

LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE SCHOOLS MAGAZINE.

Vol. VII. No. 7.

MAY, 1893.

Photography as a Hobby.

I SUPPOSE that there is no boy, however young or old, but has some favourite hobby with which to beguile his leisure time; it may be some outdoor sport such as football or cricket, or his inclinations may turn in the direction of keeping white mice in a small box to the great disgust of his mother and sisters, or, again, to be the proud possessor of a large number of stamps may be the highest object of his ambition, or there are countless other ways in which this passion can find a vent.

My own particular hobby is photography, and to bring the claims of that art-science to your notice is the object with which this paper is written.

Photography has the great advantage of being a pursuit which can be followed both in and out of doors, and at all seasons of the year; not one which has to be put away on the approach of winter, and nothing heard or seen of it again until the following spring, as many people seem to think, for during the long dark evenings of winter plenty of employment and amusement can be found in making and showing lantern slides from the pictures taken during the past summer, and the boy who is neat and clever with his fingers can, by mounting and framing his photos, make many pretty Christmas presents or cards to give to his friends at that festive season, which will have all the greater value in the eyes of the recipients from the fact of their being the giver's own handiwork.

The fact of its being so expensive is often urged against the pursuit of photography, but it must be borne in mind that it is only the initial cost which is so heavy, and that after the camera and the rest of the necessary apparatus is purchased it does not need such an exceptionally well-lined pocket to keep it going as is usually imagined.

Cameras are, of course, of all prices, from five shillings to thirty pounds, or even more. I myself started when a boy in the Lower Fifth with one which I picked up second-hand, its original cost being only one guinea, and with it I managed to turn out some very good work. I should advise all beginners to start like myself with a small, cheap, $\frac{1}{4}$ -plate camera (taking pictures $3\frac{1}{4}$ by $4\frac{1}{4}$ -inch), as failures at first are apt to come thick and fast, and of course the smaller the plate that is spoilt the less the money that is wasted, but an ordinarily careful worker ought, after five or six attempts, to be sure of turning out at least moderately good pictures. When proficiency in all the branches is obtained a larger camera can be purchased.

To the scientist, photography opens a large field for exploration, as the many chemical actions and reactions that can be observed in the processes through which a photo. has to pass, before it is ready to be mounted on a card or placed in an album, will give unmitigated pleasure to those who (unlike myself, I am sorry to say) must know the why and wherefore of everything, and would not be happy if they did not.

There is also much in photography to rejoice the heart of the artist, for although I know many people do not hold this opinion, there is no doubt whatever in my mind that as much artistic taste and judgment is needed to make up a good photo. as to paint a good picture. Of course, I mean in the matter of composition. Many a scrap of scenery which a careless worker would fail to notice, or if it was noticed would be at once set down in his mind as ugly, and not worth wasting a plate upon, can by being taken from the proper standpoint, or by the introduction of a little life, be turned by the artist into as pretty a picture as could be desired.

To my mind there is nothing more enjoyable on a summer's afternoon than to go for a few miles tramp through a pretty country with a camera, in company with some kindred spirit, bent on a search of that which is picturesque or quaint. And then, again, to have the pleasure, unknown to non-photographers, of looking over the pages of your album and revisiting in fancy your last

holidays, and describing the pictures to admiring friends, is well worth all the time and trouble expended in their production. Since my time many clubs and societies have been formed at the Institute for the benefit of the boys, but as far as I am aware there is not yet a Photographic Society connected with the school. I certainly am of opinion that if such a society were started it would have a number of members, if there are as many photographers now at the old school as when I was a member of it, and I should very much like to see some start made in this direction.

If these few remarks of mine lead any to become followers of the delightful pursuit of photography, I am quite sure that if they start in the right spirit, and are not discouraged by a few failures at first, they will never regret it, and will be continually finding fresh pleasures in the art, and will also have a much keener appreciation of all the varied beauties of Nature than those less fortunate beings who are not photographers.

C. A. R.

The Literary and Debating Society's Entertainment.

THE sixth annual entertainment of the above Society will take place in the Lecture Hall of the Institute on Wednesday, May 3, at 7-30 p.m. The thanks of the Society are once more due to Mr. Book, who has kindly undertaken the management of the entertainment. Mr. Book's name is a sufficient guarantee for its excellence. The first part will be a Concert, in which the following ladies and gentlemen have generously consented to give their services:—Miss Fanny Bouffleur, the celebrated soprano; Mr. Vaatho, the well-known violinist; Mr. G. F. Mason, the organist of Litherland Church; and Mr. Book himself. Mr. Mason, who is an old boy of the Institute, will provide the humorous part of the entertainment. The second part of the programme will consist of a Limelight Exhibition by Mr. J. Sirett Brown, the son of the late Rev. Hugh Stowell Brown, a name familiar to everyone connected with Liverpool.

