

# LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE & SCHOOLS MAGAZINE.

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ONCE more we have great pleasure in announcing a decided improvement in the circulation of the *Magazine*, and, before proceeding any further, we must cordially thank all who have in any way helped to promote the increase in our sale. But to turn to school matters. The various clubs have been uncommonly successful this season, with one exception--the Harrier Club. Who would have thought, at the commencement of the year, on seeing that never-to-be-forgotten sight of over 100 boys starting off for the preliminary run, that the number would have dwindled down to 15 or so? We first put it down to the weather; but when Wednesday came, bringing with it one's ideal of a day, and only about 20 boys turned up at the tent, we began to despair. We sincerely hope that before our next issue a decided improvement will have been made. While on the topic of sports, we must say that, although the Rugby Football Club has improved wonderfully since last season, there is still a lack of combination, as our correspondent, "Footballer," says. We are also assured that the Association Club is looking up, it having at present over 30 members. The most notable event in connection with the school—at any rate the more studious portion of it—which has taken place since our last issue, is the distribution of prizes by Dr. Dacey. We produce a brief account of the proceedings elsewhere. Another interesting event was the performance, on Thursday, the 20th ultimo, which was in every way a success, and we feel sure that thanks are especially due to both Messrs. Bulmer and Book for the able way in which they assisted. As this is the last number of the *Magazine* which will appear before Christmas, we conclude in wishing our schoolfellows a most enjoyable vacation.

H. C. HILTON, EDITOR.

J. H. ADDINSELL, }  
W. O. JONES, } SUB-EDITORS.

OCTOBER 30TH.—A meeting was held on this date, A. J. Ewart presiding. After the usual business, Braham, seconded by Cheeseright, moved "that no member be allowed to vote unless he have spoken," Roberts, seconded by F. E. Marshall, opposed. The voting gave a majority of 13 to the opposition. H. K. Bowler then opened in the debate "Had Cromwell the welfare of the nation at heart?" He commenced by shortly reviewing the history of England immediately preceding the Protectorate, and touched upon the Petition of Right, the civil war, &c. He further commented upon Cromwell's relation to the army, upon his foreign policy, and the Long Parliament, and tried to prove that he had the nation's welfare at heart by his course of action throughout his life. He concluded by reading extracts from various speeches of Cromwell illustrating his integrity and affection for England.

Harvey replied. He condemned as irrelevant Mr. Bowler's preliminary sketch, and stated the great difficulty of obtaining a satisfactory estimate of Cromwell's character. He briefly detailed Cromwell's dealings with the "Rump" Parliament, and showed his ambitious and tyrannical nature. He adduced his unpopularity as a proof of his not placing the nation's welfare first, and inferred from his taking chief rule his arbitrary dealings with his Parliament, &c., that he sought only his own aggrandisements.

Roberts, W. O. Jones, Harris, Wolde, Francis, and Jenkins then spoke for the affirmative, and A. E. Ewart, Marshall, and Lyons the negative. After the chairman had said a few words, and the leaders had replied, the sides were put to the vote. There was a majority of one for the negative. The meeting then adjourned.

A meeting was held on November 6th, A. J. Ewart in the chair. Messrs. Snow, Caldicott, and Wolsely Lewis also attended. After the transaction of the usual preliminary business, Lyons, seconded by T. A. Fraser, moved "That the meeting commence not later than five minutes after the close of afternoon school." Harvey, seconded by F. E. Marshall, opposed. The voting resulted in a majority of 11 for the opposition. Protherton proposed by Harris, seconded by Cheeseright, was then unanimously elected a member. The chairman next called upon E. B. H. Millard to read his paper on "Scientific Progress during the past half century." Millard, in the course of a most instructive and interesting essay, treated of animal physiology and biology, and dealt with the theory of "Natural Selection," simultaneously evolved by Wallace and Darwin. He further spoke of the vast improvement in microscopes, Medical Science, and Surgery, mentioning, in connection with anaesthetics, the name of Sir James Simpson. He then proceeded to remark upon the vast strides made in the several departments of Archaeology, Geology, Geography, and Astronomy. Under the latter head he dealt in a very able way with spectral analysis and the theories of light and colour. Having touched upon the progress made in such branches as Photography, Heat, Magnetism and Electricity, Telegraphy, Telephony, Lighting, Mechanical Science, and Chemistry, he concluded his paper with a brief summary of Scientific Progress and sat down amid the applause of his audience. On discussion being invited Wolde, Harris, Braham, and the chairman spoke. Millard then replied, and, after a very hearty vote of thanks had been accorded him, the meeting adjourned.

