

LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE SCHOOLS MAGAZINE.

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MAY, 1901.

Some Institute Recollections.

BY DIOGENES, A VERY "OLD BOY."

IV—*continued.*

"This is the porcelain clay of humankind."—*Dryden.*

THIS quartette of papers would not be complete without some reference to distinguished men who have had their exits and their entrances on the stage of the Institute, in meetings, in anniversaries, in prize deliveries, and the delivering of addresses. My first recollection takes in Lord Brougham in 1858. I had missed him on his previous visit in 1857. I can almost see him now, as he takes the chair, in the famous suit of frock coat, blue velvet waistcoat and large check pants, radiating his reputation of the possession of universal knowledge—the Admirable Crichton of his time, except in that of personal appearance—there extremes met. His English was a marvel, more involution in his sentences than in Mr. Gladstone's, while he occasionally dropped a polished epigram Mr. Gladstone never equalled. He called upon Lord John Russell to move the first resolution, and "Little Johnny" (almost hidden under his hat), at once responded. He was as ready to take command of the Channel fleet, or to perform a major operation in a hospital theatre, or to follow Lord Brougham on the platform, as he was to take Sir Robert Peel's place in the Cabinet. "Johnny" was never "too small for the place," for was he not "the greatest Liberal statesman of modern times?" The Earl of Carlisle came

next, the Smith O'Brien Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, a genial, jovial, silver-haired old gentleman, with a ruddy face, so excited a public speaker that he foamed as white as his locks, reminding one of an exaggerated Sir Anthony Absolute. But it was a treat to hear him. Then we had Sir John Pakington afterwards, such a funny little man he was, the very head and front of the Midlands farmer raised to gentry rank, placed on the County Bench, and elevated to the style and dignity of Chairman of Quarter Sessions. But surely his own dreams of glory never took in the possibility of the exigencies of party politics leading to his being appointed, by the Earl of Derby, the "Rupert of Debate," when forming his first ministry, Colonial Secretary. Under the second Derby Government, he reconstructed the navy, causing breath to enter into what he called "a phantom fleet," and making it live. And upon its dry bones he laid sinews, and brought flesh, and covered them with skin, so that once more it was felt that "Britannia ruled the waves." Oh! how the cynic wondered and laughed, too young to have known any of the secrets of cabinetmaking. Following him we had the Right Hon. Sir James Stephen, K.C.B., father of the judge, Sir J. Fitzjames Stephen, and Mr. R. Monckton Milnes. The last name, changed to Houghton when came a peerage in 1863, is familiar as a household word to all readers of English literature, as, indeed, is Sir James Stephen's. My memory does not serve to recall the next speaker, Mr. W. F. Cowper, afterwards Cowper-Temple and Lord Mount Temple, nephew of Lord Melbourne and stepson of Lord Palmerston, but he was a great political personage in his time. We heard also Sir J. Kay Shuttleworth, who was Secretary of the Privy Council Committee on Education. This great gathering of notabilities was made possible by the Social Science Congress in Liverpool. Besides listening to those who addressed us at the Institute, we heard in the same week the great Earl of Shaftesbury, and the greater William Ewart Gladstone. Lord Shaftesbury made for himself an imperishable name by philanthropic work, and nothing is more grateful than the recalling of the incarnation of so much good work well done. And his humble self-abnegation, as Lord Brougham would have called it, was the very opposite of the striking Pharisaic caricature by Pellegrini, "*I am not as other men.*" Mr. Gladstone calls for no other words here.

We might, however, had space permitted, have referred to Sir John Bowring, of philosophical, politico-economical and Chinese renown; and to Mr. T. M. Mackay, both of whom took part in Institute proceedings. The writer has no scruple in recording his opinion that Mr. Mackay was, in many respects, and some of those the best, the foremost political speaker in Liverpool, and he would have become a great public power had he remained a Dicky Sam.

