The Sydneian

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SYDNEY:

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1881.
EDITORIAL.

It is appropriate at the present juncture to offer a few remarks suggested by the consideration of the programme of our late Athletic Sports, in reference to points on which we had occasion to comment before. We have analytically examined the said programme, and find that, setting aside races open to or specially restricted to members of other clubs, there were thirteen races really designed for members of the school, in addition to the high jump and the place-kick, the latter of which belongs to the province of football and comes rather out of place in the afternoon's work. Of these thirteen races nine were handicap races; of the other four, two were open to all the school, viz., the mile and the hundred yards, the other two being short races for under fourteen and under twelve years respectively. Of the handicap races, one was confined to members of the houses, a half mile; the others were the 220 yards, the 220 yards under fifteen years, the 120 yards hurdle race, the maiden 300 yards, the 440 yards, the 440 yards under fifteen years, the three-quarter-mile, and the mile walking-race.

We have no hesitation in declaring our opinion that such a programme is a most unmitigated encouragement of pot-hunting. Why do we assemble annually by our bands, and celebrate our gymnastic contests after the precedent of the Olympian games? Is it to provide an excuse for the general distribution of pieces of plate, and jewels of gold and silver? Is it to afford an elegant entertainment to a concourse of female relatives? Or is it to obtain a mathematical formula for the equation of energy, whence to deduce the number of yards which under particular circumstances each boy can give to any other boy? We judge it to be none of these things. We should say that the object was, secondarily, to encourage the development of physical powers by stimulating a healthy, and not a mercenary, spirit of emulation amongst those who are strong in the vigour of youth; but, primarily, to give expression to that patriotic feeling of unity which is to a rightly organised school as the breath of life, and for which we in our straitened circumstances find so few natural vents. If then the programme is arranged with a view to this end, the result will be beneficial; but if it is such that all must regard the occasion as one of a mere racing entertainment, with substantial prizes for those who are lucky enough to delude the committee into underrating their powers and exaggerating their handicap allowance, it is merely degrading to all who take part in it.

No one can deny that the mercenary spirit exists already under this system in pretty strong force. Let the committee try the effect of advertising a
similar meeting, proposing as prizes for the winners paper tickets inscribed "For Honour;" query, how many entries would there be? This spirit can and should be swept away; but it is for the committee to take the initiative in the act. If at present it is not practicable to do away with the offering of valuable prizes—a humiliating confession, for we have been informed that at Melbourne, in order to discourage mercenary exhibitions, the combined schools offer, or at any rate used to offer, as prizes, small medals of no great value, inscribed with the name, race, and time—yet the wholesale handicap system might well be cut away at once. Let there be as many different races as are thought desirable; let there be also a fair proportion confined to boys of less age, that these latter may not be debarred from a just participation in the benefits to be acquired; but let there be one or two handicap races only, and let these, like our handicap walking-race, be regarded rather as a diverting amusement to break the monotony of the more serious contests, than as a source of honour, and let the prizes for these be made the least valuable. We might then be held to have made some progress in the right direction, and might be justified in awaiting further developments.

We now present for comparison the programme of an English Public school, for whose races cups are given, but of no great value. It includes twenty events, of which one only is a handicap race. This single exception is a half-mile, which is generally expected to provide some amusement. The other nineteen events are perfectly open, with the exception that if a fellow wins a particular race one year, he is penalised in a short distance if he contends in the same race next year. The following is the list of these nineteen events, and we commend it to the attention of the committee and of all others interested in the question, as being greatly superior to our own. There are six flat races open to all, viz., the 100 yards, 200 yards, 440 yards, three-quarter-mile, and mile, and a consolation race of 200 yards; four flat races under limits of age, viz., the Lower School championship of 200 yards, 150 yards under 13, 200 yards under 15, and three-quarter-mile under 15; three hurdle races open to all, viz. 100 yards, 200 yards, and 300 yards; the long jump; the high jump open to all, and the high jump under 15; throwing the hammer; and finally a sack race of 60 yards and a hopping race of 80 yards, the last two being simply intended to produce a little fun, in which they are usually eminently successful. If anyone doubts whether a good day's racing can be obtained without handicaps, let him consider this programme, and be wise.

A CAMP UP THE LANE COVE RIVER.

PART II.

After the meal a short rest was taken in order to let the digestive organs carry out their duties, which were probably extremely onerous in Nat's case. About 12 o'clock, Nat proposed a swim, and was so ably seconded by Nat and Pat, that the river which was rather cold but otherwise not very unpleasant, was resorted to; whereupon a lengthy and somewhat ardent dis-
cussion took place as to who should go in first, it ended however, in Mat taking to the water before the other two had disrobed themselves. While Mat was swimming across he was slightly startled by a tremendous splash, and on looking behind him he found that Nat, in attempting to dive off a slippery log had fallen into the water instead. The other side having been reached a general mud fight took place, and soon all three were so completely changed that it would have been hard to distinguish them from professional negroes, a dive in the water, however, restored them to their natural colour which was let us hope, white.

After some graceful feats and revolutions in the water, a race was started for the other side, which was reached first by Mat.