The proceeds of the entertainment will be devoted to the *Magazine*, which, being sold under cost price, is very much in need of funds. It is hoped that every boy will do all in his power to repay Mr. Book and his friends by making the evening a thorough success.

Chat on the Corridor.

WE hope that as many as possible will attend the entertainment of May 3rd, so that we may reduce the debt on the *Magazine*. The circulation last month showed a decrease from that of the March issue, and even with the aid of the Entertainment we shall need a steady increase to pay off the existing debt and avoid incurring a fresh one. The arrangements made for the concert will render it a very attractive one, and the price of the programme (sixpence), for which the ticket is to be exchanged, is very moderate, and should draw a large audience.

We wish here to express our gratitude, as Editor, to those ladies and gentlemen who have so kindly promised to give their services.

The General Meeting of the Literary and Debating Society is to take place on Friday, April 28th, by which time this *Magazine* will be in our readers' hands. As this is so much earlier than usual, it has been decided that we shall not hand in our report at that meeting, but that we shall do so at a special meeting to be held in July. Let us therefore urge upon all our readers to aid us in increasing the circulation, so that we may have to show a balance on the right side, or at any rate as little as possible on the wrong side.

There are not many boys in the School now who can remember events which happened in the year 1886. In November of that year appeared the first number of the *Liverpool Institute Journal*, the title of which was the following month changed to *The Liverpool Institute Schools Magazine*. We should like to explain exactly the position of the *Magazine* as there are few boys, except in the upper part of the School, who properly understand it. The *Magazine* was first issued under the superintendence of the Literary and Debating Society. It is this Society which has always directed the *Magazine*, appointing the Editors, and discussing more important details of management such as the raising of the price. The members of this Society are the proprietors of the *Magazine*, and the Society's balance is devoted to keeping down the debt on the *Magazine*. Thus we would wish all boys to see that the success of the *Magazine* is entirely dependent on the interest which they take in it, as it is not supported, as many school *Magazines* are, by official grants, and this independence is what ought to exist. We do not push forward the claims of the *Magazine* from a feeling of self-importance, but because we know that boys will, in after years, wish that they possessed the *Magazines* of their school days. We know only too well that the *Magazine* often "is not interesting," but when a *Magazine* brings back memories of achievements which

happened some years ago, recalls the exploits of those who have since left the school; still more, when events are recorded in its pages which may be read "twenty and thirty, and forty years on," when otherwise they might be forgotten, then the *Magazine* will be found interesting, if at no other time. The function of the *Magazine* in chronicling the events of the school is not that certain boys should have the pleasure—if it is a pleasure—of seeing their names in print, or reading of their own achievements, but that a record should be kept of those varied events which make up school life.

"The most important of our functions is that of providing a medium through which members of the School may state grievances and suggest their remedies. In another column we have shown how many grievances have been cured, and how, in the vast majority of cases, these grievances have been—thanks to their publication in our columns—redressed. This should be a great inducement to all who have complaints to make to send them to us. But we would urge that it is not merely a privilege of members of the School to air their grievances in our columns, but that it is their bounden duty, in the interests of the College, to do so. And for this reason: There must, in all communities, be grievances among the governed which are not remedied simply because the governors are not aware of them." We quote these words from the Editorial of the current issue of a contemporary School Magazine, and we think that they are very applicable to the Institute. As will be seen, the Correspondence column is this month in great demand, and this, we believe, shows that a lively interest is taken by the boys in the welfare and reputation of the School.

A correspondent suggests that a Reading-room should be established by the boys. This, we think, is a suggestion at once excellent and practicable, but it is of one aspect of the question which we wish here to speak. As will be seen by our *Editorial Notices*, we have received this month considerably more contemporary School Magazines than we have previously done; and we have notified the fact that any of them can be seen on application to the Editor. Yet, in this respect, matters would be greatly simplified if there was a Reading-room under the auspices of the L. I. L. D. S. The magazines of other schools could then be placed in that room, and seen by the members. At present the magazines, when handed round, suffer somewhat in consequence, being liable to get damaged or to have the covers torn off. We shall be glad to publish, in our next issue, any letters further advocating a practical way of establishing such an institution.

