



The Denstonian.

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EDITORIAL.

*'The time has come,' the Walrus said,
"To talk of many things,"—*

that is, supposing one can find anything to talk about. This task is by no means easy, since for the first five weeks of term the rain and the frost prevented us from doing anything at all. But stay; talking of "cabbages" reminds us that all the old pre-war favourites are re-appearing this term, even the never-to-be-forgotten "Spotted Dick." We know now that the leopard *can* change his spots. But "Hark back"; we have overrun the scent. After five weeks of comparative idleness the weather at last took pity on us and we

were able to start football. But, although no time was wasted over the matches, by the time football was over we had rather less than a fortnight in which to get into training for the Cross Country.

We have been glad to see that the Debating Society, which was revived last term, is very popular; keen interest has been shown in the debates, which have all been well attended. Encouraged, perhaps, by this, some enterprising people have even revived the J.D.S. Let us hope that it will not meet its predecessor's fate.

Despite the fact that we could not go away on St. Chad's Day we all had a very good time. Dinner revived fond memories of the grand old days before the war, though some of us wished we could have left it until after the dormitory matches in

the afternoon; and in the evening Mr. Whitmore produced "The Lyons Mail." The play was extremely good and we were all delighted with it, though it is sad to think how few there are left who can remember its last appearance at Denstone, in 1912.

It is our sad duty this term to bid farewell to Mr. Hibbert. For fourteen years he has been Headmaster here, and before that he was here as a master and as a boy. It is a terrible blow to Denstone to lose so old a friend. Whatever the school may have been fourteen years ago, it is now in all respects more flourishing than ever before. Though all of us do not realise now, yet some day realise we shall, everyone of us, what a very great deal we owe to Mr. Hibbert for all he has done while Headmaster of Denstone; and the least we can do is to wish him and Mrs. Hibbert every possible success at Lilley, and to offer them our very good wishes.

PREBENDARY

HIBBERT.

The news that its Headmaster is leaving Denstone will come as a wrench to all Old Denstonians who have known and appreciated him. Arriving as Headmaster at a time when the numbers of the School were shrinking, he leaves it to-day overflowing with some 350 boys and with applications for admission refused almost daily. He has seen the School through the crisis of the war—which, with a dwindling staff and an increasing number of boys, brought him worries that few can realise—worries which left him no peace in term time, and which again and again ruined his scanty and well-earned holidays; and yet at the end of it all he can exclaim: "See, we have come through!" And it is perhaps

to one quality, pre-eminent above all others in its Headmaster, that the School owes its successful emergence—his versatility. Like Mr. Lloyd George, he has always shown extraordinary resource in confronting new situations—a peculiarly difficult task, and one which can rarely be undertaken by any save a highly gifted man. As Priest, his first aim has ever been to maintain in Denstone an oasis of Catholicism among a crowd of Public Schools all tainted, more or less, by the stale, flat and unprofitable Protestant tradition: here Catholicism has been taught openly and without apology: things have been called by their old and true names. And the result has been seen in the high reputation for character and religion earned by Old Denstonians throughout the war and the world. In this respect there is no question that the tree has been known by its fruit, and no higher testimonial than that is, of course, needed. Except in the case of Protestantism, spiritual beauty has ever found its outward expression in Art—the art of the Ancients, the art of Catholicism; and it is by his contributions to the artistic side of Denstone's life that Prebendary Hibbert will long be remembered. Everything calculated to promote appreciation of the pure and beautiful in art has always received his warmest encouragement: to say nothing of the Arundels and other pictures in the cloisters, the chapel decorations owe to him and to Mrs. Hibbert an altarpiece, their gift; the idea of the beautiful "Mothers' Window"; and the windows commemorative of the life of St. Chad; besides many other little improvements. A finished Actor himself, the Headmaster has been, of course, practically the founder of the Shakespearean Play—over which he has spent countless hours of toil, reducing texts,



PREBENDARY

HIBBERT.

Headmaster of Denstone, 1905-1919.

painting scenes, training actors, and so forth ; and it is well known how he was looking forward to the revival of the Play after the war. But, alas, as far as he is concerned, *Dis alitor visum*.