It was considerably past dinner time when they had dressed themselves, so it was resolved to wait and have an early dinner tea or tea dinner, whichever it may be. While Pat and Mat looked on, Nat proceeded to make two more "nullas," when they were made they had as much " nulla " about them as the word in Latin expresses. However, they helped to pass the time, in throwing them about and in keeping Nat and Pat away from the box in which the bread was kept.

Tea dinner (or the other way if you like) time arrived, and after a considerable time had been spent over the meal, the three turned in to pass the night it was hoped in peace. The night passed without anything of importance happening, except that Pat must have gone to sleep with the bugle under his nose, hence the not uncommon noise.

Morning arrived, and after breakfast, in which Nat commenced first and ended last, the daily routine of swimming, cricket, &c., was gone through. The next day a trip was made up to the head of the river which was much enjoyed. I will endeavour here to describe the scenery.

Along the banks the scenery is somewhat striking, especially late in the afternoon, when the sun here and there gilds the tops of the hills with radiant light, and shining through the valleys, catches the river and makes it glisten like burnished silver. As soon as the head is reached you hear the water rushing down from some fresh water lagoons which are situated further along, and are about twenty feet above the sea level. In front a rather steep hill meets the eye, while to the right lies a huge sub-divided cave, to which nearly all those who camp at the head of the river resort. On entering the cave the beholder is not only struck with beauty of the scenery but also by the various and many ways in which names, trade-marks, &c., are inscribed.

Having ascended the hill, Mat led them along the sort of table land till they arrived at what is known as the "Giant's Castle."

This is another attraction of that part of the river, and it seems to every appearance the ruined remains of a castle. It consists of huge masses of octagonal shaped sandstone, these being again divided into smaller pentagonal and hexagonal pieces. These rocks have been subjected to much discussion as to their formation, and a piece of one is in the possession of the Royal Society. They have been visited morever by Dr. Badham and Professor Liversidge and other eminent geologists, and in short are extremely interesting to those who can appreciate such a thing.
Much time was spent by Mat and Pat in looking at the magnificent scenery and it was quite late when the boat was reached, and a start was made for the camp, which was reached just at dark. That night as it was the last, was to be devoted to singing and such like, but as Pat suddenly and without warning declared that he had a head-ache, and Nat following suit, the night passed off rather tamely.

In the morning after the tent and luggage had been packed in the boat, three cheers were given for their most successful camp, and a start was made down the river. Hunter's Hill was reached and the steamer to Sydney starting soon after, the three arrived in town all safe and sound, after a most pleasant camp out, and I think it will take a long time for them to forget the rambles in the bush, the trip up to the head, and other places of note; all of which will make an almost lasting memorial of Mat's, Nat's, and Pat's camp at Red Bank.

BLACKFELLOW.

MILTON.

TRANSCRIBED FROM TENNYSON.

O qui deorum numine, Miltoni,
Plenus, sonora voce tonas breves
Horas, et infinita mundi
Secula, tu, numerorum Origo,
Seros in annos commemoraberis;
Cui, turris instar, caellicolum manus
Armis coruscantes et igni
Ætherio supereminebant
Cœtus nefastos, concava dum poli
Quassantur acer funditus impetu,
Si fors repugnaret caterva
Agminibus scelerata sacrīs.
Sed me recessus me potius silens
Captatque gratis Elysium sonis,
Amnesque odoratique flores—
Tesqua cedro laqueata nigra.

Me, ceu viatorem Oceani levem
Indi per undam, vesper ubi insulas
Tingit susurrantesque palmas,
Sole sub Hesperio rubentes.

SYDNEY HARBOUR.

Born of the ages, thy birthday beholding
Who can declare, 'mid the pathways untrod
Of the Ocean. and marked thee thy graces unfolding,
Exquisite offspring of Nature and God?
Greeted wast thou by the trumpet of the thunder,
By banners of lightnings in splendour unfurl'd,
By the wrack of the Universe riven asunder,
The throes of thy mother upheaving a world?

Was it peace at thy birth, while the Sons of the morning
Awoke with glad carols thy silence of home,—
With a halo of glory thy cradle adorning—
"All hail, Aphrodite, fair child of the foam"?

Lone was thy childhood, with none to caress thee
Save the wild wings of the love-laden breeze;
Reft thou of playmates, to fondle and bless thee
Sinking on sleep, save the sough of the seas.

Grew in the silence thy maidenhood lowly,
As the growth of the flowers, unnoticed, unknown,
Lovelier far in thine innocence lowly
Reflecting thyself in thy beauty alone.

Break on thy calm far from over the waters
Footfalls of ill, light as eve's weary sigh;
Loveliest thou of earth's loveliest daughters.
Arise and prepare thee:—the Stranger is nigh.

Wapt in thy beauty in mute adoration
Vows he to woo thee, and win thee a bride,
In the fullness of time to give birth to a nation
Thy glory their boast, and their greatness thy pride.

Rings thy wide fame through the curses and screaming
Of man, as he sweats and he clamours for gain;
Or taints the fair earth, in his folly blaspheming
The God he disproves, with a God-given brain.

Lavish thy bounties to all who implore thee;
Strength into weakness, to poverty wealth;
Kneel they in bowed supplication before thee,
To breathe o'er the dying the strong flush of health.

Alas for thee, Maiden; thy beauty is faded,
Faded so soon 'neath Man's withering blight;
The curse of the ingrate thy home had invaded:
The sun of thy splendour wanes dimly in night.