We come now to the men of men invited to deliver addresses at our annual prize meetings. During the last six and twenty years it has been my privilege to see and speak to most of the 16 or 18 who thus honoured us. They cannot be referred to *seriatim*, we are bound to select. The first four I name were eminent in very different ways, and some of them chose unexpected subjects. Mr. James Bryce, M.P., who was supposed to know more about the Holy Roman Empire discoursed about the "Education of men of Business." Mount Stuart Elphinstone Grant Duff, who came to us with his voluminous reddish-yellow grove of whiskers and beard, and who was said to know more of European politics than Metternich, Thiers, Bismarck, Palmerston, Cavour and Antonelli, descended into the Board-room common-places of Higher and Secondary Education; while Mr. Goschen (not much longer, perhaps, to be known as a plebeian) allowed the dry-as-dust discussion of the "Theory and Practice of Foreign Exchanges" to fly aloft to teach us how to cultivate the imagination. One wonders whether he was carried so far aloft as to see himself from his crow's nest the superior officer of Admirals of the British fleet, and of all Vice-Admirals, Red, White and Blue. Mr. Edward A. Freeman, the historian, appropriately spoke on the study of History, and though his criticism was as keen and severe as his manner was gruff, and his beard red and rough, his advice was good and appreciated. Diffuse and desultory readers were made to feel that, from his point of view, at any rate, "it is better to know everything about something than to know something about everything, since he who seeks to do that generally ends by knowing nothing about anything." Professor Huxley, too, came to us to point out the relation of Education to Science and Art. And he had all the directness in personal manner and in treatment of subject which has made him so prominent as one of the men of the nineteenth century. Sir John

Lubbock, now Lord Avebury, gave us a most interesting address on the subjects and objects of study. In his company, one was struck by two odd peculiarities—an alertness towards all he heard, and an extraordinary force of detachment—two qualities hard to reconcile.

The only pupil of the Institute who has been honoured by admission into this company is Dr. H. R. Jones, who, as President, spoke in 1896, in the absence of Sir Henry Roscoe, on the Relation of Education to the State.

On Tramps.

TO an age which, feeling that a picturesque and romantic past is slipping away from it, is stretching out a hand to rescue the decaying fragments of a bygone day, the following is respectfully addressed. The destruction of places and buildings of historic and literary association has been arrested, the village maypole has been set up and decked with streamers, the ancient grandfather's clock has been "collected" (and alas! we fear, manufactured). But one ancient institution is still treated with malice and contempt. This is the tramp, the knight of the road. It being granted that he is not supremely useful, that he has perhaps outlived his day, is it in the spirit of the age to view the antique as he is viewed? Other orders have changed with the times. The foresters may have become gardeners, the tailors pedagogues, the masons GOURMETS. The tramp is still the tramp. In him is preserved the pure spirit of an illustrious ancestry. In his random way he seeks an unfindable and vapoury work, just as the Argonauts sought the Golden Fleece, or as the Knights of the Round Table sought the Holy Grail. But how sour is the reception he receives at the gates of men, when compared with the frank hospitality of yore. He daren't stop to admire the scenery, but a parish constable, the little monarch of his world, cracks him over the head; or a farmer's cur grips in its fangs his poor attenuated calf. He is forbidden to enter the boundaries of a borough. He has no legal rights. Should he venture into a court of law as a plaintiff, he would be at once clapped into the prisoners' dock, as having "no visible means of support." When night comes, wherein all men rest from their labour, and he has at length, by many experiments, discovered the softest part of the nail-studded floor of a barn, or the least angular of the stones beneath a stack of straw, he must rise from a bed of vigil rather than of sleep, and turn out into the lonely road at the cold grey hour of dawn. These are personal discomforts; but the wounds of slander and misrepresentation are deeper. He is charged with robbing orchards—a shocking offence to townsmen, born and bred. There is never a fire on a farm (whether of insured property or uninsured) but it is ascribed to "some tramp." Yet cotton ware-

houses, guarded by night watchmen, catch fire, and the cause of this is described as "mysterious." There is another cheap slander of the tramp, which is very common, namely, the accusation that he steals chickens. Apart from the absurdity of this charge (for who can trace the outline of a plump chicken in that spare contour, or who can picture a tramp plucking, drawing, and dressing a stolen bird, and roasting it at a wayside fire), it can be traced to a low and calumnious origin. The American negro is said, by the purveyors of American humour, to have a fine taste in chickens. This may be true. But the highly-coloured English "Comics!" in plagiarising this story, have replaced the American negro by the English tramp, and the result is a libellous fiction.