To the Headmaster's accomplishments, and unwearied work as a Journalist the School owes another source of its success. Denstone seldom advertises now—for the simple reason that she no longer needs advertisement. But in former days, when the School—unendowed and with few influential friends—was leading a struggling existence, advertisements were a necessity; and none were ever better written than the accounts of Denstone Speech Days, Plays, and many other little items of Denstonian news which came to be looked upon, by an ever widening circle of friends, as among the most interesting of the notices inserted in Church newspapers and in the local Press. They were all so clearly the work of a contributor who united in himself the qualities of a born journalist and a man of culture; and it is hard to over-estimate the value they were to the School for many a year. From painful experience, students of History know only too well that distinction as a Journalist and distinction as a Historian are but rarely combined in one person: yet here again it is precisely the Headmaster's evenly balanced many-sidedness which furnishes a striking exception to the general rule. Prebendary Hibbert's historical works include a Prize Essay on "English Gilds," his "History of England," his little book on "English Church History," and his "Dissolution of the Monasteries"—of which the first is a standard and constantly quoted work, the second a brilliant sketch of the main outlines of English History, and the last an elaborate study of a most difficult subject, a really substantial piece of work, and a

marvellous production for a Headmaster to elaborate in the few spare hours of an exacting profession. The quiet of a country vicarage will, however, at last restore our Headmaster to a more uninterrupted enjoyment of his first love—his studies as a Historian; and if, among the results of his future labours there emerges a definitive Life of St. Chad, then Denstone's loss will at least be England's gain.

Such have been some of Prebendary Hibbert's chief activities during his life at Denstone—a reign of constant and varying progress. To his initiative we owe a new building programme, the springing-up of our new Drill Hall with music-rooms attached, the new cloisters in place of the pestilential and dangerous "probs' row," the new prefects' studies, the visitors' room. Socially, perhaps his main object has been to bind Denstonians to their old school—an object in which he has been remarkably successful; for all O.Ds. have always felt sure of a warm welcome in the Headmaster's hospitable house. Then again there have been the O.D. Reunion, and the *O.D. Chronicle*, which meant many an hour in the one case of careful preparation, and in the other of patiently collected information. Boys have ever looked on Prebendary Hibbert as a kindly friend, from the Sixth Form, down to the diminutive members of "Head's Four" who owe so much to Mrs. Hibbert's gentle and unceasing care, and whose tears evoked by her very rare absences have rendered to her at once the most touching, because the most genuine, testimonial that she can ask. The Masters have ever found in Prebendary Hibbert the most considerate and most indulgent of Heads—indulgence which he even carried to the extent of unflinching readiness to take the work of his colleagues himself in the event of illness or unavoidable absence. And it is owing to the

spirit thus infused by the Headmaster into both boys and masters that the mutual relations of both have been so pleasant and intimate and so unique in the complete absence of anything like a gulf between teachers and taught. Thus the highest wish with which we can follow both Prebendary and Mrs. Hibbert is the wish that the usefulness of their lives in the future may be equal to the usefulness of their lives in the past; while as for their happiness—that it may be far greater, far more unclouded.

AN OLD BOYS' LETTER.

[Owing to its topical interest, we are taking the liberty of publishing—under a suitable pseudonym—the following letter which was handed to us by the recipient.]

My Dear Dick—I was very glad to hear from you and to learn that the School is flourishing. Now that you have had three years or so there I can well understand how much the place is to you, and it is no surprise to me to find how greatly you love Denstone.

But it is very sad news that you are losing the Head. The next worst thing to leaving the place oneself, you say, and I know how much that means. For, as you know, altho' I'm your uncle, it is not many years since I "passed out of his keeping" as it were, and since then the lessons learnt directly or indirectly from him have been of the greatest help to me, without a doubt. To him is due much of the success of Denstone, much of the happiness of Denstone boys. There were no matters too trivial for his attention, no boys who could not feel that the Head kept a watchful and a helpful eye on them. Personal example, of course, counts with

boys for so very much, and the Head's untiring energy and enthusiasm in all branches of school activity, not the least among which is the annual play, was a powerful aid to our efforts. Well I remember how much we used to look forward to his taking our form in English, for the interest he gave to the subject on hand completely dispelled our natural fears that we should be "caught out" in our own ignorance.

