



The Denstonian.

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EDITORIAL.

1 **W**HAT is the use of an editorial?" asked a jesting reader, and would not stay for an answer. Perhaps it is as well that the inquisitive person did not stay for an answer, for it seems that to reply to such a question would be extremely difficult. The editorial seems to be nothing more than a blind readers of the paper decorated by it: it gives them the idea that the whole number is intolerably dry and uninteresting. This is perhaps its greatest use since being prepared for almost anything, the reader is suddenly delighted

by seeing his own name on the next page. It is this sudden change which makes the popular number. Therefore the dryer the editorial the more popular the number becomes.

This term has been one of great surprises; the greatest being the vast improvement—since last term—of the football team. The season has ended most successfully by three victories and a draw out of six matches played. Another great surprise is afforded by the discovery of our senior lamplighter's literary inclinations: we have been informed on very reliable authority that he was recently discovered—much to the neglect of the lamps—in the Boys' Library fascinated by the pictures and stories of *Chums*. We hope that his taste for literature will be encouraged.

The Little Side football and the senior and junior Fives trophies have all been played for and won by Head's III., Hornby's and Head's I. respectively, all of whom we congratulate. We are now in the middle of heats of every description which will come to a definite conclusion with Sports Day on April 4th. We take this opportunity of wishing all very happy holidays.

MUSINGS WITHOUT METHOD.

It is a common complaint that Public Schools fail to effect a satisfactory combination of the intellectual and the athletic. Quidnuncs quote with cold and modified approval the proverb, "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," and the Latin tag *mens sana in corpore sano*, and insist that nothing is further from their minds than to banish sports entirely from the schoolboy's purview; yet they never fail to wag their heads sententiously over the complaint that mere athletics monopolise his sole attention. Who shall hit upon the *via media* of perfection and find the golden mean of excellence? Assuredly not the present writer. The task of combining in due proportion pursuits intellectual and pursuits athletic is clearly beyond his capacity. Does he apply himself with studious zeal to the effort of compiling a brilliant literary masterpiece, with towel-swathed brows coining jewels five words long that on the stretched forefinger of Time shall sparkle for ever, he is met at every turn with the indignant demand "why don't you turn out and train?" On the other hand does he sally forth day by day, clad lightly and effectively in appropriate garb, to dazzle an astonished world by feats of speed and endurance, he knows that he runs the risk of deserving

the still more indignant sneer "Ugh! Nothing but athletics!" Yet even he is merely mortal, and shares the frailty, common to the human race, of finding the impossible far from easy.

Even the most energetic wielding of the conventional goosequill would provide questionable "training" for Sports Day; and it would be a matter of inconvenience, if not of difficulty, to write a sparkling sonnet while running the "Quarter" or doing "the Hurdles." He is fain, therefore, to rest content with avoiding "the falsehood of extremes," even though in doing so he falls short of success on either hand. Others, less burdened with intellectual toils, are better able to disport their manly figures on the greensward. On every side there are evidences of athletic activity. Small boys issue from the Tuck Shop to attempt "the mile," only to be surprised when they discover that, under the circumstances, the furlong is their limit. Athletes of larger size emerge furtively from a side-door to engage in a more business-like "run." One and all however have something in common: devotion to Mr. Lister's sanctum. From what we have already beheld, and still more from what we hear, it appears certain that the playground on Sports Day will be a blaze of colour and beautiful costumes. So certain is this, that we have serious thoughts of engaging an experienced *collaborateure* to write a specially descriptive account of the forthcoming sports, and of publishing with the next number a coloured plate of the latest fashions in "running things." .1

It would certainly be instructive and entertaining to read that "——, the famous sprinter, appeared in a dainty creation of cream and azure," or that "——, the long distance pacer, was a perfect dream in a tailor-made confection." We ^{should} be told all about "——, in a perfectly fitting

vest of lilac and salmon," and of "——'s smart and ample ceinture." It would be awkward, however, if some complimentary remark about "the well groomed appearance of —•—," should lead to his being charged extra for "wear and tear of looking-glasses;" while if our "Mrs. Welldon" congratulated us on "the fine assortment of muffs lining the course," the remark might possibly be misinterpreted. So, perhaps, it will be wiser to forego the dangerous climb to such heights of originality and to stick to the primrose path of mediocrity and the commonplace.

The Football season, after beginning in gloom, ended in a blaze of glory. We are far from saying, as some encouraging people have said with more perseverance than benefit, that the team played badly even in the early part of last term. But certainly the results which for a time attended their efforts were the reverse of inspiring. This term, however, the results have been more commensurate with their deserts. We have, indeed, only one complaint against them: why did they reserve their best victory for the very end of the season, and for a match played so far away as Birkenhead? Again and again they have let themselves be beaten here at home, yet when they go to the uttermost ends of the earth they cover themselves with glory. They seem resolved to prove the untruth of Horace's famous dictum :

Coelum

Non animum mutant qui currunt trans mare,

which Thomas Ingoldsby, Esquire, has translated for the benefit of the Modern First: "*It's climate, not mind, that by roaming men vary.*" None the less do we congratulate them on the good end of the season, and hope that next year's team will begin where they have left off.

\ This number will burst upon its delighted circle of readers just about the time that the

Census is being taken. The sample forms which have been posted up for our delectation are marvels of ingenuity, and assuredly the name of the operation should be changed to something more appropriate to the labour and pain which will be involved: "Inquisition" has suggestive associations. Meanwhile we suggest the holding of an enquiry, on similar lines, of local application. It will no doubt be highly instructive to Mr. John Burns to learn how many of our number are "married," and which of us were born in Timbuctoo or Kamschatka; but we could suggest still more interesting lines of enquiry. Why should not our local forms be so framed as to show such details as "times caned," "number of visits per week to the tuck shop," "average chocolate capacity," and so forth? Some interesting *data* could be ascertained as to the percentage of favourite colours in socks and neckties, and an investigation into the relative proportions of "middle" and "side" partings would be, possibly, of physiological value. The idea seems worth considering. Of course there would be opposition: Englishmen, especially Radicals, are notoriously conservative, so we should have to be prepared for such time-honoured war cries as "An English boy's tuck shop is his castle," and the like. Still, even the Kalendar was revised in England at last, and lesser reforms may, therefore, at least be contemplated.

