Price Sixpence.

The Sydneyian.

No. XXXVIII.

A Magazine Edited by Members of the Sydney Grammar School.

December, 1881.

Contents.

Editorial ................................................................. 1

The Resignation of Mr. Pratt ........................................ 2

The "Agapippa" ....................................................... 2

Report of Sports Meeting ........................................... 5

Barnett v. Grammar School Rowing Club ......................... 6

Cricket ........................................................................ 7

Correspondence .......................................................... 8

Interesting Solution of a Geometrical Problem .................. 12

Classical Examinations ............................................... 12

Mathematical Examinations ......................................... 13

Puzzle Page ................................................................... 15

Sydney: Published by J. J. Moore & Co., George Street.

1881.
The Editors will be happy to receive literary contributions from members of the School or old Sydneians.

Contributors are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and to send their names, not necessarily for publication.—Eds.
EDITORIAL.

In issuing the last number of the *Sydneian* for this year of grace, 1881, we could find it in our hearts to wish that we had a lengthy file of rejected contributions to pass in review before the eyes of our readers. But what is the actual fact? With the exception of some miserable attempts at epistolary correspondence, and some inane pretences of enigmas, we have rejected nothing at all, save and except one highly peculiar poem (for lack of a better name), forwarded to us under the significant signature of "Embryo." Low indeed, we should conceive, must be the stage of development of the particular "Embryo" who communicated to us this curious production, the premature fruit of his too precocious intellect. It is said that poetical inspiration is a form of madness, and it is very interesting to observe that this primal germ of the poet, even in its earliest embryonic condition, is so clearly characterised by incipient lunacy.

The plot of the poem is simple, consisting in brief of an account how a humane philanthropist fattened a little orphan lad on bread, and a suggestion of a similar line of conduct for the rest of us. But the first thing that is likely to strike the attention is the metre, which indulges in marvellous and wholly unaccountable vagaries. When, in Sheridan's "Critic," the heroine of the tragedy which is being acted has made her exit from the stage "stark mad in white satin," the author asks with pride "Did you observe how she mangled the metre?" and his auditor replies that that was how he first knew that she was mad. On an analogous line of reasoning, "Embryo" must be very mad indeed. By the law of averages, it would appear that the composition is intended to consist of stanzas of four ten-syllable lines, rhyming in couplets. Some lines, however, have only six syllables, whilst one has fifteen, whence it may be inferred that the "Embryo" is not good at arithmetic. As to rhyme, "December" is made to rhyme with "anywhere," "frame" with "rain," "man" with "bread," (this is really a little too much) and also "lad" with "bread"; in fact this last word, as giving the key-note of the composition, has apparently received a license or prerogative to rhyme with anything.

As for the sense and language, we really do not feel capable of doing justice to it. It should be read in full to be appreciated, and if we edited a comic periodical, we should be proud to print it at length. The moral appears to be
that if we help destitute orphans we shall have the gratification of hereafter beholding the mothers "all in a radiant gown," a prospect of unsurpassable glory. We hope that "Embryo" will not favour us in future with poetry, but grow up to be a writer of reasonable prose, if of anything.

THE RESIGNATION OF MR. PRATT.

On the first day of the present month Mr. Pratt formally resigned his connection with the Grammar School. Mr. Pratt has been Mathematical Master of the School for the last 24 years, having entered upon his duties when the school was opened in Aug. 1857, and having discharged those duties continuously till a year ago, when he was allowed a year's leave of absence. In losing Mr. Pratt the school has lost a man of exceptional ability. His powers as a Mathematician were allowed by competent judges to be of the highest possible order. Indeed a sufficient proof of this is the fact, that he graduated as a high Wrangler in the same list as Routh and Maxwell. In addition to Mathematics he had made Political Economy a study, and was well read in contemporary literature, especially in literature of a philosophical and scientific character. His occasional contributions to the Press were thoughtful, sensible, and lucid. Intellectually he combined painful accuracy as to details with a wide grasp of principles. Socially he was humorous to a degree, almost absurdly generous, excessively kind hearted, and invariably the champion of the weak and oppressed.

Victrix causa Deis placuit, sed victa Catoni.

He is remembered with singular affection by past generations of Grammar School boys, and his departure is regretted by the present generation both of masters and boys.

Nov. 1881.

