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The Adventures of a Rustic.

MY life began sixty-two years ago in a farm-house in the shire of Huntingdon. My father's fathers had lived there for generations, and the record of their births and deaths and marriages are inscribed in faded ink on the pages of the great Bible now in the possession of my brother Ezra. The reader who is curious as to my pedigree may be sure of a mug of home-brewed, a hearty welcome, and a look at our family records if he will visit the Manor Farm of Blunham. But though meaning no disrespect to my ancestors, I shall better gain the reader's attention if I dismiss them with few words. The eldest son had always owned and worked the farm. The younger had wandered into many walks of life. Only once had the head of the family ceased for a time to work and watch his lands. This was when my ancestor Ezra went to fight in the good cause under the great Oliver: and though the land fell back whilst he was away, I can truly affirm that the family then lost not so much in possessions as it gained in glory. For in the hall, placed above the helmet and the great sword, we have the letter of the Lord Protector thanking his dear brother and comrade for the great services he rendered in the days of trial.

My father was a lean, big-boned man, with a quiet voice quite out of proportion to his size. There were two very different sides to him. In his business he was shrewd and stubborn; a hard bargainer at fair and market, but an honest man to deal with. We never used to put our wheat through the sieve, and fill the tops of the sacks with the big corn, like some of our neighbours, who went to church just as regularly as we did: and, as a result, we never had to carry our produce back from market though it was often nearly night before my father and his customers could settle on a price. On this side of him he was careful for the interests of his family. On the other he was careless for himself and for his own comfort. In all the little difficulties which are continually cropping up in large households, the solution of the problem (as old Dr. Gee would have said) requires some one person to accommodate himself to the whims and follies of all the rest. With us my father was this person. The others did what they wished; he did what was necessary. And yet in so doing he lost none of his authority. I fear that I was one of the most irresolvable factors in our domestic

problems. I had stayed at school with my brothers till we were all head and shoulders taller than our master. After leaving, it was to their credit that they forgot their lessons more quickly than I did. We all three began to work on the farm. Now, in farming, those who like work can find plenty of it, leaving less for those who like it less. I was not so fond of it as my brothers. In fact, I liked doing a thing once or twice—or perhaps even thrice—but after that I used to think only very dull people could go on with it, so I gradually slipped out of all the regular duties like ploughing and carting, and spent my time in ways that satisfied better my love of change. Not that I was entirely idle or worthless. I was always willing to go down a well that wanted repair, or to patch up anything that got broken. I had some reputation for mixing medicines for the animals that fell sick, though my store contained only three or four drugs. I devised new latches, and shewed how to hang the gates so that they would always shut themselves. My father admitted the usefulness of many of my contrivances, but said that he wished for my own sake I would take to some more regular occupation. One day when he was talking in this way, I told him I thought ploughing was monotonous, and that one furrow was very much like another. "Ay, Harry," he replied, "yet I am thankful that all my furrows are not as crooked as thine." My father's quiet tongue had a very sharp edge to it. My mother had a higher opinion of my genius, and she never wearied of reminding my father of my little successes, especially of my wonderful cure of a favourite brown cow that had been ailing, and which I had dosed with paregoric and plastered with a poultice. It was indeed a lazy life that I was leading. I had more leisure than all my brothers put together, and in it I amused myself with my own fancies. I was fond of building boats and sailing them. But my chief delight was to watch the birds and observe the differences in their modes of flight. I began to wonder why they could fly and I couldn't, and when no one was about I used to take off my coat and jump into the air to see whether I couldn't learn by trying; but I soon gave up hope when I felt that I made no progress at all.

When I was eighteen I heard that a man in London had gone right up into the air in a basket fixed to a big silk bag, like the bladders we used to play with as children. My father having occasion to go to London, I begged leave to accompany him. Had he known my object he would not have consented so readily. In short, I went to London, and became acquainted with the inventor. He had been unable to find a companion in his ascents, and gladly accepted me when I offered myself. He swore me to secrecy, and shewed me how his engine was constructed. I should be glad to communicate his discovery to my readers, but though Mr. Lorenzi has long been dead, I still feel bound to him by my promise of secrecy. I stayed a month with him. Sometimes he would go up alone, and I would manage the ropes that held the basket to the ground; sometimes I ascended alone, and occasionally we both went up together. I shall never forget the sensations of pleasure

that thrilled me when I saw the town and the fields sinking below me, and the people dwindling down to black specks smaller than house-flies. At the beginning of August I received an urgent message saying that my services were required for the harvesting, and very reluctantly I left London.

