

J. P. Fox, having left the convoy, became "Chef Adjoint of F. W. Groupement," and joined the "Ringworms" along with L. J. Darby, Ford and Doncaster.

A. Heald and Mary were inseparable in France. (N.B.—"Mary" is none other than the name of his car.)

L. Doncaster in his spare time went round the Recreation Rooms and other places lecturing, often walking home late at night.

From a Cambridge correspondent:—

So far this term there are ten O.L.'s in residence. *At King's*; J. B. Fryer, P. B. Redmayne, W. T. Elverston, A. P. D. Penrose and L. B. Cole. *At John's*; L. S. Penrose and N. L. White. *At Caius'*; A. K. Gordon. *At Pembroke*; T. F. Fox. *At Queens'*; R. A. Penrose. It seems probable that by next October the number will be doubled. At present there are more O.L.'s than O.E.'s in King's.

No O.L. Club has been formed in Cambridge. The number of societies at present in existence is a sufficient drain on free time,

and an O.L. Club, whose most specific aim would probably be a dinner, does not seem necessary.

Small meetings of an unofficial nature for the consumption of unnecessary nourishment are numerous in any of the colleges mentioned. The largest O.L. meeting this term took place outside the bar of the Cambridge Theatre, during the D'Oyley Carte week. This, of course, was entirely a coincidence.

At the beginning of the term several O.L.'s were present at a lecture given by Dr. Rickman on "These Russians." It was exceedingly interesting. Misty and orthodox ideas of Bolshevism were considerably cleared.

In a "soccer" match, King's and Clare *v.* Emmanuel, four out of the six King's men playing were O.L.'s.

A. K. Gordon has unfortunately been very ill with "flu"; he is now on the road to recovery.

L. S. Penrose is representing Cambridge against Oxford at Chess. He is playing second board. At present he is engaged in working up a collection of war sketches in oils.

W. T. Elverston is rowing for King's.

G. R. Fox and A. J. Hodgkin have been up this term. They hope to come into residence in April. P. F. King and E. Wallis also expect to be up next term.

On the 11th of November, at St. Saviour's, Belgrano, Buenos Ayres, Jack Goodbody, of La Susana, San Eduardo, to Winifred Amy Thompson, of San Isobel, Vernado Tuerto.

Congratulations to P. S. Cadbury on his engagement to Rachel Wilson, of Birmingham.—To Vigurs and Edith Ridges, on the 9th of November, a daughter, who was named Olive Frances Peace.—Lieut. Colonel John E. Knott, D.S.O., Royal Inniskillen Fusiliers, who lost his right leg last September, has been awarded the C.M.G. for services on the Western Front.

J. F. O. King writes from Switzerland, where health is likely to keep him for some time yet; he is, however, intending to

engage in business in that country. He had kept in special touch by letters with F. S. Brain before the death of the latter. F. S. Brain's name is included among those "deserving special mention" in Sir Douglas Haig's dispatch of November 8th.

Other news of or from France includes the fact that Cyril W. Knott (now Captain), has been serving for 18 months in connection with the Chinese Labour Corps; and that E. B. Fox writes that the "Leightonian" was misinformed in saying that he had received the Croix de Guerre whilst in a F.A.U. Convoy—at least he has received no other information of the honour.

R. L. Nisbet was taken a prisoner in the last great German offensive and was a prisoner in Germany for eight months. He speaks of very great hardship and lack of food, especially during the first four months of his imprisonment when he got so weak he could hardly walk. He was imprisoned in a fortress at Mainz, and made an attempt to escape. He also speaks of the terrible condition of women and children due to starvation. On the signing of the Armistice they were left by their guards and arranged their own escape. They chartered a boat and travelled down the Rhine. Nisbet found his German (learnt under Mrs. Hannay), very helpful.

N. Harricks sends information of himself from India. At first in the infantry he was stationed at Meerut; thence he went to Mesopotamia, but was invalided back to India, and is now happy in the Indian Cavalry.

O.L.'s who were at School with him will be interested to hear that Gordon Wilkins has been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He is now on his way home with wife and three children to his fruit ranch in Canada.

Home news can now include Cyril Day, who is demobilised and is expecting to take up work at Wye Agricultural College. Henry Malcomson is also studying in Leeds. R. C. Ford has recently added a lively interest in farming to his many occupa-

tions. G. L. Ford is blessed with a daughter who has been named Ursula Ormston. D. W. Collier has taken up work at Bournville.

William F. Harvey has received the Albert Medal for gallantry in saving life at sea. The *Gazette* says :—

On June 28th, 1918, two of His Majesty's torpedo-boat destroyers were in collision, and Surgeon-Lieutenant Harvey was sent on board the more seriously damaged destroyer in order to render assistance to the injured. On hearing that a stoker petty officer was pinned by the arm in a damaged compartment, Surgeon-Lieutenant Harvey immediately went down, and amputated the arm, this being the only means of freeing the petty officer. The boiler-room at the time was flooded, and full of fumes from the escaping oil. This alone constituted a great danger to anyone in the compartment, and Surgeon-Lieutenant Harvey collapsed from this cause after performing the operation, and had to be hauled out of the compartment. Moreover at any time the ship might have broken in two, and all hands were fallen in on deck wearing life-belts, at the time, in order to be ready for this eventuality. Surgeon-Lieutenant Harvey displayed the greatest gallantry, and disregard of his personal safety in descending into the damaged compartment, and continuing to work there, amidst the oil fumes at a time when the ship was liable to sink."

