A MAGAZINE EDITED BY MEMBERS OF THE
SYDNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

APRIL, 1882.

CONTENTS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Editorial</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under the Yellow Flag</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some of the Advantages of Public Schools</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Committee for 1882</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleep</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School News</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Notices</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SYDNEY:
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1881.
SCHOOL CALENDAR.

March 31.—Monthly half-holiday.

April 5.—English and Greek Handicap Examination, Upper School 1.15—3.15.

Latin Handicap Examination, 1.15—3.15.
School breaks up for Easter Holidays.

17.—Winter Term begins, 9 30 a.m.

20.—Sydneian Box closes.

24.—Sydneian No. XXXIX. published.
EDITORIAL.

Whether the School makes much progress or not during the current year will depend more upon the action of the Trustees than upon the exertions of masters or boys. The internal arrangements of the school, as to discipline and organisation are gradually developing into school traditions, the average standard of intellect, in the Upper Forms at any rate, is perceptibly improving, and there are not wanting indications that public spirit is growing. In these respects the machinery of the school is working smoothly and effectively. What is required now is improvement in the material accommodation of the school premises. In fact the Grammar School is outgrowing, in fact has already out-grown its former surroundings. If the buildings are to remain where they are, and for a town school the present situation is certainly the most central, and probably the most convenient, extensive alterations must be made, both externally and internally. There is at present an air of shabby gentility about the place, which is discouraging to masters, and demoralising to boys. The want of space, especially in the passages, tends to disorder, and throws unnecessary work upon the masters and prefects. It is superfluous, however, to enumerate minor defects, for nothing but a comprehensive scheme upon a large scale can meet the just demands of the school.

There are some special improvements, the need for which has, we presume, been already brought under the notice of the Trustees. The head master has for a long time past expressed his anxiety for the erection of a School Refectory, and it seems an almost universal opinion, that the erection of such a building would not only add to the health and comfort of the boys—in themselves considerations of the highest importance to the managing body of a school—but would also conduct to a discipline in personal refinement which is generally felt to be rather a weak point with Australian boys. Again, if natural science is to be taught in the school, it should be a reality and not a sham. It cannot be taught properly with such miserably inadequate appliances as we possess at present. Nothing short of a well appointed laboratory will meet the requirements of the school in this direction. It might seem hopeless to suggest a range of buildings along Stanley-street as the site for a preparatory school, and yet the want of some such feeder for the school is urgently felt, both by parents and masters, and it is difficult to see how what is sarcastically called the playground could be better used than as a building area.

Of course the answer will be that the Trustees have no funds at their disposal, but it is to be presumed, that if the country wishes the Grammar School to be kept up at all, it might as well be kept up decently. A vigorous and determined representation of the facts of the case would probably convince the Government that a vote for the necessary improvements to the school would be in the highest sense are productive expenditure.
UNDER THE YELLOW FLAG.

The charm of novelty is proverbially strong, but should any lover of adventure be tempted to prove the delights of sailing under the Yellow Flag let this simple narrative teach him that in comparison a gaol is heaven and the workhouse a paradise.

It was with feelings of amusement rather than of concern that I saw the Yellow Flag flying at the masthead as the R.M.S. Mirzapore entered the outer harbour at Albany. That we were kept at a respectful distance was nothing more than we expected; the colony was young and ignorant, and when we reached Adelaide we should be treated humanely and be allowed to land those who were a source of contagion amongst us. Vain hope, for there, with proper quarantine accommodation, they refused us the use of it for our sick, indifferent as to whether the continued presence of contagion among three hundred people within the narrow limits of a vessel might not make us the bearers of a perfect pestilence to their fellow colonists in Victoria and New South Wales.

Directly we anchored off Glenelg we were taken in charge by a small steam launch having on board three policemen armed with loaded rifles and fixed bayonets: it reminded one of the miniature policeman in the pantomime who takes up the biggest man in the crowd. We could afford to laugh at this indignity but were none the less pleased when nature avenged us, the armed force, unused to do business in deep waters that were not still, turned pale, laid down their arms, approached the side, and then amid derisive shouts from our quarter deck paid heavy tribute to Neptune.

We left Adelaide however still hopeful of better usage at Melbourne and dropped anchor opposite Queenscliffe on the morning of Wednesday, January 25th. The popular Victorian government by way of showing its energy let us alone till Saturday when all passengers were ordered on shore. From the ship the station looked not unpleasing; a green wooded hill was a pleasant sight to one whose experience of Australia was confined to Albany and Glenelg and who was ignorant of the nature of Ti scrub: while the long white buildings with cool verandahs and balconies are suggestive of a roominess not to be found on board.

Never was distance so deceitfully enchanting; on the Friday some of us went as we said for a run on shore, but as soon as we landed found that black sand over one's ankles made running an impossibility. Climbing a steep hill, we reached a small platform on which were the two buildings allotted to first-class passengers. Picking our way over old bottles and tins, bad eggs and refuse of every description, we proceeded to inspect our quarters. They consisted of four long wards fitted up for emigrants, which when we landed were in a filthy condition: the ward for married people was most quaint in its arrangement, resembling nothing more than a double row of loose horseboxes, a flimsy curtain being the only means of privacy. To this charming residence we removed on the Saturday, doing our own porters work under a blazing sun: after many delays some food was given us and we retired to seek our rest, no easy matter when a mattress and pillow stuffed with the coarsest
straw, a sheet and a half-length blanket were the only provision against the cold nights.

