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SOUTHGATE

COUNTY SCHOOL



MAGAZINE

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A.G. Gouls.

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Southgate County School
Magazine

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. . Southgate . . County School Magazine.

DECEMBER, 1911.

No. 34.

SCHOOL NOTES.

The Magazine.

As three of the Editors of the Magazine left last term it was necessary to appoint new officers. The present Editors are R. Burgess and Doris Varley, with N. L. Day and Nellie Sauer acting as Sub-Editors. The thanks of the School are due to A. F. Sheffield for his energetic work last year.

Unfortunately two of the Editors have been absent for the last few weeks through illness, and perhaps this is why suitable contributions seem to have been coming in more slowly than usual. We should still like to have more spontaneous support from the upper part of the School, especially from the boys. There are two sides to the question raised in the tale of woe entitled "A Nightmare" in our last issue, and the position of the Editors, when it comes to "bullying or politely requesting" their neighbours for contributions and School notices, is no bed of roses.

We were sorry to say good-bye to Miss Ridley, Mr. Blomfeld, and Mr. Parker at the end of last term, and wish them all success in their new work. Miss Ridley has a post at a Herefordshire County School at Kington. Mr. Blomfeld is Senior French Master on the Conway, a training-ship for the Merchant Service in the Mersey. Mr. Blomfeld writes that the boys remain

on the Conway for two or three years, when they pass as officers into the Mercantile Marine or go up to Osborne for the Royal Navy. For Osborne there is very keen competition, and only those with a high standard of knowledge, good health, and sound character have a chance of success. Two or three Cadets get into Osborne each term. On the Conway there is practically no punishment; it is not required. It is sufficient to remind a lazy boy that slackers are not wanted in the Navy. In the few bad cases boys are placed on the main deck with their backs pressed against the mouth of a gun for two or three hours, guarded by a Cadet Captain who is on duty.

We are glad to welcome Miss Donn, Mr. Swallow, Mr. Mayne, and Mr. Paull, the new members of our staff.

We lost a good many members of the Vth and VIth Forms at the end of last term, but we hope they will keep in touch with the School by joining the Old Pupils' Associations.

Examination Results.

R. Best entered for the London Intermediate Science Examination in July, and was successful.

The following pupils passed the London Matriculation Examination in June:

Division I.—D. Archibald, distinguished in French, Chemistry, Mathematics, Mechanics, and Electricity and Magnetism.

Division II.—Myrtle Campbell, distinguished in French and Latin.

V. Edwards, R. C. T. Petty, Doris Varley, Christine Thompson.

The boys still in the School who matriculated last year entered for several additional subjects, and were all successful, gaining altogether ten distinctions.

It is pleasant to be able to record that both our head boy and our head girl last year were successful in obtaining scholarships to enable them to continue their work towards a University degree. A. F. Sheffield gained his at the Northern Polytechnic, where he

is studying for his science degree. Margaret Lacey holds hers at the Birkbeck College. She also is working for the same examination.

Christine Thompson has begun a course of physical culture at the Chelsea Physical Training College, and seems to enjoy her life there very much.

B. Pearce has entered engineering works at Birmingham.

R. Best is articled to a firm of analytical chemists, and intends to take his degree in Chemistry.

We congratulate E. R. Brown (VIA.) on the following notice which appeared in "Flight" for November 18th:—

"One of the most progressive of school aero clubs is that existing since last July at the Southgate County School, where an impromptu model contest is held weekly, in addition to more ambitious meetings every now and again. E. R. Brown, in the intervals of his secretarial duties, has found time to design and construct a very efficient model monoplane, which has, under favourable circumstances, a flight capacity of a quarter-mile distance and 68sec. duration. The machine, unlike many distance and duration flyers, is not over-powered, the motive power being only five strands per side of 'Willis' rubber."

Results of the Literary Competitions.

Some very good work was sent in as the result of the Literary Competitions referred to in our last number. Although some of Upper VI. Form beat an ignominious retreat at the last moment the Senior prize was carried off by one of their number, W. E. Hole, while Doris Varley came in a good second. Kathleen Clarke headed the list for VIb.

The Junior prize was gained by Mildred Varley, Margery Matthews, Doris Hole, and Elsie Goldstone being highly commended.

Botanical Collections.

Some excellent collections of pressed flowers were sent in, every competitor being well up to prize standard. The number of entries, however, was disappointing.

The prizes are awarded to Mildred Varley and Marjorie Howarth. Nellie Cannon's collection deserves special mention.

Is there an unsuspected poet among us? If so, here is his chance. Mr. Annett has kindly offered to set to music the words of a School song—when the song is forthcoming. We hope this appeal will meet with some response from past or present members of the School.

Expeditions.

On Wednesday, July 26th, Mr. Glyn-Jones and Mr. Goldstone kindly took a large party of boys and girls and some of the staff over the Houses of Parliament. A fuller account of this is given later on in the Magazine.

The VI. Form girls have visited the National History Museum at South Kensington this term, in connection with their Botany Classes.

The Fifth Form at Home.

At the end of last term the Fifth Forms invited the staff to tea and tennis. Tea was in the hall, which was prettily arranged for the occasion. All the staff were able to come, and most of them afterwards enjoyed the game of progressive tennis which had been well organised. Meanwhile a curious game of cricket (?) was being played at the other end of the field. The boys (left-handed, and otherwise handicapped) played against the girls, and beat them by 53 runs to 16!