All seekers after sensationalism are referred to two numbers of *The Cambridge Magazine*—vol. VIII, Nos. 23 and 24, in which will be found the literary exploits of Capt. H. G. Baynes, R.A.M.C. (O.L.), *re* the recent rag and rantings of Doctor Rouse, headmaster of the Perse School, and rabid anti-socialist. In the said periodical H. G. B. subscribed himself to an appeal to the decent members of the University to discourage active hostility such as this to the exposition of unpopular views in the Friends' Meeting House. During the subsequent week he received the following diatribe from the good Dr. Rouse :—"As you

appeal to me, I beg to inform you that you richly deserve all you got. Cambridge is no place for such people as you—nor, indeed, is England. You might feel more at home in Germany.” After rolling with psychological amusement, H.G.B. wrote a full-page article in reply, which to summarise would be to spoil. “Therefore be ready to readily read” (S.I.).

A Grierson paragraph will interest a large number : Captain J. Murray Grierson, The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) went with his Regiment to France in November 1914. Promoted in the field, was in command of a company and mentioned twice in despatches. Wounded in November 1916. Later he was sent to East Africa, travelling through France, Italy (*via* Rome), etc. He was attached to the 1st King’s African Rifles, where he gained an interesting and varied experience with the native tribes. Bush fires, intense heat, no roads, were some of the difficulties met with. He is now on his way home and expects to arrive early in April. Captain Alex. F. Grierson (8th Batt. Scottish Rifles) was gazetted December 1915. Went to Egypt in 1916. Was wounded near Gaza, November 1917 and admitted to Hospital in Cairo. In April 1918 he, with the 52nd Division, arrived in France, where they had some very hard fighting, and where he was awarded the Military Cross and the Croix de Guerre. He is now somewhere on the Rhine with the Army of Occupation. Cologne, Bonn and Hilden are amongst the places they have been in, but there is no prospect of being demobilized yet awhile.

THE PREFECTS’ EXCURSION.

OWING to House Matches, Sports and numerous other engagements in the latter half of the term, we held our excursion early, on the 13th February.

We took the 7.43 train to Birmingham, whence we were motored to Bournville. Here, as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cadbury, we were shown over Cadbury’s works, in which we were

soon very interested. Besides the chocolates, which were being made in such quantities as to make it surprising that there could be any shortage, and which we were allowed to sample generously, there were many other branches of the industry which we saw. In the huge "Q block" miles of paper were being printed with various familiar labels and the different parts of boxes were assembled from travelling belts which fascinated the eye. A large swimming bath, a lunch counter, concert hall and many playing fields and recreation grounds showed how well the conditions of employees were looked after, and a talk from Mr. Barlow enlightened us on the ways in which the housing problem was met. Altogether we had a most enjoyable time, for which our most cordial thanks are due to Mr. Cadbury, who spared neither time nor trouble in entertaining us.

T. L.

THE STEEPLECHASE, 1919.

At last after many years of "carrying-on" with the old course, the Steeplechase has been changed to a new and possibly more permanent course. During the last few years the old Steeplechase run has had to be altered and modified in a great degree owing to allotments, numerous ploughed fields with young corn, and vast stretches of barbed wire between Whitley Wood and "Steeplechase Hill." The latter, it is true, is still there in all its glory, but nearly all the other features of the run have been lost; to arrange a course there has become an almost impossible task for the unfortunate few who go over the course beforehand, and who have literally in some places to "cut" a way through for the runners. The new course lies in quite the opposite direction. It was selected by a sub-committee appointed from the Athletic Committee, and was the result of much time and geographical study of the country-side. The run now starts in Pepper Lane, just outside the Swimming Bath (an improvement on the old idea since we now start and finish on the Park), and continues along the lane to Elm Road. It now strikes across two fields to Redhatch Copse and goes in the direction of the lower Earley

Road. At Copse Farm the course crosses a road and goes up a grass lane which finally emerges on the summit of the "Black Boy run" hill. This latter is crossed almost diagonally and Pearman's Lane is touched. The way home from here starts up a hill, about as steep as the old Steeplechase Hill, traverses several fields and at length emerges on the road outside Elm Farm. From Elm Road the course cuts across the fields of Cressingham estate and finally arrives in the Park, via the Black Fence. The run finishes on the field where the races usually end. As regards length, the run is just $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. In this way the originators of the new course have contrived to obtain road running, field running, a hill, ploughed fields and several obstacles to alleviate the lot of the luckless runners. The Steeplechase this year took place on 15th of March. We were blessed in having a fine day which made the swamps a little pleasanter than they otherwise would have been. C. W. Gillett came in an easy first in 24 mins. 15 secs. L. B. Pitt came second, with T. Lawrie fairly close behind. A. D. Jennings was fourth. All those who faced the starter completed the run.

THE FARM.

(With apologies to all who have read "Childe Roland".

I.