In November, I received a letter from which I was grieved to learn that Mr. Lorenzi had died in his bed of the German measles. He had taken such a fancy to me that he bequeathed to me his engine, with fifty pounds and his blessing. My family did not conceal their scorn for the first and last parts of this legacy. They asked me what I was going to do with the engine. I said, fetch it from London with cart and horses. My father burst out laughing, and asked me when he should begin to build the new house, for, said he, this one will scarce contain the basket. My old grandmother was shocked at my impiety, saying that the earth was for man and beasts, the water for the fishes, and the air for the birds. I asked her whether a frog was a beast or a fish. She replied, that if I had not wasted so much time in mischief, and had read the scriptures more diligently, I should have learnt that a frog was neither a beast nor fish, but a plague made for the punishment of the wicked and idle. I seldom gained anything but experience in my contests with my grandmother. On this occasion I turned to my father and said that if he would let me have the disused toolshed there would be no need for any of us to turn builders. I kept up a great show of secrecy as to where I was going to keep my new property, and by this means so impressed them that at length all practical objections were silenced; as for the religious one, I disregarded it. Bad weather now set in, and I could not start for London before the beginning of April. I returned on the second Saturday in May, having been troubled on the way by nothing but the curiosity of the villagers. My balloon, as I called it, did not look much like flying as it lay in the cart. But early on Monday morning I carted it to the foot of an old oak tree, and mooring the basket to this stump with a long, stout rope, I did what was necessary, and by mid-day had my balloon afloat. I clambered into the basket, and throwing out pebbles, ascended till I was higher than the church steeple, the rope holding me to the ground. I wrote a little note to my father asking him if he could spare me the room I was occupying, and let it drop down to him. I came down at sunset and found everybody wonderstruck by my achievement and aghast at my intrepidity. All at home thought me mad except my mother, who said, "Who knows, dear Harry may get right up to the moon some day." My mother's ideas about anything that lay beyond Huntingdon town were rather dim and vague; but within her own province she was infallible. I have seen her discover the smallest speck of rust on the fender, whilst hurrying past it doing her own work and directing that of the servants. But when speaking of external things she had a way of looking at her husband and by a silent signal, known only to themselves, of reading from his face when she was plunging too far beyond her depth.

I repeated my ascent and descent every day for a week. But then, finding it troublesome to go up and come down daily, I decided to stay up for a longer period. I took as much food as would last me a week, a blanket, and a volume that had belonged to Mr. Lorenzi. I dropped a note at night to reassure them, and then slept soundly till daybreak. The next day was fine and clear till noon, when I perceived that a thunderstorm was coming on. Whilst hesitating between remaining and descending the storm broke. I did not mind the rain, but I was afraid the lightning might damage my balloon. All seemed well, however, and I was just beginning to laugh at my fears, when a sudden gust of wind came, I felt a jerk that nearly overturned my dwelling place, and I saw that the noose had slipped off the trunk of the tree and that I was adrift in the air. I confess that my first feelings were of terror. But remembering that I had the power to descend, I looked over the side to see what was happening below. A number of people had gathered around the tree during the storm to render me aid if I needed it. Now they were all running to and fro. I waved my kerchief to assure them that I was safe, but on reaching out, I made the basket rock so much that I had to curl myself down close to the floor to steady it. I was rising rapidly, and though there was little wind, I was swept towards the south. As I sped along I heard a ringing of bells. It appears that when the villagers saw my plight they ran in all haste to the church and began to ring a peal, feeling that it might do something to help me. My relatives were in great distress, and all blame of my folly was swallowed up in grief for my loss. For myself, I pulled the cords that were intended for descent. But whether through my excitement, or the rapid motion, or the drenching that the bag had suffered, all my efforts were of no avail. Becoming convinced of my helplessness I was very miserable, and expected that my wicked life was near its end. Nevertheless, I still hoped that by some accident I might escape, and I kept myself prepared to take advantage of any favourable opportunity.

(To be continued).

Prize Distribution.

THE Annual Distribution of Prizes took place on Friday, 6th December, in the Lecture Hall. Mr. F. C. Danson presided, and amongst those present were the Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress, Dr. Oliver Lodge, Principal Dale, Rev. J. Sephton, Sir Alfred Jones, W. Oulton, C.C., Alfred Holt, J. Alsop, C.C., H. Watts, T. F. Abraham, W. Hewitt, B.Sc., B. W. Eills, C.C., T. C. Ryley, T. O. Nicholas, B. Howarth and R. Thomas.