But we had rather plead for the tramp than defend him; we cease to urge that he is a monument of virtue, and now only seek to show that he is interesting and amusing. The first witnesses to be called are *Mr. Punch*, Messrs. Pears, and the British public. Cannot the subject of such fun have a little toleration? There is some quaint charm, we submit, in the evergreen theme of the humorist. How patiently he sits, an unpaid model, at the bidding of the facetious! But, if "a victim must be found," there are several who have precedence over this poor scamp. There's the waggonette, packed full of noisy people, which forces you into the ditch or the hedge, and leaves behind it a blinding, choking cloud of dust. There's the Rural Council, which spreads loose macadam on the roads, and leaves the pedestrian and the cyclist to wear it into a pavement; also the absent landlord, who puts up threatening notice-boards on barren moor and rugged cliff. If the arm of justice is to sweep over the country, will not these be seized before our picturesque itinerant?

How suggestive a figure he is! Here at the roadside is a boot with rusty nails and leather turning green. Is it *soccus* or *cotharnus*? Does it mean that stitches and nails could go no farther, or was this the scene of a happy exchange, and is this, the rejected, but still serviceable boot, left here for a poorer brother? Did the wanderer repent of his bargain when the new possession began to let in water?

But here he comes himself, the sturdy silent vagrant, doing his steady two miles an hour, seeing, but not staring or gaping. His ample shoes are held together with twine and loops of straw. Or if the hard stones have been too much for neats' leather, he wraps the poor remnants in folds of sacking or of neutral-tinted cloth. Corduroys, gracefully tattered, conceal some part of his lower members, and here again his dexterous hand has been busy, closing with string some undesired ventilators. From what loom came that coat of wondrous cut, whose colour is buried beneath the grease of many counties? How rich in hue was once the scarlet neckcloth? What sweet memories linger round the rough sack overcoat, labelled distinctly TATE'S CUBES? To crown all, the mellow-tinted, shapeless hat. How easily it fits, and how lightly it presses on the traveller's brow. His purely personal charms are no less striking. The

inquiring spirit and the genial soul peep out through every hair of his countenance. Reader, would you speculate? How many individuals, think you, have contributed to his attire? By what adventure came that jagged rent into his chief garment? Are you an artist, or, perchance, a student with æsthetic aspirations? Then contrast your laboured *négligé* with this natural product of heath and common, and confess that you have failed.

"Oho!" cries the subtle reader, "we see it all now. This writer-fellow, who thinks so lightly of the vices of knaves and rogues, and so highly of their beauty—this fellow, we declare, is nothing but a tramp and a vagabond." Wise reader, you have it; the murder is out.

But think again, subtle reader. That faded old cap of yours, with the torn-out lining, what of that? Those dear old roomy shoes, split all along the sides. Ah! reader, that shot was near the mark. We have it. "This reader-fellow," we declare, "is at heart nothing but a tramp and a vagabond."

So it comes back to the spirit of the age. Reader, what means that uneasy stirring within you, that restlessness you cannot satisfy? It is the spirit of the age. You are too old and stately, or it had whirled you dancing round the maypole. You are too young and uncultured, or it had driven you into a passion for old china. being what you are, it is nerving your arm to save our dwindling brotherhood from extinction.

JANUS.

Games Reports.

FOOTBALL—SHIELD MATCH.