Goodness, what memories crop up! That bowler hat and the big umbrella, armed with which I strutted triumphantly down cloisters as a New Boy for my first interview with the Head. I wonder if I have them still! For, you see, though they would seem atrocities to such an old hand as yourself, at our Prep. School they had been quite "the thing." Anyhow, I shall always feel grateful for the kindly consideration which prompted the Head to suggest that I might leave these things in his study, from which—unknown to the mass of critical juniors—they were quietly spirited up to the safety-zone of the ward-robe room—for which relief, much thanks! Yes, it is the personal element that counts, and in this respect so many of us came to look on the Head as a real friend. Would that in the outer world industrial relationships could be placed on a similar footing, of which personal touch would be the corner stone!

I'm glad you have become a prefect. The exercise of power, and therefore of self-control is a not unimportant part of one's education. The Head, I know, realized this to the full, and much he did to help us. Many old prefects and captains of school will ever remember his readiness to advise and guide, his quickness to appreciate good work, or may be to forgive them those mistakes that are bound sometimes to occur. But your motto "United

we stand, etc.," does not go quite far enough, for what most greatly counts is the object *for which* the Sixth stands.

After all, one reason why fellows at the School are so keen to do good work, to help the place along, to contribute to its history, is that they are caught by the spirit of Denstone. And this spirit—which one might say is to be found personified in the Head—he helped to instil into many. There must, of course, be some motive power—some moral force—in all great institutions. It is because the Head and others have infused this spirit into the School that Denstone is what it is. It is because this spirit is lacking in some quarters that we have industrial strife. Call it the spirit of fellowship, the sense of community, *esprit de corps*, or what you will—it is in its application that mistakes are sometimes made—there must be an inspiration such as that which Denstone gives her sons. "He that can spiritualize democracy," Mazzini I believe once said, "will save the world." We want more Heads and fewer tongues.

Nor can one think of the Sixth without remembering those Sunday mornings after Chapel, when we prefects used to group ourselves together in Mrs. Hibbert's drawing room, at her kind invitation. How greatly we grew to appreciate that little touch of home-life which, just as in earlier days her new boys teas had done, served as a bridge connecting home with school, thus making each more real! And to us old boys, returning for a glimpse of the old school, for a breath as it were, of the old atmosphere, one of our greatest pleasures lay in that opportunity to renew our friendship with Mrs. Hibbert and her children. Mind you get a place in the Senior Steeple, by the way, as I dare say Mrs. Hibbert will be giving away the prizes, and I expect you are keen on being one of the recipients.

There is, of course, much talk of reform in our educational system, of self-realization and what not? But of this we may be sure, that one is far more likely to "realize oneself" by being keen on the School rather than on oneself. Effort, in some respects, is a bigger thing than success, and it's a better thing to travel hopefully than to arrive; and those that criticise our Public Schools will have to journey far before they can find a substitute for the stimulus that we derive from our "local patriotism." I know of more than one fellow who felt far more pleasure in receiving the Head's praise on, say, winning a scholarship, than in the actual fact that he was thus enabled to go up to the University.

Well, I had meant to write you a letter about the Head and Mrs. Hibbert, and instead it seems that I have talked mostly about the School with which (and this is the explanation) they are, in my mind, inseparably associated, and one could not appreciate them more fully than by loving Denstone.

So I join with the School in their regret and in wishing the Head and Mrs. Hibbert all happiness and success in their new sphere of work.

Ever yours,

HEAD'S I.

MR. GRIER,

The Rev. R. M. Grier, M.A., an Old Denstonian, born in 1877, is the son of the late Mr. J. W. Grier, of Streatham, and nephew of the late Rev. R. M. Grier, formerly vicar of Rugeley and Hednesford, and Prebendary of Lichfield. Mr. Grier came to Denstone in 1887. He was a boy here until 1895, under the late Mr. Edwardes. He became a school

prefect in 1892, and later was Captain of Football and Editor of the *Denstonian*. The majority of the school prizes fell to him in the years 1894-5. He also took a prominent part in the annual Shakespearean plays.