Our first few days were spent in first calculating the probable times of the meals and then in securing our own share of the same: pumping and carrying water, blacking boots, and assembling to compose protests to Government filling in our spare time. The effect of some of our protests was amusing: we complained that the meat was putrid, the place dirty, and the attendance insufficient, and the Victorian Government, I suppose on the principle that a soft answer turneth away wrath, sent us down fifty elegant drawing-room what-nots.

How the weary twenty-three days passed it would be hard to tell: one has vague recollections of eating, drinking, sleeping and smoking, and cricket on a small ground, approximately level, on which a coconaut matting pitch was laid. As time wore on everything gave way to the supreme question of when we were to get out, and for the last ten days we lived in a perpetual whirl of meetings, telegrams, and long arguments. The philosophical had a hard time of it, for it was considered a crime of the deepest dye to say you were indifferent about your release. But at last came a Government order of the usual courteous kind, ordering us on board a tug at six o'clock a.m. on Monday, February 20th. In spite of turning out at half-past four to put our luggage on the tug, it was with a light heart that we left the yellow flag behind us, and not even the unsavoury odours of the Yarra could interfere with our joy. I say joy and not contentment, for the general feeling among the passengers was that we had been disgracefully treated by the P. and O. Company. That even after reaching Melbourne we were not allowed to enter Sydney, was a hardship which had its useful side, for by giving us time to get tired of the tawdriness of Melbourne it made us value more highly the Sydney home we had endured so many troubles in seeking, among which last, and by no means least, was the having to dwell under the Yellow Flag.

SOME OF THE ADVANTAGES OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

First among the advantages of a Public School (we use the term Public School in its English not in its colonial acceptation) is the permanence of its institutions. Its government is constitutional, not personal. It has a uniform code of regulations, and soon gathers round it a set of distinctive traditions, which, like the laws of the Medes and Persians, are unalterable. Its masters may come and go, but the school remains. It is not like Mr. Smith's private "academy," which ceases to exist, as soon as Mr. Smith amasses a "handsome competency," and retires. It is true indeed, that the status and prestige of a Public School will, to a great extent, depend upon the character of its earlier Head Masters. It was Arnold that made Rugby, Cotton and Bradley made Marlborough, and within our own recollection Perceval has made Clifton, and James is making Rossall. It is equally true, however, that when once such a school is made, it is but partially affected by a change of masters. It suffers but little even under an inferior regime: its
vis inertiae carries it over temporary mismanagement. Permanent mismanagement is from the nature of the case almost impossible: for Public Schools have the advantage of always being exposed to the full blaze of public opinion.

Another advantage is that the element of personal selfishness in the governing body is to a great extent, if not wholly, eliminated. The salaries of the masters and the working expenses are paid from public funds, and there is consequently little temptation to favouritism or jobbery. For a similar reason the masters of such a school are not exposed to the temptations to which masters of private schools must be, more or less, liable. Even granting that masters of Public Schools are not in themselves more conscientious than other members of their profession, they have absolutely no temptation to carry favour with influential parents by exaggerating the virtues or by concealing the defects of their pupils. If master Jones is a vicious dunce it is not worth the while of the master of a Public School to state in his annual report that the aforesaid Jones is as "eminent for his intellectual capacity as for his moral rectitude." Nor indeed is it for the real interest of the master of a private school to misrepresent the qualities of his pupils, but at any rate the master of a Public School can satisfy his conscience with less danger to his pocket. The practical independence of action which such a vantage ground affords, naturally induces the better class of men to join the teaching staffs of our Public Schools in England. The same will be the case in the colonies, so soon as the line of demarcation between Public and Private Schools is more accurately defined.

It must be remembered, however, that in this, as in all the other relations of life, privileges entail responsibilities, and that a Public School to be worthy of its name must see that its institutions and traditions are such as to merit permanence, otherwise they will cease to be permanent, and consequently the school will cease to deserve its name. As the Grammar School is at present the only Public School in New South Wales, it enjoys a singularly favourable opportunity of showing how far a system, which has been productive of such important results to English society, is capable of producing similar results in this country.

**SPORTS.**

We are glad to notice symptoms of improvement in the management of the School Sports. Hitherto the organization appears to have been defective, and the action of the Committee in too many cases characterized by improvidence and procrastination. A want of energy has been shewn, especially in the collection of the Sports' fees, and from this cause many waverers have found an excuse for permanently withdrawing their names from the list of subscribers. The money should be collected during the first week of term, before the boys' supply of pocket money has been squandered on less public spirited objects. To effect this, the Committee must keep the form treasurers up to their work by personal canvass and not by printed notices. It is a well known fact that people appreciate what they have to pay for, and a more general interest in the sports will probably be diffused throughout the school by a
judicious education in the art of paying up the Sports' fee. Again, the fixtures for the various teams should be notified at the beginning of the term, and not be left to depend on the course of events. Under the system, or rather want of system, hitherto prevailing, some days on which the teams could play without inconvenience to the work of the school, have been left without a match having been arranged, while in other cases two matches have been fixed to be played by the same team on the same day. This surely could easily be obviated by the exercise of a little forethought.