THE "AGANIPPE"

The Sydneian is not, as people commonly, but erroneously, suppose, the first School Magazine that has been instituted in New South Wales, for the Aganippe was published at the Collegiate School, Glebe Point, some time before it came into existence. The paper is described on its title page as, "A Journal of Miscellaneous Literature." Its first issue, or "No. 1, Vol. I." presented itself to the world on the 15th of March, 1872; while the opening number of the Sydneian is dated September 1875. The third, and last, Aganippe came out on May 15th 1872; the paper dying, it may be said, in its childhood. By referring to these dates we find, that the death of the Aganippe preceded the "birth" of the Sydneian by a period of over three years. The
short space of time which intervened between these two prominent events in colonial history—the death and birth of the first and second school papers, respectively—makes me believe, that it was the Aganippe which suggested to the boys of this school the idea of starting the Sydneian. Whether such is really the case or not I have no means of discovering.

Aganippe as our classical readers know, was the name of a fountain at the foot of the celebrated Mount Helicon in Boeotia, which was sacred to the Muses and whose waters, it was believed, would inspire those who drank of them. After this spring of inspiration the paper was named.

Its contents were of a more sensational and sentimental character than those of the average Sydneian, consisting for the most part of fiction, remarkable adventures, and more remarkable poetry. In glancing over the pages of the three numbers which comprise its life, so to speak, we met with such headings as these, sufficient in themselves to prove the truth of what I have just remarked, viz.:—"The Life of a Slave," "An Adventure in the Mediterranean," "Two Lives—One Death," "The Pirate," &c. Besides the "literary efforts" of this description, the papers contain reports of cricket matches, &c., school notes, and other articles; and a number of "Conundrums, Witticisms, Puzzles, Acrostics, &c.," which, notwithstanding the Editor's guarantee in the first preface, that only original matter would be printed, certainly did not emanate from "our own brain." The columns devoted to "Cricket" were written by "Our Special" or "Our Special Reporter" in quite a racy style, very different from the usually solid, serious reports upon like subjects of our own "special" of the Sydneian. Though politics were to be "let alone," the promoters intended to debate upon matters of actual interest in their own immediate borough; and support was not only to be looked for from the scholars and their friends, but also from the outside public. The Editor was one of the masters of the school, and, we are told in the first copy, "a gentleman with some knowledge of the literary world."

If it be fair to criticise the unfortunate journal, now that it has been lying in the quiet grave for such a long time I may say, its poetry was not of a very high class. There is one piece called the "Death of Little Ned," which must ever rank high among literary curiosities. It was written by the Editor. The subject is such a solemn one that it seems rather irreverent to laugh at the poetry. I cannot, however, forbear giving as a sample of it, the opening stanza:

"All lone and sad the father prayed,
The mother watched and wept
O'er one, who on a bed of sickness laid
With pangs of death, from them would quickly be bereft."

I do not know, positively, the cause of the decease of the Aganippe but have been informed, that it fell under the cruel lash of newspaper criticism. There seems to be some truth in this, for in the third number appears an article on "Criticism," which was evidently written at some enemy. It is a rather curious production in its way and must surely have struck deeply into the breast of whomsoever it was meant for. As far as fierceness goes it would
favourably compare with any of the leading-articles of the rival editors in "Pickwick." In his virulent attack upon the "crushing viper" the writer asks as a beginning, "What is CRITICISM?" and then describes his subject as "A deadly poison a venomous reptile, a bitter herb"—(it is a wonder he would handle anything so dangerous) by throwing their paper open to the public, the publishers, I think, made a great error, for by so doing they could not but expect to have it criticised, and as we have seen, it appears to have been roughly handled by its "contemporaries." No doubt the usual lack of esprit de corps helped as much as anything else to occasion the Aganippe's death.

There is now in existence a third school journal called the Bathurstian, which is published by the boys of All Saints College, Bathurst.—But however many school-papers may arise in our colony; however great may be their achievements, let us always look back with grateful and respectful feelings to the father of all of them—the poor defunct Aganippe!

P. P.

I was shown the other day an attempt to turn a modern English prayer into antique Latin. The incongruity both in expression and feeling was ludicrous. The prayer began in the orthodox Latin fashion, "Oh! Deus OPT: MAX:"

as if the person addressed were the Capitoline Jupiter; then professed the writer's "humilitas" a quality, which a Roman would have regarded with sovereign contempt; and finally proceeded to expatiate upon the virtue of self-denial, a virtue which is so purely an outcome of Christianity, that even a Roman Stoic would have looked upon a life of daily self-abnegation for the good of one's neighbour as a species of mild insanity. The fact is, that the Romans never prayed in our sense of the word. Their intercourse with the Gods was conducted upon strictly commercial principles. The Roman not only bargained with the Gods for prospective favours, he was of course far too practical to take any notice of favours that were past—but he actually higgled about the price he was to pay. The tariff in such matters was pretty accurately adjusted, and the value of each sacrifice he offered was proportioned to the supposed shrewdness or good nature of the particular God he was invoking. If the divine intervention was procured at something less than the recognised fee the wary worshipper would congratulate himself upon his sagacity in having concluded an advantageous bargain upon very easy terms, and upon a future occasion would endeavour to "beat down" the God to do what was wanted even at a cheaper rate. This mixture of superstition, unconscious scepticism, and business-like religion, is perhaps one of the most curious phases in the Roman character.