In 1896 Mr. Grier proceeded to Oxford, where he read for the History School, taking a second class in 1900. In the same year he went to Worksop as an assistant master under Mr. Hibbert, whom he succeeded as headmaster in 1905. He was headmaster of Worksop for nine years, and during his tenure of office great extensions in building were made. The magnificent chapel, the gift of the late Lord Mountgarret, was built and consecrated, new science laboratories, classrooms, and art rooms were added, and a fine gymnasium was built. During these years the school was always full, and the boys did well both in work and play. Over ten open exhibitions and scholarships were won at this time.

In 1916 Mr. Grier became headmaster of Bloxham School, Banbury. During four years he has raised the numbers of the school from 70 to 170. It was not possible during the war to meet the demand for places in the school, but by converting two dwelling-houses some new classrooms and accommodation were added to the buildings.

Mr Grier took his M.A., in 1904. He was ordained deacon in 1902 and priest in 1904 by the late Bishop of Southwell. He married in 1907 Edith Mary, the daughter of the late Major-Gen. F. A. Howes, R.E., and has three sons. He was co-editor with Mr. Hibbert of the *Denstone Register* and of a school history of England.

THE SIWA OASIS.

By S. W. Bird, O.D.

It was on December 28th, 1918, and a delightful Egyptian morning when we "took off" from our Aerodrome near Alexandria,—three two-seater reconnaissance machines bound for the Siwa Oasis. The route was due west along the North African Coast for 400 miles, then due South for 200 miles, skirting the Tripoli border; a stop at Mersa Matruah (200 miles West of Alexandria) for petrol, a second refill at Sallom and lunch.

Sallom is exceedingly picturesque, a craggy escarpment overlooking a delightful bay. A white fort nestles on the top of the escarpment 600 feet above the sea. Near by is the landing ground, where the leader dropped a smoke bomb and we followed him down. At 2 p.m. we again took the air, passing low over the Italian fort (marking the Tripoli border), and dipped to the Italian flag, which was smartly dipped in return.

The flight south was monotonous, and in a head wind. Barren waterless desert stretched as far as the eye could reach from 10,000 feet. After nearly four hours flying the Siwa Oasis appeared, first as a blur; then gradually, in the space of minutes only, a shimmering lake became visible, followed by hills, palm groves and cultivation. The smoke bomb dropped (a precaution as all the landing grounds are strange), we landed, and taxied up to the waiting mechanics, who had preceded us by rail, ship and desert.

Of the work I must not write; but Siwa Oasis is by far the most interesting place which I have so far visited. It is approximately sixty miles from east to west, and fifteen miles from north to south,

and is walled in by an escarpment similar to the one at Sallom. The interior is dotted with sky blue lakes and foliage of every description.

The "Siwans" number approximately 3,000. They have light complexions, and undoubtedly have Roman blood in them. They have a language of their own, exceedingly rich but decadent, of which no official record exists. A man of means owns often five wives, which he marries at the extraordinary age of eight years. The death rate per month is *twenty-eight*, and the birth rate for the same period is *two*. At the present rate they will very soon become extinct, unless some rigid legislation is introduced. Before the war no Englishman had been into the town, and it was only the Simousi rebellion in 1914-1915 which opened the Egyptian Government's eyes to its possibilities. About forty per cent, of the inhabitants are adherents to the Simousi religion, the remainder are Mohammedans.

At the west end of the Oasis is Jarabub, the Mecca of the Simousi; the founder or prophet of the religion is buried there. No Christian may approach within ten miles of it. I have seen it from 5,000 feet, at that distance, through a pair of powerful prisms; it has a city wall and a large mosque, and the whole is surrounded by date palms and cultivation. One hears many strange stories about the doings in Jarabub from the people in Siwa.

Siwa abounds with hot wells and springs numbering some 300 in all. The temperature averages 30 degrees higher than the surrounding atmosphere. Some of them are very large and provide most excellent bathing. Some of the wells are covered with hieroglyphics and were probably built in the Third Dynasty.