A meeting was held on November 13th, A. J. Ewart in the chair. After the reading of the minutes, and the transaction of other preliminary business, the chairman called upon P. J. A. Francis to open for the affirmative the debate "Is the character of Lord Clive to be admired?" Francis gave a brief summary of the chief events of Clive's life, remarking upon his early years, his voyage to India, his successes there, the siege of Arcot, &c. He then proceeded to give particulars of the "Black Hole," of Calcutta, and the battle of Plassey. He also gave an account of his dealings with Omicand, and greatly deplored his duplicity. He concluded by speaking of the excellent way in which he used his wealth, and read extracts from Macaulay's Essay on Lord Clive, in support of his argument. A. Rasul replied. He pointed out that Clive's boyish pranks and well-known imperiousness and hot temper shewed great defects in his character. He denounced his suicide as murder, and detailed various acts of oppression and

duplicity in his dealing with the native chiefs. He concluded by charging him with murder, treachery, intrigue, and forgery, and quoted in conclusion a passage from a work on the subject by Mill. Discussion was then invited in which Lyons, Roberts, Braham, Wolde, Craighton, and Millard supported the affirmative, and Harvey, Halim, Mohammed, Youns, and Harr's the negative. Mr. H. W. Lewis, who was in the course of the meeting elected a member, also said a few words. On the question being put to the vote, the affirmative won by a majority of 8. The meeting then adjourned.

November 23rd.—A meeting was held on this date, A. J. Ewart presiding. After the minutes had been read and confirmed, and some private business had been transacted, the chairman called upon A. Mohammed to read his paper on "Mohammedanism." He commenced by giving an account of the main tenets of the Faith of Islam, and treated of the difference between it and the Christian religion. He spoke of the belief of the Mussulman with regard to Jesus Christ, and read a passage from the Koran illustrative of this. He next proceeded to give a sketch of the birth, early life, and character of Mohamet, and having described at some length the Koran and its teachings, combated the various charges against Mohammedanism. He then summed up the beliefs of Islam, and shewed that there is hardly any Christian sect which does not profess some doctrine held by Mohammedans. In conclusion he read an extract from the speech of Canon Isaac Taylor on the subject, delivered at the Wolverhampton Church Congress, in 1887. Some discussion then took place, in which Harvey, Roberts, Jenkins, Braham, A. E. Ewart, W. O. Jones, Marshall, Wolde, and the chairman spoke. Mohammed then briefly replied, and the meeting adjourned.

#### CHAT ON THE CORRIDOR.

THE following extract appeared in the *Daily Post* of Saturday, 22nd November, in reference to our performance on Thursday:—

"LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE FESTIVAL OF SONG.—A pleasing demonstration of the new departure taken by Mr. Alfred Hughes, the head master of the Liverpool Institute, in the introduction of singing into the curriculum, was given in the Lecture Hall of the Institute, on Thursday evening, when the pupils, numbering over 1,000 voices, and accompanied by the school orchestra of thirty performers, rendered a programme of favourite school songs very creditably, before a large audience. Among the songs were, 'The Chesapeake and the Shannon,' 'The Mermaid,' 'The Vicar of Bray,' and 'Here's a Health to his Majesty,' the solo of which was rendered by Mr. Anthony Book, while the chorus was given by the pupils very heartily. Mr. Alfred Holt, addressing the audience at the close of the proceedings, spoke in terms of high praise of the new departure, and said that, though he had been a director of the Institute for many years he had never attended any meeting from which he had derived so much pleasure as he had had that evening. He congratulated Mr. Hughes on having organised and brought into such good working order a change so pleasing, and one which he hoped would materially help him in the successful management of the schools. He recommended the boys to learn patriotic songs, and expressed his unqualified approval of the selection which was made in the school song book. The proceedings closed with the singing of the National Anthem."

An Upper class was at French one day last week, and one bright youth was translating, and was getting on swimmingly until he came across the phrase *cest un bas bleu*, which meant—in reference to the context—"She's a blue stocking," but he managed to make it "She is rather blue." On being asked if he knew what a blue stocking was, he, with great assurance, said, he thought it was a "kind of joke." This state of ignorance did not apply to this individual alone, but to the whole class as, when the boys were asked if they knew what it meant, only two answered in the affirmative.