My way lay past a foul and stagnant mere
 Poisoned with murdered cat and strangled hen.
 I drew a breath of sickly air, and then
 I saw a dog, half paralysed with fear
 Wriggling around my feet. I shed one tear,
 No more ; he wriggled from my ken.

II.

I passed the black morass ; high flowed my ire
 Against the feckless youth who dares to dare
 The filling of the egress of the pond. (I share
 The hate of all against th' aberrant liar).

* * * * *

One stiff blind horse, his every bone a-stare,
 Stood by the rails, and as I watched him there,
 Trampled his precious hay to filthy mire.

III.

Then some stubbed ground—a garden it was once.
 I fancied I saw Cuthbert's reddening face
 As bending low he put his plants in place.
 But, faugh!—a Turk had tricked me for the nonce.
 Then, tripping in some wire, I murmured "Dunce!"
 The conies skipped and leered with cruel grimace.

IV.

I roundly cursed the beasts, and turning thence—
 The whole earth barren where their bones lay sowed—
 I entered the wood workshop where it glowed
 Against the background of the stark Black Fence,
 And asked th' instructor if the boys showed sense . . .
 "Through every joint I see the Shinfield Road."

V.

At last I saw beyond the murky night
 A frail and reedy gig.—O shame of shame
 That I should not have recognised the same!
 My blood grew curdling at th' infusate sight;
 I seized the whip from where it stood upright,
 And drew: "*Childe Ronald to the caney carriage came.*"

R. W. B. E.

 A HOT BATH.

The only panacea for all human ills,
 Better than Carter's, even Beecham's Pills;
 Only allayer of the human wrath—
 Dip and be cured in a hot bath.

Though 'cused of fugging I may often be,
 And for my folly oft get six and three,
 I, in thy warm embraces, still shall lie
 Forgetting, and forgotten, as the hours go by.

When hockey's done and from the field
 Our badly battered selves have slowly reeled ;
 My crimson carcass to thy softest balm
 I yield, and in thy depths regain my calm.

J. R. A. H.

FOOTBALL.

THE season finished slightly more satisfactorily than it began, as we managed to defeat the Y.M.C.A. However, Abingdon beat us badly in the only match we played with them. A strange and slippery ground seemed to terrify the team to judge by the way every one played. A very good game with the R.A.F. ended just before time in a victory for them by two goals to one. The House matches, as usual, proved to be about the best games of the season. The Junior House match was played on November 27th. School House started the scoring, and shortly afterwards Grove equalised. School then added another and just after half-time Grove again equalised. During the last 15 minutes of the game School House went to pieces and Grove added two more goals, thus winning by four goals to two.

Goals—Grove.

School.

Wates, 1 ; Moorhouse, 1 ; Walker, 1 ; Petrie, 1.

May, 2.

The Senior House match was played on December 7th. Throughout all the game the play was very even ; during the first half Grove probably did most of the pressing and scored once. On changing ends, Grove pressed hard for the first few minutes and rushed through two more goals. After this their forwards fell off rather and the Grove goal was constantly in danger. Once School House managed to find the net. The play was fast and even toward the end, and no change took place in the score.

Goals—Grove.

School.

Jennings, 3.

Priestman, 1.

	RESULT.	SCORE
Nov. 27th—Junior House Match	Grove won	.. 4-2
Nov. 30th—1st XI v. R.A.F. (Henley)	Lost	.. 1-2
Dec. 4th—Boys XI v. Abingdon	Lost	.. 2-8
Dec. 7th—Senior House Match	Grove won	.. 3-1
Dec. 11th—1st XI v. Y.M.C.A.	Won	.. 5-0

A. D. J.

HOCKEY.

The hockey season opened with three very promising games, but was abruptly stopped for three weeks by snow. As the season only lasts for six weeks this was a serious drawback. However, the remaining fortnight was spent in hard training for the University College match and the House matches.

Our warmest thanks are due to Messrs. Unwin, Elliott, Little-boy and Graham for their work in the practice games.

ANALYSIS OF THE TEAM.

A. D. JENNINGS (vice-captain and centre-forward).—Has the necessary dash for a forward, and can pass well, though his shooting is inaccurate.

G. A. COLE (inside left).—Makes an energetic inside, and can get away with the ball. His shooting is poor.

E. J. H. NICKALLS (left half).—A steady half and marks his man. He is inclined to hit too far ahead of his forwards.

C. W. GILLETT (outside right).—Would make a very fast wing if he had more control over the ball. He should bear in mind that his stick is not a weapon of offence.

R. PETRIE. (inside right).—Combines well with the rest of the forwards, and can place his passes. Is a weak shot.

S. C. MORLAND (right half).—Is vigorous and marks his wing man well; he should make a good half.

S. N. IMAM (right back).—Hits hard and clears well. He is too fond of dribbling the ball himself.

J. R. A. HOCKIN (outside left).—Is successful in getting the ball up the wing, though he finds difficulty in centreing.

E. W. BRAIN (goal) —Has improved greatly, and is no longer frightened of using his feet. He must clear harder.

R. PRIESTMAN (left back) —Tackles well, but does not hit hard enough.

February 26th.—University College. Won 6-0.