The Committee have, it must be confessed, an arduous and uphill task. In the absence of a school playground it will always be difficult for them to make the requisite provision for regular practice, and for occasional matches. The former difficulty has been, at any rate temporarily met by the success of the Committee in securing a practise pitch for the first eleven on the Association Ground, and we hope that this arrangement will be renewed next year. The true remedy, however, is to secure a permanent ground for the Grammar School on some of the unallotted portions of Moore Park. Besides this chronic difficulty in the way of the Committee, there is always a large amount of dead-weight in the school, which requires constantly to be stimulated into activity. The "sportsmen" have hitherto been restricted to a comparatively small minority, and too little has been done to secure a constant supply of boys trained to represent the school in the cricket and football field. We have had periodically really good teams, but when the members of these teams have in the natural course left the school, there has been no one to take their place, and so for the next few terms we have had to hide our diminished heads until the chance arrival of a new set of 'stars' has enabled us to retrieve our reputation. Now all this could be avoided by judicious encouragement of the promising youngsters in the school, and for this purpose we should be glad to see at least one member of the Committee present at the various form matches, so that whatever 'talent' there is in the school in this direction, might be recognized and developed. This is a matter which is of pressing importance at the present time in view of the large number of representative boys, who will probably leave the school at June.

THE COMMITTEE FOR 1882.

At the usual annual meeting of the School that was recently held, the following officers were elected as the Committee for the ensuing year:—

Mackay—Secretary. Broomfield—Treasurer. Payten, Kenna, Cruickshank, Carter, Fitzgerald, Mr. Newbery, Mr. Farrar.

Fitzgerald was elected by the Lower School, as their representative, to look after their interests.

CRICKET.

1ST ELEVEN v. "HERALD" OFFICE.

This match was played on the Windsor Ground, Moore Park, on Wednesday, November 16th, and resulted in a win for the School by 21 runs. McGoveny 19 and Green 11 batted best for the losers, and Thompson 29, Hayes 16, and Mackay 14 for the winners. Brown did great service for the Herald C.C. with his "Sydney Grubbers" taking 4 wickets at a very small cost.
1ST ELEVEN v. TWENTY-TWO.

The above teams met on Wednesday, 22nd February, on Farmer's Ground, when the Eleven proved too strong for their opponents, winning by 39 runs. The Eleven went in first, and put together 94, to which Thompson (not out) 55 and Cruickshank 18, contributed the most; Barnes and Barbour being the most successful bowlers. The Twenty-Two only succeeded in making 55, of which Woolcott contributed 10 and Whiting 16. Donnan, Cruickshank, and Payten bowled very well, and the fielding was also good.

1ST GRAMMARS v. 1ST KING'S SCHOOL.

These schools met for the first time this season on Saturday, November 26th, at Parramatta, and after a very pleasant game the Grammars won with 7 wickets to spare. The totals were—King School, 48 and 25; Grammars 60, 3 wickets for 15; Osborne 15 and Thompson 37 were the top scorers for their respective sides; Cruickshank and Donnan for Sydney Grammar School, and Manchee and Osborne for King's bowled splendidly. The fielding on both sides was excellent, the Sydney Grammar School showing great improvement in this department of the game.

1ST ELEVEN v. GLADESVILLE C.C.

The above Eleven met on Saturday, November 12th, at Gladesville, when the School Team was easily defeated by an innings and 5 runs. The Gladesville team went in first and put together the large total of 132, to which Whitham 38, Gelbry 84, Blaxland 26, and Short 16 contributed most. Sydney Grammar School then went in, but could only put together 29, Payten being top with 12. The School being over 60 runs behind had to follow on, but although a better stand was made they could not save the one innings defeat, putting together 98, with the help of Cruickshank's 43, Hayes' 16, and M'Farrar's 10. Boon and Short bowled best for the winners and Stiles was the only successful bowler for the School.

KING'S SCHOOL v. GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

For the second time this season the Grammar School met the King's School, and were again victorious. The great feature of the match was the bowling of Cruickshank, who was well on the spot securing 14 wickets for 27 runs. Donnan ably seconded his efforts taking five wickets for nine runs. Our team went to the wickets first, and were disposed of for 139 runs. Thompson after a very dashing innings, quite in his usual style, was caught for 39. The other principal scores were—Aitken 22, Kenna 13. The first innings of the King's School terminated for 12, and their second innings for 25. Thus the Grammar School won by an innings and 102 runs.

SECOND ELEVEN v. COREEN COLLEGE.

The match came off on the Windsor Ground, and although the Coreen College was captained by Mr. Fletcher, our boys scored a win by about 30 runs. Kenna was the only one on the side of the G.S. who reached double figures, and Curwood bowled best.
SECOND v. KING'S SCHOOL SECOND.