TRIOLET.

*What time our Dorm choir sings
 'Twill fill you with amaze
 To note the fine effect. It brings,
 What time our Dorm choir sings,
 The House down, as it strings
 Together tune and phrase.
 What time our Dorm choir sings
 'Twill fill you with amaze !*

AN OLD-TIME NEW BOY.

The 12.40 train drew up at the crossing, and facing us was the legend "Saxbury,"* for S. Ovin's College." The decrepit old official took our tickets, and a vision of early spring flowers beside a picturesque cottage, with a rustic porch covered by clambering briars, remains as a memory of that unforgettable day in the seventies when I first "went to school." Lolling over the wicket gate was a "College boy," for the Easter holidays being only some ten days long, a good many of the boys did not go home. He accompanied us up the hill, along a road which I was to learn was always muddy. Of the conversation I remember nothing, but I well recall my first sight of the two towers of the college as we neared the crest of the hill. Though the school was still young the buildings were already weathered into a respectable appearance of age, and the grey towers seemed to beckon to love and to high endeavour: there is assuredly a subtle force in fine buildings for young minds.

For lunch we were ushered into the Fellows' Library, which also filled the parts of Masters' Common-room and Choir Vestry; and here, amid shelves of imposing tomes, varied by spaces where hung cassocks and surplices, I ate my first meal at Saxbury: a rhubarb tart never fails to remind me of the room which played so many parts that it is no wonder an iron pillar was needed to support it in the midst. Then to "see the Head," broad-shouldered, black of hair and whisker. Next I recall the Long Cloister, which seemed to me to

* Some hardy etymologists explain this as meaning "Saxons' Burh," or "Saxons' Borough." The same investigators explain Denstone as meaning "Danes' Town."

stretch for at least a mile. Through the swing doors we passed to the Secretary's office, a tiny room the size of a hearthrug, where the chink of gold told me that my first term's dues were being paid.

My next recollection is the departure of my "people" at the end of the college grounds. Good-byes had been said, I suppose—for I remember nothing of them—at the lodge. I stood and watched the disappearing figures, and then, as they parted from my sight, I realised that at last, and for the first time in my life, I was alone in the world. I was a little fellow, quite inexperienced, with a reputation for shyness; yet the feeling of being alone came as a novelty rather pleasing than otherwise. The world was before me: that of itself appealed to some spring of the romantic, I suppose; I must prove myself not unworthy of the heritage into which I had entered: that also came mistily into my mind. Still, the fact remained that I was alone, and in the spirit of *Crusoe* I set out to explore my new domain and companions. As concerns the latter, two disconnected pictures alone survive of my first afternoon's discoveries. A couple of small boys, unkempt and un-"changed," playing in boots in the back Fives Court with dilapidated racquets, have left me a lasting conviction that such an amusement is the refuge of the destitute. Two others were playing cricket with a soft ball in the 'Long Playroom; it seemed a dull and dusty occupation.

I wandered through numerous classrooms and corridors, peered between the chinks of barricades in sundry archways and caught glimpses of unplastered rooms and rough rafters, for half the school was as yet uncompleted internally, and I soon heard many stories of how some of the masters had to pick their way to their rooms across beams between which opened yawning gulfs. At the end of the dining

hall was a small room containing nothing but a locked door : I subsequently learnt this was supposed to lead to a museum, though no one was able to speak from actual personal knowledge. Adjoining ran a long, gloomy, narrow room lighted only by a small window at the far end. A few rickety shelves lined the walls, and there were a couple of drawers which would not shut and which contained some test tubes—dusty and broken. It was hence, I found later, and from this unpromising equipment, that Matts' elder brother had recently issued to win the first University scholarship the school had gained. "Natural Science," I concluded, meant "Science in a state of Nature."

The next thing I recall is going to bed. There was no means of discovering where we were to sleep. I had somehow or other fallen into the company of another new boy, somewhat younger than myself, and together we set out on a voyage of discovery in search of our beds. At the head of each bed was a chair bearing the owner's name, and we two youngsters had to examine each individual chair until we should find our names. It seemed an endless business, and in my disordered memory we appear to have gone through countless dormitories, each of enormous length, and each containing legions of beds, every one of which had to be separately negotiated. The difficulty was increased by the similarity between our names, Garrett and Garrick. I found mine first—"79, Garrett"—and selfishly left my companion to continue his search alone. I still feel ashamed of having left him, for he was a pale, shy child, giving no promise then of the athletic and histrionic skill which he was afterwards to develop.

I understand those days are now considered to have been rough, but, honestly, I have no such memories of them. It all seemed mostly just what I had expected to find at school, certainly no worse, in many

respects much better. I remember no bullying or even horseplay in my first term. Assuredly no one could have been kinder or more considerate than the prefects of our dormitory. They were two in number, and they took duty turn and turn about, a week at a time. They were both very strict, which, though sometimes it seemed hard, was all to the advantage of us smaller boys. One of them, Matts, used to read to us often after we were all in bed. I made my first acquaintance with Lytton in this way and acquired the nick-name which clings to me still from one of Lytton's characters. As Matts read, gradually first one and then another would fall asleep, and at length he would ask, "Anyone want me to go on?" I was always eager, like Oliver, for more, and oftentimes, in good-natured teasing, he would consent to continue his reading if I would get out of my warm bed to go and tuck him up.

Just as I have no recollections of the bullying of new boys, so I have no recollections of home-sickness, and the only time I think that tears came into my eyes in those early days was during one of the chapel services. The chapel was a humble little temporary affair, arranged in a sort of corridor on the south of the lodge, unwarmed in winter and stifling in summer, and the services we should now think very modestly "Anglican." But I had been used to what was, I suppose, the ordinary dull, dead, perfunctory services of the average run of churches in those days; and when something of the warmth and poetry of Catholic worship met me I was deeply touched. There was nothing of ritual and little of adornment or even beauty (even the altar candles were only lighted once a year—on Advent Sunday—and then for the sake of asserting the principle) save the frontal with its three delicate saints, but it brought tears to my eyes : tears like those with which a child greets its mother or

with which a young man meets her who he knows is to share his life.