Oft as when through the shadows my shallop is winging
Her way, on a mirror of landscape and sky,
Methinks thy sad dirge through the darkness is ringing,
And the moon and the stars sadly echo reply.

Yet still, as I glide wapt in silence of even,
Fed with delight from around, from above,
For me thou canst charm e'en this earth into heaven,
Content thee to honour, content thee to love-
THE ATHLETIC SPORTS.

Our eighth annual meeting, which took place on Saturday, the 21st instant, on the Association Ground, was attended with success, certainly not inferior to that attained by any of its predecessors. The weather was highly propitious, bright and sunny, without wind, yet of an agreeable and temperate warmth withal, which imparted comfort to the spectators without distressing the athletes, whose wearied frames were doubtless reinvigorated by the pleasing coolness which ensued immediately upon the sinking of the sun. This took place with commendable punctuality, directly after the conclusion of the last race, the great luminary being doubtless of opinion that this portion of the earth no longer contained any sight worth seeing in comparison.

The number of spectators was computed to reach about 4000; such at least was the estimate of our esteemed contemporary the Sydney Morning Herald, from whom we are not in this instance disposed to differ. The Grand Stand and lawn in front of it were crowded from end to end with youth and beauty, and formed a gay and sparkling scene, the colouring of which was, however, as our special artist kindly pointed out, spoiled by the superabundance of a fashionable tint of dark red which seemed to have established a despotic sway over the feminine taste. The circumference of the oval was also fairly populated all round, and there was the customary and familiar admixture of those small larrikins, who seem on these occasions to spring into existence by some mysterious process of spontaneous generation from the dust of the arena.

No difficulty was experienced, however, in keeping the ground clear, and the most profound order reigned universally. The Secretary of the Association—we believe he was the secretary, but at any rate the representative—complained of the pressure of the crowd on the lawn upon the boundary fence, and their encroachment upon sundry flower-beds which are supposed to be geographically adjacent to it. We admit the pressure; and if there were any flower-beds there—for we neglected to satisfy ourselves on that head by ocular inspection—the gardeners wouldn't have known them the next morning, when they came round to water the plants. However, if the lawn is to be open to the general public, this crowding for the front places and best points of view may be regarded as inevitable.

The general arrangements were entirely satisfactory, and the strict punctuality with which each event was started at its appointed time was highly commendable. The handicaps, of which, as usual, there were a great deal too many, seemed to have been well arranged, as a rule. The time-keeping, always the great stumbling-block of amateur meetings, was in our opinion good in most instances: although it cannot be denied that in one or two races the time given was too short. This, however, is a blemish shared by all amateurs, and does not impair the justice of our opinion as to the general accuracy of the time-keeping. No hitch occurred throughout the whole afternoon, and the committee are to be congratulated on the success of
their arrangements, and the manner in which so long a programme was worked through within the limited period of time available.

The most interesting event in the afternoon proved to be the two-mile bicycle race, which was contested with extraordinary closeness. the two chief competitors being neck-and-neck to the very last; the greatest enthusiasm was displayed by the spectators during the finish of this race, and indeed a better or more exciting race could not well be. The best performance, and one, too, of which there can be no doubt as to the genuineness, was perhaps the high jump, in which Russell won great applause; and it is probable that he might even have surpassed his performance, if he had not been anxious to reserve himself for another event. For amusement, the handicap walking-race, as usual, bore off the palm, being indeed the only event in our programme which partakes of the humorous.

For some remarks on the general principles involved in the programme of events we beg to refer our readers to an article in another column, and now proceed to give the details of the meeting:—

1. One Hundred Yards, Open.—Two prizes presented by Messrs. Lamb and Fairfax. D. Sedgwick, 1; F. Russell, 2; W. McPherson, 3.

Six started for this race, which was excellently contested between Sedgwick and Russell, who were separated by about a foot only at the finish; McPherson was a good third. Time, 10.4-5 secs.

2. Two Hundred and Twenty Yards Handicap, under 15 Years.—Two prizes. First Heat.—A. R. Firth, (scratch) 1; G. Mackay, (11 yards) 2; L. Cork, (7 yards) 3.

About a dozen started for each heat of this race. Firth won his heat easily, although starting scratch, by about five yards; Mackay and Cork were only separated by a bare six inches; the rest scattered. Time, 26.3-10 secs.

Second Heat.—H. Donnan, (3 yards) 1; W. Fitzhardinge, (8 yards) 2.

Wood (2 yards) came in first for this race. by about four feet, and the same distance intervened between Donnan and Fitzhardinge, who came in second and third respectively. A protest was, however, lodged by Hughes against Wood for having jostled him, and the protest being upheld by the judges, Wood was disqualified; the places were, therefore, adjudged as above. This race was a slow one. Time, 28 secs.

3. House Cup; Half-Mile Handicap.—Two prizes presented by A. K. Farrar, Esq.

J. Parker, Cleveland House, (scratch) 1; G. Hayes, Wimbledon Hall, (35 yards) 2; K. Hungerford, Wimbledon Hall, (45 yards) 3; T. Hungerford, Wimbledon Hall, (45 yards) 4.