ALTHOUGH we often hear that Nature has favoured some race, beyond all others, by bestowing on it a delightful climate, and supplying it bountifully with the fruits of the earth, without any labour on the part of the inhabitants, it is more frequently the case that these apparent advantages present the
main obstacle to the nation's improvement. Amongst the lower animals where there is no struggle for life there is no tendency to improve, and the savages, who, dwelling in the fertile islands of the South Seas, have a plentiful supply of food supplied to them, are content to live a life of ease since they have not the same inducements to advance that civilised people have, and there is no struggle for existence to improve them. The Romans, when under Augustus they were supplied plentifully with the necessities of life from conquered nations, without being exercised by wars, soon became effeminate and lost that manly energy which characterised the Roman in his best days. Therefore the lavish praises which Horace bestows upon Augustus as the man who established peace in Italy, were somewhat misplaced; it was not war but peace that the Roman Commonwealth had to fear, and Hannibal was one of Rome's best friends. Thus it is easily seen that when we cease to struggle we cease to improve, and a life of ease is not likely to be productive of any very beneficial results. whilst one spent in action, in competition of some kind will tend to improve those who are competing. In school this is clearly seen, since there, there is a perpetual competition going on from the bottom of the school to the top, all striving towards the same object; the result of this is, that as the boys see a tangible object for their work before them (namely, that of getting ahead of someone else) they take an interest in studies, which otherwise might seem to them to be useless. It is always pleasant in the midst of toils to look forward to a period of rest, (as most Grammar School boys are now looking forward to the holidays), but it should always be with the recollection that after the holidays the struggle will begin again; and that unless we work continually, the rest will bring no pleasure. Those then are the people who are most to be pitied who have no definite object to work for, and whose life is spent in mere vegetation. Achilles preferred a short and glorious life, to a long and ignoble one.

REPORT OF SPORTS MEETING.

A MEETING of all the boys who pay their sports fee was held in the big schoolroom on Tuesday, Nov. 29, to decide whether a sum of ten pounds (£10) from the sports fund, should be given to help defray the expenses of a trip up the Hawkesbury for the winning team of cadets and the first eleven. This trip was first of all arranged for the rifle team in recognition of their winning the bugle, but afterwards it was suggested that the first eleven should be included in the trip, and that the school should help pay their expenses. The committee felt that this was rather beyond their province, and determined to call a general meeting of the subscribers and to put the matter before them.

Mr. Francis was elected to the chair, and briefly stated the facts of the case to the meeting. A ballot was then taken whether the money should be voted or not, with the result of a very large majority for the ayes, the numbers being, ayes, 98, noes, 15.
In spite of the deficient vitality of the Rowing Club, it has sufficient strength and spirit to get itself involved in a law suit, which was recently brought to an issue, Mr. Goldie being nominal defendant on behalf of the Club. The plaintiff, who is a boat-builder at Blue's Point, North Shore, sued in the Water Police Court for damages due on account of detention and injury of a racing-boat hired to the defendants for use in the competition for the Schools' Cup on the Parramatta River, estimating the amount at £10. Sundry unfortunate masters and boys had in consequence to spend five hours in the precincts of the Water Police Court amongst a variety of more or less disreputable company.

The evidence for the plaintiff was in effect that the boat was let on hire for three days for the sum of £1; that it was not returned until four days after the expiration of the period for which it was hired; that when so returned, it was found to be much damaged, there being many holes in the canvass, which was before sound; that the value of the boat was £20; and that the amount due for hire, detention, and injury, was £10.

On the part of the defendants it was proved that the damage was confined to two small holes intentionally pierced in the canvas by Yates, who takes care of the Club's boats, in order to let the water out, the boat having shipped a great deal of water in the rough weather prevailing on the race-day; that if these holes had not been made, the boat could not have been hauled up safely, but would have gone all to pieces, being originally in very bad condition; that the canvass had been damaged to some extent before the boat came into the Club's hands; that new canvass was not necessary, and if it were, would not cost more than thirty shillings; that the boat was purchased by the plaintiff several years ago for £7 or £7 10s., and had since much deteriorated; that the plaintiff had himself in conversation fixed the amount justly due as £3, being £1 for hire, £1 for detention, and £1 for damages, which sum was offered to him but refused; and the defendants further paid this sum of £3 into court in satisfaction of the claim.