On a par with the absence of arrangements for finding one's dormitory were those for finding one's form. No one told me where I was placed, so I went meekly to the bottom of the First Form. Dear old class-room F, how well I remember that first morning. Mr. Heathany, who taught Latin to the First Form, a scholar and a gentleman, somewhat of the old style, used to take infinite pains with us. He invariably and regularly corrected our exercises in the neatest of handwriting and with red ink, and to me it was a constant incentive to effort to try, if possible, to save him trouble. I never received back a Latin exercise, plentifully and painfully corrected so that the red seemed quite to outshine the black, without a feeling of shame at having given so much trouble to so painstaking a master. Mr. Heathany used to give all the school cakes on Mid Lent Sunday.

They did not think much of English subjects in those days, and one of the college officials was considered good enough for the English and Geography of the First Form. I had a liking for drawing, and was soon made draughtsman in ordinary to the Form, to exercise my office for the public benefit whenever maps were required. The good man never discovered the family likeness or I fear I should have suffered, for I was so unfortunate as to incur his lasting disapproval at an early stage by venturing to contradict his teaching that "heir" was pronounced with an aspirate!

End of term came in due course, and I returned home, as was the fashion, with dirty boots, untidy clothes, and unkempt hair. My fond mother has since confessed that once in my life she felt ashamed of me.

Ah! they were dear times. Whatever

other fault could be found with them, none could say we were pampered. The only satisfaction one got if one ventured to ask for a clean pocket handkerchief on an "off day" was to be chased out of the wardrobe by the dame in charge, Irish, irate, and brandishing a cane wherewith to terrorise small boys. Perhaps we were "looked after" too little; it may have been so, but judging by results I am inclined to question it. At any rate we learnt to stand on our feet, even if we paid somewhat dearly for the lesson; and somehow or other there was burnt into our hearts a love for the school which can never be effaced.

*"SOMETHING MORE
INTERESTING."*

Spurred by that concluding paragraph of the Editorial in the last number of the *Denstonian*, which implied that no one would notice anything in the sixteen pages which made up the number save the three and a half of Football news, I sit down to try to provide "Something more interesting" as is desired. I do not profess to be one of the "intellectual readers" referred to in paragraph one, for (I hazard the confession with fear and trembling) "the inevitable football accounts" are precisely the columns I never read; nor am I a "brainy critic," so I cannot perform the feat, which I gather is reserved for such prodigies, of "providing fitting subjects for an Editorial." "Not mine the genius or the skill" to scale such Olympian heights: I can only fly at modest game.

I arrange my table conformably to my purpose—a pile of paper in the immediate foreground, ink slightly on the right, blotting paper handy (for only Shakespeare, or literary men, never used it) a new pen-holder and three nibs fresh from the office.

The penholder I grasp firmly but kindly in my left hand; then, carefully poising a nib between the thumb and forefinger of my disengaged hand (I should have noted that I am possessed of two) I insert it vigorously in the direction nature and the manufacturer have assigned to it. It jams, and the point of the nib runs into my finger with an exquisite sting. Worse still, the nib is spoilt: only a Third Form caligraphist could write with it now.

"A Third Form caligraphist." That suggests a brilliant idea. Why not act on the Editorial suggestion and conduct a scientific enquiry into the manners and habits of that interesting species? I cudgel my (not "capacious") brains and set out in search of material. Ink appears to be the prevailing characteristic of the *genus*. It figures on fingers, collars, faces. Absence of the harmless though usually necessary brush and comb seems to be another mark—the clothes brush certainly is unknown. Altogether the subject presents possibilities of novelty and interest. I make the personal acquaintance of some of the little creatures and try to investigate their opinions and lines of thought. They rise to the occasion and offer to write out *memoranda* "during Prep." Why "during Prep." I cannot make out. The comments are varied in style but almost monotonously uniform in subject. Nearly all are concerned with the defects of the Tuck shop. There is a unanimous opinion that prices are too high and that "you should be aloud to pay on Satterday." This is sad, for, one philosopher writes, "The Tuck shop is a useful place for here—you can go to it when you are angry." Perhaps there is more in the remark than appears on the surface. The following suggestion is made: "There is another thing which ought to be soled at the Tuck shop and that is medicine and camphor when you have a cold and lots of other things." A specimen of an

original turn of mind writes: "The nicest kind of tuck which is supplied is bootlaces and pen knobbs," and another demands that "a master ought to be there to keep order." What bitter misanthropy rings through the following cutting sarcasm: "The Tuck shop is a place where you spend all your money. You can get everything there, what you don't want but they sell drinks and bickets."

Then another idea occurs to me, and this time it is spontaneous—"a poor thing but my own." Why not write for the *Denstonian* some really "brainy" and up-to-date matter? No really popular magazine nowadays is restrained by such worn-out conventionalities as considerations of taste: would not some piquant jokes be acceptable, or some prying into the privacy of public characters? Why not bring the *Denstonian* into line with the really successful and popular publications? A series of articles on, say, "Secrets of the toilets of leaders of fashion," or, "Smart smacks at leading athletes," would make things hum and would certainly relieve the Editor of the charge of "staleness" which he deprecates. Could I work up a series of "Illustrated snapshots of celebrities at different periods of their school careers?" It sounds promising. Thus, Take A.B.C. (his manly form and intellectual calibre will be well remembered). *Picture i* would show - him at, say, 9 years of age, just entered at the Prep., in sailor suit and curly hair, playing at horses. *Picture ii*, aged 12, Eton jacket, immaculate collar and first trousers, gracefully posed, book in hand, and leaning on a cricket bat (photograph supplied by Mamma from the family treasure house). *Picture Hi*, aged 17, fancy waistcoat, very high collar, hands in pockets, trousers turned up to show clocked socks, manly strength, general magnificence, incipient moustache, triumphant culmination.

A feature which would be thoroughly abreast of the fashion would be headed: "Snippets from all sources." It would contain platitudes on nothing in particular, and might be headed by some such unhackneyed quotation as

*"Let observation with extensive view
Include all subjects like an Irish stew."*

Again, there might be a column of personal paragraphs, delicately satirical and topically allusive, headed "Cuts with the cane:" and the pedagogic ferrule might be wielded metaphorically against prominent personages with fine effect.