In this race Parker had it virtually all his own way, in spite of his handicap, which he soon worked off, and won as he liked; five yards between second and third. T. Hungerford made the running for the first lap, and maintained the second place until the last eighty yards, but failed to stay in the finish, being passed by the others. Time, 2 min. 15.1-10 secs. 2nd, 2 min. 17 secs.
4. THREE HUNDRED YARDS MAIDEN HANDICAP.—Two prizes. First Heat.
- A Fletcher, (25 yards) 1; T. Yeo, (14 yards) 2; T. O'Reilly, (15 yards) 3.
  Fletcher won by about three yards; Rowling (30 yards) was second in position until the
  finish, when he had no spurt left in him at the critical moment; about a foot between second and
  third. Time, 35 4-5 secs.
  Second Heat.—C. J. King, (18 yards) 1; T. Henderson, (20 yards) 2; R. Cranna, (18 yards) 3.
  This was a very close and even race, and one of the best of the handicapped races; there was
  about a foot between first and second, and the same between second and third at the finish.
  Time, 35 4-5 secs.

5. ALL SCHOOLS RACE, TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY YARDS.—Two prizes
  presented by E Pratt, Esq. R. E. Riley, (King's School) 1; F. Russell, (Sydney Grammar School) 2;
  H. Martin, (Modern High School) 3.
  Russell might not improbably have won this, had he not been somewhat hampered by the crowd at
  first; the finish was, however, a very good one, Riley winning by a foot, and the third about as much
  behind. Perhaps it is on the whole a more seemly and graceful thing that we should not win our own
  prizes against other competitors; it is in the abstract hardly a nice thing to offer a prize to others,
  and then take it oneself, so we need feel no regret that the victory should lie with a not ignoble rival.
  Time, 25 7-10 secs.

6. TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY YARDS HANDICAP, UNDER 15 YEARS.­
  Final Heat of No. 2. G Mackay, (11 yards) 1; R. A. Firth (scratch) 2; H.
  Donnan, (3 yards) 3; W. Fitzhardinge, (8 yards) 0.
  The result of the first heat was here reversed, Mackay defeating Firth by six inches, after having
  been handsomely beaten by him on the former occasion; the race between these two was a very good one,
  Firth coming up with a fine spurt at the end, but the other two competitors, as might have
  been inferred from the comparatively slow time of their heat, were not in it at all. Time, 25 7-10 secs.

7. BICYCLE RACE, SYDNEY BICYCLE CLUB, ONE MILE HANDICAP.—Two
  prizes. H. Moyes, (40 yards) 1; M. A. Hilliard, (35 yards) 2; F. W. Sharp, (scratch) 0.
  Sharp retired at the half-distance, not having made much way on his handicap and perhaps desiring to
  reserve his energies for the two mile race. The contest between the other two was not particularly exciting,
  Moyes never being passed from first to last, and eventually winning by 14 yards, so that apparently
  the handicap should have been reversed. Time, 3 min. 44 4-5 secs
  Particular attention was paid to the ordering and timing of the bicycle races, in view of the mess
  which had been made of them at the Sydney Amateur Athletics a short time previously; our results
  appeared to be satisfactory.

8. THREE-QUARTERS OF A MILE HANDICAP. Two prizes. A. H. Thomas,
  (scratch) 1; L. Smith, (15 yards) 2; J. Thomson, (65 yards) 3; G. Williamson,
  (30 yards) 0; T. Henderson, (40 yards) 0.
  Thomson maintained the lead given him by his handicap for the first two laps, but it was soon evident
  that Thomas had the race well in hand; coming up when he chose, he won by about 15 yards, without being much pressed; 
  Thomson, who ran pluckily throughout, about as far behind Smith. Time, 3 min. 43 4-5 secs.

9. ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YARDS, UNDER 14 YEARS.—L. Cook, 1; T.
  Hungerford, 2; W Fitzhardinge, 3.
  A rather large field entered for this; Cork won easily by four yards,
  Hungerford two yards in front of Fitzhardinge, who was closely pressed by
  the main body. Time, 18 1-5 secs. A protest was entered against Cork by
  several competitors, on the ground that he was above the limit of age: we
  understand, however, that the judges, after due enquiry, see no reason to
  doubt that he is within the prescribed limits.

10. KICKING THE FOOTBALL (PLACE KICK).—P. Russell, (46 yards) 1; T.
  O'Reilly, 2 aeq.; C. King, 2 aeq.
  This competition presents little interest to the spectators.
11. Eighty Yards, Under 12 Years.—O. Carter, 1; J. Kerr, 2; A. Watson, 3.

As usual, this was a close race, the competitors arriving at the tape in a confused globular mass; Carter won by a yard. Time, 10½ secs.

12. Three Hundred Yards Handicap.—Final heat of No. 4. A. Fletcher, (25 yards) 1; C. J. King, (18 yards) 2; T. Yeo, (14 yards) 3; T. Henderson, (20 yards) 0.

The result was concordant with the trial heats, Fletcher winning in fair style by three yards, King two yards ahead of Yeo. Time, 36 3 10 secs., (rather slower than either of the trial heats.)

13. School Cup, Two Hundred and Twenty Yards Handicap.—Two prizes. First Heat.—C. J. Watt, (15 yards) 1; E. Rowling, (28 yards) 2 aeq.; R. A. Firth, (9 yards) 2 aeq.; F. Thomas (14 yards) 2 aeq.