Rain fell during most of the morning, and when the teams lined up in the afternoon, though it was not actually raining, the ground was very sodden. The College could not turn out their best team as a football match, being played the same afternoon, took away several of their best men. The School forwards soon showed their superiority and scored through Mr. Graham. Then our opponents made several rushes but could not break our half line. The match ended in a win for L.P., six goals to nil.

March 1st.—Senior House Match. Grove 2-0.

The first hockey House Match was a hardly contested game throughout, both sides playing vigorously. For the first quarter of an hour the teams made a series of unsuccessful rushes and made several bad shots. Just before half-time Jennings scored for Grove by a shot up in one corner of the goal. After the teams crossed over, Grove showed its superior training by pressing hard for the rest of the game, but owing to the excellent play of the School House backs and halves they only managed to add one more goal to their score. It being shot by Braithwaite just before time.

Grove Team.—J. Richmond, Imam, Sefton-Jones, G. D. March, J. R. Sherborne, J. Nickalls, A. Jennings, R. Petrie, C. Gillett, M. Walker, A. W. Braithwaite.

School Team.—Br. , Priestman, Poad, Cole, S. C. Morland, M. Elverston, May, Fitt, Lawrie, Hockin, Sharman.

March 3rd.—Junior House Match. Grove 2-1.

The Junior House Match was even more thrilling than the Senior, as the sides were so evenly matched. Towards the end

of the first half Grove managed to push the ball through. After half-time the School House forwards made several rushes, but were stopped by the Grove backs. A few minutes later Grove scored again, and about ten minutes before the end the School House forwards broke through. Grove won by two goals to one.

Grove Team.—A. Whitlow, R. Cox, P. Holmes, C. Wilkinson, R. Ellis, W. Hudson, A. March, G. Richmond, A. Wates, J. Cadbury, J. Moorhouse.

School Team.—D. Knott, R. Penny, G. Southall, D. Cadbury, R. Harris, J. Barlow, D. Gillett, A. Smith, C. Taylor, L. Hamel, E. Davies. G. D. M.

A PROTEST.

(*A Correspondence Column has been suggested for "The Leightonian."*)

Shall we indulge in correspondence here,

Ye gods and little fishes?—No!

Shall we allow their ugly heads to rear,

"Habitual Speaker" and "Pro bono publico"?

Shall we have within this hallowed space

Declamations from "A C.U.B.C. Coxswain?"

Let us set then our united face

Against th' assaults of wordy "M.A. Oxon."

Shall we air in here unhallowed feuds

About the League of Nations?—God forbid!

Or shall we have the portly platitudes

And non-committal statements by "A Friend."

O may our readers' ears be always deaf

To "Harassed Mother" and that unquenched pleader,
"Ex-M.P." and "Sapper, B.E.F.,"

And greatest pest of all, the "Constant Reader."

F.S.-J.

SOME EARLY EXPERIENCES OF THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN.

IT was about the beginning of November, 1917 when I first heard the news that the battalion was to be sent to Italy. After three dreary months in the Ypres district—at no period of the war in any sense a pic-nic—any change of location would have seemed a good one, and the prospects of a sunnier clime and a war where there was likely to be a minimum of shelling, was generally hailed with delight.

Not that we anticipated an easy time by any means. At this time the headlong rush of the German divisions towards Venice and the Piave was far from arrested, and it was not till only a few days before we actually entrained that we heard of the counter-thrust at Cambrai which diverted the available German troops and so helped to stop the threatened overwhelming disaster in Italy. The forecasts of what our life would be were fairly mixed. The Divisional General—best of leaders, but always a fire-eater—told us, and, I believe, devoutly hoped that we should probably be detrained just in time to “hold on” to the last man, etcetera. Others not so blood-thirsty were more hopeful or less sanguine, and some went so far as to suggest that we should have a good time; in which prophecy they were not far wrong. The rest of us not knowing much about it devoutly hoped for the best.

By the middle of November all our doubts were set at rest. Some censorship troubles we officers certainly had, for this duty involved endless scratchings out of surreptitious references to ice-cream and macaroni, the mere mention of which, it was supposed, would convey the forbidden information to those at home. But except for this our happiness was complete. We finally entrained on November 22nd; there was at the last minute a nerve-racking rumour that we were going to Cambrai after all, but that was dispelled when, after the first night in the train we stopped outside a large city and learned that it was Paris. Of the memorable journey to the Italian frontier I do not intend to tell, except to say that it was about as slow as war-time journeys

usually are, and being conducted on the principle of avoiding as far as possible all main lines, was naturally longer than it need have been. We finally crossed the frontier in the Mont Cenis tunnel on the 3rd night of travelling, and awoke to find ourselves halted about 4,000 feet up in the mountains, among a new language, new people, and new customs to any we had previously encountered.

I shall never forget that first morning in Italy. It was of course, very cold, though the snow was late and only the peaks were covered. As the light grew the sun touched the white caps and turned them rose pink, so we saw in perhaps its fullest beauty the wonderful scene around us. After the grey skies and dismal weather of November in northern France, the transition in a single night to blue skies, sun and scenery, created a holiday feeling which I cannot describe.