There are many kinds of dates here, over sixty varieties; also oranges, lemons,

limes, grapes, melons, pomegranates, olives, and many kinds of herbs. The olives are crushed to get the olive oil.

The hills of the surrounding escarpment are studded with tombs and several temples. Some of the former have been opened and many of the poorer people live in them, for they are too indolent to build houses for themselves, or perhaps they prefer to live in the resting-places of their ancestors; in many cases the skulls and mummified limbs lie still scattered about the dwelling places. Several of the temples have, too, the remains of some excellent painting and carving on the walls. The temple of Jupiter Ammon is very beautiful. One of the white marble walls is still in perfect preservation.

Evidences of the stcne age are very plentiful. I am accumulating quite a collection of flint arrow heads, spears, and axes.

Our work will occupy us here at least another month. We are exiled, of course, but we are quite a cheery party and exceedingly contented and happy. I am endeavouring to plant the name of Denstone in this most interesting place. A map is in process of survey and I have been promised a hill for naming. "Denstone Peak" will, I hope, be mapped within the next month.

WAR NEWS.

The following is the record of J. D. V. Radford's Military Cross: "Lieut. J. D. V. Radford, A/87th Brigade, R.F.A.—When two guns of his battery had been disabled by the concentrated shell fire of the enemy, he nevertheless carried out a barrage fire as previously ordered with the greatest coolness and precision. His gallantry and devotion to duty were worthy of high praise."

T. D. Kenion has left £1,000 to the College in his will, and so evidently approves of the War Memorial scheme. His is a splendid example to O.Ds.

Lieut. - Colonel Harold Rudgard, of the General Superintendent's department (Motive Power Section), Midland Railway, has been appointed Officer Commanding, Chief Mechanical Engineer's (Light Railways) Workshops, France. At the outbreak of war he was mobilised with the Territorial Regiment to which he belonged, the 1/5th Sherwood Foresters; was sent to France, serving twenty months with his regiment in the field; was transferred in December 1916, with the rank of Major, to the Light Railways Directorate as Superintendent; was wounded in March, 1917, and sent home; returned to France in the beginning of 1918: and has since been engaged on special engineering duty.

N. R. Boyd, C.F., was one of the time-keepers at the Naval and Military Boxing Tournament just after the conclusion of the Armistice.

J. W. Maughan is at Simonstown.

H. N. Wills was wounded East of Ypres in July 1917, and S. V. Gosling in September.

F. W. M. Dain was wounded on the Cambrai front last January.

F. W. Jones was severely wounded in the thigh at Sailey during the second German Offensive (May, 1918.)

C. D. Lucas served with the Australian Light Horse in France and was injured in 1916, returning to Australia as unfit for further service.

H. Hignell was Ostrich Farming in British East Africa and joined the East African Mounted Rifles at the outbreak of war. He is now Captain and is acting as Political Officer at the Base in the Cantonments Area of Dar-es-Salaam.

W. F. Greenwood has a fine record.

He has been wounded three times, the last time on October 6th, very severely in both hands. But he has been "mentioned in dispatches," and has won the Military Cross, the D.S.O., and the Croix de Guerre.

W. Cooper (C.F.) was "bundled out of Salonica with the plague" in January last, and went to France in April with the 34th Batt. M.G.C.

A. B. R. Leech, who is now Captain in the 1/98 Infantry, Indian Army, has been in Persia for a considerable time.

J. B. Gurnhill has been in Hospital in London, wounded for the second time.

L. H. Jones was gassed at Arras on August 8th, and also had a bad attack of trench fever. He met J. R. R. Hampson, who was wounded in September.

R. H. F. Coleman is on the way to Germany in command of a company, the Armistice coming just in time to prevent him from gaining his majority. W. Cooper, C.F., is also "en trek for the Rhine."

L. Parker was for six months in the Devonshire Regt., and was stationed in Ireland. He is now demobilized and in the printing business.

W. Horsfield, recently a prisoner in Germany, is now at Cambridge, (S. Catharine's), and was recently playing in the University Rugby XV.