The magistrate made an order for the payment of £3 only, as paid into court, but gave costs, amounting to 24s., against the defendants, on the ground that they had displayed negligence in respect of unnecessary detention of the boat, without offering explanation to the plaintiff spontaneously.

It affords us very much pleasure to state that the Rowing Club are greatly indebted in this matter to Mr. Ernest Smith, who took legal charge of the defence, not only for the zeal and ability with which he conducted the case, but also in that he very generously refused to make any pecuniary charge for his services, but contented himself with the honorary distinction, thereby saving the Club additional expense, and earning a title to perpetual gratitude.

For our own part, we consider the magistrate's decision a perfectly just one. From our own point of view, we should like to add also that a mistake would seem to have been made in hiring a boat in inferior and unseaworthy condition, and that under the circumstances more precautions might have been taken. Finally, we recommend our readers to have no dealings with Mr. Barnett.
CRICKET.

WIMBLEDON HALL v. CLEVELAND HOUSE.

The first match of this season took place on the monthly half-holiday, and resulted in an unexpected victory for the Cleveland House boys, in the first innings by 3 runs. Had there been ten minutes longer, the victory would have been on the other side, the Wimbledonites’ getting 25 runs in the second innings, in about ten minutes. The batting of Payten I. in the first innings, was much admired. Payten I. captained the Clevelandites, and Mackay I. performed similar duty for the Wimbledonites. Payten winning the toss decided on going to the wickets first. The first innings of the Clevelandites, closed for a total of 91, Payton I., Parker and Payten II., being the chief contributors to the score, with 39 (not out), 15, and 12 respectively, The second innings closed for a much smaller total, viz., 34; nobody reaching double figures. The Wimbledonites’ first innings closed for a total of 88. Hayes 23 (not out), Cruickshank I. 23 being the only ones who made double figures. In second innings they lost 1 wicket for 25 runs. Payten I, Parker, and Mazoudier bowled well for Cleveland House; whilst Cruickshank I. Yabsley, and Hayes also did good service for Wimbledon Hall. Mr. Hewlett 13 (not out) and Cruickshank I. 11 (not out) were the chief contributors to the score of Wimbledon Hall in the second innings.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL v. NEWINGTON COLLEGE.

The first eleven of the above met for the first time this season on Wednesday, October 26th, at Stanmore, and after a very exciting game the Grammars won by 23 runs. From the commencement it was evident that the bowling was too good for the batting, as the small scores show. The S.G.S. representatives went first to the wickets, and only succeeded in putting together 46 runs, of which Mackay and Donnon contributed 11 and 13 respectively; Jas. Cleeve and Murray getting most of the wickets. Newington then went in and although 8 wickets fell for 11 runs, the last two men brought the score up to 43, Rygate playing well for 16 and Kidman for 13. After rolling the ground the Grammar School commenced its second innings and though it was thought a better stand would be made, only 44 runs were scored, Payten being top with 16 and Thompson next with 8. Although Newington had only 48 runs to get to win, they could not make more than 24 against the bowling of Cruickshank and Donnan. Cruickshank’s bowling was the feature of the match as he took 10 wickets for 24 runs.

SECOND GRAMMAR’S v. ROYSTON COLLEGE.

This match came off on Farmer’s Ground on Saturday, October 29th, and was won easily by our representatives, who succeeded in making 60 runs against their opponents 18. Cordeaux 23 (not out) and Wisdom 23 batted very well, the former carrying his bat right through the innings. Allen, Yabsley and Curwood did the bowling.
SECOND GRAMMAR v. SECOND KING'S SCHOOL.

These elevens met for the first time this season on Saturday, November 5, and our boys kept up the honour of the school by winning easily by an innings and 102 runs to spare. The scores were, King's School, 12 and 31, and Grammar School, 145. For the losers Hungerford batted best with nine runs, and White bowled best, while for the Grammars Adams 56, Cordeaux 21, Fitzgerald 12, King 10 (not out), and Mazoudier 10, did well. Yabsley and Mazoudier bowled well all through, the former getting 8 wickets for 17, and the latter 11 for 14 runs.

FIRST ELEVEN v. VICTORIA BARRACKS.

This match came off on Wednesday, November 2nd, on the Barrack Ground, and resulted in a very easy victory for the school by one innings and 107 runs to spare. Our representatives batted very well, especially Stiles 32, Hayes 21, Thompson 18, Aiken 17 (not out), and Mackay 10. None of the losers obtained double figures, the top scorer being Cooper with six runs. Cruickshank and Payten bowled well for the winners, the former taking 16 wickets for fifteen runs, and Bouverie was most successful for the losers.