Then there was the language ! Everyone was going to learn Italian ; in three months they would speak it fluently. How many of these good resolutions came to fruition I leave my readers to guess. About three words have penetrated our vocabulary ; *nienti buono*, meaning " no good," *vino* which means " wine," and *signorina*, meaning a " young lady." These and a few others we can use quite nicely, and with them, marvellous as it may seem, obtain almost anything we want. Such is the atmosphere of understanding created by khaki ! But with these exceptions, after more than a year in the country, Italian still remains, to most of us, a closed book.

But to return. Everyone, as I say, was making a start. Every Italian in sight—mostly grey-clad soldiers on guard on the railway, were surrounded by eager groups wrestling with the new hobby. The language of signs was that most in evidence in these conversations, and there was plenty to ask and plenty to learn from these, as we thought, delightful, simple people. Needless to say, the Italians liked it, for Tommy Atkins is always free with his fags, quite regardless of the fact that it may be weeks before he can get a fresh supply. Our new friends also evinced

a strong desire to oblige us by changing our French notes for Italian; so strong, in fact, was this desire that we presently smelt a rat, and decided to wait till we knew the official rate of exchange. When, later, we did discover what it was, those who had parted with their French notes were rather surprised, for our so-called benefactors had profited about a franc on every five franc note they changed.

While on this subject of money, we found we had one thing to learn. I saw a truck-load of men busy selling off their "bully-beef" rations to a swarthy engine-driver, who took all they had to offer and then wanted more. Now the cost of those tins was about 2s., so noting the coin which was being exchanged for them, I asked to look at one, and found it to be a bright piece somewhat similar to a franc. It was in fact a nickel, nominally worth twopence, and at the rate of exchange at that time, a fraction over *one penny*. A few days later when rations began to run short, I wondered whether any of those men called themselves hard names. Still it was not till later that we discovered how little we knew and how much we didn't know about the ways and customs of our simple hosts.

To return to our train. After a considerable wait at our first halt in Italy, a fresh electric engine was hitched on, and we began the very steep but extremely picturesque descent to the plain. In spite of the grades the journey was a slow one, and the frequent stops when we could get out and renew the circulation in our toes, gave us full opportunities of cultivating our linguistic talents. Whether it was our talk or our ways, or merely the sight of scores of us running up and down to get warm, I don't know, but I am firmly convinced that all the people who saw us took us for a trainful of lunatics. Northern Italians, I may say, don't seem to feel the cold much. Since in their houses there are brick floors, no carpets, curtains, or easy chairs, and only one fire-place which is used exclusively for cooking, I suppose they are brought up to it. Fuel is extremely scarce, and then mostly sticks. Coal is unprocureable except at prodigious prices;

gas is almost unknown. Electric light, their chief luxury, is laid on as we do the water at a fixed rate at (in one village at any rate) about 1s. 4d. a month, regardless of the amount consumed ; but electric heating has not occurred to them yet. It may do in time ! The result is that on the bitterest evenings the better class of peasants go off to bed, while the less particular sit in the cow-shed amid the filth and stench, for the sake of the warmth given off by their beasts. Heaven knows I'm not fastidious, but I prefer the bed myself.

We reached Turin at last at about 11 a.m. The train halts there an hour, and a fine welcome had been prepared for us. We were greeted by hundreds flocking the station and approaches, many of them people of wealth, and all come to show us how welcome we were. Apart from hot coffee and food, both very acceptable, we were showered with flowers, flags and souvenirs of all sorts. Your British soldier dressed as a hero does not always look the part, but most of us felt rather heroes as the train steamed slowly out amid a multitude of waving flags, hats and handkerchiefs, from wherever the enthusiastic crowd could catch a glimpse of the train. We left also with a very warm gratitude towards the people who had treated us so well.

After Turin, things moved more slowly. Just at this time no less than five British divisions and about the same number of French, with their horses, guns, rations and all the immense impedimenta that goes to equip an army in the field, were being rushed into Italy by the only two routes available, the Mont Cenis tunnel, and the Riviera ; the shortest way through Switzerland could not, of course, be used. Under these circumstances the railway system was quite unable to cope with the traffic, and frequent blocks occurred. Delays were common and we often spent eight or ten hours in a siding and then would only move up one or two stations and wait again. It was late on the 5th day of our journey when we finally detrained at Nogara, near Mantua, and found good billets for the night and a kindly welcome from the people.

But our difficulties and our journey were still far from ended. We had been detrained only because the line was too blocked for us to go any further. We had no idea at all where the rest of the division was to be found, in fact it was not improbable that each separate unit found itself situated exactly as we were. We were apparently the only British troops in the neighbourhood, and had rations for about two days. After much manipulation of the local telegraph system, it was discovered that we should go eastwards, so we set out next day.

The ten days that followed were to me the most enjoyable of the journey ; we covered on the average, about seven miles a day, and billeted for the night in any village that seemed large enough to hold us. The people, with very rare exceptions, treated us extremely well, and would often go to considerable trouble to make us comfortable. We had, however, much to learn about our friends, and in learning, had some discomforts and plenty of fun. Some of our earliest discoveries were in the matter of cooking ; to do the commissariat justice, rations were got to us just in time to avoid a serious shortage, but being of the Iron Ration type (bully-beef and biscuit), some of us preferred at first to try our luck in the local inns. It was on the second morning after detraining that we made some startling discoveries. We had ordered our breakfast the night before, to consist of coffee and eggs ; surely we thought we couldn't go far wrong there. But when we came to start, we found that the eggs though warm were entirely raw, having in fact been held in steam for a few seconds only. After many explanatory gestures one enterprising member of the party went and demonstrated how civilised people *boil* eggs, but unfortunately it was then too late to be of much use. My breakfast that morning consisted of a raw egg and a cup of coffee, black and unsweetened, and was rather unsatisfying !