Won by about four yards; Rowling, Firth, and Thomas came in so very nearly at the same moment, (though Rowling was probably a trifle in advance) that they were adjudged to have run a dead heat, and under the circumstances it was thought best that they should all three be allowed to compete in the final heat. Time, 25 1-10 secs.

Second Heat.—A. Sedgwick, (13 yards) 1; R. Thompson, (17 yards) 2; P. J. A. Payton, (12 yards) 3.

Sedgwick came in first by about four yards, without much difficulty; rather less between second and third. Time, 24 4 11 secs.


The interest of this race was in great part spoiled by the appearance of only two competitors in the field, though there were six entries. As both were decidedly disposed to hold their energies in reserve, and there was no one to force the running, the contest was exceedingly tame to the spectators. Thomas took the lead at starting, and Pratt assumed a position immediately behind him, and in this order they trotted round the first three laps and at half the last at a leisurely pace in the most docile manner. Both spurted in good form, but Pratt was unable to regain his lost ground, and Thomas won by about four yards, not seeming to have been much pressed. Time, 5 min. 33 secs.

15. Three Hundred Yards Handicap.—Open to members of all Amateur Athletic Clubs under rules of S. A. A. C. Two prizes. F. W. Baylis, (8 yards) 1; E. Ferris. (12 yards) 2; P. C. Fairland, (5 yards) 3. T. M. Thomas, (7 yards) 0; E. A. Grainger, (12 yards) 0; W. A. Blackstone, (12 yards) 0; A. M. Clapin, (20 yards) 0.

Thomson, who was thought likely for this, retired hurt in the middle of the race. The finish was very good and closely contested, Baylis winning by not more than two yards, Fairland hardly further behind Ferris. Time, 33 1-10 secs.

16. One Hundred and Twenty Yards Handicap Hurdle Race.—Two prizes; prize presented by Old Sydneians. (We beg to protest formally against the use of the barbarous term “ex-students.”) J. Cruickshank, (10 yards) 1; A. Carter, (4 yards) 2; P. Hassal, (6 yards) 3.

This was not much of a race in the just meaning of the term. Cruickshank, having the advantage of his handicap, was never touched, and won by five or six yards from Carter; the third no where. Bowman appeared disconcerted by the sight of the second hurdle; having inspected it carefully, he seemed to come to the conclusion that there was something uncanny about it, and walking round its extremity, he pursued his path over the remaining hurdles in correct form, reaching the tape some minutes after the race was over. Time, 22 9-10 secs.

17. Four Hundred and Forty Yards Handicap, Under 15 Years.—Two prizes. W. Clapin, (18 yards) 1; G. Mackay, (15 yards) 2; E. P. Woolcott, (18 yards) 3; J. Wood, (scratch) 0; H. Donnan, (3 yards) 0; T.
Hungerford, (5 yards) 0; L. Cork, (12 yards) 0; L. Mackay, (14 yards) 0; J. Rutherford, (14 yards) 0; H. Lambton, (18 yards) 0; H. Antill, (25 yards) 0; P. Kirton, (27 yards) 0.

A good race, the competitors coming in well together. Won by about three yards, two yards between second and third. Time, 1 min. 1 4-5 secs.

18. **SCHOOL CUP, TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY YARDS HANDICAP.** Final heat No. 13.—A. Sedgwick, (13 yards) 1; R. Thompson, (17 yards) 2 aeq.; C. J. Watt, (15 yards) 2 aeq; E. Rowling, (20 yards) 0; R. A. Firth, (9 yards) 0; F. Thomas, (14 yards) 0.

Sedgwick came away well at the finish, and won a good race by three yards. Thompson looked like coming in second, but Watt by a vigorous effort pulled up to him in the last few yards, and succeeded in making it a dead heat. Time, 24 7-10 secs.

19. **BICYCLE RACE, SYDNEY BICYCLE CLUB, TWO MILES HANDICAP.**—Two prizes. M. A. Hilliard, (50 yards) 1; F. W. Sharp, (scratch) 2; A. A. Dircks, (140 yards) 0; N. Hall, (180 yards) 0.

This proved the most exciting event of the day. Dircks fell in the first lap, and his bicycle being injured, he had to retire. Hall was passed by the other two in the third lap, and as it was evident that he had no chance, he also shortly retired. The contest then lay between Sharp and Hilliard. The former slowly but steadily made up his handicap, until at the beginning of the sixth lap he succeeded in passing Hilliard, and during the sixth and seventh laps he contrived to keep just ahead, though very closely pressed all the time. In the eight and last lap Hilliard presently passed him by a vigorous effort, and during the remainder of the lap they were almost neck and neck, alternately passing and repassing each other by energetic spurts so that it was absolutely impossible to say which seemed likeliest to win. The immense concourse of spectators were filled with a divine enthusiasm, and roared like men possessed. Amidst frantic excitement, Hilliard succeeded in crossing the line about two feet in advance, but had the course been even ten yards longer, the result might have been the other way, so little was there to choose. Time, 7 min. 52 secs.

20. **ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YARDS, OPEN TO OLD SYDNEYANS.** (Vide editorial remark on No. 16.)—Two prizes. F. Baylis, 1; E. A. Grainger, 2; J. Ferris, 3; W. B. Fairfax, 0.