The President in opening the proceedings said that during the past year a very complete examination of the schools had been made by the representatives of the Board of Education, both in

regard to the methods of teaching and the equipment of the buildings. The results of the enquiry that had been received were extremely gratifying. The education given at the school cost considerably more than the fees received, but with additional financial assistance from the proper authorities, the directors hoped to make the Institute as perfect a secondary school as any in the kingdom. He then called upon the Headmaster to present his address.

The Headmaster said that the number of boys passing from the schools to the University College—or, as he hoped it might be to the University of Liverpool—was slowly increasing. He mentioned that an old boy, Sergt. Richardson, of Stratheona's Horse, had won the V.C. in South Africa, and also referred to the fact that, through the kindness of Major Leslie, another old boy, a Cadet Corps had been formed.

Dr. Lodge, who was heartily greeted, said he consented to take part in the proceedings in order to show his appreciation of the unobtrusive manner in which the school had been aided by certain benefactors, especially by the filial piety of two eminent citizens who had been personally kind to him while he was a teacher in Liverpool, and because he thought that the teaching given at the school was aiming at the approximation to what reformers desired.

Having spoken of the high qualifications of all the headmasters he had known, Dr. Lodge said that a great improvement in teaching was necessary all over the country.

The position of schools in Liverpool was not satisfactory, but before long he hoped it would be better when the City Council was provided with adequate powers.

Great educational development was before us as a nation, but in order to progress they must have money, they must pay their teachers well, or they could not continue to get good men. No school of this kind could be self-supporting.

Education was invested capital, and the dividend it paid was deferred payment; it should not be paid at the expense of capital. He attributed the present peculiar ignorance and lopsided intelligence of so-called semi-educated men to defective teaching rather than to defective youthful capacity. If they could be assured that the kind of stuff now learnt by boys and girls were all necessary to be known, then, very likely, with some noteworthy exceptions, the present methods were not wrong, only it was unfortunate that they did not succeed in their object, for the average youth remembered little or nothing of what he had been taught. If the information supplied to him were necessary for his educational salvation, he would not be saved.

Principal Lodge then quoted Sir William Huggins, president of the Royal Society, who emphasized the necessity of improved methods of teaching languages and mathematics, as well for the sake of these subjects themselves, as to afford time for the early collateral study of such subjects as were fitted to develop the powers of observation, of inquisitiveness into the nature and relations of natural objects, and of reasoning therefore.

Take the subject of geography. How much did a boy remember two years after of what he had learned to say off blindfold? If he did not remember it, where was the good of learning it. He (Principal Lodge) would have a boy taught geography so that he could understand maps, in combination with field work. He should be able to make maps, and to read maps, and this would involve acquaintance with the principles and some of the practice of surveying. He should be able to read maps in a scientific manner, so as to realise from them something of the features of the country represented (applause). He should also learn the variety of climate, the influence of rivers, of geological formations, and of surface soil. In learning all this, and in using a globe, a general and not insignificant acquaintance with the earth's surface would be acquired, and beyond this it would be necessary for him to use maps in conjunction with his history, to understand why certain towns had become capitals, and why other places had been regarded as the key to political situations and the kernel of wars.

True methods of teaching. If geography were taught in this way, it would not be dull or depressing, and it would provide an outline capable of being filled up in detail to unlimited extent in the future. What he had said of this subject, chosen at random, was to be taken as a parable, and could be applied all round. It could be applied to the fascinating subject of mathematics, as well as to the many other subjects, such as literature, or history, or science. The present total ignorance of mathematics on the part of the average man was responsible for his incapacity to understand the truths of physical science, or to appreciate anything more than their barest and crudest outline. A whole mine of wealth was inaccessible to those ignorant of even the alphabet of higher mathematics, and the current ignorance was largely due, as he believed, to the slow and over-laborious methods adopted in what was considered a thorough and disciplinary apprenticeship to its rudimentary portions. This idea of thoroughness was responsible for much evil in school teaching. School teaching had plenty of discipline, and discipline was by no means a thing to be ignored; every precept must be applied with common-sense; but the attempt at initial thoroughness over a microscopic quantity of geometry and algebra prevented there being either time or inclination for a survey of the field. And, moreover, true thoroughness was impossible of achievement. It was a chimera. No one thing could be thoroughly known, thank goodness, unless vastly much else was known too. Things were too interlocked and inter-related for that. But in teaching the rudiments of mathematics, something like this was attempted, and many boys and girls knew in a verbal manner, and were able to say off, the early propositions of Euclid better than a mathematician. He knew them in their lineal order and insignificant and needless trivialities better when he was eleven than he knew them now, yet they and the beginnings of algebra were to mathematics what a set of scales was to music. True thoroughness in the rudiments was only possible when progress had been made in