After two days we got into the country districts and seldom struck villages of more than a few houses. The weather, though frosty, was fine and sunny, and quite warm in the day-time ; for in this district, though the winter is very bitter, it is seldom

cold if the sun is out. After some ten days marching we joined up with the rest of the division, a few miles to the north of Padua, and once again settled down to the normal routine of Army life.

And here this narrative will have to close. After more than a year in Italy we have come to know our hosts better than in the early days ; we have in fact come to know them as few Englishmen have been privileged to do, for we have lived with them in their houses, and have seen something of their ordinary life in the places seldom visited by the tourist. If we have not liked quite all we have seen, there are few of us who will not come away with a kindly feeling for some very pleasant people and recollections of some very happy times. E.

SOCIETY MEETINGS.

L.H.A. SOCIETY.—At the December meeting last term, Mr. C. E. Keyser, of Aldermaston Park, very kindly came down and gave us a lantern lecture on "Lincoln Cathedral." His slides were numerous and very clear ; they illustrated every point of interest in the building. The "Lincoln Imp," and the "nightmare" faces of some bosses created considerable amusement. The first meeting this term was devoted to a consideration of the life and works of Robert Louis Stevenson. Introductory papers were read by A. D. Jennings and F. W. Sefton-Jones, which dealt with the chief incidents in his life, and the chief items of interest in his books. Good readings were given by R. W. B. Ellis, R. C. Harris, and J. C. Barlow, which illustrated the versatility of his writing, while C. W. Gillett, P. F. Scanlan and L. B. Pitt recited some of the best known poems. A good discussion followed in which Braithwaite put forward some criticisms of Stevenson ; he admired his style, but deplored his doctrine of "imperialism." On the 15th of March the Society performed "Macbeth." The cast and the scenes of the play had to be cut down to a large extent, but even then all twenty-two members of the Society took at least one part each. Owing to our en-

forced isolation this term, no visitors came up from Reading. We should like to record our thanks to the ladies of the Houses for so kindly making many of the dresses, also to Mr. Unwin for so ably "making-up" the various characters. The red lights from the dark room proved to be very effective in the "witches" scene, as also was the school lantern. We are glad to welcome six new members this term. A.D.J.

The following comment from "ONLOOKER" has also reached us :

Everyone agreed that the L.H.A.'s ambitious decision to play "Macbeth" was justified. The main brunt of the task on the stage fell upon A. D. Jennings as Macbeth, and, though all did well, the success of the play was more due to his spirited and comprehensible acting than to any other factor. He was well supported by F. W. Sefton-Jones, who made an impressive Lady Macbeth throughout, and in the sleep-walking scene rose to the highest level reached during the evening. The most startling success was undoubtedly achieved by the Witches (C. W. Gillett, A. W. Braithwaite, and J. R. A. Hockin), who succeeded at the same time in making us laugh and making our flesh creep in the most approved manner. Consummate acting, to say nothing of natural advantages, made them certainly as ghoulish as could be desired. Braithwaite was particularly effective. Among the minor episodes of the play the sudden entrance and still more rapid "outing" of a brief candle—in the person of C. B. Taylor—must not be left unrecorded. Apart from the witches and the sleep-walking scene already mentioned, the most successful part of the play was that immediately following the murder of Duncan, and all who acted in it, and indeed in the whole play, are to be congratulated. It does not need to be emphasized that much was owed to the energy of Mr. Robson: all are grateful to him.

DEBATING SOCIETY.—Since the last report in the Leightonian, we have had three meetings. At the end of last term a meeting was held in which S. C. Morland proposed that the "Labour Party" was justified in leaving the Coalition Ministry at this present

crisis." The debate was lively and several good speeches were made. The opposition had distinctly the worst of it, as was seen by the voting. At the first meeting this term we discussed whether "Co-education is the best form of education in public schools." Several amusing speeches were made, and showed clearly the lack of any substantial personal experience behind the majority of members. Likes and dislikes were heard on every hand, facts took only a second place, the motion was finally lost. At the February meeting the proposition was that "Hockey should not be played in this School next Spring term." This debate proved to be one of the most interesting we have had for some time. There is a distinct "clique" in the Society, headed by C. W. Gillett and T. Lawrie, who are against the game in all its aspects. In opposition to them was a strong party, whose leaders were Mr. Unwin and Imam. Nearly every member spoke at least once. On the proposition being put to the vote, those for the motion were exactly balanced by those against—the president gave his casting vote for the opposition. J. Richmond, O. C. Morland, N. D. Ellis and G. K. Talbot, have been elected members of the Society. A.D.J.

SENIOR ESSAY SOCIETY.

Three meetings have been held since last report.