Played at Paramatta and won by G. S. Carter, scoring 78, and Fosbery 25. Our men had it all their own way, and won in an innings. Barlow and Kemp bowled well.

SECOND v. ROYSTON COLLEGE.

In this match our Second were obliged to lower their colours for the only time this season, though a little self reliance on the part of the last three men on our side would have won us the match. Whiting made top score with nicely played 16, and Rygate also got into double figures. Allen and Curwood bowled.

FORM CUP MATCHES.

The Challenge Cup kindly offered by the masters to be competed for by the forms of the Upper School has proved a great impetus to cricket matches, and the various forms always look forward to these contests with great interest. So far the 6th form stands first, having won all three matches, Upper Remove and first moderns coming next with two each. With regard to individual scores only one boy has reached 50 runs, viz:—Whiting who played an excellent innings for 54 runs in the match, IVth v. 1st Moderns.

The following is a list of the matches played—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Match Date</th>
<th>Match Details</th>
<th>Winning Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 1st</td>
<td>VIth v. 2nd Moderns—won by VI.</td>
<td>VI Mods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 8th</td>
<td>III v. Shell</td>
<td>III Mods.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 15th</td>
<td>VI v. Shell</td>
<td>VI Mods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 22nd</td>
<td>IV v. Shell</td>
<td>IV Mods.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 29th</td>
<td>VI v. Shill</td>
<td>VI Mods.</td>
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<td>Drawn</td>
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</tbody>
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GRAMMAR SCHOOL v. MITTAGONG DISTRICT.

Appended are the scores of the above match:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Innings</th>
<th>2nd Innings</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Farrar, run out</td>
<td>c Graham b Bennett 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donnan b Throsby</td>
<td>b Edwards ... 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackay c Graham b Southy</td>
<td>b Southy ... 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cruickshank c Graham b Southy</td>
<td>b Bennett ... 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Carter b Southy</td>
<td>c Gowland b Throsby 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payten b Mitchell</td>
<td>run out ... 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayes l.b.w., b Mitchell</td>
<td>not out ... 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenna not out</td>
<td>c Graham b Throsby 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parker b Southy</td>
<td>c Edwards b Throsby 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rygate b Southy</td>
<td>run out ... 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisdom b Gowland</td>
<td>c Bennet b Throsby 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundries</td>
<td>Sundries ... 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 109          Total 102
MITTAGONG.

1st Innings.

Wren c Cruickshank b Donnan .... 2
Gowlan d c and b Payten .... 12
Graham l.b.w., b Donnan .... 4
Bennett c Rygate b Cruickshank ... 48
Russell run out .... 3
South b Payten .... 0
Mitchell c Mackay b Donnan .... 4
Edwards b Donnan .... 0
Throsby b Donnan .... 10
Campbell not out .... 15
Hixon st. Hayes b Mackay .... 13
Sundries .... 3

Total 112

2nd Innings.

run out .... 0
not out .... 0
c Hayes b Cruickshank 1
c Farrar b Payten ... 43
c Cruickshank b Payten 3
b Payten .... 11
c and b Payten ... 9
b Donnan .... 14
run out .... 3
c Hayes b Payten .... 6
b Payten .... 0
Sundries .... 6

Total 96

NEWINGTON COLLEGE v GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The 1st elevens of the above mentioned clubs met on March 1st at Stanmore and the result was a win for the Grammar School by 47 runs on the first innings. The following are the scores:

1st Innings

Thompson, l.b.w., b. James Cleeve ... 34
Donnan, b. Palmer .... 7
Mackay, b. John Cleeve .... 3
Hayes, b. John Cleeve .... 2
Cruickshank, run out .... 1
Levy, l.b.w., b. James Cleeve .... 49
Stiles, thrown out .... 7
Payten, c. Cox, b. Palmer .... 8
Whiting, c. Slade b. Loder .... 2
Carter, b. Loder .... 0
Aitken, not out .... 6
Sundries .......

Total 119

2nd Innings

b. Loder .... 1
c. and b. Palmer .... 16
c. and b. John Cleeve .... 6
not out .... 12
thrown out .... 8
b. John Cleeve .... 12
b. James Cleeve .... 19
b. Palmer .... 2
c. Cox b. James Cleeve .... 1
b. James Cleeve .... 0
b. James Cleeve .... 12

Total 96

NEWINGTON COLLEGE,

1st Innings

John Cleeve, run out .... 1
James Cleeve, b. Cruickshank .... 13
Kidman, run out .... 11
Palmer, b. Payten .... 22
Cox, run out .... 2
Stokes, c. Levy b. Cruickshank .... 2
Slade, b. Cruickshank .... 7
Gannon, c. Payten b. Donnan .... 3
Loveridge, c. Whiting b. Payten .... 5
Loder, st. Hayes b. Payten .... 0
Cobb, not out .... 0
Sundries .... 0

Total 72

2nd Innings

c. Mackay b. Donnan .... 26
c. and b. Payten .... 0
b. Cruickshank .... 3
c. and b. Donnan.... 8
run out .... 1
not out .... 11
c. Hayes b. Cruickshank .... 3
not out .... 5

Sundries .... 5

Six wickets for 62

Cruickshank took 3 wickets for 32
Donnan .... 1
Payten .... 3
SLEEP.