FIRST GRAMMAR SCHOOL v. SECOND UNIVERSITY.

These teams met at the University oval on Saturday, October 29th, when the school suffered its first defeat this season. The University team went in first and succeeded in putting together 41 runs, Barff 13 getting top score. This total was small, but the school could not put together more than 27 runs against the bowling of Barff and Rygate, Styles being top with 10 to his credit. Payten I. and Donnan bowled for the school.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We have received a silly letter from "Bowler" on the subject discussed in our last two Editorials, which we must decline to insert, as it is principally composed in a strain of personal abuse of ourselves, and of our facetious correspondent "Peter Potts." We may remark that "Bowler" has not thought fit to give his name, and we are therefore not disposed to stretch a point in his favour, nor are we restricted by any personal scruples from expressing our opinion of his ideas. As to a matter of fact on which he amiably insinuates that we told a deliberate untruth, viz., the publication of regular accounts of the various committees in the Sydneian, we shall be happy to sell him a set of all the back numbers that are in stock, when he will be able to verify our assertion for himself. Meanwhile, although anxious to promote free discussion, we must, in the cause of good breeding, refuse to give publication to letters implying unworthy motives, whether in ourselves or in others.—Eds.]
To the Editors of the Sydneian.

DEAR SIRS,—I suppose everybody has by this time heard of the Schools race. This school was beaten easily.

I understand that the boys who represented this school had to supply the money for the hiring of the boat in which they pulled. Ought this to be allowed in a school like ours? Is it not a disgrace that our representatives received no help from us! The least we might have done would have been to have paid for the hiring of the boat. But excuse a digression.

I read in your last a letter from "Bowler" proposing Congress should be established in the school. I fully endorse that proposition, and can appreciate the good that would arise from it. Like him, I do not like the close manner in which the subscriptions are disposed of; I should like a little more light to be thrown on the doings of the Committee. There is not a single member of the Committee who, by any cast of votes, has the slightest power to interfere with the money. It is no more his because he is in the 6th Form, than if he were in the Lower Remove. Not being appointed by the school, I should like to know who does appoint the Committee. I am afraid it is self-appointed, ergo, no one in the Committee has by the laws of "this land of liberty," to dispose of one single halfpenny without the consent of the boys.

But look at the contrast,—Congress. As the representatives of the school, they may dispose of the money as the majority decides. Therefore, until Congress is established, this boat's crew would have no right to the money presented by the Committee: but to ease their consciences, let some-one start a subscription for them, and being a free gift, it will be the more acceptable.

Winning or losing, the boys should be supported, especially when it is for the benefit of the school that they labour. Take my advice and adopt Congress, and you will find that things will run more smoothly and contentedly.

Apologising for taking up so much space, I am, &c.,

FAIR PLAY.

[This letter was anonymous, and not entitled to insertion. As however, it appears to be sent in good faith, we have published it as an extraordinary example of the marvellous ignorance of some would-be reformers in respect of the matters which they fancy need reformation, the whole of our correspondent's subjects of censure being purely fictitious and imaginary. We beg to inform him that (1) the expenses of our representatives in the Schools' Rowing Competition were paid by the Grammar School Rowing Club, of which they were members, out of funds subscribed by the members of that Club, and disbursed by the committee, elected by those members; (2) the sports' funds of the school are expended by a committee duly elected by all members of the school who pay their sports' fee, and not by the 6th Form; in fact, there is only one member of the 6th Form in the committee. The most charitable supposition we can entertain of our correspondent is that he is a very new boy, and subject to mental hallucination.—Eds.]
To the Editors of the Sydneian.

Sirs,—I wish to call your attention and that of the Sports Committee to the neglected state of the Second Eleven. The First have a pitch on the Association Ground on which they can practice almost every day, but the Second have no pitch or days on which to practice together. I think that it would be only fair to give them either one or two days a week on the Association Ground, or to rent a pitch on the Domain or somewhere else for their use. They have won every match they have played this season, but still they have not even a bag and proper materials of their own. If these matters were attended to, others besides the favoured fifteen would have opportunities for practising regularly, and the school would produce better cricketers. Hoping some steps will speedily be taken to remedy this matter, I remain, yours &c,

C.

To the Editors of the Sydneian.

"SALTATOR" though perhaps too sarcastic in his strain, ought I think to be thanked by all who have the welfare of the school at heart, for bringing this subject under public notice. Anti-Saltator quotes—"Personal remarks" &c. Well, as there was a tendency about that time, towards striking names out of teams, I do not think that this is a subject which could have been broached with much effect, without a certain amount of personality being involved.