Last term, December Tenth, Ellis compiled

An excellent account of Oscar Wilde ;

Morland to themes historic made resort,

Showed that Italian liberty was short,

Nor Cavour with Sonnino reconciled ;

While Braithwaite did the Muses' youngest child,

Modern Melpomene, through her groves escort.

At our March meeting, Mr. Bailey traced

Where modern literature and art are trending ;

Debate was good (wit sometimes seemed misplaced),

And gave the year a most auspicious ending.

Our grateful thanks are due to Mr. Graham—

These last two lines are left in which to pay 'em. A.W.B.

MUSICAL SOCIETY.—This term we are doing the Bourrée from the water music, and a Minuet, by Handel ; also Bach's gavotte in D Minor, and two of Edward German's Henry VIII Dances. We are not giving a Musical Evening this term, but hope to do so in the summer. R.C.H.

CAMERA CLUB.—So far this term we have had two meetings, the first being only for business. The second was a joint meeting with the Natural History Society, when Miss E. L. Turner gave us a most enjoyable lantern lecture on rare birds she had photographed on the Norfolk Broads. R.C.H.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

The subject of two meetings held this Spring,
 Was study of the ways of Coloring
 In nature ; these were heard
 On this in plant, fish, insect, beast and bird.
 Charles Gillett, in a masterly oration,
 Dealt with it for Amphibian and Crustacean.
 Discussion and debate ensued
 By Mr. Unwin introduced ;
 'Twas shown how colors may include
 Those functional¹ and those induced².
 Our third assembling was a lecture given
 To Camera Club and N.H.S. united ;
 Miss Turner's slides, superb, though poorly lighted,
 Showed birds of murkiest mere and highest heaven.
 One business meeting held, re Union Resolution,
 " Discussed " our duty to the School and Constitution.
 The meeting felt—(or so we must infer)—
 Improvements were impossible—*Eheu nos laudemur* :

G. A. C.

R. W. B. E.

¹ e.g. Chlorophyll, hæmoglobin.

² e.g. Protective colors.

MECHANICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.—As a result of efforts to encourage those whose tastes are not catered for by the older societies, the Mechanical and Scientific Society has this term come into existence. It is already in a flourishing condition, with a membership of over 20. Two meetings have been held, at which members have contributed papers or lecturettes on various subjects, with practical demonstrations where possible. At the first, P. Whitlow spoke on Dynamos, and T. H. Rogers on the Microphone, while Mr. Scarborough, the President, explained the reasons for the extraordinary behaviour of the Gyroscope, with mention of its use in stabilising mono-rail trains and ships. At the second May and Smith gave a joint paper on the Pelton Wheel and De Laval Turbine, adding a spice of excitement in the risk of a shower-bath or boiler explosion; Mr. Bailey then spoke on Radium, giving an interesting outline of its history and remarkable properties and the possibilities which its apparently inexhaustible energy offers.

T. L., P. W.

JUNIOR ESSAY SOCIETY.—The Society has had two meetings this term and now numbers 27 members. Essays have been read on various subjects from "Rice Pudding" to the "Franco-German War," from "An Afternoon's Boating" to "Lloyd George" and "Big Game Hunting." It is hoped that the Society will become more attractive as members are now permitted to invite their friends to meetings.

J. R. A. H.

JUNIOR DEBATING SOCIETY.—This Society, which was only formed in December of last term, has met twice this term. Mr. Robson kindly consented to be our President. At the first meeting C. B. Taylor proposed that "Disarmament is the best method of obtaining a lasting peace." H. M. Hodgkin seconded him. This was opposed by A. Poad, supported by A. G. Richmond. The debate ended in a draw 12 to 12 and one neutral. At the second meeting we had a debate on "Total abolition of intoxicating liquors." After some discussion, in which members did not show much grasp of the subject, the motion was carried by 20 to 7, four neutral.

E. W. B.

THE ORDER OF WOODCRAFT.—This branch of the Order of Woodcraft has been in existence now for nearly two terms, and has almost completely recovered from the fiasco which blighted its name in the summer term of last year. A class in First Aid has been started, and semaphore signalling is being practised. Two members have constructed a tent, and all other members will be making more in view of a camp in the Exeat, and possibly the Summer holidays. Two very successful afternoons have been spent in tracking through the snow. The lodge is now thirteen members strong, of whom five were gained this term.

S. C. M.

J. H. R.

SCHOOL NOTES.

Russia has been the predominant theme of recent addresses. Besides Mr. Dutt's staff-lecture on "Bolshevism" at the end of last year, two lecturers have this term given us the benefit of their experiences among the Russians and "oily little Finns." Early in February Mr. Joseph Burt addressed us on Russian history, Russian politics, and Russian customs generally, producing the true atmosphere of snow and pessimism with the aid of realistically desolate lantern slides. Mr. Burt, however, was the reverse of desolate. He contrived to make out of a rather sombre subject a most entertaining lecture which kept the fact that it was instructive in the background; his sad story of the unfortunate Anne and his account of the "little retainers," brought down the house. Mr. Burt's African book "The Voice of the Forest," has since been in great vogue among a certain section of the school. On March 16th Dr. John Rickman (O.L.) gave to a few some further insight into things as they are in Russia. He brought his listeners into vivid touch with Bolshevik aims at their best, and also with the remarkable developments of the co-operative movement.