The School closes for the Christmas holidays on Wednesday, December 20th, and will re-open on Monday, January 15th, 1912, at 9 a.m.

A happy Christmas to all our readers!

* * *

FOOTBALL.

Though very few of the members of last season's 1st XI have remained with us, yet the form displayed has been equal, if not superior, to that of last year's team. The 2nd XI has not been quite so successful, owing to the many changes which had to take place, but they have also kept up to last season's standard.

The results are :—

1st XI : Played 7—won 3, lost 2, drew 1 ; goals for 32, goals against 23.

2nd XI : Played 6—won 2, lost 3, drew 1 ; goals for 22, goals against 20.

Sept. 30th : The first match of the season was against an eleven captained by D. Carr. The result was satisfactory to both teams, as it was a draw, the score being 4—4. The game was equal from beginning to end, though their superior weight gave the visitors a slight advantage. Souster (3) and Boswood (1) scored for the School.

The 2nd XI played Latymer School at Edmonton ; but not having had sufficient practice, they lost by 5—1. The scorer for the School was Makins i.

Oct. 7th : The 1st XI played Northern Polytechnic on the School ground, and won easily by 10—0. The scorers were Souster (4), Boswood (2), Friend (2), Wilson (1), Dawson (1).

The 2nd XI, playing at Tufnell Park, also had an easy victory by 7—1. Higgins (1), Pattison (1), Arthur (2), Bolton (3) scored for the School.

Oct. 11th : 1st XI v. Rest of School.—This is an extra fixture this season, and resulted in a win for the 1st XI by 6—4. Boswood (3), Souster (1), Friend (1), Dawson (1) scored for the 1st XI.

Oct. 14th : The 1st XI played at Stamford Hill against St. Ignatius. The score was level till a few minutes before "time," when the home team broke away and scored four times. The School was beaten by 7—3, the scorers being Marsh, Boswood and Dawson.

The 2nd XI drew with their opponents. Higgins, Makins i and Bolton scored the three goals made by the School.

Oct. 21st: 1st XI v. Hornsey County School.—An easy win for the 1st XI by 6—1 was the result of this match. Glover, Souster and Marsh scored the School goals.

The 2nd XI were not so successful, and lost by 3—2. Both the goals were scored by Briggs.

Oct. 28th: The 2nd XI played Wood Green County School, and won easily by 8—3. Bolton (3), Higgins (2), Fawns (2), Cherry (1) scored for the School.

Nov. 4th: The match with the Old Boys, to which the whole School looks forward, was played on this date. Though out-classed in weight and experience, the 1st XI made a plucky stand against the visitors, and were beaten by only 2—0.

The Old Boys' team was:—D. Bidgood, W. Hawkins, B. Walker, R. Holliday, F. Marsh, R. Allan, F. Bidgood, D. Prior, A. Townsend, W. Gardiner, P. Benda.

November 11th: The 1st XI played at Tottenham against Tottenham County School. After a close game the School was beaten by 5—3. Boswood, Souster, Dawson scored for their team.

The 2nd XI also lost, by 5—1. Fawns scored the only goal made by the School.

The team which has represented the School in most of the 1st XI matches is: Eder, Brookes, Hole, Dixon, Souster, Kingdon, Marsh, Wilson, Boswood, Dawson, Friend.

HOUSE MATCHES.

The House Matches have been played with their usual enthusiasm. The Whites, Blacks and Blues have kept remarkably equal, but the Reds have been hopelessly behind. Two matches

were played on 25th October. The Blues and Blacks played together, and their match resulted in a draw, the score being 3—3. The Whites beat the Reds by 5—3.

On the 18th November two more matches were played. The Reds lost to the Blacks by 2—7. The Blues and Whites drew, the score being 3—3.

The points gained by the respective Houses are as follow.—

Whites	...	...	...	...	...	3
Blacks	...	...	...	...	...	3
Blues	...	...	...	...	...	2
Reds	...	...	...	...	...	0

* * *

CRICKET NOTES.

The cricket ground is being tended during the winter with a view to having good pitches next summer.

Last term we brought a very successful and enjoyable season to a close with the parents' match on Saturday, July 22nd. The parents were represented by Messrs. Archibald, Benda, Watts, Hayward, Spencer-Hawes, Wadsworth, Cooper, Varley, Day, Carr and Hole, with Mr. Hole as captain. The match, as usual excited great interest, and a large gathering of spectators were present when the game began. The parents batted first, and, contrary to their usual custom, were easily dismissed by the boys for 28, Mr. Hayward, who carried his bat for 12, being the chief scorer. The boys then went in, and at the close of the innings their score stood at 72.

The teams then adjourned to tea, and after the interval the parents again batted. This time they gave the boys more trouble, but were finally all out for 44, Mr. Watts, who made 9, and Mr. Carr, who made 11, being the chief scorers. Their total score was now equal to that of the boys, but the latter had an innings in hand, so that, for the first time since the birth of the School, the game, which had been a most enjoyable one for all concerned, finished in a victory for the boys.

SCHOOL AERO CLUB NOTES.