the parts further on; the higher parts reacted upon the lower. But here a caution. In a few matters thoroughness was possible, and, where possible, it should be insisted on. Thoroughness was possible, for instance, in the semi-mechanical, but by no means to be abandoned, process of learning by heart. Let no one think he was against learning by rote. It was not the learning by rote that was bad, it was the having to learn rubbish by rote. But a learning of the exact words of splendid literature, of Isaiah, for instance, or Wordsworth, or Tennyson, or Virgil; how many men and women had not blessed the instructors who constrained them when young to learn in a permanent, and effective, and exact manner such music as that (applause)? Poetry, like real literature generally, was one thing which every one admitted should be learnt by heart. What else was there? Among other things that Principal Lodge suggested should be learnt by heart were Newton's laws of motion, declensions and conjugations, and the multiplication table. Familiarity with a few of the more prominent languages was really essential to comfort in life. The study of any language which remained practically unknown and useless was a waste of time. To be any good at all, it must be brought so far as to be useful. The test of useful learning was, "Can it be used?"

Training for the profession of school teaching was just as important and necessary as was training for any other profession, medicine, or engineering, or law. Henceforth the country would recognise this and insist upon it, and the training of teachers for secondary education would be one of the chief and most living interests of our colleges and universities (applause). It was a vital matter for the future of this country to get the provisions of the new Education Bill rightly and wisely drafted. He knew no other thing of equal importance at the present time; and it was exciting an immense amount of interest up and down the country. That speech of the Duke of Devonshire's at Liverpool, which in many quarters had been laughed at, might have been—he did not know whether it was or not—but it might have been dictated by motives of the highest policy. It had awakened the keenest interest in the subject of education; for, usually, everything was given out from Government departments cut and dried, and it rested with voters to merely accept it or to decline. But in this instance it was announced that the Government had not finally made up its mind on many of the provisions, and virtually that they were willing to receive and consider suggestions. What could be better? Instantly the educational world woke up, and the Privy Council Office must have been inundated with the resolutions and opinions of teachers' conferences and of interested denominational bodies throughout the land. The most important thing, however, was that the country was now awake to questions connected with education as it had never in its whole history been awake before. The iron was hot, and he hoped the Government would strike, and strike both wisely and well. If only the leading men of every class and every denomination and every party could, and would, put their heads together, not

destructively to criticise and find fault, but constructively to suggest and to amend, if only this great subject could be rescued from the domain of "tickets"—Moderate, Progressive, and the rest—if its treatment could be rescued from the pull of the wire and the clash of cliques, and receive the earnest consideration of all sorts and conditions of men! Was it too much to hope from national patriotism? It was time that we had now a comprehensive educational local authority in each suitable area, which should get into touch with the whole of education from the highest to the lowest; it was time that the artificial boundary between primary and secondary education was gradually swept away. Fight the Government on every other mortal subject, but refrain from this one, not in the interests of the Government, but solely in the interests of the country and the children (applause). That was not the place or the time to go into details, but he was disposed on good evidence to believe that many of the shibboleths of thirty years ago were now partially extinct, that far wider and more general agreement existed than was in high quarters supposed, and that it would not be difficult to unite men of all parties into a patriotic attempt to reform the sadly muddled educational system of the country, and start us on the twentieth century with renewed and vigorous youth (applause).

The Lady Mayoress then distributed the awards.

After votes of thanks to the Lady Mayoress and Dr. Lodge, the proceedings terminated.

Games Reports.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

THE Football Club, so far, has had a most successful season, and it is to be hoped that the success may be maintained after Christmas. Up to, and including December the 4th, the First Eleven had not lost a match, though they have played H.M.S. Conway (twice), Manchester Grammar School, and the College (Middle School).