ONCE more we mourn the absence from our midst of the Soccer Shield, which the College has unkindly annexed for the second year in succession. The day was typical of March, a bright sun, a blue sky, clouds of dust, and the thermometer somewhere about zero. The Everton directors again kindly granted us the use of their ground, and thither flocked the representatives of the College and the Institute, from Wavertree and Waterloo, from Huyton and Hoylake, from Bootle and Birkenhead, making the day hideous with tuneless bugles and partisan shouts.

The conditions were practically the same as last year, a strong wind blowing into the Anfield goal and a fast dry ground. The teams had suffered similar losses, of the College XI four only were "old blues," but two of these were full backs with ripe experience, and one of them was J. G. Gow, whose very name was sufficient to cause our forward line to turn pale. For the School, Captain P. Thompson at centre half-back was a host in himself, whilst Paddock, T. Maekenzie and E. J. Jones formed a strong framework for the forward line. The following were the teams:—

College—Goal, J. Harrauld; backs, D. J. Noble and J. G. Gow; half-backs, A. G. Jenner, R. H. Mason and J. H. Rawlinson; for-

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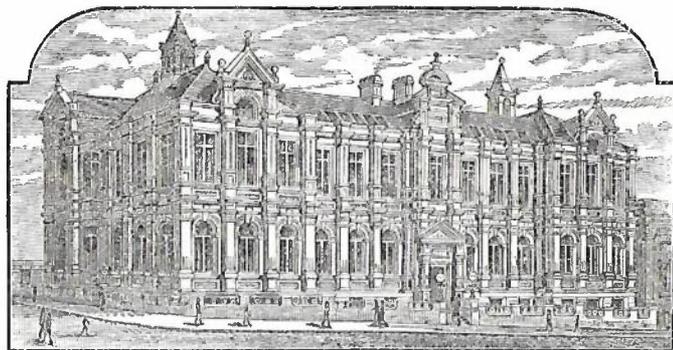
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wards, F. W. Thompson, P. Buchanan, J. L. Hunter, W. B. Parkinson and S. Thompson.

Institute—Goal, H. Brockhill; backs, F. Duhnke and S. Grundy; half-backs, F. Ogley, P. Thompson and T. K. Evans; forwards, Paddock, B. G. Bare, T. Mackenzie, E. J. Jones and McCulloch.

Referee, Mr. H. Boyle. Linesmen, Messrs. H. R. Day and H. R. Parkes.

Having won the toss, the College chose to play with the wind, and punctually at 3 p.m. Mackenzie kicked off. From the first the College showed us that they meant to make full use of the advantage the wind gave them, and they pressed continuously, and kept our backs very busy. The game had only been in progress a few minutes when the score was opened for them by Hunter, who put in a beautiful, high, dropping shot, which was carried in by the wind and completely beat Brockhill.

On restarting, the College again took up the attack, but were driven back by the efforts of Thompson and Grundy and our forwards, led by Mackenzie, made some headway. A long pass by that player was, however, intercepted, and transferred to the College left, who ran down and tricked Duhnke very cleverly, but broke down at the shot for goal. Next a foul against the College gave us an opening, and Jones made good progress up the field, but was deprived of the ball just beyond the half-way line, and operations were again conducted in our 25, our backs showing themselves quite equal to the occasion. A fine run by Mackenzie now looked promising, and Jones, who received, made further advance, but was pulled up at their 25 line, and our lines were again strongly attacked. A score seemed imminent, as both Duhnke and Grundy were beaten, but the shot, which appeared to come from the right, sailed harmlessly over the goal and the goal stand in the direction of Anfield. Our forwards now woke up, and the left wing put in some good work, but the College backs were very safe, and the goalkeeper was not called on. A further attack by the College right looked dangerous, but the shot went wide; from the goal kick our right wing worked up the field, but Gow annexed the ball, and passed it on to Mason, who in turn passed to S. Thompson, who had a try at goal. Duhnke intercepted the shot, but could not get the ball away owing to the wind, and after bobbing about for some time in front of goal, Parkinson secured it, and banged it into the net, thus making the score 2—love against us. After this, play was of a very give and take nature, Brockhill was once called on to save a particularly nasty low shot, which he did successfully, and then the whistle blew for half-time.