It's evident that the Institute has suddenly become richer; Mr. Snow has a blackboard, and there is actually one to spare in the laboratory, and at last there is a decent place where we can not only wash our hands with soap but dry them on towels. Surely the field which Mr. Hughes spoke of for holding our sports in, etc., on Saturday night is not so very far off!

We really must beg the secretaries of clubs to send in their reports at least a week before we publish. We cannot go running over the whole school on the last day getting in our notices. We hope our next issue will be out on February 2nd, so that all manuscripts for publication must be sent in on Saturday, January 24th at the latest.

The exercises at the gymnasium are, on the whole, well performed, and anyone visiting that Institution on the Thursday morning would perceive that there are some who may be described as *juvenes experti gymnasticorum*, while others must always be doomed to be styled as *juvenes expertes gymnasticorum*.

In this month's issue will be noticed a reference, in the form of a letter, to a few statements which appeared in "Chat on the Corridor" of last month. We are confident in saying, that such statements have not been logically weighed by our correspondent, and he will further see that in the present issue of the *Magazine* something of this is distinctly recognised by one who has been more intimately connected, and attended more meetings than the writer himself. If the letter be carefully perused, it is easy to discern that a rash conclusion has been rushed at, which is a great evil, especially in connection with a "debater." His reference to "humourous" paragraph clearly shows his ignorance of the function of that word—if such it be—and, altogether, "Debater's" communication is merely a wild display of arms without sufficient provocation. As such, we are inclined to treat the matter indifferently, and advise him that such monopoly of our space is really unfair.

### FOOTBALL NOTES.

1st XV.

NOVEMBER 1st.—Liverpool Institute *versus* Royal Institution School.—This match was contested at Sefton Park, and resulted in an easy victory for the Institute. The score was as follows:—Liverpool Institute, 5 goals 6 tries; Royal Institution, nil. The tries were obtained by A. J. Ewart (4), J. Gething (2), R. Nott (2), C. K. Wilson (2), F. E. Marshall (1). A. J. Ewart showed very good form, as also did R. Nott, who obtained his tries amidst great applause from the onlookers.

November 8th.—Liverpool Institute *versus* Birkenhead School.—Great credit is due to our team for the way in which they played this match, considering the defeat we sustained in our last match with Birkenhead School. The forwards played an excellent game. We can say the same of the backs, J. Gething and F. E. Marshall showing up very well, as in fact they have done throughout the season. The score was as follows:—Institute, 1 goal, 3 tries; Birkenhead School, 1 goal.

November 15th.—A match was again played against the Royal Institution School at Sefton Park, and, as before, resulted in a victory for the Institute. It should be remarked that the Royal were allowed to play old boys. The result was as follows:—Royal Institution, 1 goal; Institute, 2 goals, 9 tries. The tries for the Institute were obtained by A. J. Ewart (3), F. Marshall (3), A. E. Ewart (2), Creighton, (1), J. Gething (1), C. K. Wilson (1). A. J. Ewart, F. E. Marshall, and C. K. Wilson played extremely well.

November 22nd.—Waterloo High School *versus* Liverpool Institute, at Waterloo.—This match again resulted in a victory for the Institute, by 1 goal to nil, the try being obtained by Gething, who showed excellent form. Praise is due to Ker (three-quarters), and to Creighton, who showed some very fine drilling.

2nd XV.

November 8th.—Liverpool Institute *versus* Waterloo High School.—This match resulted in a victory for the Institute, by 1 goal, 2 tries to nil. The tries were obtained by J. Dale (2), and Richard Roberts (1).

November 22nd.—A match was played against Waterloo High School. The score was as follows:—Institute 4 goals, 7 tries; Waterloo High School, nil. The tries were obtained by Barwise (3), J. Dale (3), S. Fall (2), A. Ashcroft (2), Hardy (1).

### ASSOCIATION.

The Association Football Club has made considerable improvement in its play during the last month; it has now nearly thirty members, and is thus enabled to

run two teams. On the 28th a match was played against Waterloo A.B. in which the Institute was successful by three goals to nil. For the Institute D. Fuiton, Crawford, and J. W. Jones deserve to be mentioned.

### CHORAL SOCIETY.

THE CHORAL SOCIETY has of late made great strides, and in consequence of a reinforcement of boys from the First Class is more nearly what it should be. Every boy who has a respectable voice should join and endeavour to raise the musical reputation of the school by his own individual efforts. The practices have been held regularly, and it was tried, though unsuccessfully, to increase the practices from one practice to two per week. Mr. Bain wor's very hard in the Society's welfare, and it is only reasonable for him to expect some show of appreciation from the boys by way of regular attendance. We are sure some of the High School boys have fair voices, especially those of the Upper Fifth, and if they were used to better advantage they would, no doubt, prove a source of pleasure to the whole school.