Since last July the School has had an Aero Club, with Mr. H. A. Paull as its first President. On July 27th a competition was held in the School Field, and although the Club was only a few weeks old, several members were present with models. The result, as published in "Flight," August 5th, was: E. R. Brown, 534 ft.; V. A. Edwards, 187 ft. Longer flights than the above were impossible owing to the smallness of the ground.

During the present term, flying has taken place in the School Field on Friday afternoons, whenever the weather has permitted. A competition has been in progress, in which a pair of propellers and a geared winder were offered as prizes for the two longest flights made during the term. The result of this competition will be announced in "Flight," December 23rd.

E. R. BROWN, Secretary.

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HOCKEY CLUB.

At the beginning of this term the First XI had rather doubtful prospects of a successful season, as five members of last year's team left us at the end of the summer term. But owing to the kindness of Miss Simmonds, who has given up a great deal of her own time to coaching us, the First XI. are gradually improving.

The matches which have been played up to the present time are as follow:—

1st XI.

- Oct. 25th.—Wynaud House. At home. Won 4—2.
- Nov. 4th.—Old Girls. At home. Won 5—4.
- Nov. 11th.—Finchley County School. At home. Lost 2—3.
- Nov. 25th.—Tottenham County School. Away. Lost 3—4.
- Nov. 28th.—School v. Staff. Lost 0—10.
- Dec. 2nd.—Tottenham High School. Away. Lost 0—3.

2nd XI.

Oct. 28th.—Enfield County School 2nd XI. Lost 2—0.

HOUSE MATCHES.

Oct. 21st :—

Reds v. Greens	...	Reds 4, Greens 3.
Blues v. Whites	...	Blues 3, Whites 1.

CRITICISMS.

1st XI.

Captain Kathleen Clark.

Goal—Ivy Cunnington; Right Back—Doris Varley; Left Back—Ada Rowe; Right Half—Cissie Glyn-Jones; Centre Half—Olga Müller; Left Half—Anita Bell; Right Wing—Gladys Hayward; Right Inner—May Brereton; Centre Forward—Kathleen Clark; Left Inner—Kathleen Finlayson; Left Wing—Neilie Cannon.

Goal is a good player. She stops well and hits hard, but should be quicker in hitting after she has stopped the ball.

Right Back stops well, but should hit harder to the wings, and she should not get in the way of the left back.

Left Back attacks fairly well, but she should hit harder and should run back after the ball has passed her.

Right Half has improved a great deal since the beginning of the season. She stops well, but should mark the opposing forwards.

Centre Half is a good player, and tackles well, but should keep her place and should not interfere with the other half-backs.

Left Half. This is her first season in the XI. She shows promise of being a good player, but should hit harder and run back after the ball has passed her.

Right Wing tackles and passes well, but she should play more with her inner.

Right Inner a very keen player. She dribbles well, but is too selfish. She must keep in her own place.

Centre Forward is a reliable player, who plays hard and dribbles well. She should shoot more and follow up her shots.

Left Inner is a good player. She shoots well, but she should combine more with her wing.

Left Wing is a steady player, who sticks to the ball and takes it up the field, but she should centre sooner and harder.

DORIS K. VARLEY, Hon. Sec.

* * *

NETBALL CLUB.

Two matches have been played this term. The team is not very strong, but we hope with practice to do better at the end of the season.

Nov. 14th.—Latymer County School. Away. Lost 5—7.

Dec. 2nd.—Hornsey County School. Away. Lost 5—19.

* * *

SWIMMING.

The Boys' Annual Swimming Sports were held on the last day of the Summer term at the Wood Green Baths. The Blues were the winning house, and the Reds came in second.

In a Swimming Competition among schools in the neighbourhood six of our boys were successful in the team race, and, for the second year in succession, won the shield offered by the Broomfield Park Swimming Club. The boys were Makins iii, Holloway, Rumens, Murray, Ellinghaus and Thomson.

* * *

THE ENGLISH LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

This Society held its first meeting on Monday, October 23rd. The proceedings opened with the choosing of officers. Irene Hume was appointed Secretary and Denly elected Chairman for the Session.

The subject for discussion, notice of which had been given in the Magazine of last term, was "Thackeray is a greater

novelist than Dickens." Very good papers were read by Oram and Denly, the former in favour of Thackeray, the latter Dickens.

Oram began with an outline of the life of Thackeray, and then proceeded to a somewhat lengthy discussion of the chief characters in Thackeray's novels, emphasising his contention that a feature of the novels is the reality of the heroes and heroines, who might step from the book into real life without being recognised as fictitious. He thought that the reader often turns to the novel to get change from everyday characters, not recognising that such commonplace persons are in their way far more interesting than any of Scott's Waverleys or Meg Merrilees. The conclusion of the paper is quoted: "Thackeray should be read more, for, besides the glittering pictures which he draws of society and the thinly veiled sarcasm which he directs against those whose lives were but hollow hypocrisy, the inimitable way in which he draws the growth of manhood and its consequent emotions render him for ever a master of men's minds. Between the lines is written the story of a man with a firm faith in 'whatsoever things are true.' He knew that there is a place where humble goodness, even bordering on what the world calls softness, takes precedence of artful brilliancy. There is, perhaps, no English author who could weave wit and illusion, sarcasm and knowledge of human nature into so delightful, but deft, a whole as he does."