With the wind in our favour and our forwards comparatively fresh, our chances looked exceedingly rosy, and the general opinion seemed to be that we ought to win comfortably. However, the College showed us that they could adapt themselves to the changed circumstances by immediately attacking, their right wing making good use of the shelter offered by the covered stands. Duhnke

saved the situation, and the ball was kicked out at the College end. This was repeated immediately afterwards, our halves seeming to find it a difficult matter to make sufficient allowance for the strong wind at their backs. A further attack by the College right was checked by Grundy, and then Mackenzie and Bare showed up, but the latter was a shade too slow in taking the pass and starting, and so was speedily brought up; a second attack caused the College goalkeeper to handle for the first time during the match. Directly afterwards the ball went behind, and from the kick out their inside left dashed off at a rare pace, and was only brought up just in front of our goal by Grundy; a second attack by the same wing looked even more dangerous, but the shot went wide. The College were now doing all the pressing, and their left wing continued to show up brilliantly, though the wind was against any long shots being effective. P. Thompson at last relieved the Institute lines, and Paddock and Bare put in some useful work, the latter having a shot which, however, went out of the ground. On resuming, Mackenzie and McCulloch took up the attack and forced a corner, but from the kick the ball was taken clean up the field, and for a time play was of a give and take nature, and decidedly slow and uninteresting. The Institute then returned to the attack, and it seemed as if a goal must come. Four corners were secured in quick succession, and on the last occasion it appeared as if the goalkeeper would be hustled through, as Mackenzie was well up and able to charge. He however saved at the expense of a corner, which was fruitless, and the seige was finally raised by Gow and Mason, the latter transferring to the left wing, who made tracks up the field and, successfully eluding our backs, banged the ball right across the goal mouth, where it was met by F. W. Thompson, who gave Brockhill no chance, and scored the third and last goal for the College. Shortly after, the whistle blew for full time.

On the day the better team won. The College forwards showed remarkably fine combination, moving down the field in perfect line, and giving and taking passes very smartly. Moreover they adapted their play to the changed conditions in the second half more readily than did the Institute line. If we were to distinguish amongst five good players, we should be inclined to say that the outside left played the best forward game on the field.

For the Institute, P. Thompson did an enormous amount of work, and did it as well as it could be done, but the other halves were scarcely quick enough, whilst the backs did not kick as cleanly as their opponents. The forward line was not together, but it must not be forgotten that several changes have been necessary, and that we were unfortunate enough to lose J. Grant, through illness, on the morning of the match. E. J. Jones made a most efficient substitute, but it was the first time that he had played with the team since December.

THE CLASS CHALLENGE CUP.

Mr. Horsfall's Cup has been played for on the English Cup

system this term, and is for the next three months to be held by the Upper Second, who, in order to win it, have had to meet the Lower Second, whom they defeated by 7 goals to *nil*, the First by 3 goals to 2, the Lower Third by 6 goals to *nil*, and the Upper Fifth, whom they disposed of the day before the end of the term, by 5 goals to 3.

They have practically the same team as last term, and thus have proved that, but for misfortune, they would have held the trophy now for the fifth instead of the fourth time.

The Upper Fifth came through the various rounds rather luckily. In the first round, after various efforts at scratching the game by each team, they met the Upper Fourth, and drew with them, the score being 3 goals all; and then beat a weaker team by 9 goals to 0. In the second round they demolished the Middle Fourth; whilst in the semi-final their encounter with the Middle Third was Homeric. At full time the score was two all, and then, owing to the late date, an extra half hour had to be played; this was doggedly contested, and a lucky goal from a foul decided the best match played this term for the cup.

The full results of each round were as follows:—

1.