I know when a II B boy myself, what an influence the actions and sentiments expressed by such teamsmen as Syd. Webb and Selman had on me, and if teamsmen of the present are not to set an example of making some self sacrifice for the school, (though it be at the cost of disappointing "so many heaving bosoms") who are?

What is required through the school is, a friendly spirit of emulation in whatever tends to the credit of the school. Whether it be a cricket, a rifle match or the competition for honours in the matriculation examination. Let us then for the future see no names struck out of the teams, but let all do their best for the school in whatever capacity they may best serve it. Then with the aid of our present staff of instructors, that the school will be the first school in Australia, will follow as a natural result. With the usual apologies.

ESPRIT DE CORPS.

To the Editors of the Sydneian.

DEAR SIRS,—I have succeeded beyond the utmost of my fondest expectations, in that my letter of September has called forth no less than two indignant replies. I feel very much as Ulysses might have done, after encountering the dangers of Scylla and Charybdis, or as a soldier might feel, who finds himself placed between two fires; and I owe my safety solely to the lucky chance that Anti-Saltator’s discharge of small shot lost itself in the air by being bowled too high, while the heavy ordnance of Justitia was far too low, far too very low; so that it is consequently almost beneath notice, except
that I will condescend to explain to his obtuseness "what argument I deduced from the fact that I myself go in tremendously for the eccentric circlings of a grotesque whirligig." If he will have the goodness to refer back to my letter, he will find that I did not wish to be misunderstood to mean that I objected to dancing, but rather that I upheld it both in theory and in practice, while at the same time I maintained that boys for this once, however exceptional the occasion, should have given up "this necessary part of their education" for that far more necessary part, viz., the learning how to make their pleasures subordinate to what I consider (erroneously, as Justitia thinks) to be their plain duty.

Let me add a word of advice to Anti-Saltator. If he attempts a quotation, let it be correctly given, "Comparisons are odious" the old saw says; personal remarks are not included in the category.

I remain, &c.,

SALTATOR.

To the Editors of the Sydneian.

DEAR SIRS,—I suppose you have all seen College street on a wet day, the mud three inches deep all over the road, up and down. Well I write to ask if you don't think steps might be taken by the Trustees to get a crossing constructed from Hyde Park to the School. It would be a great benefit to some hundreds of boys who travel to and fro across the street daily, not to mention the other passengers.

A boy coming to school on a wet day might manage to keep his boots pretty dry till he came to College-street, and then his trouble is made of no avail, for cross he must, mud or no mud; and when he has picked his way through the mire as best he can to the other side, what a nice picture do his cloth shoes or kid boots make?

Hoping that this evil will be remedied as soon as possible.

I remain, &c.

CROSSING.

To the Editors of the Sydneian.

SIRS,—I beg to suggest that the insertion of a serial story from such an instructive and amusing author as "Dickens" or "Scott" would considerably increase the circulation of your magazine. Although some of the boys may have read the story before, yet to the majority it would without doubt be new. The subscribers would then look forward to the publication with increased interest. Hoping that this suggestion will meet with your approval.

Yours etc.

NOVELETTE.

[Our correspondent appears to be unacquainted with the laws of copyright, which protect an author's work from being reprinted. We have no desire to be mulcted in the sum of some £500 damages for infringement of the said laws.—Eds.]
INTERESTING SOLUTION OF A GEOMETRICAL PROBLEM.

Given a point A and two lines OB, OK.
To draw through A a line cutting of the triangle ZOX = a given area.
Complete the parallelogram OBAC.
Make the parallelogram OD = \( \frac{1}{2} \) the given area having DBA in a line.
Join OA and complete the parallelogram FDAG.
Take EU a mean proportional between FO, FA.
Draw XY through U parallel to BC.
Let AX AY meet SB, OK in Z, V.
Then both ZOX and VOY have the required area.
For draw SHFKR parallel to XY or BC.
Then VZ is parallel to XY or BC.
Since SF is = to FR and HF = FK.
\[ \therefore SH = KR. \]
But by similar triangles \( \frac{VS}{XY} = \frac{SH}{KR} = \frac{XR}{ZK} \)
\[ \therefore VZ \] is parallel to XY
Again \( \frac{SR}{FA} = \frac{SR-XY}{FU} \)
\( \frac{XU}{XY} = \frac{SH}{KR} = \frac{XR}{ZK} \)
Now \( \frac{FU}{FO} = \frac{FU}{FU} = \frac{UA}{OU} \)
\[ \therefore SR-XY \]
\( \frac{FO}{HK} = \frac{SR-XY}{XY} \)
\[ \therefore VH = VX = KH = SR-2SH \]
\[ \therefore XY = 2SH (2) \]
\[ \therefore VZ \] is parallel to XY
Again since \( \frac{FO}{FU} = \frac{FU}{FU} = \frac{HO}{RX} = \frac{RX}{RX} \)
\( \frac{FU}{FA} = \frac{FU}{HX} = \frac{FA}{RA} \)
\[ \therefore RX = \frac{1}{3} 2X = \frac{120}{20} \]
\[ \therefore AX = \frac{1}{3} OC = \frac{400}{OC} \]
\[ \therefore 20.0X = 40P \cdot 0C = 40B \cdot OE \]
\[ \therefore \] the triangle ZOX = given area.
In like manner it may be shown that the triangle VOH = the given area.