Denly then read his paper on Dickens. Reference to it need not be made here, as it is printed elsewhere in the Magazine.

Discussion on the papers was then invited, but except for Olga Müller, who supported Denly, no one had anything to say. An early vote was taken, when twenty-four voted for Dickens and one for Thackeray.

On November 13th a successful meeting was held to consider the motion that "Polar expeditions are not worth the expenditure of time, money, and life incurred."

Ainsley opened in favour of the motion, holding that the expeditions seem to produce no material good, and that public money should not be spent for the benefit of a few sportsmen and scientists.

Archibald, in opposition, stated that the fact of a Government granting money for such expeditions was an indication that some general benefit was to be reaped. He thought that the

Polar regions might contain some of the world's mineral supplies of the future. Makins ii. supported Ainsley on the ground of there being no return for the outlay, while Day, on scientific grounds, supported Archibald. He thought that men ought to make effort to extend their knowledge of their surroundings, and, in passing, he reminded his opponents that the personal satisfaction and enjoyment gained by the scientific investigator are worth much sacrifice and expenditure.

Hartsilver observed that many of our medical appliances have sprung from experiments, the value of which was not recognised when they were made, and he thought that apparently useless expeditions might ultimately be of considerable benefit. This point, that commercial application follows scientific experiment, was emphasised by Mr. Auger. Marsh supported the motion, arguing that though the Polar expeditions might be of value, yet there were far more pressing needs for effort nearer home, and money could be better spent than on the finding of some new obscure Polar animal.

After further discussion by former speakers and Olga Müller, the motion was put to the meeting. It was lost by ten votes to fifteen.

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LA SOCIÉTÉ LITTÉRAIRE FRANÇAISE.

Président Monsieur Neely.

Pendant le trimestre dernier, où nous nous sommes occupés après les heures de classe du "tennis" et du "cricket," il n'y avait pas de réunions. Mais on a maintenant recommencé les débats.

Jusqu' à présent nous n'en avons eu que deux. Le premier débat était à ce sujet. "Faut-il allonger la journée en avançant l'horloge?" Plusieurs membres de la société ont parlé, et après avoir été mis aux voix la question, on décida par six voix pour la motion.

L'autre assemblée eut place le 23 novembre, lorsque le sujet du débat était—"Les Athlétiques, sont-ils utiles aux gens intelligents?" On a beaucoup dit des deux côtés autour de cette

question, mais enfin ceux qui ont supporté la proposition ont gagné le plus grand nombre de voix.

DORIS K. VARLEY, Secrétaire.

* * *

OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting held on the last day of the Summer Term to consider the formation of an Old Girls' Association, it was decided that the Old Girls should meet at School once a year during the Summer Term.

Margaret Lacey was appointed Secretary, and it was suggested that a subscription of 1s. 6d. a year should be payable to her. The Magazine will be sent post free to all subscribers. They will be sent notices of the meetings, and will be invited to the School Sports.

* * *

A VISIT TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

The Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Forms were very much favoured last term by the kindness of Mr. Glyn-Jones, M.P., and Mr. Goldstone, M.P., who took a hundred boys and girls over the Houses of Parliament.

We set out early in the afternoon, and met Mr. Glyn-Jones and Mr. Goldstone in Westminster Hall, which adjoins the Houses of Parliament. Mr. Glyn-Jones took care of the girls, whilst Mr. Goldstone conducted the boys round a different way.

Our first act was to study Westminster Hall. It is one of the oldest buildings in London, and many historical events have taken place there. There is a brass tablet in the floor which marks the place where Charles I. stood for his trial. There are statues of many of the Kings of England round the Hall. After having studied the Hall we passed out.

The first thing that we noticed was a beautiful stained-glass window. From here we came to a small, circular room in which the death warrant of Charles I. was signed. After this Mr. Glyn-

Jones led the way down into the Crypt. During the Commonwealth Cromwell had the walls whitewashed, and it was not until many years after that it was discovered that there were beautiful frescoes on the walls beneath.

When we had left the Crypt and had traversed several more passages we entered the House of Commons. Mr. Glyn-Jones explained to us where the different Members sit, and then he told us exactly how a Bill is brought forward and rejected or passed. We then crossed a hall and went into the House of Lords, a much more elaborate building than the House of Commons. We noticed with great interest the famous Woolsack.

The libraries and sitting-rooms for the Members are beautifully arranged. After we had seen several of these we entered one in which the original death warrant of Charles I. is kept, as well as several other old documents. We passed from here into the King's Robing-Room. There is a most beautiful chair in which His Majesty sits, and hung on the wall behind it is some magnificent tapestry.

The last place to visit was the Terrace, which is on the very edge of the river. Some of us were puzzled for a minute to identify the dome of St. Paul's, which, owing to the bending of the river, appears to be on the south side of the Thames, instead of, as it actually is, on the north.

After a most enjoyable visit to the Houses of Parliament we went home, and I am sure the memory of it will long remain with us.

OLIVE SIDEY, VA.

* * *

THE IRISHMAN AT HOME.

The word "Irish" has become almost synonymous with "laughable." Why? Chiefly, we imagine, because so much has been written on Ireland and the Irish by people who know Ireland and the Irish very well—from a study of writings similar to their own. The great majority fill their brain cells with knowledge in order to write, but very few, unfortunately, write because their knowledge is overflowing. One has but to glance through the books and articles written round Ireland and the Irish to discover the truth of this.