### CHESS CLUB.

THE CHESS CLUB was re-started in October, and now contains 30 members.

At a general meeting the following were elected:—Hon. Treasurer, H. L. H. Millard; Hon. Sec., F. W. Stones; to serve on the committee, I. Lyons, C. M. Jones, S. Nickson and J. Wood. Mr. Hughes kindly consented to be President, and Messrs. Bain and Eaves to be Vice-Presidents. Mr. Bailey offered the use of his room for playing in, and Mr. Eaves expressed his willingness to teach beginners on the club nights, Monday and Friday. Members may also play during the dinner-hour. On the 19th a match was played against Toxteth Young Men's Institute, when we were beaten by 6½ to 1½ points, J. Wood getting his game and Nickson drawing his.

### HARRIER CLUB.

THE second run of the season took place on Wednesday, November 5th. The attendance was small, presumably because of the ever-famous fifth. Wolde and W. O. Jones were the hares. The route lay along Smithdown Road to Wavertree, and thence towards Woolton, turning homewards near the Waterworks. Copp was the pacemaker, the first hound to arrive at the tent being Copp.

November 12th. There was a considerably better attendance on this date, but as if in compensation the weather was considerably worse. Jones and Duthie were the hares. They laid the scent through Mossley Hill and Aigburth, to the Calderstones and Beech Lane, and so back through Smithdown Road. During most part of the run, it rained, rendering the roads most unpleasant. W. O. Jones was pacemaker, and the first to arrive of the hounds was G. A. Brooking.

A run took place on Wednesday, November 19th, at which about 20 turned up. Watkin (C.S.) and P. J. A. Francis (H.S.) were the hares. The scent lay out of Sefton Park by the Lodge Lane gates, thence via Ullet Road, etc. to St. Michael's by the railway line to Otterspool, and then through Mossley Hill home. The hares arrived some 20 minutes before the hounds, who more than once had some difficulty over the track. Copp (C.S.) who acted, with all his wonted vigour, as pacemaker, arrived first, while Wolde came in first of the High School. Messrs. Bickerstaffe and Graham very kindly acted as whippers in.

### THE ART OF PUBLIC SPEAKING.

UNDOUBTEDLY, the oldest and most interesting Institute Society in existence at present, is the Literary and Debating Society. Considering the abundant store of amusement, recreation, and instruction imparted to its members during the various meetings, it is easy to understand why it is so well supported. To watch the manner in which the various members speak and to hear

the arguments employed, offers much to attract the attention of a careful observer.

The Society is at present in an extremely flourishing condition, both as regards the numbers of members and the amount of funds in hand; but, alas! the same cannot be said of the cleverness and debating power of the members. The Chairman of the Society leaves much to be desired for. He evidently does his best, but he falls far short of the standard to which Mr. Dale and Mr. Burn accustomed us. The control which he possesses over the members of the Society is very feeble and often occasions the occurrence of disorderly scenes, which cannot be too strongly deprecated.

With regard to the Secretary of the Society it is quite different. He quite equals, if not excels his predecessor, Mr. Long and were it not for him, the Society would be in a very bad way indeed.

The same applies to the Treasurer, but the other members, the rank and file, of the Society leave much to be desired.

As an example of this, let us take a typical meeting of the Society. The meeting commences with a scene resembling the end of a Christmas pantomime. In the midst of the din, if you listen carefully, you will hear a meek apologetic voice saying, "Order, gentlemen, please, order," "Take your seats, if you please," etc. After about 10 or 15 minutes the members begin to get exhausted and quiet ensues, whereupon we find Mr. Tigers proposing as a motion, "That the Society commence its meetings at 6 p.m., and work through the business backwards, ending promptly at 4.30." He instances as an argument the valuable saving of time that would ensue. The motion is at once enthusiastically carried, and the Secretary questioning the feasibility of the motion, is at once ruled out of order, it being decided that the onus of carrying out the proposed reform lies on the Secretary. The latter rises to object, but by order of the Chairman is promptly seized and gagged.

The subject for debate is—"Is it more noble to wear long or short trousers." The leader for the affirmative reads about 15 pages, extracted from various writers, favouring his side, and the leader for the negative reads about 16 pages, compiled from books written for the other side of the question.