All this would enlarge the size as well as the scope of the *Denstonian* very considerably and this would incur extra expense. Additional income might however be provided by adding advertisements. The most up-to-date magazines have advertisement and other pages in about equal proportions. There is, too, a good deal of blank space on the cover of the *Denstonian* which could be profitably let out for announcements of such necessities of life, as scents, hair-wash, shaving soaps, fancy ties, etc.

S. CHAD'S DAY.

The Festival of our Patron was fittingly observed by a very dignified celebration of the Holy Communion. The sermon was preached by an Old Denstonian, the Rev. R. M. Grier (Feb., 1887), Headmaster of Worksop: it was full of enthusiasm, loyalty, and suggestion. The "Communion" was Dr. Myles Foster's "Hail, Thou Living Bread from Heaven!"—a simple but striking composition. For the introit we sang, "Jerusalem, my happy Home;" at the offertory, "Sons of Saint Chad;" and for the post Communion, the *Carmen*.

It was all good. For the whole holiday the weather was absolutely perfect—a glorious spring day, such as only those who live in the beautiful surroundings which we enjoy here can ever know. It was a great pleasure to us to have the Provost with us for evensong and to officiate at the *Te Deum Laudamus* which we sang afterwards. There was a period once when S. Chad's Day was usually marked by the attendance of Provost and Fellows, and we should much rejoice if so excellent and right a custom could be revived. In the evening the preliminary contests for the Dormitory Music Competition were held. Dr. Merrick was good enough to come to act as judge. The skill he displayed in making his decisions was only equalled by the kindness and acumen of the criticisms he passed, and we all felt that we were really indebted to him for thus coming to assist us.

FOOTBALL,

MATCHES.

STAFFORD.

On February 27th Stafford kicked off with the hill and wind in their favour, and at once pressed. They obtained their first try soon after the start, but did not convert it. Stafford again pressed after the drop out, but were prevented from scoring till just before half-time by the excellent combination of the School forwards. At half-time the score was 6—0 in favour of Stafford. On the resumption of play the School, playing downhill, pressed at once, and Smith succeeded in scoring a try which he also converted. This was soon followed by another try by Smith, who was again successful with the kick. Then for a short time the ball was taken into our

twenty-five, but Jones succeeded in clearing. Then there followed two rushes by the school three-quarters, both resulting in tries by Tomkins, neither of which was converted. The last try was scored by Bates a few minutes before time from a pass from Anderson. This was converted, and when the whistle blew for time the score was 21 points—6 in our favour.

Team:—J. H. Jones (full-back); H. S. Bates, G. A. Anderson, C. F. Smith, G. L. Tomkin (three-quarters); C. R. Watson, F. C. White (halves); F. H. Woolliscroft, G. A. Howe, M. H. Sewell, G. L. Morris, A. S. Mason, S. O. Surridge, A. E. Barlow, R. L. Goldsmith (forwards).

NORTH STAFFORD.

This match was played on our ground on March 4th. The visitors played downhill in the first half and pressed at once. They opened their score in the first three minutes with a try between the posts, which was easily converted. During the remainder of the first half the visitors scored three more unconverted tries, and at half-time the score was, North Stafford 14, School nil. In the second half play was more even, and the School managed to score two unconverted tries through Tomkins and Smith. Thus the game ended in a win for the visitors by 19 points to 6.

Team:—J. H. Jones (full back); H. S. Bates, G. A. Anderson, C. F. Smith, G. L. Tomkins (three-quarters); C. R. Watson, F. C. White (halves); F. H. Woolliscroft, G. A. Howe, M. H. Sewell, G. L. Morris, A. S. Mason, S. O. Surridge, A. E. Barlow, R. L. Goldsmith (forwards).

MERCHANT TAYLORS' SCHOOL, CROSBY.

Almost immediately our opponents scored a goal by a very pretty piece of work, but we quickly retaliated with a try. Till half-time the play was even, although once we

narrowly escaped. We had much the better of the game during the second half, but soon one of our passes was intercepted and a try obtained against us: again this was answered by a try on our part. Soon afterwards some good combination among the three-quarters gave us a third try, and just before the end we crossed the line again. No goals were kicked by us. The forwards played an excellent game, and the backs showed good defence. They fumbled a little at first, but towards the end both running and passing was very effective.

Team:—Jones, Bates, Anderson, Smith, Tomkins, Watson, White, Woolliscroft, Howe, Sewell, Morris, Mason, Surridge, Barlow, and Goldsmith.

The matches played, with results, were as follows:—

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1910. | |
| Oct. 6. | Old Denstonians. Lost. 0-46. |
| „ 15. | Cheadle Hulme. Lost. 0-39. |
| „ 22. | K.E.S. Birmingham. Lost. 13-17. |
| „ 29. | Burton. Lost. 11-17. |
| Nov. 5. | N. Stafford. Lost. 0-24. |
| „ 12. | Cheadle Hulme. Lost. 0-35. |
| „ 19. | Tettenhall College. Won. 13-12. |
| Dec. 10. | Burton 2nd XV. Won. 5-0. |
| „ 20. | W. Parlane, Esq.'s, XV. Lost. 0-21. |
| „ 21. | Burton. Lost. 3-26. |
| 1911. | |
| Jan. 28. | Crewe Premiums. Won. 31-5. |
| Feb. 11. | Kersal. Drawn. 20-20. |
| „ 13. | Birkenhead School. Lost. 13-20. |
| „ 25. | Stafford. Won. 21-6. |
| March 4. | N. Stafford. Lost. 6-19. |
| „ 11. | Merchant Taylor's, Crosby. Won. 12-8. |
| Played, 16. Won, 5. Lost, 10. Drawn 1. | |
| Points for, 151. Points against, 310 | |

2ND XV. MATCHES.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1910. | |
| Oct. 18. | Abbotsholme. Won. 8-3. |
| „ 23. | Tettenhall College. Lost. 6-23. |
| Nov. 12. | Uttoxeter. Lost. 23-0. |
| „ 19. | Uttoxeter. Lost. 0-11. |
| Dec. 3. | N. Stafford, 2nd XV. Lost. 0-6. |
| „ 6. | Abbotsholme. Lost. 0-20. |
| Matches played, 6. Won, 1. Lost, 5. | |
| Points for, 37. Points against, 64. | |

LITTLE SIDE DORMITORY MATCHES.