These were the only starters out of 17 entries. This race was unfortunately unsatisfactory; a bad start was made, not from any fault of the starter's, but because the pistol went off prematurely on its own account; Baylis accordingly got off with an undue advantage, and eventually won from Grainger by about four feet; Ferris a good third. Time, 15 2-5 secs.; this is justly suspected of inaccuracy on account of its shortness; but the error is probably to be attributed to the bad start.

21. **HIGH JUMP.**—F. Russell, (5 feet 5 inches) 1; T. Marks, (4 feet 7 inches) 2.

Russell jumped in excellent style, and might, we think, have cleared even a greater height, but wished to reserve himself for the quarter-mile; the performance was, however, extremely creditable.

22. **ONE MILE WALKING HANDICAP.**—Two prizes; prize presented by C. J. D. Goldie, Esq. C. Delohery, (160 yards) 1; A. H. Thomas, (scratch) 2; K. Hungerford, (50 yards) 3.

We beheld with much delight the usual large and motley assortment of competitors for this popular race, breathing forth confidence in their handicaps of from 20 to 160 yards. Our emotions found a responsive echo in the bosoms of the small larrikins surrounding the fence, who hooted and jeered vigorously from excess of joy, throughout the contest. Delohery, in limb the least considerable of all, walked extremely pluckily and in very creditable form all through, and was never passed, finally winning by 12 or 14 yards; the other long-handicap men were not in it at all. N. Payten, (50 yards) came in
equal with Thomas, but was disqualified for running, and very properly, as he was hardly walking at all during the whole of the last lap. Thomas walked very creditably, under the discouraging circumstances of his long penalty, and came in some dozen yards before Hungerford. Time, 8 mins. 33 4-10 secs.


A good race, won by a bare yard; Fletcher and Watt were hardly separable for the second place, and Rowling was an excellent fourth. Time, 55 7-10 secs.

The Cup given by the Masters of the school, for the scorer of most points in all open races, was awarded to F. Russell. The races which were taken into account were Nos. 1, 5, 10, 14, and 21, and 5 points were given for first place, 3 for second, and 2 for third. The scores were:—F. Russell, 16; A. Sedgwick, 5; A. H. Thomas, 5; A. E. Pratt, 3; F. Marks, 3; C. King, 3; T. O'Reilly, 3; W. McPherson, 2.


**CADET NEWS.**

A new class for single stick, boxing, and dumb bells will be formed at the beginning of next quarter. Big and small boys can join. Entrance fee—Cadets, 3s.; Prefects, 3s.; all others, 10s. The money paid in entrance fees will be spent on the purchase of sticks and gloves. Punctual attendance will be enforced. Boys who absent themselves will be thereby disqualified from further attendance. Hours of attendance—Monday, 3.15, 4.15 p.m.; dumb bells. Wednesday, 3.15, 4.15 p.m.; single stick. Thursday, 3.15, 4.15 p.m.; boxing and bayonet exercise. Names to be given in to the Secretary, Sergeant Cowper, during the first week of next term.

Approved,—A. B. WEIGALL.

Ten recruits can be taken on to the strength of the Cadet Company at the beginning of next quarter. Application to be made during the first week to Sergeant Hagney.

A. B. WEIGALL, Captain.

The half-yearly prizes have been awarded as follows:—

**RIFLE COMPANY—SHOOTING:** Cadet Thomas; average, 33½. First prize, £2. Corporal Helsham; average, 28½. Second prize, £1 10s. Sergeant Barker; average, 28½. Third prize, £1 Cadet Bowman; average, 27½. Fourth prize. £1. Corporal Trebeck and Lance-Corporal Thomas; average, 26½. Fifth and sixth prizes, 10s.

Cleanest Cadet on parade, 11 good marks, Lance-Corporal Hungerford, £1.

**CARRINES—SHOOTING:** Sergeant Clapin; average, 33½. First prize, £1 10s. Lance-Corporal Clapin; average, 29½. Second prize, £1. Cadet Barlee; average, 29½. Third prize, 15s.

Cleanest Cadet on parade—L. C. Leibius, 11 good marks. First prize, 10s. Cadet Congdon, 7 good marks. Second prize, 5s. Cadet Solomon, 5 good marks. Third prize, 5s.

The following promotions have been made during the quarter:—

**RIFLE COMPANY—L. C. Trebeck to be corporal, vice Kenna resigned. Cadet Hungerford to be Lance-Corporal, vice Trebeck promoted.**
FOOTBALL.

The School played its first match on Wednesday, 1st June, against Newington College. The match was a very tame one throughout, and resulted in an easy win for Newington by three goals and four tries to nil, the Newington team having the game all their own way from start to finish. No one seemed to be surprised at, or even to care about this result—indeed, little less than a disgrace—of our first match. The news of our defeat was received with passive indifference, and quite as a matter of course. Unless some alteration is made in our present style of practising—I am wrong, we have no practice whatever; I mean, unless weekly practices are instituted, all the rest of our matches will be but a repetition of our first one. Under the present system all the matches are played on Wednesdays; if, instead, they were played on Saturdays we might have the regular practice a week, and so be prepared to play on Saturday; but as it is, we cannot practise on Monday or Tuesday, for then we would be knocked up for Wednesday, and the result is that we go into the field without any practice, and are totally defeated. The only obstacle, that I can see, to playing on Saturday is the fact that some of the fifteen belong to outside Clubs; but surely there are fifteen boys in the School who are so devoted to its honour that they would be willing to give up outside Clubs to play for the School alone. Hoping to see what I have pointed out remedied, and my proposal for playing on Saturday adopted,

I remain, yours &c.,

FOOTBALLER.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DEBATING SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the Sydneian.