O sleep, beloved solace in our woe,
Sweet refuge from our earthly care and grief,
Heaven's blessing to us mortals here below,
Fond nature's gift and sorrow's blest relief.

In thee our toil worn frames find sweet repose,
Thou art "nepenthe for the sufferer's pain;"
The stricken heart with thee no anguish knows
Thou grantest peace when sympathy is vain.

With thee the sailor on the storm tossed waves
Lives o'er again the happy days of yore,
Forgetting all the dangers that he braves,
Finds himself in his distant home once more.

With thee the soldier new to "war's alarms;"
By duty forced from all that's dear to part:
Folds his beloved wife within his arms,
And clasps again his loved ones to his heart.

The weary wanderer on a foreign strand
Knows nought one half so kind to him as thou;
In thy caress he sees his native land,
His mother presses kisses on his brow.

Once more he feels his father's warm embrace,
He hears again his brother's cheery voice;
Once more he sees his sister's smiling face,
His youthful friends again with him rejoice.

To the poor orphan how benign art thou!
When thou dost kiss his tearful aching eyes,
He sees his parents, guardian angels now,
Waiting to guide him to those distant skies.

Thou driest up the mourner's bitter tear,
The babe restorest to its mother's breast;
Through thy sweet presence, wife or sister dear,
Comes to caress us from far realms of rest.

Be thou with my beloved friends this night!
Grant them thy blessings with a generous hand;
Show them sweet visions of thy regions bright,
Unveil the treasures of thy mystic land.

Haste not to leave the sufferer's weary bed,
But breathe oblivion o'er his anguish deep;
Pour down thy balm upon the wanderer's head,
Let thy "soft dews my wearied eyelids steep."
CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of the Sydneian.

DEAR SIRS,—Could you tell me the Coat of Arms and Crest of the Grammar School? In most of the schools into which you go you generally see them painted in some conspicuous place. For instance, in the Big Room. On going into a Victorian School the first thing that meets the eye is its "Motto," especially on State days; when they are hung up where everybody can see them.

But for the last five years, although our Room is decorated very prettily, I think the Coat of Arms or Motto would not be out of place, say, over the Head Master's door, or some place where it could be seen, as several people ask what it is,

T.

[If our correspondent should at any period of his life win a prize at the Grammar School, (we are afraid, from the style of his letter, that it is improbable) he will find on the cover the Coat of Arms and Motto of the school. We would be happy to describe them to him, but will refrain, as we hardly feel competent to perform the office of a herald; however he will find the office of a Herald in Pitt-street, where he may be able to obtain information with regard to our trade mark. Are state days generally "hung up" in Victorian schools?—Eds. Sydneian.

To the Editors of the Sydneian.

DEAR SIRS,—Would you kindly allow me through your columns to call the attention of the Prefects to the large amount of betting which is daily carried on, under their very noses, at the school? Hoping the hint will be taken.

I am, &c.,

"A WELL-WISHER."

[We are intensely grateful to our correspondent for his good wishes, and have no doubt that the Prefects will feel equal gratitude for the assistance he has endeavoured to give them in the exercise of their arduous duties. We should have felt still more grateful, however, if he had condescended to be more explicit (had he given his real name for instance), and his information to the Prefects would be more valuable had he given more definite particulars. In the first place who are the criminals? It appears that the betting goes on in the school; but whether it is carried on by the boys, the masters, or the trustees we are left in ignorance. The fact that the betting goes on under the Prefects' noses would lead us to suppose that 3 A is the centre of crime since the noses of the Prefects, when they are in the 6th Form room, are situated above that form; still we hardly like to hold up 3 A as a terrible example on so slim an authority. Then he does not tell us what they bet on. Do they wile away the weary hours of study by watching two flies and making bets as to which will fly away first? or does one boy offer odds that another will lose his Saturday? or again, in their eagerness for mathematical knowledge, do they test the truth of the theory of chances by practical experiments?
We cannot tell. Altogether we are afraid that the information which "Well-Wisher" tends will not be very valuable: he is no doubt right in not requesting us to publish details which might be of a personal character; but he was wrong in bringing the matter before us at all. If he found that anything likely to injure the moral tone of the school was going on without the knowledge of the Prefects, it was his duty to give the senior Prefect information which would lead to the abuse being put a stop to, and not to hurl at the school a general accusation which cannot be productive of good.—Esd. SYDNEYAN.

To the Editors of the Sydneian.