In spite of the fact that some Dormitories were unable to raise full teams, the games were played with spirit and zest. In the first round Smith's, Head's iii., Airy's, and Clark's survived. Then Head's iii. beat Smith's, and Clark's beat Airy's. In the final much really good play was shown, and Head's iii., with only ten players, beat their opponents by 8 points to 3.

REVIEW OF THE FOOTBALL SEASON,
1910-11.

The season started badly, the XV. being beaten in their first match by a strong Old Denstonian team by 46 points to nil. In this match the School "outsides," with the exception of Chadwick, showed themselves to be very weak in collaring, while the forwards, though obviously lacking a sound knowledge of the game, played a losing game with spirit, and showed considerable promise. After another severe beating on the following Saturday the team began to improve; the forwards played some dashing games, and the outsides collared much better than formerly. The matches with K.E.S. Birmingham, Burton, and North Stafford were all well contested, the heavy beating in the latter case being due in a large measure to the weight of the opposing forwards. For a time after this the football seemed to get worse instead of better: the backs were uncertain, and the forwards grew selfish, and tried to do everything themselves. In consequence Cheadle Hulme, though they had to borrow five forwards, beat us by 35 points to nil, and Tettenhall crossed our line more often than we crossed theirs.

After this the form steadily improved, the improvement in the Lent term being most marked. The matches with Kersal and Birkenhead School were particularly interesting to watch, the former because

the School, though 20 points down at half-time, played with such spirit that they made a draw, and the latter because it was fast and open, and there was no knowing who would win until the last quarter of an hour. The matches with Stafford and North Stafford were spoilt to some extent by the state of the ground; but the season finished with a most satisfactory win against Merchant Taylors' School, the School team having much more of the game in this match than the score (12-8) would imply. At the finish of the season the team was pretty sound all through. The forwards got possession well, far better than they did in the first half of the season, and also played well in the loose. Their backing up, however, still leaves something to be desired. The backs showed much improved defence, and their passing, though a little slow and erratic at times, was very fair on the whole, so that the wing three-quarters were given many good openings, of which they were not slow to avail themselves. As practically all the backs are staying on at school for another year, there is every prospect of our having a really strong team next season.

E. A. GAUSSEN.

CRITIQUE OF THE XV.
(Communicated by the Captain of
Football.)

*H. L. Chadwick (Captain).—He played a very good game in the first match against the Old Denstonians, his collaring being particularly good. Has not been able to play since owing to a damaged knee. Considering that he has been debarred from playing for practically the whole of the season, his keenness has been remarkable, and has had a great deal to do with the marked improvement in the team.

*F. H. Woolliscroft.—A hard-working forward who tackles hard. Very good m

the loose. He has led the forwards during the season with good effect.

**H. S. Bates.*—A very fast outside three-quarter, who has learnt to tackle fairly well, but who does not make quite as much use of his pace as he might, but this is partly due to bad eyesight. He has a good swerve, which he uses effectively.

**C. F. Smith.*—An inside three-quarter. Very good on the attack, but poor on the defence. He is the best scoring man in the team. A good sound place kick.

**R. L. Goldsmith.*—A hard working forward. Rather too inclined to "scrap." Tackles high, but brings his man down somehow. He makes good use of his height in a line out. Has left.

**C. R. Watson.*—A half who possesses plenty of dash. He has done great things for the team. He tackles well and gets the ball out fairly well. Undoubtedly one of the most useful members of the team.

**G. A. Howe.*—A hard-working forward. Tackles well. A good kick who makes good use of his height in the line out. Works hard in the scrum and consequently has proved a very useful member of the XV.

**M. H. Sewell.*—A forward who does a good deal of work which is not seen. He works very hard in the scrum, tackles well and is good in the loose.

**G. L. Morris.*—A very good forward in the loose and does a fair amount of work in the scrum. A good drop kick and occasionally tackles well.

S. Mason.—A forward who does plenty of work in the loose. Tackles well and uses his head generally.

**G. A. Anderson.*—A three-quarter who has improved beyond recognition. He backs up very well indeed, gets on his man quickly and tackles well. A good kick.

**Z. G. Goldsmith.*—A forward who might do great things if only he could learn not to "scrap" quite so much. He

tackles very effectually and works hard in the scrum.

**S. O. R. Surridge.*—A forward who works very hard indeed both in the scrum and in the loose. He tackles well, Thoroughly deserves his place.

**A. E. Barlow.*—A forward who has worked hard in the scrum. Uses his head in the loose and is always on the ball.

**G. L. Tomkins.*—A three-quarter who has plenty of weight and an effective "hand off."

F. C. White.—A half-back who is, at present, handicapped by his size. He gets the ball away quickly and will be very useful next season.

J. H. Jones.—A back who possesses plenty of pluck, tackles pluckily and should prove useful next season.

* 1st XV. Colours.

O.T.C.

The following obtained certificate "A" at the November examination: Sergeant Howe, G.A.; Sergeant Misquith, O.G.; Corporal Anderson, G.A.; Lance-Corporal Walker, H.C.S. : Lance-Corporal Lawler, R.E.

A field-day took place on Thursday, March 16th, with the object of practising advanced guards.

The North company, under Captain Cadman and Lieutenant Dudley, marched *via* Tithe Barn to Farley and thence towards Ellastone. The South company, under Lieutenants Gausson and Coleman, went to Ellastone, and then towards Farley. The scouts came in touch near Wootton Lodge, and the mainguard of South company took up a position on the high ground in the field south of Waste Farm. The North company then advanced on to Plumpton Banks and endeavoured to drive

their opponents from their position. When "cease fire" sounded no definite result had been achieved, though much useful knowledge had been obtained.

The day brought home very forcibly the difficulty of the advanced troops keeping touch with one another and with the troops behind them.