The great strength of the team lies in its backs and half-backs, while two or three of the forwards play very good football. The whole forward line should combine more, however, and practice quick, low, and accurate passing. If this were done, more goals would be scored, as all the five can shoot well, Thornton and Grant exceptionally so.

At centre-half, Mackenzie, this season's captain, gets through a great amount of good work, and is ably seconded by his wing players; the trio being most efficiently backed up by the backs, Duhnke and Grundy, both of whom have played consistently well all through the term. Unfortunately, Grundy is, we believe, leaving this term, a loss which will sadly affect the team's chances for "The Shield."

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In goal, B. Cowan is making splendid progress, and bids fair to equal Pooley or Leece of three years ago. He should remember to "handle" the ball always, unless very closely pressed, and avoid kicking at a ball travelling towards him.

The Second Eleven has also had a successful season, though it has suffered three reverses.

In the contest for Mr. Horsfall's Cup, a new feature this season is the appearance of three High School teams in the competition. This, of course, makes the number of matches to be played much greater, and, consequently, they will not be finished till the end of March. At present it is impossible to forecast the probable winner, as several classes have an equal number of points. The High School First and the Upper Second of the Commercial School should be somewhere near the top.

The First Eleven has played 7 matches, won 7, and scored 34 goals to 5. The whole school will rejoice if Mackenzie can imitate his brother "Ken," and bring the Shield back to the Institute once more.

Appended is a list of the matches and results:—

FIRST ELEVEN.

Team.	Ground.	Result.	Goals	
			For.	Against.
Wallasey Grammar School	Away	Won	10	0
H.M.S. Conway	Home	Won	3	0
Waterloo High School	Away	Won	6	0
St. Francis Xavier's	Home	Won	3	1
College (Middle School)	Away	Won	4	3
H.M.S. Conway	Away	Won	6	0
Manchester Grammar School	Home	Won	2	1

SECOND ELEVEN.

Team.	Ground.	Result.	Goals	
			For.	Against.
Wallasey Grammar School (2nd) ..	Home	Won	10	0
Oakes' Institute (1st)	Home	Won	4	1
H.M.S. Conway (2nd)	Away	Lost	0	6
Waterloo High School	Home	Won	22	0
St. Francis Xavier's	Away	Lost	2	3
College (Middle School)	Home	Won	5	0

Played 6, won 4, lost 2. Goals for, 43; goals against, 10.

Swimming.

THE Second Annual Swimming Gala of the two schools was held on Monday, 7th October, at the Lodge Lane Baths, and a great success has again to be recorded. The programme was a long and varied one, but was finished off in good time, some excellent racing being witnessed. The handicaps, on the whole, provided close finishes, a result due to the care and energy of Messrs. Eaves and Bickerstaff, who had spent several hours during the preceding fortnight in timing and handicapping the intending competitors.

A feature which contributed very much to the success of the

evening was the exhibition of ornamental swimming by W. W. Robinson, Esq., an old boy of the school. His diving and swimming were much admired; but, judging from the applause, the feats that appealed most to the spectators were the diving and swimming with feet tied and hands tied behind the back, the imitation of a porpoise, and smoking under water. Last year Mr. Robinson was assisted by a friend, but this year he showed himself fully capable of keeping the spectators amused and interested by his own exertions.

Turning to the races, the most interesting were the High and Commercial School Championships and the Inter-School Race. In the former Schnitzlander won rather easily, but in the Commercial School Championship a good race was seen between W. White and C. G. Butterworth, the former eventually winning, partly because Butterworth steered a very erratic course, and so lost ground considerably.

The Squadron Race was won by the Commercial School team, composed of Ingham, Sandoe, Butterworth, and White. This same team was chosen to represent the whole school against the Shaw Street College, and again proved victorious, winning the medals offered by the Liverpool Gymnasium Swimming Club for the sixth time in succession.

Of the other events the most closely contested were the Senior and Junior Neat Diving Competitions. In the former the judges placed E. Ingham first, after he and T. Evans had each had an extra dive; while in the Junior Division, again after an extra dive, J. Drayton was placed first.

And now, just a word of warning to the younger swimmers. Don't be in too great a hurry to imitate well-known swimmers, and acquire a racing stroke. Make sure of a good foundation in the shape of a natural and easy "breast" stroke, and then ask someone to show you how to work your limbs in the racing stroke. The latter is worse than useless unless properly and neatly used, and many a promising swimmer has been spoilt by trying to acquire it too soon, and so getting into a bad style.