At the recent general meeting of the School, it was proposed and carried that there should be one member of the Lower School on the Committee, "to look after their welfare, and help in handicapping the Lower School boys in the Athletic Sports soon about to come off." As the Lower School now exists, it is composed of boys between the ages of ten and fourteen, boys who have barely arrived at years of discretion. It seems to me ridiculous for a boy of such tender years to have been selected for the important duties above referred to. A boy in the Upper School would have just the same opportunities for judging the capabilities of the Lower School, and what is a most important fact, would bring to bear on his decisions a mind quite unbiased by party feeling. That boy instead of being the representative of the whole Lower School, will, if he represents anything, merely represent his form, his most extended view of his duty. It may be that I am taking a very pessimist view of the whole case, and citing a young rascal instead of an ordinary boy. But I am quite convinced, that no boy of thirteen or fourteen years old, can be impressed with the responsibility of an office so important as his would be, to guard the interests of the whole Lower School. And now the question arises, whether the Lower School deserves to be represented by a special member. Last quarter one form contributed six shillings (four boys thus paying), another nine shillings, and a third fifteen. Again the Committee Meetings are always held on Monday; this would be most inconvenient to the Lower School boy, for it is well known that there are more Lower School boys kept in on that day than on any other two days put together. And finally, suppose escaping the Monday detention, and resisting all the seductions of "little cricket" and marbles, he arrived much to his own surprise and bewilderment at the meeting room, what possible weight could the opinion of a boy fourteen years old have amongst his seniors? I have not written this in any spirit of bitterness against the Lower School, but to show by some arguments at any rate, that the departure from the old system of selecting the Committee entirely from the Upper School, is in this case a decided mistake.

I remain, &c.,

Z.

To the Editors of the Sydneian.

DEAR SIRS,—I feel very loth to answer Saltator's second letter, lest his success in calling forth another answer should be too much for him, to the extent of depriving him of his reason. In the latter part of his letter "Saltator" makes
a peculiar statement, not so peculiar in itself, as in his application of it, "the
learning how to make their pleasure subordinate to their duty," pleasure in
this instance standing for dancing, and duty for cricket. Now I think this
order ought to be reversed. I am sure, if anyone had asked those boys
whether they would prefer to play the cricket match, or go to the dancing
lesson, they would with one voice have chosen cricket. But probably they
considered it was their duty to go to dancing, and so sacrificed the pleasure
they might have got from the cricket match. As regards "Saltator's" con-
descension "in explaining to my obtuseness," he need not have exercised it,
for none was needed. What I objected to in "Saltator's" first letter was that
he called his own performances in the art of Terpsichore dancing, while he
ridiculed the boys as "the eccentric circlings of a grotesque whirligig." I do
not insinuate in the foregoing that "Saltator" is anything but a very elegant
person, both in dancing and all other accomplishments, but I want to show
that by using the terms dancing and grotesque circlings as synonymous, he has
laid himself open to what I charged him with, "going in tremendously for the
eccentric circlings of a grotesque whirligig."

I remain, &c.,
JUSTITIA.

To the Editors of the Sydneian.

Sirs,—Would you kindly inform me why it is that nowadays we never—well hardly ever have any full dress parades? When I was young and foolish I was allured into joining the "corps" by the enticing bait held out of blazing before the public in scarlet and pipeclay, but I soon found out to my disgust, that this mild ambition was doomed to be disappointed, and that the full dress was a myth, a thing of the past, a fond memory and nothing more. The result is that my full dress is wasting its sweetness on the desert air of my room, born to blush unseen, apologetically no doubt for its useless existence. I am afraid it is now many sizes too small for me, and I shall leave it as a legacy to my small brother, in the hope it may prove more useful to him than it has been ornamental to me. With the usual apologies,

I remain, yours, &c.,
JAM.

[Jam satis! We notice that the military authorities of the school have ordered a full dress parade for last Friday and another for next Friday. Can this be a case of unconscious cerebration, or is the Sergeant in treasonable correspondence with the printer's fiend?—Ens. Sydneian.]

To the Editors of the Sydneian.

Sirs,—Before the time comes to arrange the programme for the next Sports Meeting, I should like to ask you to remind the Committee of your objection to the wholesale system of Handicap Races which they have till now carried on. If they think that we gain anything in having nine out of thirteen races Handicap, pray let us have them still; but at least let us know what are the advantages in it, and show us both sides of the question. I know that you would open your pages to a free discussion on the merits and demerits of Handicap Races, rather than have a repetition of the state of things which you so ably opposed in your Editorial of June last; but of this I feel sure, that unless the subject is again started before, not after next May, we shall have another programme of the same style in this respect, and shall again need, and deserve, your reproof. By drawing to this subject the attention of the Sports Committee and of the School, you will oblige.

22nd February, 1882.
A.S.
To the Editors of the Sydneian.

SIRS,—With regard to the practice of the first fifteen on the Association Ground, I should like to write a few words.

These fifteen boys are selected from the whole school to practice for the first eleven, and to maintain the honour of the school in the cricket field. Generally of these fifteen about twelve turn out, which is quite sufficient; but the bowling and fielding almost without exception, is simply disgraceful. Again there are certain boys who seem to think they have a right to leave the ground directly they have had their innings, and consequently when the last boy's turn comes, there are only about four or five left to bowl and to field. Cannot this be remedied? I think if the Committee were to elect practice captains, to change the bowlers, and to keep the fields awake, that the school eleven would greatly improve in every part of the game, for there is no good in practising unless it is done properly.