The question is then open for discussion. A nervous member arises and says, "Mr. K— says that to wear short trousers is noble, but I don't think it is, because—er—ahem—because—er—because doncherknow, donchersee—er—I mean—that is—er—ahem—er (there ensues an awkward pause, filled up by the members with loud applause). That's all I've got to say." (Hear, hear, laughter and applause).

Then a very excited member gets up "I really don't think" (Order, order). The member looks wildly around and then says, with great emphasis, "Master Chairman and Gentlemen, I really don't think we need pay the slightest attention to such an ass as—/Order, order, hear, hear, applause and confusion, during which the member subsides".

A most inspiring youth next arises and starts with, "Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen—er—that is, Mr. Gentleman, Chairman, I—oh—er—er—of course—er—mean Mr. Gentle Chairman— (Loud laughter and applause, during which the member collapses).

Then a member stands up and for five minutes whispers in a low tone to a piece of inky paper, which he holds close to his nose. When he has sat down the secretary quietly asks him what side he has been speaking for. Three members arise at once, and, as no one will give way, they all three speak at once in spite of the chairman's gentle protests. So it goes on, the meeting becoming rowdier and rowdier every minute until the leader for the negative is called on to reply. He intimates that only the "duffers" have spoke for the opposite side, and that all the clever ones, including, of course, himself (Question, question) are on the other side.

Mr. Blower replies for the affirmative. He says, "It is late; I have nothing new (a voice "Except that tie") to say, and will therefore take my seat." He is too certain of it though, for he misses the chair and takes the floor instead with an undignified bump.

On voting it is decided that it is more noble to wear long than short trousers by a majority of 24 to 1, the one being the only short-panted member.

A tremendous scene of enthusiasm then ensues, the successful debater being

carried round the room several times upside down. The meeting then adjourns. The above is a fairly typical account of a meeting of the Society.

## JOTTINGS.

AS I was walking along one of the corridors I entered one of the rooms in that corridor. I do not know what allured me there, but it was there I found myself one dinner-hour. In the grate there was an unusually large quantity of paper, and in the midst I saw the gilt edges of a note-book. Attracted by the hope of a "find," I went towards the grate and took out the note-book. I found it to be of a better quality than those usually received by schoolboys for birthday presents, morocco back, and indelible pencil. I opened the book, and on the front page I saw one mystic word, "*Jottings*." Next page was an undecipherable scrawl which caused me much trouble. At last I gave it up in despair and turned to the next page. Here I found what I had long desired, or *jampridem cupio* as our old friend Virgil says. But to make a long story short, the book was full of a boy's impression of his fellow Institutionians. I will give you some:—

1. Mighty in three things, or at least, thinks he is, viz.: Football, Les Fourberies de Scapin, and Horace's Odes. Has a peculiar drawl ranging from C to A, which he issues forth when told anything funny.

2. Senior classic, wise in L.I.L.D.S. rules. Thinks a good bit of himself. Good speaker, and rather elegant debater.

3. Cynical in mind and countenance. Used to imitate the drawl of No. 1, but has let it off. Frequently tries to be funny, generally fails, and then scratches his chin. The latin translation of his name is "*Es*."

4. Four feet high, more or less. Tries to be top of the sixth, but is not likely to at present. Has generally two or three editions of the books to be read for the Oxford Local.

5. Shorter in body than number 4, but about equal in mind. Wears glasses, which give him a rather quizzical look.

6. The country gentleman, dontcher know. Always looks as if he was on the verge of embracing Orpheus. Reminds one of the Honourable Robert Thos are but extracts; the rest of the impression would send the above gentleman well nigh crazy. More anon. THEOMANTIS.

## PRIZE DAY.

ALTHOUGH many of the Liverpool Institute boys may have been present at the Prize Distribution on Saturday, November 22nd, yet, for the sake of those who were unable to attend, a slight description of the proceedings is here attempted. It should be said, however, that such description can only poorly represent the speech of Professor Dicey, who, we are sure, as an orator could not easily be surpassed. Even on such a subject as History, which is generally classed by the average schoolboy as one of the "dries," the lecturer's eloquence commanded the attention of all present. Among the distinguished gentlemen who were present on the platform no one was more welcome than Mr. Sephton. The Chairman made a few preliminary remarks, in which he expressed his obligations to Dr. Dicey for his attendance that evening and then proceeded to tell of the very satisfactory condition of the school—a condition, which it was needless to say, had been a great struggle to maintain.