H. O. Coleman is demobilized and is going to Berkhamsted School.

WAR OBITUARY.

The death of *Captain Harold Jacks* was particularly sad, for he was one of the most energetic and enthusiastic of Denstonians. Here from 1905 until 1908 (in Head's i.), he lived a happy life, brimming over with energy and keenness, and all his after life was similarly

characterised. His father, a solicitor, was stricken with sudden illness and he had to leave rather prematurely to take charge of the office. Young though he was, he rose to the occasion and managed admirably. Presently he made quite a name as a solicitor, and he also found time to found and carry on the North of England Denstonians Club and to be an enthusiastic Territorial Officer. The outbreak of war found him in camp, and his regiment, 7th Battalion Durham Light Infantry, was promptly mobilized. He did a great deal of good military work, and was in due course sent to France in April, 1915, and acted as Assistant Military Landing Officer to the Northumbrian Division. He was wounded at the second Battle of Ypres. This brought him back and he was not sent abroad again until last year. His legal knowledge made him very useful in England and he was Legal Adviser to the Northern Command. Later he was Staff Captain in the 22nd Infantry Brigade. Nothing gave him greater pleasure than to turn up at the College, often unexpectedly, but always sure of a hearty welcome. Last year he went to Nigeria, and in January a letter came from him, enthusiastic as ever about Denstone, full of vitality, full of plans for an energetic future. In the 4th Nigerian Regiment he took part in quelling disturbances at Ede, and was placed on the staff of the West African Frontier Force. Alas! he died on January 27th of pneumonia, following influenza, in Lagos.

We very much regret to hear of the death of *Aitken Hood-Rowan*. He was here (in Head's i.), from 1908 until 1914, having started in the Preparatory School. He was a bright and happy boy. He joined the 3rd West Lancashire Royal Engineers and saw considerable service. After the

Armistice he was invalided from France and died at home on March ist.

We have just heard of the death, on September 6th, 1916, of *Gerald Hudson Heatley*. He was here in 1909-10 in Head's iii.

R.I.P.

FOOTBALL.

BURTON.

Won, 13—3. Burton kicked off and immediately began to press us hard. However, we were just able to prevent them scoring, and before long our own three-quarters broke away, and after some minutes of fierce attack Corbishley managed to score, also converting. After this the play was very even, but Seddon scored a try just before the end of the first half. Burton then attacked and we were unlucky enough to lose Whitfield, who was badly hurt as he fell on the ball. During the second half play was very close; Whitfield's place was taken by F. Lutter. However, before long Burton scored a try; but Finney scored for us not long after, this try being converted by Corbishley. After this Burton pressed us hard, but we managed to keep them out, largely owing to the splendid collaring of Harrison.

Team:—Whitfield; Finney, Corbishley, Seddon, Harrison; Nason, Sugden; Tomlinson, Hobday, MacGregor, Davies, Thorpe, Puntan, Lawrence, Garman.

UTTOXETER.

Won, 22—nil. At the start the game was very even, neither side pressing much, but soon a fine run by the three-quarters ended in a good try by Harrison, which, however, was not converted. For the rest of the first half the game was indecisive,

there being no further score, although several times both sides got close up to their opponents' line. But soon after the beginning of the second half Corbishley scored after a good dribble down the field; Corbishley also converted this try. We pressed most of the second half, and Nason, Finney, and MacGregor all scored, the last try being converted by Corbishley. Had it not been for B. Smartt, who was playing for Uttoxeter and who collared exceptionally well, Denstone would have scored a great deal more. As it was, Nason managed to score once more before the end of the game. Both Harrison and Thacker played a good game, while among the forwards Tomlinson was especially noticeable.

Team :—Thacker ; Finney, Corbishley, Seddon, Harrison; Nason, Sugden; Tomlinson, MacGregor, Davies, Thorpe, Puntan, Lawrence, Garman, Hicks.

UTTOXETER.