I am, Yours, &c.,

"ONE OF THE FIFTEEN."

The following letter from the Head Master appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald of Saturday, 21st January, 1882.

THE PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

To the Editor of the Herald.

SIR,—My attention has been called to various letters and comments that have recently appeared in the public press on the subject of the University public examinations. Some of the statements that have been made, if left unanswered, may create a false impression; and false impressions are more dangerous than false facts. In the public examinations held in November last, the Sydney schools did better than the other schools in the junior sections, winning the University prizes for male and female candidates, and taking eight of the 13 medals for special subjects; to the senior sections very few of the Sydney schools competed at all, and, consequently, far the greater number of distinctions went to the Queensland schools. It is quite a natural inference that the Sydney schools did not compete because they were not fit to do so. This, however, is not the case, at any rate so far as the Grammar School is concerned. Any one who cares to refer to the printed lists of the school will see how small a percentage of the boys in the higher forms entered for these examinations. The comments that have been made upon the absence of senior candidates from the Grammar School afford me an opportunity of pointing out that the results of the public examinations do not—as most of your correspondents seem to think—furnish the only or the best criterion of the higher teaching of our schools. I have never myself proposed to prepare boys specially for the public examinations. If the examiners do their best, as I believe they do, to eliminate cram, and if the school work is what it should be, special preparation is unnecessary, and as I think wrong. Nor do I over use my personal influence to induce the boys in the highest forms to become candidates. Following the precedent of the English public schools, I believe that a university scholarship, and not a public examination prize, is the proper object of ambition for a sixth form boy. The senior examination may still be utilized for those who do not intend to prosecute their duties at the University. A reference to the Sydney University calendar for the present year will possibly modify the comparisons that have been instituted by some of your correspondents. It will there be seen that 9 of the 13 scholarships tenable at the University, and that 17 of the 23 first-class honours awarded at the various yearly examinations, are at present held by former pupils of the Sydney school. I
maintain that while the public examinations are merely an adjunct, the matriculation examination is, or ought to be, the essential test of our school work; and that a university scholarship is a more substantial honour than a public examination prize. The former is a guarantee of special excellence—which is the aim of higher teaching—the latter implies a large amount of general information, I readily acknowledge that every school should be forced by the weight of public opinion to compete for one or other of these examinations, it is not reasonable to expect the same school to compete for both. It will probably be answered that the matriculation examinations is only a negative test of proficiency. This is very far from being the case with respect to the honour examination; it is unfortunately to a great extent true of the pass examination. It is still more unfortunate that in many cases the University authorities feel themselves compelled by force of circumstances practically to dispense even with this test, unsatisfactory as it is. The result is that the work of the professors is hampered, and in many cases neutralized, and that professional examiners thrive at the expense of conscientious schoolmasters.

If the present discussion serves to divert attention to the defects of the existing matriculation pass examination, it may possibly be productive of lasting good to the University; and to the schools whose duty it is to feed the University. I may be permitted to suggest, in reference to school examinations, that the appointment of a permanent board of examiners, whose function it should be to examine the schools from top to bottom, can alone supply a satisfactory criterion of the work that is being done. Such a plan has been adopted in England, and has proved efficacious.

In reference to the success of the Queensland schools at the public examinations, it would seem superfluous to point out what has often been pointed out before:—1. That the primary schools in that colony are absolutely precluded from competing for any kind of University distinction. 2. That a large proportion of the grammar schools is composed of State exhibitioners; last July there were in the Brisbane Grammar School 137 boys, of these 35 were exhibitioners; these boys have learnt to work before they came to the grammar schools, and the best of them receive five years' schooling free of expense. 3. In some of the schools, at any rate, the work is arranged specially with a view to prepare pupils for the public examinations of the Sydney University.

Yours, &c.,
A. B. WEIGALL.

SCHOOL NEWS.

Since last Term there have been several changes in the staff of masters. Mr. Pratt, after a prolonged period of service, resigned his appointment in November last. Mr. Skinner, who would have succeeded to the vacancy caused by Mr. Pratt's resignation, was unfortunately incapacitated by ill-health from accepting the position, and upon his retirement Mr. Newbery, who had been acting as 2nd Mathematical Master, was appointed by the Trustees to the mathematical mastership of the school. The mathematical staff has been strengthened by the arrival from England of Mr. A. Giles, B.A., late Scholar of Queen's College, Cambridge: and of Mr. H. Carter, B.A., late Scholar of Jesus College, in the same University. The school has lost the valuable services of Mr. Meyrick, who resigned his mastership and has left the colony for private reasons. It may safely be said that Mr. Meyrick's departure is regarded by the better class of boys in the school as a serious personal loss. Mr. Meyrick's place has been filled by the appointment of Mr. J. H. Lindon, B.A., who, like Mr. Meyrick, was a Scholar of Trinity College, Cambridge.
Mr. Anderson has been gazetted an examiner under the Department of Public Instruction, and has thus severed a long connection with the Grammar School. Mr. Anderson entered the Grammar School in 1867, and after making his way through the school with considerable credit to himself, proceeded to the Sydney University, where amongst other distinctions, he obtained a scholarship in chemistry and experimental physics, 1872—the Belmore medal, 1873—and the Hercules Robinson Shakspere prize, 1877. For the last nine years he has been a master at the school, and for a considerable portion of that time was lieutenant of the cadet corps. He took an active part in all movements for the good of the school, was an energetic and successful master, and was universally popular among the boys.