This number will appear at the beginning of the term, which is, in many respects, the most important of the year. The change is already apparent from the period previous to Easter. The Football season is over, the session of the Literary and Debating Society has

come to an end. Other clubs, such as the Chess Club and the Lacrosse Club, are lying dormant till September. The Swimming Clubs have re-started, and the Cricket season is close at hand. Two very important events are in the immediate future: the Entertainment is to take place on Wednesday, May 3rd, and the Athletic Sports on Saturday, May 6th. We hear rumours that the number of entries for the latter of these two events is by no means so large as might be expected. It is sincerely to be hoped that they will increase rapidly at the last moment, and that matters will not fall into the state of two years ago. Scholastically, the present term is eventful. The Science and Art Examinations will very soon be here; the Oxford Local assumes a different aspect from that which it had last September, at a distance of ten months; the School Prizes for Mathematics, Modern Languages, Natural Science, and Latin, are to be awarded; and those boys who are lower in the School have to keep the prize day in mind.

On the 29th of March, the boys of both Schools assembled in the Lecture Hall, for the purpose of listening to a few words from the Headmaster, before beginning the Easter holidays. A number of the Directors and friends of the School occupied the platform. A selection of music, vocal and instrumental, had been provided by Mr. Bulmer. The "British Grenadiers," "Old Brigade," (solo by Mr. Book), "Men of Harlech," "Auld Lang Syne," and "God Save the Queen," were sung by the boys. After the first song, the Headmaster addressed the boys from the platform, and, in the course of his remarks, mentioned that an Exhibition at Magdalene College, Cambridge, had been awarded to F. M. Baddeley, an announcement which was received with cheering, which was repeated when the Headmaster added that Baddeley's success would be celebrated in the usual way, to wit, by a half-holiday. The Rev. J. Watson then gave a short address, which was much appreciated by all. This is the first time that Mr. Watson has spoken to us from the platform; we trust that it will not be the last. During the meeting the Orchestra gave a selection from the Operas, which had been arranged for the Orchestra by Mr. Bulmer, and which had been named by him "Operatic Fragments." The selection included, among other favourite airs, "Alas! those Chimes" (*Maritana*), "The Gipsies' Chorus" (*Bohemian Girl*), and "Let me like a Soldier fall" (*Maritana*). The Orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. Bulmer, rendered the piece with fine effect, the performers taking up their parts with a precision and smoothness which did credit to them. A special word of commendation is due to "Little Bulmer," for the masterly way in which he gave his parts on the flute and piccolo. The Rev. C. C. Elcum made the meeting merry by the singing of an original song, entitled "Tommy." Therein he described, in rhyme, the many sins and misdemeanours of the young gentleman whose name furnishes the title to the song. The sparkling wit and humour of the song, the pretty melody to which Mr. Elcum had arranged the

words, the "catchy" chorus, and, above all, the inimitably droll style in which the Rev. author sang the verses, made the song an enormous success, and secured for the singer such cheers as only Institute boys can give.

The Rev. A. H. Caldicott (*Corpus Christi College, Oxford*), and Mr. W. Snow (*Worcester College, Oxford*), have now proceeded to their M.A. degree.

Mr. W. H. Pridmore, B.A. (*Jesus College, Oxford*) has been appointed Assistant Master in the Junior Department of the High School, in succession to the Rev. J. J. Hulley, B.A., who has left us on his appointment to the Curacy of Ormskirk.

There was a half-holiday on Tuesday, April 25th.

The death of the Earl of Derby will be a matter of deep regret to all who are connected with the Liverpool Institute. Lord Derby was greatly interested in the school, and was the donor of the two prizes of £4 each, which are awarded to the head boy in Mathematics and Modern Languages respectively each Midsummer. These prizes were founded by Lord Derby in 1878. In addition to this, it was Lord Derby who gave each year the prizes of £10 to the highest senior candidate, and £5 to the highest junior candidate in the Liverpool Centre at the Oxford Local Examinations; these prizes always falling to the lot of Liverpool Institute boys. The name of the late Earl, too, appeared in our last issue among those who have contributed to the prize fund of the athletic sports.

Words.

EVERY word has a history worth knowing, though it may not always be known. Words have their reputation—good, bad, or indifferent. Some have gone up in the world, others have fallen. Some wear a royal robe over plebeian shoulders. Some have seen better days, and are now dressed in the tattered remnants of a former greatness. Some have a gait incongruous with their vocation, like a costermonger who has put on a militia-man's left-off uniform. Some are tricked out in the tawdry tinsel and faded finery of a lost character. Some are obscure in their origin and mysterious in their meaning, and conveniently cover the ignorance of those who use them.