Sir,—Prophecies after the event gain in credibility what they lack in sagacity. In the following remarks, therefore, I shall be guided by the results of experience, rather than by the hazards of conjecture.

The Debating Society, as I think, failed, because (1.) Like the Athenian Ecclesia in its degenerate days, more regard was paid to "the three hundred who were ready to shout than to the much smaller number of orators who generally were not ready to debate; in other words, because the Society aimed at the numbers rather than the quality of its members. Instead of confining its operations to the more select forms of the Upper School, it enrolled among its members an unreasoning rabble from the Lower School, and from the less desirable Forms in the Upper School. With such elements preponderating, it was difficult to maintain order, it was impossible to create an intelligent interest in the question under discussion. (2.) The members who ought to have taken the lead did not master the subject before rising to speak, and the discussion, therefore, instead of confining itself to principles, soon lapsed into a carping, and often frivolous criticism upon the remarks of the previous speaker. Too often the question was not decided upon its merits, but was settled by the personal predilections of the audience. (3.) The room in which
the meetings were held was utterly unsuitable for the purpose—Noisy, draughty, with the smells of the chemistry lectures still lingering about it, insufficiently lighted, it afforded every facility for those who wished to create a disturbance, and very small inducements for those who wished to speak and listen without interruption. Rattling members indeed might have found it a very paradise.

When the Debating Society is re-established next quarter, I should recommend that it be kept select, and fairly representative of the intellect of the school; that the speakers come with their matter properly digested, and ready for delivery, and that the awkward pauses, that characterised the former regime, be prevented by arranging beforehand, upon both sides, the order in which those, who wish to take part in the debate are to speak.

I hear that the Head Master has offered the use of one of the rooms in his own house for the meetings of the Society, and I trust that the new committee, with such extra facilities, profiting by the experience of the past, will be able next term to inaugurate a more successful state of things. For the credit of the school, the Debating Society must be kept up. It is capable of doing much practical good.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

WRANGLER.

To the Editors of the Sydneian.

DEAR SIR,—The apparently approaching death of the Debating Society has evoked a large amount of comment, and if I may be excused I would like to put in my little spoke in the matter.

The committee of the society were evidently bent on doing something rash by way of signalizing the death of the society, I refer to the sale of the piano. Now why is it necessary that the piano should be sold? Why not cover it up and keep it till the society starts again, as it will assuredly do. The piano cost a good deal of money, and the money was not picked up in the streets. Besides, what are the committee going to do with the money?

It seems to me that possibly the vigour of the society might be renewed by some entertainment, it only takes half-a-dozen boys to get up something in the way of an entertainment. Some societies adopt a very good method of keeping up the interest by having public debates with other societies. Now this entertainment only takes four boys, and I'm sure four could easily be got who would be willing to speak. Of course the details of the debate would have to be left to the committee.

As a last suggestion, I would warn you of being afraid to meet societies who have older men in them than in yours. I think you will find you can get the best of a society of men, because men that can speak well scorn the idea of belonging to a debating society. Hoping these suggestions may be of some use.

I am, yours faithfully,

A. S. MULLENS.

21st May, 1881.
To the Editors of the Sydneian.

Dear Sirs,—In most of the leading schools of the sister colonies periodical concerts are given.

To wit, the Launceston Grammar School, which has its dramatic entertainments in the public halls of that City.

Why should we a school four times the size of the Launceston Grammar School be dead in this matter?

If we have too much money on hand at present, let us give a complimentary concert.

I am sure that an entertainment would increase the popularity of the school more than most things.

Although the Debating Society is now a thing of the past, I think there is still remaining talent enough for such a purpose. Out of 400 boys I am positive that it would be possible to procure a good orchestra and chorus.

Sincerely hoping that our energetic committee will take this matter in hand.

I am, yours &c.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

P.S.—Perhaps you will remember that the entertainment given some three years back was a decided success. Also, I can guarantee the services of about a dozen boys.

To the Editors of the Sydneian.

Dear Sirs,—In most of our amateur Cricket Clubs it is the custom to present the most successful members with trophies at the close of the season. But nothing of the sort seems to be done here. It seems to me that as far as anything like this goes, we are a century behind the age.

Why is it so? Here our team at Christmas sustained at their own expense (more shame to us) our honour and on their return, got an honourable "thank you"; but stay I doubt whether they got that. Our worthy captain has gone with what memento of his achievements?—Nothing.

If our committee are too modest to deal with this matter (as well they might be, the majority of them being first Eleven), I hope soon to see one formed to carry out this purpose.

Apologizing for trespassing on your valuable space.

I am, yours, &c.,

June 9th, 1881. GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

To the Editors of the Sydneian.

Dear Sirs,—An idea seems to prevail at the present time that all the talent which ornaments the school is confined to two or three of the Upper Forms.