Appended are the results:—

- One Length Handicap—(1) J. Drayton; (2) R. McLaren.
- Neat Dive, under 13—(1) J. Drayton; (2) J. H. Sandoe.
- Two Lengths on the Back—W. Johnston.
- Four Lengths, under 15—(1) J. H. Sandoe; (2) A. Wands.
- High School Championship, 8 lengths—(1) S. Schnitzlander;
(2) B. G. Bare.
- Commercial School Championship, 8 lengths—(1) W. White;
(2) C. G. Butterworth.
- Two Lengths Handicap—
 - a (1) T. L. Ker; (2) F. J. West.
 - b (1) F. H. Davies; (2) A. W. Brown.
- Neat Dive, over 15—(1) E. Ingham; (2) T. Evans.
- Four Lengths, over 15—(1) W. White; (2) C. G. Butterworth.

Old Boys' Race, 6 lengths—(1) W. Haddon; (2) A. S. Thomas.

Clothes Race, 2 lengths—(1) C. G. Butterworth.

Obstacle Race, 2 lengths—(1) W. White; (2) C. G. Butterworth.

The medals kindly presented by the Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane Society for proficiency in swimming and life-saving exercises were won by:—High School: E. O. Pritchard. Commercial School: C. G. Butterworth.

Cadet Corps Notes.

UNFORTUNATELY this term, a falling off in the number of members of the Cadet Company has to be chronicled. This is due to the fact that there have not been sufficient new recruits to take the places of those who left last term. During the winter months it is not possible to do so much interesting work as in the summer, but the drill and physical exercises make members more fit for the summer work, and it is to be hoped that all who think of joining will do so immediately after Christmas, so that they may learn the drill and be able to take their places in the ranks for the summer marches and exercises. The War Office requires members to be 5 ft. or over in height, and under 20 years of age—the latter, of course, does not apply to us.

It is a great pleasure to be able to state that the Old Boys' Company is now an established fact, and has a membership of 36. At present the Company drills at the shed attached to the Rose Hill Police Station, but that is only a temporary measure.

Since the last notes were written the Company has taken part in three tactical exercises at night, all of which were much enjoyed by those who went out. The last of the three took the form of a sham fight at New Brighton, in which the School and Old Boys' (D and E) Companies were supposed to be defending their main body, camped near Leasowe, from sudden attack. The rough ground over the Sandhills near Wallasey Station, and the darkness, made it very awkward to pick a good position, but there was plenty of firing, so all enjoyed the outing. Unluckily we just missed a boat at New Brighton Pier, and had to wait over half an hour, thus making it late when we returned. It has taught us a lesson though, and the corps is not likely to miss the boat again in that way.

Chat on the Corridor.

MR. C. G. Barkla, of King's College, Cambridge, has had his 1851 Exhibition Scholarship for Research in Physics renewed for a third year. He is a voluntary member of the King's Chapel Choir.

Mr. J. E. Wright has been appointed to a temporary lectureship in Mathematics at Birmingham University. We understand that he is also engaged in organizing a chess club for the Midland University.

Mr. J. H. Grace, M.A., St. Peter's College, Cambridge, has been appointed an examiner for part 1 of the Mathematical Tripos, 1902.

Mr. C. H. Grimshaw, Lincoln College, Oxford, was twenty-third in the recent Open Civil Service Examination, and has been appointed to the Board of Trade Office, London. He has also gained 2nd class Honours in the Final School of History.

E. Tebbutt has recently gained 2nd class Honours in the Final School of Mathematics.

G. H. Allen has gained the Gold Medal offered by the Governor-General of Canada for the first in Geography in connection with the Union of Lancashire and Cheshire Institutes. There were 7,000 competitors.

S. Schnitzlander has been awarded a King's Prize on the result of the recent Science and Arts Examination in Mathematics.

Lance-Corporal Hind and Private Harry Hind, of the Denbighshire Hussars, have returned home unscathed from South Africa, where they have taken part in many engagements.

Every Institute boy, and all old boys, will learn with pleasure that Sergeant Richardson, of Strathcona's Horse, has gained the V. C. for conspicuous gallantry.

We also wish to bring before the notice of our readers that Mr. B. H. W. Russel was one of the recipients of the King's Birthday Honours, having been created a "C.M.G."