Upper Second beat Lower Second, 7—0.
 First beat Upper Third, 6—0.
 Middle Third beat Middle Second, 3—2.
 Lower Fourth beat Upper Sixth, 5—2.
 Lower Third beat Preparatory, 4—2.
 Upper Fifth beat Upper Fourth, 9—0
 (after a drawn game, 3—3).
 Lower Fifth a bye.

The only noteworthy features of this round were the reversal of last term's verdict in the match between Middle Third and Second, which again afforded a very fine game, and the extraordinary fact that the Preparatory scored 2 goals, probably by way of celebrating the new century, as they have never before scored more than one in a season since the establishment of the competition.

2.

Upper Second beat First, 3—2.
 Upper Fifth beat Lower Fourth, 6—0.
 Lower Third beat Lower Fifth, 3—2.
 Middle Third a bye.

This was a very uninteresting round, and in the case of the Lower Third and Lower Fifth neither side turned out at full strength. Interest lapsed somewhat owing to the long interval that had elapsed since previous games, on account of the parks being closed and bad weather.

Semi-final Round.

Upper Second beat Lower Third, 6—0.

A very tame match; Lower Third were out-played all round.

Upper Fifth beat Middle Third, 3—2.

A very good game. Upper Fifth played into the Sefton Park goal first, with a strong wind behind them. Middle Third scored

first, but the Fifth equalised by Hicks. In the second half each side scored, the Fifth from a penalty, which Wheat took very smartly, and the same player later defended his own goal successfully against a like attack. The score being 2—2, an extra half hour was played, and Fifth, with the wind, did all the attacking, but did not score until 10 minutes had elapsed, when a foul from Milliken gave them a chance, and Johnson headed through off Wheat. In the second half both teams had had enough, but the Fifth stayed a little better, and towards the end were beginning to attack the Third goal in spite of the wind. As no further scoring took place, the match ended in favour of Fifth by 3 goals to 2.

The Final was played on Tuesday, 2nd April. The Upper Fifth won the toss, and took advantage of a strong wind. Tongue scored for the Upper Second, after which the Fifth pressed, and Sandon soon equalised. Soon after Hicks scored for the Fifth, and at half-time the score remained in favour of the Juniors by 2 to 1. On resuming play, Tongue soon equalised, and the Fifth pressed hard, a good attempt by Hicks just missing the post. Some time after Tongue scored, but R. Johnston soon equalised. Clark and W. Johnston scored for the Second, and the game ended in a victory for the Upper Second by 5 goals to 3.

Teams:—Upper Second—Goal, Brockhill; Backs, Barker and Banks; Halves, W. Johnston, Jennings and Clarke; Forwards, Lambert, Gillie, T. Mackenzie, Lang and Tongue.

Upper Fifth—Goal, Wheat; Backs, Bloor and White; Halves, Maclachlan, Crawford and May; Forwards, Hughes, Sandon, Hicks, R. Johnston and Swale.

University Success.

IT is again the pleasant duty of the chroniclers of the Institute to record a scholastic success. On this occasion the honour is due to E. G. Turner, who has succeeded in obtaining an exhibition for History to Lincoln College, Oxford, and will enter into residence there next October. He has been educated almost entirely at the Institute, entering the school in May, 1892. He gradually rose from the middle-fourth in the High School to the sixth; arriving in that form at the unusually early age of fourteen, in 1895. In addition to the form prizes of the middle-fourth and upper-fifth, he has gained the following school prizes:—The French Translation prize; Durning Holt Essay prize; Lord Derby's Modern Language prize; and the Durning Holt Latin prize. He obtained firsts in the Junior Oxford in 1896 and 1897, being ninth in the latter year in the whole examination; in the Senior Oxford he obtained a third in 1898, and a second in 1899, being awarded Lord Derby's prize of £10 for the first place at the Liverpool centre.