Ireland is certainly a country productive of humour and things humorous, and the Irishman is really a funny animal. His humour is spontaneous, and he is frequently witty unintentionally. Of course, English people are often more amused at Paddy's funny way of putting things, than by the humour contained in the idea. Let me here state, however, that personally I consider that the Irish as a nation speak better English than the English. Very few English people will believe that, but it is so. You see, the English have had their language so long that they are somewhat tired of it, and a majority of them vary the monotony by mangling it (*Vide* Professor Rippmann). But English is a comparatively new language in Ireland. The accent is certainly very different, but not a few prefer the gentle brogue to the biting twang of lower London, for instance. In a few cases words or vowels are differently sounded. An Englishman was once arguing with a Scotchman as to the correct pronunciation of *either*. The Englishman said it was *ither* and the Scot *eether*. The Irishman, on being appeal to, said " *Ayther* would do ! "

At times the Irishman certainly does get somewhat mixed in his metaphors. Who has not heard of that famous outburst in the House by a certain well-known Irish politician? " Mr. Speaker, sir, I smell a rat, I see it in the air, I feel it floating all around me, but, sir, I will not be entangled in its meshes, for I will nip it in the bud ! "

This story brings to mind some political stories as applied to Ireland and the Irish. It is a strange fact that the ordinary Irishman is, of all Britishers, the one who knows least and worries least about Irish politics. You may meet an Irish procession in a provincial town, on a Sunday afternoon, with green flags, pikes, pitchforks, and all the other war paraphernalia beloved of the Irishman. Ask one of the would-be warriors what is the matter, and he may reply, " Why, bedad, we're out agen England ! " " Why ? " " An' is it why, you ask me? Shure, and didn't Father Doyle tell us this morning that England was our natural innimy ! " " But, why ? " " Ah shure, and that's no business of mine, at all. " He is out for a " jaunt round, " but why he knows not, nor cares. Last summer a couple of Englishmen, who were keen Home Rulers, were making a walking tour of Counties Wicklow and Wexford. On their wanderings they came across a peasant whose " ould woman " kept a neat little shillelagh

behind the cabin door, just, as she explained, "To remind Micky, betimes, that the way of the wife is the rule of the home." One of the tourists asked the said Micky if he did not think that the present method of ruling Ireland was a bad one. "Bedad, and I believe you," said Micky. "Why they make us pay taxes to keep up the Navy, and there's not a boat below at Wexford that doesn't belong to the Irish Shipping Company." "Ah!" said one of the Englishmen, "what you want, my friend, is good Home Rule." That roused Micky, who replied, "Be jabbers, I know ye now; you're them American cousins of my ould woman's, but though she's got the better of me I'll have it out of you for all the Home Rule she's given me in the last nine years." The interview proceeded to become more painful than political.

Generally speaking, the Irish peasant is but poorly educated, but his humour frequently serves to cover up his ignorance, and further, his ignorance is often exaggerated by himself. It is unwise to attempt a play of wits with an original of this type, for though your wit be keen and your remarks the product of knowledge, yet a sudden witty reply, humorously absurd, will leave you utterly crushed. The women folk are not, as a rule, as humorously tongued as the men, but what they lack in wit they easily make up for in volubility and biting sarcasm. There is a story told of a certain Miley Foley, who not only imbibed overmuch at the village inn, but also kept a "drhop of the crathur" in the kitchen cupboard. Now Peggy, his wife, never went to the inn, but at times she explored the cupboard and opened friendly relations with Micky's bottle. One evening she emptied it altogether. Micky returned home some time after his spouse had retired, and commenced a search for his whisky. All he found was an empty bottle. He knew that he had left some whisky in his bottle, so he continued to knock things about looking for it. Presently Peggy called out, "Micky, what are you looking for?" "Oh! nothing, Peggy, nothing!" "Well," replied Peggy, "you'll find it in the bottle where the whisky was."

It is generally believed that the pig is the favourite animal of the Irish peasant, but I should be inclined to give the honour to the donkey. It must be a very wretched Irishman indeed who does not possess at least one, and, generally, the ass and cart form the peasant's sole means of transport. As recently as last summer I saw upwards of four hundred donkeys and carts on the

market square of a small provincial town. I was with two friends, one of whom helped me to count them in round numbers. The other, who thought it absurd to be thus interested—he was a native of the town—rudely suggested that we had omitted a couple that were minus carts.

Let it be taken that I laud the ass, rather than deride the Irishman, when I state that they have much in common. They are both strugglers, but they don't like the struggle; both frequently get themselves into trouble through the mere enjoyment of a difference of opinion. Contrariness is the backbone of the donkey and the stand-by of his master. Those who have enjoyed the society of these animals—*tous deux*—will admit that not infrequently is the donkey gifted with a sense of humour, a more nasty humour than that of his master, but a strongly marked one.