On Tuesday, 12th November, a meeting was held, presided over by the head master, with the object of forming a chess club. As the old Institute chess club seems to have fallen into oblivion, we hope that the attempt at reviving the club will succeed, and that it will be brought to its former flourishing state. When once the members have had a little practice, there is no doubt that many matches could be arranged with other clubs. We understand that Mr. Fletcher has not only allowed his room to be used in the evenings, but also during the dinner time. Boys who are unable to play, but who wish to, are especially invited to join.

Obituary.

WITH mingled feelings of regret and pleasure we have to record the loss of Mr. Ramsey—regret, because in him we have lost a hard worker and splendid teacher—pleasure, because he has left us for the position of Head Master of an Arts School in Keighley, Yorkshire. Mr. Ramsey joined the teaching staff of the Liverpool Institute in September, 1896. From the very first he always took a great interest in school matters, especially keeping his eye on boys who shewed a talent for drawing. His kindly, earnest ways have always caused him to be liked by everybody he has come in contact with. It was chiefly owing to his labour that the Camera and Field Club was formed, and from the moment of its existence to his leaving the building he has devoted unceasing attention to its progress. But Mr. Ramsey's capabilities are not confined to one subject, as all who have read his picturesque reports of the Club's outings are fully aware. We are sure that we echo the desires of all who knew him here in wishing him a prosperous and brilliant career in his new position.

Camera and Field Club.

SINCE the last account of the doings of the Field Club, it has only been possible to include two outdoor excursions in the programme. The first one was to Ince Blundell, and resulted in a very enjoyable afternoon, favoured with perfect autumn weather. A two-mile walk from Little Crosby, during which we had many opportunities of admiring quaint cottages, with here and there a lovely front of Virginia creeper in its richest colours, and of noting several varieties of wild flowers, including a remarkably fine spray, considering the lateness of the season, of white campion, brought us to the picturesque gateway to Ince Blundell Hall. Here cameras were unpacked, and several exposures made, and for some time everyone was busy discovering bits of rustic scenery. Time sped rapidly on, and steps were then turned towards Great Crosby, where it was possible to rest our weary limbs, and, at the same time, to be carried to our journey's end.

In the middle of October, an exhibition of work done by members during the summer was held. A good collection of prints, carefully arranged by Mr. Ramsay, shewed that the members had obtained some benefit and enjoyment from their rambles, and that difficult subjects had been attempted with energy and patience, leading to very satisfactory results. Prizes for the best collections were awarded to Tyson and Browner, while for single photographs rewards were obtained by Jarvis, Pritchard, Whittaker, and G. H. Williams.

The second excursion took place a fortnight later, and as the afternoons were becoming shorter, Woolton Wood was agreed upon

as being within easy walking distance from the meeting place at Sefton Park Station bridge. Here there was plenty of scope for studies of trees and bracken, but the dull light no doubt caused some errors in judging the correct time for exposure, so that only a few successful negatives were obtained.

Another Wednesday afternoon was spent indoors, when Mr. Gore-Harvey kindly gave a demonstration on the manipulation of the enlarging lantern, and the printing and developing of enlargements. This ought to make us, during the winter months, sort out our favourite negatives and widen our experience in bromide work, and, in addition, shew us the advantage of considering the technical points in the composition of our picture on the focussing screen before making any exposure. In this we shall greatly miss Mr. Ramsay, who was ever ready, in his patient way, to give us the best advice as to what to photograph and how to obtain the most artistic picture. The best wishes of the Club go with him in his new sphere of work.

We have just received what we hope will form the nucleus of a permanent collection for the naturalist side of the Club. Through the kindness of Dr. Ellis, we can start with a case of beetles, each carefully mounted, classified, and named; and we trust this will give a stimulus to those who prefer to work in another branch of study for which the Club was instituted, and remind others that it is not necessary to possess a camera before becoming members. Our heartiest thanks are due to Dr. Ellis for his welcome gift.

Editorial Notices.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of subscriptions from Messrs. J. W. Whitwell, H. E. Long (2 years), P. J. Rose.

We also acknowledge the receipt of the following contemporaries:—*Liverpool College Upper School Magazine, Savilian (2), Fettesian, King Edward's School Chronicle, Ipswich School Magazine, Esmeduna, Sphinx, Olavian, Kelly College Chronicle and Manchester High School.*

In Memoriam.

LIEUTENANT JOHN WILSON,
OF THE MILITARY PIGEON POST (LATE OF CAPE COLONY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT).

KILLED IN CLANWILLIAM DISTRICT, 31ST OCTOBER, 1901.

AGED 25.