Although brilliant in study, Turner is an exceedingly keen supporter of the school games. He played regularly for the

Lacrosse Club until it was given up, and has for the last few years been a member of the cricket eleven. His best efforts, however, have been in swimming, of which club he has been captain now for three years, and in 1900, obtained the championship medal. For several years he has assisted in editing the *Magazine*, and he is also Secretary to the Games' Committee.

ÆQUALIS.

Chat on the Corridor.

EVEN a worm will turn, and the editorial oppression has at last roused the ire of our "obsequious dependent," the Chat. We offer it our humblest apologies and our sincerest promises for reformation. Usually, the unhappy mortal upon whom has fallen the editorial mantle has had to go out into the highways to search for copy, and to harass the various secretaries for their contributions. Last year, however, he found that he had more copy than he could very well manage, and so decided to suspend for a while the existence of the Chat, little dreaming of the displeasure such a course excited in certain quarters.

Of the Football there is little to be said. Of the matches which took place at the end of last term we have been unable to obtain any account, the person responsible for them having escaped the editorial wrath by leaving.

It was decided last term to abandon any attempt at raising a First Cricket Eleven this year, but to devote our energies to Class Matches, in the hope of training players for the future. To the Class Matches in Football much of the enthusiasm there is due, and we hope similar enthusiasm will be excited for Cricket.

The Institute colony at Cambridge will receive an addition next October in the person of Mr. R. Comline, who has been awarded a 'Toynbee Hall Exhibition by the Pupil Teachers' University Scholarship Committee. On the results of the examination he has also been awarded a Subsizarship at Trinity College.

We congratulate R. C. Andrew on obtaining the Second Prize in the recent Liverpool Geographical Examination.

J. E. Wright played for Cambridge in the University Chess Match, and also in the match between Oxford and Cambridge and the Universities of America.

W. H. Gem has been playing Lacrosse for Surrey.

Vale.

THE School has sustained a great loss in Mr. Hemsley's departure after six years' work among us. He has always taken a keen interest in the athletic life of the Institute, and to his indefatigable zeal we owe, in a great measure, whatever successes have attended the various clubs. He has been treasurer of the Games Committee since Mr. Goddard left the school. The Commercial especially owe him a great debt of gratitude for the time and energy he sacrificed in behalf of the form matches. As clerk of the course, he has for some years borne the burden of the arrangements for the athletic sports. Readers of the *Magazine* will remember the splendid accounts of football matches and other events which were the product of his pen.

For some years he has taken the upper classes of the Commercial School in English subjects, and the brilliant results of late years in the Lancashire and Cheshire Geography, and the Liverpool Geographical Society's Examinations should be especially noted.

On leaving, he was presented with a handsome old oak bureau, the gift of the boys, both of the High and the Commercial Schools. T. Lodge, speaking on behalf of the rest of the school, wished him every success wherever he might find himself in future.

Camera and Field Club.

THE inclement weather during the latter part of the Easter term prevented the club from making many excursions, but interest was maintained by visits to the Museum, and excursions to Bidston and Storeton.

The visits to the Museum were fairly well attended; Mr. Clubb, the assistant curator, on each occasion gave interesting demonstrations on the collecting and mounting of butterflies and moths. Having explained the structure and anatomy of an insect, and the place occupied by butterflies and moths in the insect world, he described in simple terms the outfit necessary to a collector for capturing specimens, when and where to expect the different varieties, and the best method of capturing specimens with the least injury to the parts. He also showed various killing bottles, preference being given to the cyanide of potassium bottle, which is easily made up, convenient to carry, and fairly permanent in killing powers.

The third lecture was taken up with the explanation of apparatus used in mounting and preserving specimens. Mr. Clubb, in a lucid manner, explained the mode of classification, and called special attention to a large case of specimens collected in this district. It is hoped that the valuable information given at these visits will enable some of the members to begin a collection during the summer term.