Professor Dicey then rose and remarked, that he had chosen as a suitable question for that evening's consideration a subject which was one of passing interest, and yet detached from political or party objects. The question was, "Whether or not History was a guide in the conduct of Politics?" They were told that a knowledge of the past would be a key to the knowledge of the future. With more or less dignity, emphasis, and eloquence that maxim would be impressed upon them. Another view of history was that of a celebrated Irishman, who said, that history was an old almanac and no more. With this theory Dr. Dicey said he entirely sympathised, and gave it as his opinion that direct guidance, by way of precedent, could not be found in history. He then proceeded to show, in a truly logical fashion, the falseness of the supposed analogy between French and English history, from the time of Louis XVI. and Charles I. to the accession of William III. and of Louis Philippe, whose expulsion from the throne in 1848

dispelled the historical precedent. After this he proceeded to illustrate the fact that, although things may have a great external resemblance, yet internally they were totally dissimilar. After giving striking instances of this false foundation, he said that the lasting lesson in history was, to fight with men, deal with men, but to refrain from conducting their political struggles in fruitless contests with ghosts. In the report of Mr. Hughes, which was next read, it was evident that the Institute ranked as one of the finest schools for the teaching of science in the country. Scholarships had been won by two boys at University College but the crowning success was that of R. A. Sampson, who had not only obtained the first "Smith's" prize, but been also elected a Fellow of St. John's College. The successes of H. E. Long in the Oxford and Cambridge locals, were those of which his school feel justly proud. The prizes were then distributed by Professor Dicey. Mr. Gray Hill moved a vote of thanks to Dr. Dicey, and Mr. Samuel seconded it. In replying, Professor Dicey gave a piece of most useful advice, and strongly urged the boys to keep up their studies when their school-days were over. The meeting was then brought to a conclusion.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

*To the Editors of the Liverpool Institute Schools Magazine.*

DEAR SIRS.—Pardon me for compromising more of your small space to write of an institution which has been much neglected in this school. I refer, of course, to the Football Club. Before the arrival of Mr. Hughes only Mr. Ewart evinced any interest in its welfare. Now that we have a head-master who takes such an interest in the club, and also two masters who play, it is only reasonable to expect a decided improvement in it. This, however, is not the case, probably owing to the unbounded respect which some of its members feel towards themselves, and which prevents, in some cases, the winning of a match. It is simply a farce to attempt to play football successfully without regularly attending the practices; and it is very noticeable that the Institute practices are very badly attended. It must be extremely annoying to those masters who devote their half-holidays to the good of the Club, and find only about twenty members ready to play. This state of things must undergo severe reform if we are to have a "look in" in the shield competitions; and why should we not get the shield? The members of our first team are all individually very fair players; our forwards are among the best to be found in the Schools; our half-backs and three-quarters are quite up to those of other schools, and as to our full-back—he is the best about. Ignorant people may remark "Why don't you get the shield then?" The reason is that we lack combination. Playing substitutes seriously disorganises the team; and as to the remark of the "stews" about time, we refer them to P. Burn, who shone brilliantly both as a footballer and scholar. In conclusion I hope fellows will really put their "shoulders to the wheel," and aid us in one most mighty attempt to secure the Challenge shield.—I am, yours, &c. A FOOTBALLER.

*To the Editors of the Liverpool Institute Schools Magazine.*

GENTLEMEN.—Would you kindly allow me to trespass so far on your valuable space as to call your attention to some remarks made in your November issue, which I take the liberty of thinking, are somewhat beside the mark. On page 3 of that number you devote some space to a (presumably) humorous paragraph on the School Debating Society. You say, though on what authority I don't know, that on the back desk "Giggling is carried on incessantly, and aspirants to fame are quickly dragged to the less giddy level of the firm, where they are received on the points of pins stuck in corks." This may be funny. It is most emphatically untrue. One of the chief features which visitors notice is the good order kept throughout the meetings. To judge from your paragraph one would infer, at least, that the majority of members are rowdies and the rest dunces. Summed up, that is what it amounts to, and I really must protest against such unwarrantable statements appearing in a magazine, every line of which is common property. If I am correct in my suspicions as to the writer of the paragraph, I find he has registered one attendance only out of seven meetings. Surely I am right in asking you, if possible, to avoid in future anything which, however amusing, is calculated to create an unfavourable impression.—With renewed apologies, I am, gentlemen, yours truly,

HON. SEC., L.I.L.D.S.