My friend "Vth Form" seems to be well acquainted with this assumption, in consequence of which he very cleverly suggests that a Debating Society should be formed out of the talented Vth and VIth Forms.

If this were done what orations would salute our awe-struck ears (especially such as must fall from the lips of our critic whose nom de guerre is the peaceful title "Vth Form.") How orderly the Friday night meetings would
become!—Become we say? Could we be so far wanting in respect to our
gifted critic as to insinuate that any member of the abovementioned Forms
would ever forget himself and "stamp on the floor?" Perish the thought!
Would these Forms (to use Pickwick's words) "mild, gentle, and considerate"
so far forget what is owing to their dignity as to applaud good speeches (alas,
and few and far between), or if a good piano recital were given, would they (as the
poet Longfellow expresses it) be like "dumb, driven cattle," and sit mute?
We are doubtful what opinion we should hold, though judging from the
graceful manner in which some of the Vth Form show their want of dignity
by leaping over the desks in the school room; we should be inclined to think
that (to quote "Vth Form's" words) "the Society would not miss them if
they did not come." Of course the "gentlemanly moderns" would not be
permitted to attend these assemblies scintillating with wit and humour, and
lighted by the smiles which, we are sure, our "talented" critic bestows on
each honied word. To dream of admitting us, the Pariahs and Lepers of the
school world—but language fails as we pause with awe upon the threshold.
not daring to intrude on such dread mysteries. But what "if they should
relent and publish grace to all, on promise of new subjection" and permit
us "fallen angels to regain our lost abode?" Would not the oracles be dumb
whilst voice and hideous hum ran through the arched roof in words deceiv­
ing? But facts are stubborn things, and we should be glad if our "talented"
critic would sacrifice epigrammatic smartness on the altar of truth. Did we
not feel that "Vth Form" is far too eager to rush into print, we would have
refrained from showing the general public what must be patent to most within
our immediate circle, that "Vth Form's" bark is worse than his bite.
Yours, most obediently,

THE MODERN SCHOOL

Sydney, May 31st 1881,

To the Editor of the Sydneyian.

Sir,—The Sydney Grammar School has hitherto assembled after the
holidays, on a Monday. To the pupils on the Hunter (and doubtless of other
localities) to reassemble on Monday involves, either the loss of two days at
least to them, or Sunday travelling, which, to many is distasteful and ought
not to be encouraged either directly or indirectly. Now this hardship
on the one hand and impropriety on the other might be avoided by making
Tuesday instead of Monday, the day of reassembling. I think you will find,
that nearly all meetings at which persons are expected from a distance, are
held on Tuesday, at all events, not on Monday. The difference of a day
would be of very little account. As the Grammar School is intended for
moral as well as intellectual training, this matter deserves the serious consi­
deration of those in whose hands the management of affairs is. I have no
doubt, if through the columns of your excellent magazine, the attention of
the very highly respected Head-master be called to the subject, he will take
such steps as may be necessary to remedy what appears to be an evil.

I remain, yours, &c.,

A. B. C.
MISCELLANEOUS.

We learn from a private letter that Mr. W. C. Wilkinson, B.A. (captain of the school in 1874) has obtained the gold medal in medicine at his first M.B. examination at the University of London. The medical course at the London University, as a scientific training, is admitted to rank higher than any similar course in the United Kingdom. This, combined with the fact that Mr. Wilkinson has beaten several men senior to himself, justifies us in considering the distinction he has gained as a very valuable one.

SCHOOL NOTICES.

TERM EXAMINATIONS, JUNE, 1881.

MORNING. | AFTERNOON.
---|---
Monday, June 20— Upper School: French | German and French Dictation
Tuesday, June 21— Upper School: English | English
| Lower School: Classics | Classics
Wednesday, June 22— Upper School: Algebra | Greek
| Lower School: French | English (general paper)
Thursday, June 23— Upper School: Latin | Dictation
| Lower School: English, *viva voce* | Dictation

The prize list and promotions will be read in Big School at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 25.

The Head Master wishes to notify that he will sign Railway Passes on Thursday, June 23, at 3:15 p.m., in the Reception Room.

The head boys in the various subjects of the first series of Handicap Examinations for the present year are:

- Upper School—English: Layton
- Latin: Beehag
- Greek: Wilson
- Arithmetic: D'Arcy
- Lower School—Latin: Merrick I.
- Arithmetic: Joseph

The second series of these examinations will be held in the month of September, and the prizes will be adjudged upon the combined results of the two examinations.

A. B. WEIGALL, H.M.

ANSWERS TO CHARADES.

The Charades in our last number have no answers. They were obtained from our Lunatic Contributor, who was perhaps hardly aware that answers formed a usual complement of such enigmatical propositions, and we have forborne to press him, lest he might be goaded into supplying us with answers to which there are no charades. —Eds.
We beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following journals:—

The Marlburian (2).
The Epsonian (2).
The Cheltonian (2).
The Columban.
The Melburnian.
The Durham University Journal.
The Reptonian.
Ulula.

SCHOOL CALENDAR.

June 20.—Term Examinations begin.
25.—Prize list read. School breaks up for Midwinter holidays.
July 18.—Spring Term begins at 9:30 a.m.
8.—Sydneian box closes
18.—Sydneian No. xxxv. published