Meanwhile we may say a word about those who, with various gifts and graces, or without them, use our words. There are, for instance, those who would smooth over all the prosaic realities of life with pleasant conventionalities. With such people every person is an "esquire;" there are no tradesmen, all are "principals;" no

shopmen, only "assistants;" no one is a bankrupt, he is only "unable to meet his engagements;" no tradesman is ever short of money, he merely "requests that his little account may be settled, as he has a bill to meet;" no one is angry, he is "excited;" no one is cross, he is "nervous;" no one is drunk, he "has dined." "You never read now," said Dean Alford, "of a man, or a woman, or a child. A man is an *individual* or a *person* or a *party*; a woman is a *female*, or, if unmarried, a *young person*, which expression, in the newspapers, is always of the feminine gender; a child is a *juvenile*; and children *en masse* are expressed by that most odious term, the *rising generation*. A man now never goes anywhere, he always *proceeds*; he does not go home, but *proceeds to his residence*. We never eat, we *partake of*; we never hear of a *place*, it is always a *locality*; good lodgings are now *eligible apartments*; we never begin anything, we *commence*. If a shoemaker were to be struck by lightning when at his work, we should be told that "while pursuing his avocation the electric fluid penetrated the unhappy man's person."

Another misuse of words against which a protest may well be entered is the substitution of foreign terms for English, a sort of mongrel intellectual slang. With such a writer the heroes of his story are "always marked by an *air distingue*," his lady friends never merely dance or dress well, they dance or dress *à merveille*; and he himself, when lolling on the sofa under the spirit of laziness, does not simply enjoy his rest, he luxuriates in the *dolce far niente*, and wonders when he will manage to begin his *magnum opus*. A lady who has been happy in her hair dresser is said to be *coiffée à ravir*. Then there is the bold man to describe. Having acquired the *savoir faire* he is never afraid of making a *faux pas*, but no matter what kind of conversation, at once plunges *in medias res*. Following him is the fair *débutante* who is already on the look-out for an *bon parti*, but whose *nez retroussé* is a decided obstacle to her success. She is, of course, accompanied by mamma *en grande toilette* who, *entre nous*, looks rather *ridée* even in the gaslight. The public sees a great deal also about *recherché* dinners and sumptuous *déjeuners* (sometimes eaten at night), and about the *éclat* with which a meeting attended by the *élite* of the country invariably passes off. This style is showy and pretentious, and everything that is showy and pretentious has admirers. The admixture of foreign phrases with our plain English produces a kind of Brummagem sparkle which people whose appreciation is limited to the superficial imagine is brilliance. Young students are attracted by the false glitter of this French paste school of composition, and instead of forming their sentences upon the beautiful models of the great English masters, they twist them into all sorts of unnatural shapes for no other end than that they may introduce a few inappropriate French or Latin words, the use of which they have learned to think looks smart.

Let us learn habitually to use the simple, honest words of simple, honest men, remembering that there is a profound and practical sense in which by our *words* we shall be justified, and by

our *words* we shall be condemned. Euphemisms sometimes come to be beautiful specimens of rignarole. Thus a letter from the Foreign Office, sent to Glasgow, spoke of the atrocities of certain Peruvian shipowners who stole Polynesians and sold them into slavery, as "the introduction of Polynesians into Peru." A writer in the *Times*, reviewing Smiles' *Lives of the Engineers*, told how Vermuyden reclaimed the Cambridge Fens, and then added, "A series of other Engineers have been successfully employed in confirming or increasing the area of his acquisitions," by which the reviewer simply meant that more ditches and drains had been made. Similarly, a Frenchman who despatched to England a telegram, intended to announce that it was likely that the corn-market would fall, said: "The alimentary crisis is believed to have passed into a subsiding phase." Again, the Hampshire magistrates prepared a very elaborate report on the subject of prison discipline, in which they intended to recommend that the amount of butchers' meat should, in certain cases, be diminished. This idea was expressed by saying that "the element of meat should, as far as possible, be eliminated." On the 9th of December, 1870, the *Daily News* concluded an article about the London School Board with the remarkable expression that the members would doubtless bestow the chairmanship upon "one of the metropolitan members who have seats in their own body."

Reports of Clubs and Societies.

LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

MARCH 2nd. A meeting was held on this date, F. M. Baddeley in the chair. After the discussion of some private business, the question "Should England seek to extend her Colonies?" was chosen for impromptu debate. The following members spoke for the affirmative:—A. P. Banks, F. W. Inman, D. D. Braham, and B. J. Wood; for the negative C. M. Jones, E. W. Harriman, P. Fisher, and F. M. Baddeley. A vote was taken with the result:—affirmative 5, negative 4.

April 20th. A meeting was held on this date, F. M. Baddeley in the chair. The question selected for debate was "Should Museums and Art Galleries be opened on Sundays?" B. J. Wood, who opened in the affirmative, explained that he and Bradburn (the leader for the negative) had agreed not to confine themselves strictly to the subject announced, but to discuss the Sunday movement in general. He maintained that the movement was praiseworthy, because it provided entertainment of an elevating character on the only day on which workingmen were free to attend. F. J. Bradburn replied, asserting that workingmen had plenty of opportunities in the week to attend concerts, exhibitions of pictures and the like, if

they wished to do so. But, he maintained, as a matter of fact, they do not care for such things, and the majority of those who attended the concerts of the Sunday Society were not workmen. He also contended that this movement would tend to introduce Sunday labour into England. In the discussion which ensued, F. W. Inman, E. W. Harriman, and P. J. A. Francis spoke for the affirmative. D. D. Braham, H. E. Williams, C. M. Jones, A. P. Banks, and H. Eggington for the negative. The majority of speakers warmly complimented Bradburn upon the substance and style of his speech. After the chairman had said a few words, the leaders replied, and a vote was taken with the result:—negative, 8; affirmative, 4.

CRICKET CLUB.

Intending members are requested to pay their subscriptions at once to the Secretary. It is hoped that this year we shall see more members from the Commercial School, as the club is not a High School one. The ground is paid for by the Directors for the whole school.

A. P. KER, *Hon. Sec.*

THE ATHLETIC SPORTS.

The Annual Sports will be held, as before announced, on Saturday, May 6th, at the Fairfield Athletic Grounds. The Treasurer begs to acknowledge with thanks the kind donations of the following:—R. R. Meade-King, Esq., T. F. Abraham, Esq., P. H. Holt, Esq., W. Oulton, Esq., T. Holder, Esq., C. S. Samuell, Esq., W. Rathbone, Esq., D. Jones, Esq., Rev. J. Sephton, Mrs. Sephton, R. Neville, Esq., M.P., H. Watts, Esq., Earl of Sefton, W. Crosfield, Esq., M.P., A. Holt, Esq. D. D. BRAHAM, *Hon. Sec.*

HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING CLUB.

At a meeting held on March 2nd, the following members were elected for this season:—Captain, W. E. Gething; *Hon. Treasurer*, Mr. Eaves; *Hon. Secretary*, A. P. Ker; *Committee*, W. A. Jones, R. J. Ewart, T. E. Abraham, W. O. Orford, G. Cato, C. M. Long. The club nights were fixed for Mondays and Thursdays at 4-30. Intending members are requested to pay their subscriptions at once.

A. P. KER, *Hon. Sec.*

COMMERCIAL SCHOOL SWIMMING CLUB.

The first meeting of the members of the Liverpool Institute Commercial School Swimming Club was held in Mr. Bickerstaff's room on Friday, March 24th. There was a large attendance of members who elected the following boys Captains:—S. Griffiths, J. B. Herman, J. B. Lloyd, and C. C. Morton. The following were elected to act as Committeemen:—S. Baker, J. B. Herman, J. B. Lloyd, H. E. Morrow, C. C. Morton, J. Shankland. The Head

Master was unanimously elected President; Mr. Ewart and Mr. Bickerstaff were elected Vice-presidents. At a meeting of the Committee, held after the general meeting, C. C. Morton was elected Secretary and Treasurer. The club has at present a total membership of 50 members. It is earnestly requested that all boys who are desirous of joining the club will pay their subscriptions (1/-) as soon as possible to Mr. Bickerstaff. It is proposed to form a Polo Club from among the members, and, if a team is raised, to challenge the High School Swimming Club. The ball will be available every Friday for practice. The first practice of the club was held at the Cornwallis Street Baths on April 18th; thirty members were present. The second practice was held on April 21st, when thirty-five members were present.

CHAS. C. MORTON, *Hon. Sec.*

THE ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY.

As the production of "Operatic Fragments" is noticed in another part of the *Magazine*, the report of the Society's doings for this month must necessarily be short. Frequent rehearsals and careful study made the production of Mr. Bulmer's selection from the operas a complete success. The Treasurer begs to thank most heartily those gentlemen who responded so liberally to the appeal for subscriptions towards clearing off the debt with which the Society has been saddled.