CLASSICAL EXAMINATIONS.

December 9—Morning.
VI. Terence, Andria, Horace Odes Book IV., and Epodes, Virgil Aeneid V.
V. and I Modern Virgil Aeneid V, Horace Odes Book IV.
IV. Virgil Aeneid V.
Afternoon.
VI. Thucydides Book II., Aristophanes Ranae.
V. Lucian.
December 16th, 19th.
Latin and Greek Composition, Unprepared Translations, &c., Lower School.
Viva voce.
MATHEMATICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Dec. 1st.—Euclid.
Dec. 8th.—Arithmetic.
Dec. 13th.—Trigonometry, Mechanics, &c.
Dec. 15th.—Algebra.

We understand that the Trustees have appointed the following gentlemen to conduct the Annual Examinations:—Classics: E. Bean, B.A., late Scholar of Trinity College, Headmaster of All Saints College, Bathurst. Mathematics: T. Harlin, M.A., late Fellow of St. Peter’s College, Cambridge, formerly Head Master of the Grammar School, Brisbane. Mr. Bean examined the School last year, and Mr. Harlin examined the School in the previous year.

The interest which was felt, not only by the competing team but also by the school generally in the match for the Challenge Bugle, proves that we are not universally—as is stated by some of our critics—given up to the more profitable but less honourable pursuits of “pot-hunting.” In all matches there must of course be some tangible award for success, but the value of the prize in evoking a generous competition is always in universe rate to its intrinsic worth. No competitions probably were more keen than those that were rewarded in ancient days with the simple laurel wreath. The greatest honour that modern bravery can attain is a plain cross of gun metal. We have reason to hope that our honest feeling of pride in fighting for the honour of the school, apart from considerations of personal gain, has been engendered by the successful result of the recent match on the Rifle Range, and we trust that a similar feeling will be imported into other departments of our school life. We congratulate the victorious team upon their success—for success is in itself a consciousness of power, and therefore the best omen of future successes—possunt quia posse videntur.

The bugle offered by the New South Wales Rifle Association to be shot for by teams from the different schools with Henri rifles and to be won four times in succession or five times in all before finally becoming the property of the winning school, was won this year by the Grammar school. Our victory of this year is altogether unprecedented, as we made a total of 423 and beat our old opponents of Newington College (who were second) by 111 points. We have good reason to congratulate ourselves on so brilliant a success, which has been achieved by long practice on the part of the team and careful instruction on the part of sergeant Hagney. The names of the members of the team are as follows:

Quarter-master Sergeant Barker
Sergeant Helsham
Corporal Kenna
" " Moffit
Lance Corporal Marks
Corporal Trebeck (emergency)

Cadet Marks
" " Thomas
" " Whiting
" " Bowman
" " Hayes
The following also won prizes with the Hay rifle:—Cadet Marks, Sergeant Barker, Cadet Kenna, Cadet Bowman. Lance Corporal Marks won the trophy which is offered by the Hon. J. Marks, with a score of 49, which was the highest score made among the three teams. Sergeant Hagney distinguished himself in several matches. In the all schools match with Enfield carbines, prizes were won by Sergeant Clapin, Lance Corporal Helsham, Cadets Rutherford and Merrick.

It has been decided to give the Teams, who have won the Challenge Bugle for the School for the last four years successively, a complimentary picnic. The school has also voted an allowance from the Sports Fee to enable the eleven, who have been very successful in their matches this year, to join the picnic. The following subscriptions have been made towards this object by friends of the school:—

J. Buckland, Esq. ... ... ... ... £1 1 0
The Hon. F. Darley ... ... ... ... 1 1 0
E. G. Ellis, Esq. ... ... ... ... 1 1 0
Professor Gurney ... ... ... ... 1 1 0
R. Jones, Esq. ... ... ... ... 1 1 0
Capt. Broomfield ... ... ... ... 1 1 0
R. J. King, Esq. ... ... ... ... 1 1 0
J. de V. Lamb, Esq. ... ... ... ... 1 1 0
His Hon. Sir, W. M. Manning ... ... ... ... 1 1 0
The Hon. John Marks ... ... ... ... 3 0 0
James Marks, Esq. ... ... ... ... 3 3 0
R. A. A. Morehead, Esq. ... ... ... ... 5 0 0
W. Neill, Esq. ... ... ... ... 1 1 0
The Hon. Dr. Renwick ... ... ... ... 1 1 0
W. B. Walford, Esq. ... ... ... ... 2 2 0
Thomas Walker, Esq. ... ... ... ... 5 0 0

The party start from Sydney by steamer “Pelican” at 6 a.m. on Friday, 2nd December, for Broken Bay—steam up the Hawkesbury to Windsor on Saturday, and return to Sydney by train the same evening.