Won, 27—nil. Uttoxeter won the toss and decided to play up first. For some time the play was very even, neither side pressing particularly. But after a while our superior combination began to tell, and after some minutes of fierce attack, P. Davies scored a try, which was converted by Corbishley. Soon afterwards the latter scored a goal from a free kick. Finney then scored for us, Corbishley converting. We then pressed hard, and just before half-time Finney scored again. After half-time the game was almost entirely in the Uttoxeter twenty-five. Before long Finney scored again. At this point, unluckily, one of the Uttoxeter men had to go off. Our opponents, however, put up a very good fight, but after a long interval of very hard play, Whitfield scored a try. Soon afterwards Corbishley also scored, and converted. Uttoxeter

were very unlucky, no fewer than three of their men being "crocked" in the course of the game.

Team :—Whitfield ; Finney, Corbishley, Seddon, Harrison; Nason, Sugden; Hobday, Tomlinson, MacGregor, P. Davies, Thorpe, Puntan, Lawrence, Garman.

The Little Side Football was won by Woodard, who beat Meynell in the final.

In the first round of the Senior Football, Selwyn beat Shrewsbury, Head's i. beat Woodard, Lowe beat Head's iii., and Head's ii, beat Meynell. In the second round Selwyn beat Head's ii., while Head's i. were beaten by Lowe. Lowe just beat Selwyn in the final, after a very good game. We must congratulate Lowe on winning the Football Flag for the third year in succession.

The following Football Colours have been awarded : ist XV.—J. Corbishley, M. G. Hobday, J. H. Tomlinson, M. Sugden, C. MacGregor, R. Seddon. 2nd XV.—P. Davies, R. Thorpe, D. Garman, C. Puntan, H. Lawrence.

REVIEW OF THE SEASON, 1918-1919.

Like everything else, the football this season was practically ruined by the epidemic of influenza. The result has been that we have only had seven matches. Last term we played the New Zealand Rifle Brigade twice, and on each occasion we were beaten after a very good game, our opponents' superior weight being too much for us. The same may be said of the match against the New Zealand Machine Gun Corps. We atoned for these defeats, however, by beating Trent College by 75—nil. This was our only school fixture. For the first five weeks of this term we were unable to have any

football at all on account of the frost. However, when at last the weather changed we met with complete success. We beat Burton once and Uttoxeter twice, each time by a fairly good margin, although on each occasion our opponents gave us a very good game. However, our practice and combination gave us the advantage, which we used to the full. Altogether, we may congratulate the team on a successful season. Results:

New Zealand Rifle Brigade	Lost.	3—16
Trent College	Won.	75—0
New Zealand M.G.C.	Lost	0—6
New Zealand Rifle Brigade	Lost,	0—9
Burton	Won.	13—3
Uttoxeter	Won.	22—0
Uttoxeter	Won.	27—0

Points for, 140; points against, 34; played, 7; won, 4; lost, 3.
The "A" team also beat Newcastle High School, 85—nil.

CRITIQUE OF THE XV., 1918—1919.

∖ *D. J. Fergusson*.—(Captain). A good heavy forward who uses his weight to advantage. Rather inclined to imagine he is a three-quarter at times. A very good kick.

t *N. G. Whitfield*.—Was rather disappointing towards the end of last term, probably on account of accidents. Has improved immensely this term and has quite regained his original form, his kicking being particularly good. As Captain during the latter part of the season he has been very successful.

t *G. H. Wildsmith*.—A forward who excelled in the game, being most prominent in dribbling.

t *J. Carmichael*.—A hard-working forward who did invaluable work in the scrum.

t *F. G. Wynne*.—A steady player throughout the season, always on the ball.

t *E. Finney*.—Has done excellent work throughout the season. Having weight and speed, his attack has often been most useful.

t *J. H. Whittles*.—Made an excellent forward, using his weight and speed. A useful kick.

t *S. B. Harrison*.—A dashing outside who is especially prominent in stopping rushes.

t *R. K. McMichael*.—Improved greatly and did most useful work in the scrum.

t *M. Sugden*.—Has worked well throughout the season.

f */ . Corbishley*.—Good at times, but should learn to get rid of the ball sooner. A good kick.

* *S. L. Kilbourn*.—Showed promise, but owing to an illness was prevented from playing for long.