The Mersey Docks and Harbour Board very kindly made special arrangements for the club to visit Bidston Observatory on Wednesday afternoon, 13th March. The journey was made to Bidston *via* Seacombe. On arriving at the observatory the club was met by Mr. Skinner, the assistant director, who explained the work done in the various departments of this important station. In the chronometer room, which was first visited, are chambers in which are placed various ships' chronometers for the purpose of being accurately tested and having errors reduced to a minimum. The chambers are kept at a constant temperature by means of gas jets, and comparisons are made with the chronometers and the beat of a clock which is regulated to keep time as accurately as it is possible. To this clock is attached the electric current which sets off the one o'clock gun at Birkenhead. On entering the recording room, Mr. Plumer, the director of the observatory, joined the party, and directed attention to some interesting astronomical photographs. In the course of a few remarks on the subject, he said that photography had revealed many wonders in the realm of astronomical research, and as an instance he showed a photograph of the small cluster of stars called the Pleiades, which, instead of appearing as so many clearly defined stars, were large masses of nebulous matter. In answer to some questions put by the members, he explained the method of taking stellar photographs, and the difficulties involved. In the recording room is placed an automatic recorder, which is connected by an electric current to the transitory telescope in the dome overhead; by its aid the exact time, to a fractional part of a second, can be ascertained when a star passes the meridian in which the telescope is placed. This telescope is fixed in a plane due north and south. Mr. Skinner explained the elaborate process of calculation necessary before observations can be made. In another dome is placed the large telescope for making general observations. On the roof are the wind and rain gauges which register automatically. The visit was most instructive, and proved a good object lesson in practical mathematics. The rest of the afternoon was spent in the woods, in the company of graceful birches and robust Scotch firs. The photographers obtained some excellent pictures, special attention being paid to good composition.

The next excursion was to Storeton Quarries. The journey was made *via* New Ferry and Lower Bebington, and the walk thither was much enjoyed. The entrance to the quarry was made by a long *detour* through many rock cuttings and tunnellings—a veritable valley of desolation but for the birches, willows, and firs which overhang the ridges, and the yellow blossom of the furze in the hollows.

The quarry is of famed geological interest on account of the many faults to be seen, and for the bed of rock called the "foot-print bed." At the time of the visit no part of this bed was visible, but in about two months time the quarrymen will have exposed a portion. Over a year ago a number of footprints were obtained. A piece of rock, with three footprints, is preserved in the porch of

Higher Bebington church, which was visited by the members on their homeward way. The outing was much enjoyed, although the day was cold and bleak. Many good photographs were secured. It is expected that during the Summer term a number of good excursions will be made, and that much good work will be done by the members in all the branches.

High School Cycling Club.

The following are the runs arranged for this season:—

May 1.	Burton.	June 5.	Southport.
" 8.	Chester.	" 12.	Frodsham.
" 15.	Raby Mere.	" 19.	Hawarden.
" 22.	West Kirby.	" 26.	Puddington.
" 29.	Eaton.	July 3.	Chester.

Correspondence.

To the Editors.

GENTLEMEN,

It is with all deference to your authority that I make the following suggestions. Since I first came into existence in the pages of the *Magazine* I have submitted without complaint to the will of the Editors, and have distended or contracted myself at their bidding, so as just to fill the space allotted to me. Recently, however, when I was banished from three consecutive issues, I began to fear that my existence was in danger, and though I have since been reinstated, I am still in some anxiety as to my position. Though good taste should perhaps deter me from confessing it, I have always felt that I was very agreeable to your readers, and I am sure that my demise would be almost as distressing to them as to myself. May I also suggest that the style in which you have been accustomed to clothe me lately is not that which is suitable to my nature and position. I am naturally of a gay and sprightly disposition, whereas you, apparently, would have me seem prim and demure, as if I were dressed ready for a visit to my maiden aunt. I believe that my greatest merit is to be lively, and I fear that any attempt to make me solemn and ponderous, like a leader in *The Times*, will render me attractive to no one but yourselves.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obsequious dependent,

CHAT ON THE CORRIDOR.