Our Contemporaries.

THE University College, Liverpool, has just issued the second number of its magazine, *The Sphinx*. The magazine consists of sixteen large pages, with an attractive cover. A well executed portrait of Professor Gotch, the Dean of the Medical Faculty at the College, is presented with the number, which is sold at sixpence, a sum by no means exorbitant. The features about the magazine which first attract the notice of a casual reader, are perhaps the *Answers to Correspondents*, the *Correspondence*, and the account of the Lady Students' Debating Society. The Answers to Correspondents display a profundity of knowledge upon all points, which surpasses even what should be expected from the learned students of the College. The answers run as follows:—"We cannot answer this question," "We do not know," "Ask some one else," "We cannot say," "This is a question to which you can hardly expect us to reply," "We do not pretend to be a walking encyclopædia," "How can you ask such a question?" Those who are not answered directly by one of these replies are referred to the reply given to some other correspondent. In the *Correspondence* there appears what at first sight seems to be an account of some original scientific research upon "the action of ether upon moving

bodies." It is apparent, however, on reading through the article, that the "moving bodies" are human, and that the "ether" is alcohol, which produces the "curious sideway motions in the otherwise direct path of the body, culminating in the total cessation of horizontal movement." "The body," the account continues, "then follows the law of gravitation, being sustained by no other force." The Women Students' Debating Society does not approve of Vegetarianism, or of the crinoline; it sympathises with the Blue Ribbon movement. The motion, "that the system of competitive examinations is undesirable," was carried by a majority of four. There seems to be but a poor opinion of the virtues of the male sex in those who, for the negative, argued that, without competitive examinations, young people under the age of seventeen, especially boys, would do no work at all. The magazine contains several articles, notes of interest to the various divisions of the College, Arts, Science, Law, and Medicine, the Women Students, Athletics, and general notes under the heading of *Olla Podrida*.

The *Kelly College Chronicle*, of Kelly College, Tavistock, is an excellent magazine. The March issue contains what is somewhat a rarity—a really interesting "Cambridge Letter." There is also that inevitable part of a school magazine, an account of a visit to some place. The title, in the present case, however, is original:—"With five females in Norway—By the Male." There is, too, a very good article on "The Changes of the Last Six Years." It is from this magazine that we make the quotation in the "Chat on the Corridor" There is in this issue a list of all the reforms which have been effected through the agency of the Correspondence column, The matter we have mentioned, together with School News, Athletic Notes, and Correspondence, makes a really good magazine. We think, however, that it would be an improvement if the pages were not so large.

The following are the Magazines which we have received:—*The Ellesmerian* (2), *Ipswich School Magazine*, *Llandoverly School Journal*, *St. Edward's School Chronicle*, *Kelly College Chronicle* (2), *Utula*, *Oakham School Magazine*, *King Edward's School Chronicle*, *City of London School Magazine*, *Norvicensian*, *The Sphinx*, *Merchant Taylors' Review*, and *Ardingly Annals*. Any of these may be seen by members of the L. I. L. D. S., on application to the Editor.

Correspondence.

(The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed under this heading.)

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

DEAR SIR,—In the last issue of your *Magazine*, there occurs a passage in the report of the Literary and Debating Society to which we wish to call attention. It is there stated, that, "an hour and a half was *wasted* on motions relating to private business." Now, Sir, as members of this Society, we must protest against the use of the word "wasted" as applied to the time spent in the discussion of this business. For by one of the motions, the present restriction of classes was done away with. The Society is no longer confined to members of the Sixth, Upper Fifth and Lower Fifth forms, and the First Class of the Commercial School. This has conferred an important privilege upon the lower classes, and the motion was certainly deserving of more notice than has been accorded to it. Again, the consequent institution of vote by secret ballot in the case of the entrance of members is certainly not so trivial as the report would have us believe, as it was at least necessary, and because it links more closely the usages of the Debating Society to Parliamentary custom. We have also to complain that a third motion stands, in common with others, on the category of business wasting time. We mean that one moving that the rules be written out and placed in some readily-available position. This is undoubtedly needed in a Society that is so ignorant or so wilfully transgressent of its own rules as the present L. I. L. D. S., and cannot therefore, although defeated, be called a waste of time. A fourth motion there was passed, to which we will not refer further than by stating that by it seven members could convene a Special Meeting for the consideration of urgent business. Now, we appeal to your readers to judge whether or not these and similar motions were a waste of time. They were all necessary and desirable, and we think it shows considerable contempt towards the Debating Society to stigmatise them with the expression used in the reports. The Secretary himself shows remarkable inconsistency in supporting actively at one time measures that he designates as frivolous at another. In conclusion, let us express our belief that the Editor could wisely and should have, on this occasion, used his power of deletion and of substitution of less offensive terms.—We remain, yours sincerely,

HUGIN AND MUNIN.