It is a very common sight indeed in Ireland to see an elderly dame driving a donkey and cart to the market town. Her cargo consists of anything from six to half a hundred wretched fowls, tied together by the legs, in order to allay the desire of hasty departure. Their sorrowful mien seems to indicate a knowledge that, in more senses than one, are they in the cart. One such dame was recently proceeding along a country lane when her moke resorted to that mokish trick of standing still and refusing to budge. She apostrophized him as only such ladies can. She coaxed him with the business end of a useful cudgel, but he was too used to these simple means of persuasion. He would not budge. Finally she yielded to the appeals of a wee fire. She collected a few bushes, placed them under the obstinate one, and applied a match. That did it. He got a move on. But he stopped again when he had covered six feet of Ould Ireland, and there he remained till the fire burnt the bottom out of the cart. Who will say that the ass has not a sense of humour?

One cannot well finish an article on the Irishman at home without making some reference to him as he appears away from home. Some peoples can make an abode in any quarter of the globe and look upon it as home. The Englishman, the Scotchman, the German, the Italian to wit. But the Irishman can have but one home and own but one country. The one land of his desire is that of the Shamrock. This probably accounts for the fact that, out of the Green Isle he is often at a disadvantage. But still, there are times when his Irish nature holds sway. In a

suburb of London called Palmers Green there lived an Irishman—exile he would probably style himself. His next-door neighbour was an Englishman. The Irishman took a keen pride in his garden, but the Englishman cared for none of these things. But the Englishman kept a cat. Now cat like, this dark animal had an unfortunate penchant for the Irishman's garden. He would climb the wooden fence daily and explore the Irishman's garden, much to the detriment of the plant life contained therein. At last the man from Erin had had about enough of it and told the Englishman that he would have to prevent the cat from coming into the garden. The Englishman replied that that was the lookout of the garden's owner, and advised him to devise some means of giving the cat such a fright that he would seek fresh lands and pastures new. That satisfied the Irishman. About a week later he met the Englishman and told him that he had very effectually frightened the cat, and affirmed that the animal would invade his grounds no more. "Why, what have you done?" said the Englishman. "Bedad, and I've cut off his tail!" "Oh!" said the other, "that's no good. That will make him vicious and he will come in all the more." "No he won't," replied Pat, "because I cut it off near his head."

The Irishman is universally regarded as a good cattleman. He is quite popular in Yorkshire and Cheshire in this capacity. Many a farmer's boy in the Northern Midlands speaks with an Irish brogue. One such was sent in charge of an ox to Northwich. He had to pass through Winsford en route. In the high street of the latter town the ox became so confused that he stood stock still and wouldn't be moved. As it happened he was outside a chemist's shop. The chemist came out, and by means of a small syringe injected some stinging substance into the hide of the ox. The effect was instantaneous. Not only did the ox move, but his pace was somewhat akin to that of Gilpin's horse. The Irishman was in despair of ever overtaking him. Suddenly a brilliant idea struck him. He entered the shop and asked the chemist, "Are you the man that gave that stuff to my ox?" "Yes!" "Well then, will you please to give me a pennorth, because I've got to follow the baste."

Let me copy the composer of music and revert to my opening theme for a conclusion. I stated that the Irishman often speaks better English than the Englishman. It has been said in proof

of this that whereas the Englishman can well understand the Irishman the latter is frequently at fault when listening to an Englishman. Mr. Justin McCarthy tells a story in support of this in his latest book, "Irish Recollections," published this week. "At a Royal reception an Irish officer was on duty at the drawing-room door to announce the visitors. Amongst others came the Court tailor. He approached the officer rather diffidently, and was somewhat surprised at not being recognised. When asked for his name he said, "Why, sir, I thought you knew me. I made your riding breeches." The officer didn't quite catch it, but opened the door and in clarion tones announced to a company who knew the tailor very well, "Major Riding Bridges!"

Yes, the Irishman is perhaps "a weird mixture that it doesn't pay to stir," but he will ever be a provider of entertainment for the world and his wife.

G. H. J. NEELY.

* * *

HOCKEY.

Hurrah for Hockey! That's the game
That sets the blood aglow.
Think of the honour of your school,
As to the field you go.

The game begins; they bully off
The centre-forwards there;
A swift pass sends the ball to wing,
And down the line they tear.

Five forwards keen pass to and fro
With many a swipe and swirl;
(And if they do not hit the ball
Perchance they smite a girl).

The half-backs feed their inners well
And firmly face the stress,
Ready to tackle any foe,
Who penetrates the press.

The "goal" in glory waits alone,
 Repelling all attack ;
 The ball comes swift—a glorious save—
 She clears with sweeping whack.

Heed well the rules ; the " ref." is there,
 With whistle loud and shrill.
 Let no unworthy "foul" be called ;
 Trust in your strength and skill.

So play to win with good stout sticks,
 Let each one do her share ;
 Hit hard, run swiftly, tackle straight,
 And let the foe beware.

OCCA.

* * *

DICKENS.

(A Paper read before the Debating Society.)

It is extremely difficult to compare the literary merits of Dickens and Thackeray. One was a humorist, the other a satirist, and each was master in his art. One was brought up in mean and almost squalid circumstances, while the other received a public school education and attended the University. Thus, even if Thackeray's style is more correct than Dickens', it cannot be held that his genius was superior, but rather that his education was on different lines.