Influenza threatening to become rampant in Reading towards the end of February, the School Medical Officer made up his

mind that it would be best for Leighton Park to make use of its *natura loci*, and isolate itself rigorously from the town. This isolation, so far successful, has been responsible for several novelties in the school. The gating from town and green, which was formerly the punishment for an excess of marks, has been changed to an hour's extra work, and a school tuckshop has come into being for the first time. This tuckshop is run by a committee of six, two of whom at least were from the beginning opposed to its existence; and conducts its business from the middle window of the Chemical Lab., in itself a suspicious fact, but we have it on good authority that no chemicals are really introduced into what it sells. The orange-peel and sardine-tins which at present disfigure the Park are sufficient proof of its popularity and usefulness.

After an abortive attempt last term, the Sixth Form have this term succeeded in forming a circle for the study of Labour problems. Three members of the staff, Mr. Cockerell of the Reading Tramways, Mr. Clark, the boot-manufacturer, and Mr. Clark, the gardener, have spoken to us and answered our criticisms and questions. We had hoped to get Mr. Leon for an evening on "Guild Socialism," but an epidemic of influenza in his college prevented him from coming. This estimable society, composed for the most part of future profiteers, anxious to learn how much they can screw out of their workers without strikes, has given rise to a report in Ireland that a seditious Bolshevik club has been founded in the School! We wish it had! By the way, speaking of Ireland, why is it that one of the prefects has cultivated a pronounced Irish brogue for use in questions?

It is rumored that on the first paper-chase of the term, one of the hounds was in doubt as to whether the trail he was following was a Leighton Park trail at all. But finding a piece of paper and deciphering on it the word "howler" in the Headmaster's handwriting, he was reassured, and went on. (N.B. This story has no moral).

Dr. Henry T. Hodgkin, while paying a much appreciated visit to the school, gave two addresses, one in Sunday evening meeting, and one to a somewhat smaller audience.

As some more than usually blatant banalist has remarked with cheerful disregard of metaphors and morals: "The fugitive Social seems at last to have crystallised into a fairly concrete, though hybrid, form." In the two most recent ones, at any rate, the happy mean has been struck between serio-humorous music and pure buffoonery. That at the end of last term (arranged by Mr. Unwin) included five musical items, a duologue ("The Reason Why"), and a very amusing and well-acted "absurdity" by Ian Hay, entitled, "The Crimson Cocomat." A leaving presentation of a suit case and a wrist-watch was also made by T. Lawrie on behalf of the school to Mr. and Mrs. Ballard respectively. The first part of the social held half way through this term was devoted to a musical programme drawn up by R. C. Harris, and the second part to a dramatic rendering of one of the Just-so Stories ("How the First Letter was Written") by members of the *Lower School, under the directorship of Messrs. Littleboy and Graham.* It is a bad principle to sling compliments broadcast at a performance, but in this case it seems unavoidable! The costumes—whether conspicuous for their absence or otherwise—added materially (or abstractly) to the general pre-historic effect, and the individual acting was excellent throughout. Smithson as "The Stranger Man" was beyond criticism—"inimitably Smithsonian" is the best we can do!; H. A. March as the Head Tribesman, and L. C. Grimshaw as "Teshumai," both showed considerable talent in their acting, but Gilmour as "Taffy" performed *à merveille*. (It is even rumored that many members of the staff lost their hearts to him in the part, but regained them in the approved fashion on Monday morning). Almost every person in the cast, however, deserves special mention, and whatever minor hitches may have occurred in the course of the performance, all the actors and musicians, stage-

managers, costumiers, dramatisers and adapters are to be very warmly congratulated

The editors wish to acknowledge the receipt of the following magazines:—“*The Abingdonian*,” “*The Penketh School Magazine*,” “*The Wyvern*,” “*The Penn Charter Magazine*,” “*The Island*” and “*Forging Ahead*.” There are also to hand the two most recent numbers of a rather questionable periodical yclept, “‘6” — (“a religious, literary, and miscellaneous journal”). The contributions to it are mostly remarkable for either debility, virility, versatility, ability, sterility, or senility, and one and all bear the hall-mark of scurrility. It is rumored that the coming number is to have two supplements dealing respectively with “Ypres” and “Housing,” but we cannot say that this seems altogether probable.

We are all much indebted to the person who, before the Steeplechase, affixed two steps to the Black Fence, but nevertheless our sympathies go out to the member of the staff who has since been ruthlessly cross-questioned as to *who* exactly they were put there for. We even understand that he has been reduced to providing himself with a pistol which is singularly remiss in “replying to outside influences.”

On March 22nd, Mr. Goudge (of Sidcot), paid the School a visit, and favoured us with a song recital, consisting of a selection of folk-songs and a disquisition thereon. It was found on the whole that the gorier the song, the more it was appreciated; every item in Mr. Goudge's programme, however, was vociferously applauded by his audience. We venture to doubt whether “Turnip-hoeing” (or its equivalent in dialect), is ever really sung in Oxfordshire, but all the Somersetshire ballads, especially the last, smacked extensively of Somerset. Songs by Mrs. Robson and solos by Miss Bowman-Smith added greatly to the evening's enjoyment.

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