Both sides might have kept the object of advanced guards more clearly in mind, viz., to push on and not delay the main body and to let the Commanding Officer know definitely where the enemy was directly he was discovered so that plans could be made to attack him at once.

Low ground should be held from the enemy's side.

On Tuesday, March 21st, we joined Shrewsbury under Major F. M. Ingram, and took up a position to defend Ramshorn. The South company formed the picquet which was supposed to have been sent off to defend the bivouac on the previous night. They were relieved by one company from Shrewsbury and the North company at 1 p.m.

Our outpost line was then placed at Lickshead Farm, Parkside, and Eid Low, with supports on the high ground behind the woods and the reserves at Ramshorn. Soon after 3 o'clock the attacking force (Repton, Nottingham, Derby, and Newcastle), under Captain E. A. Surtees, was reported to be advancing from Alton Park. The action soon became general. Our picquets were driven back but their retirements were excellently covered by the supports. Major Ingram then brought up his reserves on the right flank and when the "cease fire" sounded the attack had been brought to a standstill.

The outpost work seemed to be well carried out but the fire control left room for improvement. Sections should be so well in hand that the Commander can stop and re-open fire at once whenever necessary.

The attack as far as Parkside was excellent, but on coming to the high ground to Ramshorn there was a tendency to congregate in the open instead of making use of what cover there was.

One company closed in the open—apparently under the impression that they could not be seen from the high ground where our supports were posted.

Class firing is now practically finished for the season. Of the 23 who fired table "B," 22 qualified; 59 fired table "A," and of these 35 qualified. This is a very considerable improvement on former years.

The miniature course has been going on all through the term and served as a guide in selecting the class-firing parties. H. E. Pengelley heads the list with 114 out of a possible 115, and there are many scores of 100 or more. There are many, however, who have not shot yet and they should do so at once for the benefit of themselves, their dormitories and the Corps.

A company about 100 strong will be selected from those going to camp to represent the school at the Royal Review at Windsor on July 3rd.

A party will also be sent to take part in the Coronation procession on June 22nd and 23rd.

CHESS.

The Dormitory Chess Matches proved much more interesting than had been anticipated, and though Gausse's won the trophy as had been expected, it was only with a certain amount of luck that they managed to avoid defeat. In the first round Head's i. beat Hornby's, and Smith's succumbed to Clarke's; Gausse's defeated Head's ii., and, contrary to expectations, Head's ii. lost to Airy's, thanks to Jameson and Beatty. In the semi-finals, Gausse's defeated Airy's in spite of Jameson's victory

over Forrest i., and Clark's beat Head's i., also by the odd game. In the final, Gausson's v Clark's, Wood iv. beat Evans, Forrest ii., having already defeated Atkins. Toms had the misfortune to lose a castle, which resulted in his defeat, and a victory for Gausson's.

FIVES.

In the Dormitory matches the winners of the first round were Hornby's, Clark's, Head's iii., and Head's i. Then Hornby's beat Head's iii. (15-5, 15-3) and Head's i. beat Clark's (15-9, 15-7). The final was better contested than the score seems to indicate, but Hornby's won by 15-6, 15-5. The Flag must feel quite at home in the Blue and White Dormitory. The junior Dormitory matches were won by Head's i., who played an interesting game with Airy's.

O.D. NEWS.

The following very interesting letter has been received by the Headmaster :-

Tacoma, Wn., U.S.A.
2201, Washington Avenue, N.,
March 2nd, 1911.

Rev. Francis Aidan Hibbert, Headmaster, Denstone College, Staffs.

Dear Sir,—In the current number of the *Daily Mail* "over-seas edition" I note with great pleasure and interest the notice over your name of the hospitable intentions of the good old College in commemoration of the Coronation of our King and Queen. I am confident that every old Denstonian, wherever he may be, will be proud of his alma mater when he sees your cordial letter.

It is a matter of deep regret to me that, personally, I shall have to forego the pleasure of re-visiting my old school owing to pressure of commerce, but I expect my younger brother Geoffrey, who is Purser on the "Laurentic" (White Star Line), will be present to represent the family, which, I think, can lay claim to having had the second largest number of brothers in attendance at the School. I have been on this Pacific Coast for seventeen years, thirteen of which I spent in British Columbia, and the last four in this City. Previous to that I spent three years in Kentucky, Tennessee, and other middle States, so my lifetime has been about equally divided between England and America, and I rise to remark right here, that I am an Englishman to the last drop of blood in my veins: save me from the Americans! They have a marvellous country, but the grafting, the unscrupulous chicanery and double dealing, and the utter incapacity of the legal administration are simply inconceivable. I have done a great variety of things here abroad, logging big timber, mining, deep sea fishing, but chiefly engineering in steam and mining, but with increasing age and debility I am brought to a peaceful anchorage in commercial pursuits, in the employ of one of the biggest British shipping firms in the world. We are all Britishers in their employ, and we are treated most generously by the firm. We employees, all business and office men, have among ourselves enough talent to compose the only cricket team in the State, and we attract great attention among the native born, who scoff at and despise cricket. They think of nothing but baseball, and a man-killing game which they dignify by the name of football.

En passant, I should like to say our team is playing the "Gentlemen of Philadelphia" this summer here in Tacoma, and expect they will have no

difficulty in disposing of us, for they are the crack team in the U.S.A.

In all my wanderings from Alaska to California I have only met with three or four old Denstonians. Doughty is an engineer in Vancouver, B.C.; C. S. V. Branch was an Insurance man when last I heard of him in B.C.; Tom W. Sampson arrived in B.C. after the Boer War. I also met an O.D. last summer, with whom I was not at school, he was after my time; his name was Ridge, a big, nice-looking boy. We shall probably meet again this summer on the cricket field.

My brother Alfred died in Little Rock, Arkansas, about twelve years ago. He was in the tobacco trade. My brother Rowley was killed in the Boer War, he was in the Cheshire Yeomanry; my brother E. P. is in Egypt in cotton; the brother G. P. is the aforesaid sailor man of the "Laurentic"; and the last member of the quintette is the scribe who scribbles this, so you see we are greatly scattered over the globe. I should be very glad if you would remember me to Mr. T. A. Lacey, Mr. W. T. Norton, and Mr. Arthur Sulley if perchance you should ever see them. These three masters of my day, and yourself as probationer and Prefect, are about the only ones whom I can look back on with feelings of affection and real respect, and I shall never forget you and "Bull Pup." Wetherell major letting me off an impot, apiece, thereby saving me from a caning, while your acting of *Hamlet* merits you a place in my memory. I also cherish a *Bystander*, which gives some very fair views of the old College, and I note your appearance has hardly changed a bit since 1883-4.