Of Thackeray's style Hannay remarks that it is the impartial satire of a philosophic humorist. The humour is unfortunately more than often obscured by the philosophy, and Thackeray's characters are satirised with such an impartial hand that they emerge from the ordeal feeble ones at the best. A few of his characters are fine creations, but has he produced an equivalent to the immortal Pickwick, did he paint such a consummate hypocrite as Mr. Pecksniff, whose morals were so high that he couldn't reach them sometimes, and so he had to do without any? Thackeray himself pays a tribute to the genius of Mr. Micawber: "Who," says he, "does not venerate the chief of that illustrious

family, who, being stricken by misfortune, wisely and greatly turned his attention to 'coals'—the accomplished, the epicurean, the dirty, the delightful Micawber? "

Writing of Dickens' works, Robert Buchanan says: "Of the satire, which illuminates the inside of life and reveals the secret beating of the heart, which unmask the beautiful and anatomises the ugly, Thackeray is a greater master. But for mere magic, for simple delightfulness, commend us to our good genie. He came, when most needed, to tell the whole story of life anew, and more funnily than ever; and it seems to us that his child-like method has brightened all life, and transformed this awful London of ours—with its startling facts and awful daily phenomena—into a castle of dream. He was the greatest work-a-day humorist that ever lived."

And not only are Dickens' books commendable for their grotesque humour and captivating language, but for the deplorable public institutions they showed up. In "Oliver Twist" Dickens made an unsparing exposure of the Poor Law and workhouse system. "Martin Chuzzlewit" is remarkable for the attention it directed to the workhouse nurses whose prototype in Mrs. Gamp has become famous over the world. "The Administrative Reform Association," says Professor Masson, "might have worked for ten years without producing half the effect which Mr. Dickens has produced in the same direction by flinging out the phrase, 'The Circumlocution Office.'" Mr. Squeers and his practical system of education nearly involved the author in a lawsuit; and in "Bleak House" we are given a remarkable insight into the methods of the Court of Chancery. Thackeray certainly satirised Society to some extent, but what he desired to expose and hold up to contempt were, to borrow from Hannay again, "windy sentimentalism, flatulence of style, sordid self-seeking and servility." No doubt he succeeded in his aims, and he may have benefited his fellow-men as much as Dickens did; but this is open to question.

A comparison of two of their most popular works lies in the favour of Dickens. "Vanity Fair" contains much fine writing, but its style is rambling and its characters are weak. The "Pickwick Papers" may contain much sham pathos and exaggeration, but what book can compare with its unbounding humour and fun and delightful incidents? A few pages of "Pickwick" have

even been recommended as a specific for ill-humour. "We are lost in admiration," exclaims a critic, "of the wealth of humour which could go on page after page, chapter after chapter, month after month, to the close of a long work, pouring forth, from a source seemingly inexhaustible, fun and incident and description and characters, ever fresh, vivid and new, which if distributed with a thrifty hand, would have served to relieve and enliven, perhaps immortalise, twenty sober romances."

No appreciation of Dickens would be complete without an example of his characteristic humour. You are all probably familiar with Sam Weller and his other ludicrous creations, so I will give an extract from one of his letters in which he professes an interest in the oyster-openers of Boston: "The oyster-openers—what do they do? Do they commit suicide in despair, or wrench open tight cupboards and drawers and sealed bottles for practice? Perhaps they are dentists, out of the oyster season. Who knows?"

Dickens owes much of his popularity to the manner in which he embodies his humour in characters. Sometimes the humour depends solely on what the character says—sometimes he is an oddity with peculiarities which reappear as regularly as he does. Thackeray's work is useful for the acquisition of style, but so is Dickens', even if in a slightly less degree. But there is no doubt that Dickens' novels are preferred for recreative reading, partly because of their lighter nature, and on account of their variety and originality. The majority of people look upon Dickens as the better novelist, and my advice is (like Mr. Pickwick's during the election at Eatanswill) "to side with the mob, and if there are two, side with the bigger one."

In conclusion I quote a couplet of Thomas Hood's which expresses my sentiments exactly:—

"Arn't that 'ere Boz a tip-top feller?
Lots write well, but he writes Weller."

H. DENLY.

* * *

UNCONSIDERED TRIFLES.

We understand that Cupid's centimetres have been figuring in laboratory notebooks lately. What we want to know is, whom Cupid sent-to-meet-her?

Consecrated acid has also been detected. We have heard of Holy Water from Mecca being preserved in flasks, but never of acid from the same source. We hope it is hermetically sealed and carefully guarded.

A contemporary tells a story of an ingenious schoolboy who discovered that if the average money spent on drink per head in this country were laid out in penny iced buns we should all be 2,520 buns to the good. Surely this approaches Lewis Carroll's definition of the unit of happiness—one bath bun per minute!

Domestic science problems loom large in the laboratory of the future. Even the boys realise this and have begun putting washing (sic) into test tubes! We also understand that the Third Forms are now proficient in cooking pi.

News reaches us from an embryo botanist that the nut of the cocoanut is surrounded by a layer of fivers. We don't mind how soon the cocoanuts follow the news.

From the same source we learnt that the London terminus of the Midland Railway is "St. Bankrupts." Possibly this is due to the severe competition occasioned by the comparatively new Tube railways in the neighbourhood.

AUTOLYCUS.

* * *

TO THE SUMMIT OF SNOWDON.

During our summer holidays, which we were spending at Colwyn Bay, in North Wales, my father and I set out one morning to go up Snowdon.