On Saturday evening, Nov. 19, a handsome Silver Tea and Coffee Service, with a suitable inscription, was presented to Sergeant-Instructor Hagney, from the Cadets attached to the Grammar School and All Saints’ College, Bathurst. The presentation was made by Capt. Weigall, who stated that the Cadets wished Sergt. Hagney to have some permanent record of the Cadet Encampment recently held at Mittagong, and of the respect and affection with which he was regarded by the members of both Corps. Sergt. Hagney made a suitable reply. The proceedings throughout were of the most enthusiastic and hearty character.
On the evening of Friday, Nov. 18th, Captain Weigall gave a dinner to the successful rifle team. After the usual loyal toasts, Captain Weigall proposed "The Health of the Rifle Team," coupled with the name of Sergeant Hagney, and spoke in high terms of the esprit de corps which existed among the members of the team. Sergeant Hagney in response, spoke in high praise of the spirit first infused into the Rifle Teams by our former Lieutenant (Mr. Anderson). The evening was enlivened by some good singing until about 11 p.m., when the party broke up. Sergeant Hagney on behalf of the team thanked Mr. and Mrs. Weigall for the pleasant entertainment they had received that evening.

Thanks to the energy of Sir Alfred Stephen, the pathway outside the school buildings has been asphalted. It is a great pity that Sir Alfred is not one of our Trustees. There might then be some chance of other improvements to the school premises, the present condition of which reflects but little credit upon our governing body.

In the recent Cricket Match between the University and the Alberts, some of the old boys were very much to the front, Jones scoring 107, and Allen 111, and Wright 47.

PUZZLE PAGE.

BURIED TOWNS.

We shot several snipe last Wednesday, but unfortunately the weather was unpropitious for snipe and curlew. Owing to a miss-fire a fine curlew escaped a violent death.

The boa-constrictor lay right across our path in the jungle.

The gallant body of Turks under Ali Bey routed a complete army of Russian soldiers.

When his followers heard his proposal for vengeance, they asked him to desist, for they said that sooner or later a heavy vengeance would fall on this abandoned people, for the agrarian outrages they had committed; and that his precious life, which a ball in a moment might end, ought not to be exposed to such a risk.

"Come, bless with me, wise Tubal Cain."

They displayed monstrous ingratitude towards their friends.

Rhoderick Dhu summoned his clan around him.

And there swung the gallant tar, suspended by the neck.

Pay your rent, or quit or I'll evict you.
RESPECTFULLY inscribed to one of the members of the School who refuses to take in the Sydneian, on the plea that there is nothing in it to read!!!

There was a young person called M—nz—s
Who was subject to curious frenzies
The Sydneian, he thought
Was not fit to be bought
As it never made mention of M—nz—s.

DIAMOND PUZZLES.

A consonant
A large number
A kind of madness
The schoolboy's hope
A large spoon
A domestic animal
A consonant

A consonant
A technical term in the game of football
A useful article on the dinner table
What many boys are deficient in
A mammal
A rodent
A consonant

My fist is in small but not in great,
My second is in early but not in late;
My third is in dash but not in rush,
My fourth is in nightingale but not in thrush;
My fifth is in easy but not in hard,
My sixth is in dice but not in card;
My seventh is in patch but not in sod,
My eighth is in nymph but not in god;
My whole is seen in the school every year,
In eight numbers, I think, or else very near.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cr.</th>
<th>Dr.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£. s. d.</td>
<td>£. s. d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance from June</td>
<td>56 7 11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts from last Quarter</td>
<td>22 13 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part receipts from present Quarter</td>
<td>8 13 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>£87 14 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Cricket Association</td>
<td></td>
<td>20 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricketing Material</td>
<td></td>
<td>24 19 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trip for First Eleven</td>
<td></td>
<td>10 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheque Book</td>
<td></td>
<td>0 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance in hand</td>
<td></td>
<td>32 13 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>£87 14 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Audited and found correct.
R. THOMPSON, Secretary.

R. BROOMFIELD, Hon. Treasurer.