Very satisfactory news has been received of several of the old boys. At the Examination held last October, at the University of Edinburgh, F. A. Pockley passed his first professional examination for medicine and surgery. "There were 270 candidates altogether, about half of whom passed, and two passed with distinction, one of whom was Mr. F. A. Pockley." W. H. Linsley has passed the Balliol Entrance Examination, for which there were 53 candidates, of these Linsley was first. The two Fairfaxes propose to matriculate at Balliol at Easter, and J. L. Mullens has started by the P. and O. boat with the intention of entering at Trinity College, Oxford. Dr. G. Renwick, after a very successful course at Edinburgh University, has returned to the colony to practice as a Doctor, and Mr. A. O’Reilly has recently come out with very high testimonials from the leading members of his Hospital in London. We understand, that he intends, at any rate temporarily, to work at his profession in New South Wales. Mr. W. C. Wilkinson is gaining a brilliant reputation for himself in the Medical School of the London University, and several others of the old fellows are maintaining the prestige of the Grammar School at the various Universities.

At the public examination held in November last at the University, the Junior Prize was awarded to H. A. Russell, who also won medals for special excellence in Latin and French. Beehag won the medal for Greek, and was proxime accessit in Latin. G. S. Jones was proxime accessit in Geography, and Layton in English. Twenty-four candidates from the school passed this examination.

The annual distribution of Prizes was held at the School on Wednesday, December 21st, his Excellency the Governor was present and awarded the prizes to the winners. The Senior-Knox Prize was awarded to A. E. Pratt, and the Junior-Knox Prize was divided between W. Thompson and H. M. Anderson. R. C. Broomfield was Captain of the school.

The prefects for the present term are:—
Allen, Broomfield, Beehag, Barker, Carter, Cruickshank, Campbell, Delohery England 1, England 2, Fletcher, Fraser, Garnsey. Helsham, Jeffreys, King 1, King 2, Lamb, Loxton, Neill, Pratt, Payten, Parker, Russell, Scarr, Thompson.
SCHOOL NOTICES.

FIRST Series of Handicap Examinations for the present year in English, Latin, and Greek Grammar, and Arithmetic on Wednesday and Thursday, April 5th and 6th.

ENGLISH, LATIN, AND GREEK GRAMMAR.

The maximum for each paper to be 100.

IN THE UPPER SCHOOL—
VI. Form starts at scratch.
V. Form receives 5 marks in Latin, 10 in Greek.
IV. Form receives 10 marks in Latin, 20 in Greek.
Upper Remove receives 15 marks in Latin, 40 in Greek.

IN THE MODERN SCHOOL—
1. Modern receives 5 marks in Latin. Starts scratch in English.
2. Modern receives 15 marks in Latin. 10 marks in English.
3. Modern receives 15 marks in English.
Shell receives 30 marks in Latin, 15 in English.

IN THE LOWER SCHOOL—
III. A starts a scratch.
III. B receives 5 marks.
II. A receives 15 marks.
II. B receives 20 marks.
Lower Remove receives 25 marks.
I. Receives 35 marks.

ARITHMETIC.

HANDICAP.—UPPER SCHOOL.—Max. 200.

Division I. ... ... ... 0 Division V. ... ... ... 60
" II. ... ... ... 20 " VI. ... ... ... 70
" III. ... ... ... 33 " VII. ... ... ... 80
" IV. ... ... ... 45 " VIII. ... ... ... 100

HANDICAP.—LOWER SCHOOL.—Max. 200.

GROUP I. GROUP II.
Division I. (i) ... ... ... 0 Division I. ... ... ... 30
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" (iii) ... ... ... 40 " III. ... ... ... 100
" IV. ... ... ... 50 " IV. ... ... ... 120
" V. ... ... ... 75 " V. ... ... ... 140

We are requested to state that the head master will issue railway passes in the reception room on Thursday, April 6th, at 3:15 p.m.

Some facetious individual wants to know whether, in the absence of a quorum, the Trustees could not manage with a cujus. He thinks it might expedite business.

A CHOICE morsel from the Head Master's Monthly Revisions—Antenuceque genuant, et sine funibus. The sale-yards grown and without horses. Is not this a beautiful study in phonetic reproduction, and a complete proof of what "awful nonsense those old classics wrote?"

A RATHER antique gem from Sophocles—ἀρρην' ἀρρήτων—a pair of inexpressibles.

SYDNEY: F. CUNNINGHAME AND CO., PRINTERS, 146 PITT STREET.
### CADET CORPS.—1881.

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Examined and approved,

T. C. BARKER, Col.-Sergeant,
J. S HELSHAM, Q. M.-Sergeant