•j- *R. Seddon*.—A smart inside who knows how to make openings.

f *M. G. Hobday*.—A hard-working forward who is especially noticeable in the loose.

t */ . H. Tomlinson*.—An excellent forward who seems absolutely indefatigable.

* */ . N. Nason*.—A useful scrum-half who shows promise.

t *C. M. MacGregor*.—Showed great promise at the beginning of the season, rather disappointing of late.

• *P. H. Davies*.—A bustling forward who has greatly improved.

* *R. Thorpe*.—Plays a steady game, but is rather handicapped by his lack of weight.

* *C. Puntan*.—Has progressed wonderfully since the beginning of term.

* *H. Lawrence*.—Quite useful; should do well next year.

**D. Garman*.—A young forward who shows considerable promise.

* *H. D. Thacker*.—A marvellous back, very quick on the ball, and a safe tackle.

H. F. Hicks.—A promising player.

t ist XV. Colours. * 2nd XV. Colours.

NOTES.

The Garner Medal has been awarded this year by the North Staffordshire Field Club to the Headmaster, "in acknowledgment of the value of his researches relating to the History of Monasticism in Staffordshire." The presentation was made at the Annual Meeting of the Club on March 13th.

The Headmaster's Institution and Induction as Rector of S. Peter's, Lilley, took place on March 8th. Besides Mrs. Hibbert, the Chaplain was also present.

On February 27th, Mr. Huskinson gave a most interesting lecture on Egypt and the Nile, describing some of his recent visits there. There was a large number of good slides in illustration.

On March 6th, Mr. Huskinson lectured to the Literary and Scientific Society on "The Temples of Upper Egypt."

The Confirmation, by the Bishop of Lichfield, was held on March 20th. The candidates were as follows:—J. Ballantyne, F. Ballantyne, M. Barker, D. Bigg, C. Blaker, J. Blomefield, C. Brunt, J. Butterworth, H. Cuff, G. de Renzi, G. Dodds, J. Farnworth, H. Fisher, E. Ford, J. Gib'os, W. Good, J. Granger, H. Hancocks, V. Hibbert, R. Hill, W. Hogarth, E. Holland, L. Hurst, R. James, H. Kay, G. Lingard, E. Longbottom, J. Marrison, O. Meyrick-Jones, K. Mitchell, G. Nolan, F. Pearce, E. Place, H. Rawson,

A. Robinson, R. Shorter, R. Stevenson, C. Steward, G. Sutton, H. Teesdale, A. Vaughan, G. Watts, S. Whitfield, J. Whitle, J. Withers, J. Wrigley.

The following passed examinations in commercial subjects at the end of last term: in book-keeping—W. E. Davies, A. E. Haslewood, C. Steward, E. A. Vaughan, and K. C. Wood; in handwriting and correspondence—F. C. Booth and K. C. Wood; in Pitman's shorthand—J. W. Granger and A. L. Jones; in type-writing—P. H. Davies and K. C. Wood.

On 3rd March Mr. Whitmore again produced "The Lyons Mail," which was last acted here in 1912. Despite the fact that the time had been short, the whole play was a great success. The cast was as follows:—Choppard (a Horse-dealer), Finney; Fouinard ("The Chicken"), Ware; Waiter (at the Lion d'Or), Lawrence; Courriol (a rascally Beau), Mr. Butler; Joseph Lesurques (a retired gentleman), Mr. Whitmore; Didier Lesurques (his son), Mitcheson; Guerneau (a manabout-town), Taylor; Dubosc (a leader of a gang), Mr. Whitmore; Jeannette (his wife), Miss Wood; Jerome Lesurques (Innkeeper), Mr. Nicholas; Joliquet (boy at Lieursaint Inn), Colquhoun; Daubenton (Chief of Police), Hicks; Ostler (at Montgeron), Caiger; Gendarme, Lawrence; Parisians, Briddon, Brooksbank, Eardley.

The orchestra, which was extremely good, broke all previous records as to size; it was, of course, under the direction of Mr. Rawlinson Wood.

We take this opportunity of apologising to Mr. Nicholas for the unfortunate misprint by which we called him Mr. Nicholson in our last number.



THE REV. R. M. GRIER.

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