Well, Sir, if you are not wearied of this rambling epistle, you have every right to be; but it has been a great pleasure to me to write in this incoherent vein, being always a little apt to be carried away by

my feelings; but I certainly wish you all manner of health, wealth and happiness and prosperity for the grey old building and its inhabitants and staff; and I assure you that we exiles over seas prize as our greatest privilege the happy memories of boyhood days in that quiet countryside in the heart of dear old England. So with best regards, I remain, yours very truly,

FRANCIS H. P. ROGERS.

P.S.—It is appropriate to date this S. Chad's Day. I trust I have your name correct; I write it from a memory extending over twenty-six years' range."

C. N. Bennett was wrongly reported as having been married—he pleads "not guilty." For ourselves we know not whether to apologize or to congratulate him! Last November he took part in an amateur performance of the *Toreador* at the Court Theatre, and now he is busily rehearsing *San Toy* for a week's run at the King's Theatre.

B. J. S. Coverley (June, 1898) is a Master at Cranford College, Maidenhead.

J. J. T. Coghlan (May, 1894) is in the Electric Lighting Works at Bedford.

O. Victor (Jan., 1892), writing from the Community of the Resurrection House, Johannesburg, says "time goes so quickly that it is difficult to realise that I le» England just about a year ago. I am now quite a South African. The altitude of the Transvaal—nearly 6,000 feet above sea level—rather knocked me up for the first few months I was out, but I am now getting acclimatised though still unable to take such violent exercise as one was able to take at home. We have two Houses here—one is S. John's College, a boys

school, very much on Woodard lines, but you heard all about it probably from Fr. J[^]ash when he came to Denstone. I am at our other house, in the centre of Johannesburg. Our quarters are very inadequate and we are building a proper community house in the suburbs. I am in charge of our native college for catechists and ordinands, and this fills up my week pretty well. On Sundays some native—but more usually white—work here, there and everywhere. Some of it has taken me further afield, *e.g.*, to Natal last July and to Grahamstown just after Christmas, where I took a very delightful retreat for a large sisterhood. O.D.s are fairly plentiful, I believe, but either they don't go to church or, as I should prefer to believe, my work about the diocese has not happened to bring me in touch with them. Needless to say it is an O.D. who has designed our new house, namely F. L. H. Fleming, and W. O. Wellington is in charge of a parish about 12 miles away; I am to preach for him on Sundays in Lent. My brother is just starting home on his first furlough, and I hope to have him here for a few days on his way through to the Cape."

B. F. Frayling, who is at the School of Mines, London, finds his geological lectures peculiarly interesting as the Professor is W. W. Watts.

C. E. Whitworth (Jan., 1907) has passed the Solicitors' Intermediate Examination, and is Secretary of the Nottingham Law Students' Society.

We are sorry to hear that K. B. Allan (Jan., 1898) is in hospital. He was appointed Medical Officer on the West African Medical Staff, Colonial Medical Service, last October, and took a three

months' course in Tropical Medicine at the London School of Tropical Medicine and succeeded in obtaining the certificate. In February he received his orders to sail for the Gold Coast but had the misfortune to dislocate a cartilage in his knee joint, the after-result of an old football accident, which delayed his sailing for a time.

F. Standish (May, 1894) also at the London School of Tropical Medicine, and is shortly going to the Malay States.

G. S. Provis (Sept., 1895) is going out to Edmonton, in Western Canada, under the auspices of the Archbishops' Mission. It has been remarked that nearly all our old boys who have gone abroad on mission work have been good in work, good sportsmen, and good fellows, and Provis is no exception to the rule. His height of itself made him a valuable forward, and his "Shadow" in *Henry IV.* pt. 2 in 1898, and "Nym" in *Henry V.* in 1899 were both admirable performances. Going to Trinity College, Dublin, he obtained Honours in History and Political Science, with a silver medal. His varied talents, added to his sterling qualities, will stand him in good stead in his latest sphere of activity, -which is, as the Archbishop of Canterbury said at the Service of Benediction before his departure, the seizing "of an opportunity which stands literally by itself in the history of Christendom."

On Jan. 25th W. Cooper gave a most interesting lecture on "The Mission Experiment in South London" to the Hull Branch of the English Church Union.

J. Ware (Jan., 1897) is a member of the Historical Association.

F. E. Blunt (Sept., 1892) has been elected a Fellow of the Surveyors' Institute, and has been appointed an Established Valuer to the Valuation Department of the Inland Revenue.

F. G. Jackson (Oct., 1873), East Surrey Regiment, has been promoted to be Major. The Junior United Service Club, S.W., will always find him.

W. W. Watts is announced to lecture before the Royal Institution, on "Charnwood Forest."

J. D. Carroll (Sept., 1894) is a Dispenser at Stourport.

H. V. James (Sept., 1899) is in the Surveying Department of the State Insurance Company at Liverpool.

Surgeon H. Cooper, R.N. (Sept., 1890) has been sent to Dartmouth to assist in dealing with the renewed outbreak of measles there.

C. E. S. Davies (Jan., 1894) was ordained Deacon at Lichfield on the 1st Sunday in Lent.

W. J. Crick (Sept., 1901) has gone into residence at Lichfield Theological College.

F. G. Dobson (Jan., 1895) is Anaesthetist to Leeds General Infirmary, and Medical Officer to Leeds City Education Authority. He is Lieutenant in the 2nd West Riding Field Ambulance R.A.M.C. (Territorials).

H. G. Terry (Jan., 1874) is Honorary Consulting Surgeon to Chippenham Cottage Hospital.

N. H. Radford (May 1905) is an Associate of the Agents Society.

C. C. Lucas (Sept., 1886) is a member of "The Law Society" and of "The Yorkshire Law Society."

J. T. Holt (Oct., 1873) is a member of the Canterbury Diocesan Board of Education. He has to his credit no less than eight churches and schools re-built and restored in Kent.