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

DEAR SIR,—I should like, with your permission, to offer a few opinions as to the present state of the Orchestral Society. At present rehearsals are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 12.30 till 1.30. Owing to this, the members can hardly be persuaded to attend with any amount of regularity, notwithstanding Mr. Bulmer's most strenuous efforts in that direction. Now, would it not be a good thing to devote some school-hour in the week for these practices, instead of holding them in the dinner-hour. It is found to be good training now; what would it be therefore, if the only present obstacle were removed, *i.e.*, that of holding the rehearsals in the dinner-hour? Surely no parent would object to his son having one hour's excellent musical training a week.—Hoping you will be able to insert this, I remain, yours truly,

E. W. HARRIMAN.

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

DEAR SIR,—I notice in the discussion about the Chess Club and the Debating Society, that the Secretary of the former cites as an argument a phrase that is supposed somewhat to express my opinion. I should like to explain more clearly my views on the subject. In the first place, the time that some of the members are occupying and in a great extent wasting in the Club is simply monstrous. Picture a game that absorbs all the spare (?) time of a school-boy: viz., the dinner-hours of six days in the week, an hour or two after half-past four for four days, and one match (sometimes two) a week, each match lasting at least two hours. Add to this startling record the time lost when the game is being replayed and reviewed in imagination on occasions when School-work ought to be in progress, and you will see that fifteen hours—one-sixth of the waking and working week—is easily and completely occupied by this single hobby. This would not be so harmful if the game were a real relaxation from brain-work, or a health-giving physical exercise, but such is not the case, and the brain though already almost fully weighted is still further loaded with a wearisome burden. You will also notice how other work more advantageous to the boys is ousted out by the game, and in consequence neglected. The Debating Society on the other hand meets for usually less than two hours a week, and at the same time helps to form the opinions of its members on all sorts of topics, and to fit them for any public speaking in after life—Which is then the more profitable? Which the more advantageous to join? I trust that with the next session, the Debating Society, since it is open to all in the School now, will be filled with the pick of our scholars and the most intellectual of all the forms. For such reasons as I have given you, and on account of the comparative seniority and old age of the L. I. L. D. S., it was resolved in the Chess Club Committee that no play be allowed on Thursday,—as an act of courtesy to the elder and more venerable Society,—but finding that the innovation was received in a manner that promised more harm than good to the Debating Society, the resolution was annulled. Till this moment, however, it has been my firm opinion that these members of the Chess Club, showing by their infatuation for the game that they have by no means arrived at years of discretion, should be treated as children and be restrained by school or parental authority for their wilful and wholesale waste of time and opportunities,—I remain, Yours &c.,
CHESS CLUB COMMITTEE-MAN.

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

SIR,—I should like to know upon what authority, in the March issue, you can say that the Concert there announced 'for the benefit of the *Magazine*' is to be held 'under the auspices of the L. I. L. D. S.' The subject, as far as my personal knowledge, or the information obtained from other members of the L. I. L. D. S., extends, has never been broached at any meeting of that Society; indeed, the majority of the members have been under the impression—delusion, it seems—that the usual Dramatic Entertainment was to take place shortly. May I ask the reason of this change, if change there is? Perhaps the phrase 'under the auspices,' etc., applies to the *Magazine* itself, but at all events the paragraph is extremely misleading. It is certainly most injurious and insulting that the name of the Debating Society should be used in this promiscuous manner, and I think, in common justice, you cannot but insert this letter of protest and appeal. In conclusion, I may say it is rather late to speak on the subject now,

but it seemed to me the Secretary's duty to contradict this premature statement.—I have the honour to remain, Sir, indignantly yours,
A PATRIOT MEMBER.

[We may explain that, at the time of writing the notice last month, we thought the Entertainment was to be a supplementary one, especially for the *Magazine*, and we used the expression referred to because any matter referring to the *Magazine* is, *ipso facto*, under the auspices of the L. I. L. D. S.—Ed.]