On the way we passed Conway Castle, an old Welsh fortress built by Edward I. This castle is picturesquely situated, being bounded on one side by the River Conway and on the other by a creek, while the two remaining sides face the town, which was at one time wholly surrounded by walls, which are in ruins now. There are eight round towers on the castle. We also saw Carnarvon Castle, which was interesting as being the scene of the recent investiture of the Prince of Wales. This castle was thirty-eight years in building. It is the most magnificent example of the architecture of the Middle Ages remaining in Great Britain. There are thirteen towers, which are angular in shape, having

sides of various numbers. We passed quite near the Tubular and Suspension Bridges across the Menai Straits, and, at the Anglesey end of the former, we caught a glimpse of the little village which rejoices in the name of Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrnduobwlllantysiliogogoch, which is often abbreviated into Llanfair, P.G.

Having reached Dinas Junction we changed on to the North Wales Narrow Gauge Railway. We passed through some very beautiful scenery, and had splendid views of Llyn Cwellyn, a lake about one mile long, surrounded by mountains. At this point we had our first glimpse of Snowdon. Then the line gradually rises, and, passing through grand and rugged scenery, we soon reached Rhyd-ddu, the terminus, which is about three miles from the summit of Snowdon.

The first part of the ascent was quite easy. Once or twice we came across a bog which was not quite dried up by the hot weather. When the Half-way House was passed, however, the slope became steeper, and parts of the path were just bare rock. Nearing the summit we were walking along a narrow ridge, on both sides of which there was a very steep slope. On one side the scenery was very wild, and in the gloomy-looking hollow at the foot of the slope were four tarns, which were very black-looking indeed. On the other side was a valley, with a path down the mountain side to Beddgelert. The view on this side was quite different from the other, the Vale of Gwynant being beautifully green and well wooded. After another sharp pull we gained the summit, where we had lunch. When we first reached the top we could see several lakes, a great many mountains, and right across to Cardigan Bay, but very soon all these were blotted out by great clouds. After waiting in vain for the clouds to clear away we started on the return journey. We went down by the Llanberis route, which is not nearly so interesting as the way we had come up.

Having walked down for about five miles we arrived at Llanberis. This is a pretty little town, standing on a lake, Llyn Padarn, and the scenery is very fine except that in one direction the view is quite spoilt owing to a wooded mountain on that side having been opened out as a slate quarry.

After tea we went to see the Ceunant Mawr Fall, which is very beautiful, though not so large as the Swallow Falls at

Bettws-y-Coed. We stayed some time looking at them, and then found we had just time to catch the train from Llanberis to Colwyn Bay.

MARGERY MATTHEWS, Form VA.

A NEW BRANCH OF NATURAL HISTORY.

(A Suggested Addition for a School Syllabus.)

Boyscoutus Martialis.—This species has only lately appeared in a fully developed state, but has multiplied exceedingly. It can easily be recognised by its curiously dented headpiece, a bright strip of colour round the neck, and exposed knee joints. Numbers of these interesting species can be seen every Saturday afternoon on suburban commons and open places, where its curious ant-like movements attract the notice of passers-by.

Robertus officialis (the schoolboys' terror).—This species is held in respect by every class of person except the *Burglaris Nocturnus*, with whom it is constantly at war. Dark blue in colour, it has a shiny band just above the abdomen, whilst its head is invariably cased in a hard and horn-like covering. The present breed was produced some years ago by Sir Robert Peel, hence its nickname "Bobby." Its more modern nickname has no relation to our bronze coinage, nor to that useful adjunct in the suburban wash-house in which the housewife boils the clothes, but arises from its habit of persistently stalking its prey, *Impus collegis*.

Impus collegis.—This species has a perpetual grin on its features, except in difficulties, when it resorts to its gift of appearing innocent. It is very often tanned, not for leather, but by leather, and when undergoing this process emits a high-toned shriek as of someone in agony. Work is its chief fear and ink-splashing its chief pastime.

Aeroplanus destructivus.—Unlike the snail, this species is carried by its house, generally a plain one, which possesses wings, just as an ordinary house does. The species is recognised by its padded appearance and huge glass-like eyes. It is sometimes overcome by the airy ways of its own house, which is often very elevated.

V. A. EDWARDS, VIA.

SCHOOL OFFICERS.

The Prefects for the term are :—

Boys.—R. H. Burgess, N. L. Day, A. J. Brookes,
W. D. Makins, W. E. Hole, E. R. Brown, D.
Archibald.

Girls.—Doris Varley, Kathleen Finlayson, Cissie Glyn-
Jones, Gladys Hayward, Olga Müller, Ada
Rowe, Kathleen Clark.

The Heads of the Houses for games are :—

White.—N. L. Day, W. E. Hole, Ada Rowe.

Blue.—R. H. Burgess, W. D. Makins, Doris Varley.

Red.—A. J. Brookes, Cissie Glyn-Jones.

Black.—D. Archibald, E. R. Brown.

Green.—Kathleen Finlayson.

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EDITORIAL NOTE.

The Editors wish to thank all the contributors for whose MSS. they have not been able to find room in this issue. Some of these were sent in too late to receive full consideration. Every manuscript should be signed and the number of words contained in each should be stated. Everything sent in must be original.