H. A. Statham (Jan., 1907) has passed the Great Northern Railway Company's Examination, which entitles him to a four years' course of training through every Department in the Company.

C. F. Hobday (Sept., 1889) is member of the Primrose and Constitutional Clubs.

H. L. Thompson (Sep., 1907) is Assistant Electrical Lift Engineer at the Metropolitan Railway Power Station.

W. J. Stanford (Sept., 1874) is in Siberia.

A. D. Morton (May, 1894) is Hon. Secretary of the London Inter-Banks Athletic Association, and a member of the Surrey Walking Club.

NOTES.

The Headmaster has been asked to serve on the Reception Committee of the Church Congress.

The Ecclesiastical Art Exhibition at the Congress will contain various exhibits from the treasures of our chapel. Probably these will include the magnificent jewelled and enamelled chalice, the beautiful white frontal, the Abyssinian cross, and the best vestment, with its Italian needlework.

The Headmaster was asked to lecture at the Congress on the Staffordshire Monasteries, but was unable to consent.

The very great improvements which Mr-Smith has executed in the Museum, and

which have given us a commodious room far more worthy of the really excellent collection than any previous arrangement, have taken rather longer to complete than we anticipated when, in our last number, we said we hoped to be able to give a description in the present number. We hope, however, to be able to give a complete description with, if possible, an illustration at an early date. Meanwhile we venture to express to Mr. Smith, on behalf of the school, our gratitude for his work and our appreciation of his ingenuity.

H. M. Fenwick and S. L. Symond have gained Pitman's Shorthand Certificates (preliminary).

It has been a subject of grateful comment that ever since we started our Day of Continual Intercession for Missions no year has passed without some Denstonians offering themselves for work abroad. Already this year two Old Denstonians have so gone.

On the eve of S. Matthias we had the great pleasure of having the Rev. H. Gray to address us. As he spoke of the privileges enjoyed by Denstone boys and of the responsibilities resting upon those in authority we remembered that he was entitled to speak with the experience of one who was four years a prefect here, was Captain of the school and Editor of the *Denstonian*, a fine forward and a prolific prize winner.

The sermon on the first Sunday in Lent was preached by our Vice-Provost, the Hon. and Rev. L. Tyrwhitt, M.V.O., Canon of Windsor and Chaplain in Ordinary to the King. On the second Sunday

Mr. Clark preached. The sermons on the remaining Sundays are by the Headmaster, whose subject is "Modern Religion and Modern Denstonians." The Friday addresses on the first two Fridays were by the Chaplain, on the parable of the Prodigal Son; on the remaining Fridays by Mr. Airy, on "Lessons from the Life of Joseph." The "Three Minute Readings" after dinner are this year concerned with points of Christian doctrine.

The beginning of Lent, with its simpler services, was a suitable time for various inevitable re-arrangements in the *personnel* of the choir. There had to be some retirements and, consequently, some introductions. The new members are as follows: G. L. Littler, M. Elrington, H. J. W. Collins, H. C. C. Collis, N. S. Whitfield, C. M. White.

The following anthems have been sung this term:

Jan. 22, "O taste and see" (Goss).

Jan. 29, "O praise God in His holiness" (Weldon).

Feb. 5, "The Lord is loving" (Garratt).

Feb. 12, "The Heavens are telling" (Haydn).

Feb. 19, "The splendours of Thy glory" (Woodward).

Feb. 26, "Send out Thy light" (Gounod).

Mar. 26, "The Angelus Carol" (R. H. Legge).

Mrs. Loup has been good enough to send three hassocks and two alms bags for the chapel.

To the great Coronation Review of the Officers Training Corps, which the King proposes to hold at Windsor on July 3rd, we hope to send all those who go to the camp this year.

The wet weather we have had this season has made it necessary to replace football by "school runs" on many occasions. Formerly the smaller boys often complained, and sometimes with justice, that the run was too much for them; but this year no such complaint can be made, for the smaller boys are given a shorter run than the others. The length of run for the bigger boys is from five to six miles, while for the smaller boys—and this includes the great majority—it does not exceed three.

As "there is no pressure put upon a boy to go at any but his own pace, these runs are far from a hardship; and we feel sure that if only some kind friend would give a cup for a Dormitory Cross-country Running Competition they would become extremely popular.

We have received a long communication suggesting a modification of the regulations for the Bird cup. The idea seems to have much in its favour, but it has already been laid before the donor who does not desire that any alteration should be made.

First Fifteen colours have been awarded to Goldsmith, Surridge, Barlow and Tomkins, and Second Fifteen colours to Zorian, Williams, Carson, Lathbury, A. Menzies, Bowman, Smith, Abbots, Mitchell, Hill, Misquith, and Overman.

Next term the match against Trent College re-appears on our list after a long interval.

During 1910 some thirty volumes were added to the Library, including the first historical work of a distinguished Old

Denstonian, A. C. A. Brett's *Charles // and His Court*, which has received from historians a very warm reception; it is to be hoped that this is but a forerunner of greater things to come.

A new catalogue is in preparation, and will be ready by January, 1912.

The Librarian acknowledges, with thanks, from A. W. Shelton, Esq., *Wisden's Cricketers' Almanack for 1911*; and from J. W. Christian, Esq., *Eastern Pacific Lands*.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following:—*Felstedian, Olavian, Stonyhurst Magazine, Ellesmerian, Bloxhamist, King Edward's School Chronicle, Hurst Johnian, Blue, East-bournian, Brighton College Magazine, Federal Magazine*.

The yearly subscription, 3s. 4d. (or 10s. for three years), which includes postage, should be forwarded to the Rev. F. A. Hibbert, Denstone College, Staffordshire. Any change in the subscriber's address should be notified at once. Back numbers are kept, and every help in the way of supplying missing numbers, will be gladly given to subscribers wishing to complete their sets.

All MS. intended for insertion should be written on one side of paper only, and sent to the Editor, H. S. Bates, Denstone College, Staffordshire.

Charles Cull Son, Houghton Street, Aldwych;
and at Chiswick.