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

DEAR SIR,—May I ask you to allow me space in your columns to make a suggestion? I wish to point out that at present we have not a Reading Room at the Liverpool Institute, and I should be extremely glad to see one established. I am aware that there is a library in Mr. Caldicott's room, established by some of the middle forms, but I would advocate the establishment of a separate Reading Room in which we could have such periodicals as the *Nineteenth Century* (not such frivolous magazines as "The Strand" and "Harper's"). This plan, I think, could best be put into practice by the Literary and Debating Society: they could take the necessary preliminary steps and form a committee of management for the Reading Room. The funds could be provided either by increasing the Debating Society's subscription, or having a separate subscription for the Reading Room, which would be a better plan. Hoping that some members of the Sixth may be induced to take up this idea, I remain, yours faithfully,
Z. Y. X.

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

SIR,—If there is one sight I abhor more than another on this mortal earth, it is to see a swot, poor wretched creature, crawling along with bent shoulders, dim sight and pasty face, on his way to or from school. I could shake him for his crass stupidity, so great is my vexation. What *can* such a fellow accomplish in life? True he *may* win a way in life by mere pedantry, but all his existence will be nothing but a linked sorrow long drawn out in suffering and pain. How unnatural it is to suppose any human being can be healthy or happy when always within doors, in stuffy rooms, whence little or no glimpse can be obtained of the sky, the sun, the trees, or any of the other glorious beauties of nature! I would have all such to remember, then, that there has been given for them to cultivate not only a mind but also a body, which ought to occupy as much time and attention as the former. But since there are people in the world so foolish as not to see what is so injurious to their own interests as cramming, and since these are so indiscreet as to resist all entreaty and exhortation addressed to them, it follows that some outside influence should be brought to bear to make them take exercise. Why should they not, who act as children, be treated as children? Echo answers "Why not!" Again to look at the question in another aspect, For what reason has the Football Club missed the Shield year after year? Why, simply because the noble game has been shirked from childhood by these stupid swots, and we, unlike other schools who have their pick from all the boys, are forced to limit our choice to the few that we have at present. Now in these other schools I speak of, compulsory athletics is the order of the day; boys are forced to be in the Football or Cricket field a certain amount of their time, and are punished if they transgress the rule. Why should this not be the case in our school? Why

should not our Headmaster force those at least who have scholarships to spend some time in healthy exercise? What a glorious sight it would be to see the whole school turn out to Football, two hundred strong!

If any man can show any just cause why this should not lawfully be so, let him now speak, or hereafter for ever hold his peace.

C. A.

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

DEAR SIR,—Although there have been many subjects brought forward in your excellent paper of late with the intention of reformation, yet none seems to have taken notice of the School Cap. Now, although our esteemed Principal has been at the trouble of obtaining and introducing a form of a Cap which none but the most unaesthetic can accuse of ugliness, yet it remains a fact that the great majority are so unpatriotic as to refuse to wear it. In every other school of any importance in England, the School Cap is worn universally, and I don't see why our fellows shouldn't do the same. Some, I know, complain of the price of the Cap, and say it's too dear, but I shall always maintain that no better Cap *can* be sold by any maker unless he sells at a loss. Of course shoddy articles can be obtained for less, but these prove dearest in the end. Now my opinion is, that if the fellows are too caddish to wear the Caps willingly, they should be made to wear it by the Headmaster. Other Schools do this, and I don't see why ours shouldn't. What's the use of having a Cap if only one-quarter of the fellows wear it? If it were made compulsory, every one could see when a school boy belonged to the Institute, and so the fellows would always be on their best behaviour, and the credit of the school would be raised higher (if possible) than it is at present. There is only one thing I wish to say before I shut off steam, which is to say how snobbish the Sixth Form kids look in refusing—for the greater part—to wear the School Cap.

PILEOLUS.

[If you again write a letter to the *Magazine*, kindly do not use such words as "snobbish" and "kids," especially when applied to the Sixth Form, the more so as they do not harmonise with such expressions as "unaesthetic" in the beginning of your letter.—ED.]

Editorial Notices.

All communications or letters for the *Magazine* should be written on one side of the paper only, and should be accompanied by the writer's name, though this need not necessarily be published. Contributions should be sent in at least ten days before the end of each month.

The Editor would be glad to hear from anyone who has copies of the following *Magazines* for disposal:—All numbers prior to 1890, except April, May, and December, 1889; October, November, 1890; April, 1891; December, 1891; June, 1892.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of annual subscriptions from Mrs. Dalzell, Mr. H. Watts, M.A., and Mr. R. L. Curphey.