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The Sydneian.

No. XVIII.

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SYDNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

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SYDNEY :

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THE Secretaries of the various school clubs are requested to send in the reports of the half-yearly elections, next quarter, for publication in No. XIX.

The names of the Successful Candidates at the University Examinations this month, will appear in our next issue.

CORRESPONDENTS are reminded that all articles must bear the name of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of their originality.

ANY person having spare copies of Nos. IV., V. or VI., of the *Sydneian* are particularly requested to communicate with the Editor as early as possible.

TO SUBSCRIBERS—The Editors beg to announce that after the present number, no copies will be sent to any subscribers who have not paid their subscription.

ERRATUM.—In our last issue, in the account of the deputation to the Minister for Lands, a mistake occurred, which we desire to correct. In line 7, in the account, (p. 10) after "altogether" insert "inadequate."
Ed. Sydneian.

The Sydneyian.

THE LATE PROFESSOR PELL.

SINCE the last issue of the *Sydneyian*, New South Wales has lost one of the most distinguished Mathematicians in the Southern Hemisphere, and the Sydney Grammar School its oldest friend. Professor Pell had been almost continually a trustee of this institution from its infancy to the day of his death, and until within the last few years, when failing health rendered necessary an almost total cessation from laborious work, he always took a warm and active interest in its welfare.

As to his public career, he was too unassuming and too unobtrusive to become what is termed a popular man, yet those who are best qualified to judge will readily admit that he has rendered many valuable services to the land of his adoption. As a private citizen he had few intimate friends. But on this point it may be truly said that he was most liked by those who knew him best.

Unlike many other eminent men of science, he was endowed with an amazing diversity of talent, for apart from his mathematical knowledge and powers, which were of the first order, he was a sound lawyer, a distinguished actuary, an able chemist, and a proficient in some of the mechanical arts.

The restless activity of his mind continually led him to explore fresh fields in the domain of intellect, not however without securing the ground over which he had passed, for by no one more than by him, was skin-deep knowledge thoroughly despised. It is probable indeed that this versatility of genius was fatal to him, and brought on premature old age at what should be the prime of life.

This brief and imperfect notice is offered in affectionate remembrance of him by one of his earliest pupils at Cambridge, and when the writer contrasts the happy, bright, handsome youth of thirty years ago—the hero of the Senate House; the victor in the grandest intellectual combat of the year, with what he saw three months ago—the victim of protracted bodily and perhaps mental suffering, and worse than all, an evident collapse of a once splendid intellect, he cannot but regard as friendly in this instance the mission of death.

THE EDITOR ABROAD.

No. II.

BUT as I said country life was not new to me, there was however a fresh charm, I was in that part of the country marked in mineral maps with a yellow daub, as auriferous, and the term auriferous meant at least I thought a rich profusion of gold, and further I prided myself on knowing the proverb "All that glitters is not gold," too well to be the dupe of appearances only, still I had to learn that all QUARTZ does not contain gold, and auriferous parts of the country, can earn their title from one grain in a square mile of country. Wherever one wandered all was quartz, white as chalk and opaque, sometimes in huge ridges, and then broken fragments, every upturned tree was gripping masses of it in its roots. At length a chance came to go to Ophir itself. I was invited together with my host to a christening, which was to take place at the Ophir Church, and the distance though only twelve miles was yet made longer by the numerous ridges and gullies. The buggy which was to convey us came during Saturday afternoon, and as we were rather a heavy load I had many a walk over the hills, and an opportunity to satisfy myself of my conviction that all quartz did not contain gold. For the first three miles I turned over and diligently inspected many a lump of stone, until sobered down by ill luck and the hills, I tried contemplation, which only made matters worse. By this time he arrived at some old shafts, dismal holes and still more dismal looking mounds of earth more like graves than anything else. Yet each one seemed to have a charm for me if only that charm was the history which they could relate. The half of our journey was over when the nature of the ground altogether changed. Instead of quartz, basalt covered the ground, sometimes as decomposed soil at others as bombs or small round boulders; beneath this however appeared the quartz, not broken fragments, but small waterworn pebbles. Sometimes this formation cropped out near the surface, and often there was the decomposed soil or the solid rock, the same as that which is used for roads, and bears the name as blue metal, and very often the water flowed in such quantities into the holes from underneath that this itself necessitated the abandoning of the shaft. Here too there started the Race. A race is a ditch which is used to convey water from the higher part of a creek to a spot where the nature of the ground will allow the soil to be washed away by hydraulic pumps, and consequently this ditch must be commenced at a point on the creek where the water will flow to the desired place by gravitation, and therefore the distance must offer no objection to the making of it. In this place the distance was only fourteen miles, and not more than three in a straight line. It has to go round the side of a hill right up to the head of a creek, and to wind about just getting lower and lower to suit the fall of the water. It can also be used at any spot along its route where desired, and as it must go through rock and sand the expense is considerable, and the cost in this case was as I heard £3000. We crossed this same race three times on our road.

Not only was the surface of the ground itself interesting but the

scenery was indeed grand ; on the top of each ridge through the trees could be seen the Macquarie mountains, in which are situated Hill End and Tambaroora. The evening sun, helped by the thick foliage of gum trees, formed that beautiful blue on the hills which is so soft and relieving to look at, and in the valleys the first gloom of night was thickly spreading itself in every direction, and following the retreating sunlight, ever chasing it from every hillside and naked crag where it loves to linger longest !

But Ophir at last, Ophir ? Yes, Ophir. A hotel, store, blacksmith's shop, butcher's shop, all in one cluster and owned by one man ; while the subject for the signboard showed Hargraves picking up his nugget, the first trace of gold found in Australia ! This alone is the relic of that once famous field. When this was opened farmers left their farms, men left a certain remuneration for either for fortunes or poverty, while those who used their spades and picks to turn over soil for crops had a monopoly, and gained a fortune which diggers made great by paying for out of good luck or bought the farm produce out of their savings which were sinking because their pound's worth of gold cost them £2 to get.

THE INVENTION AND USE OF GUNPOWDER.

GUNPOWDER!—without which most of the deadly appliances of modern warfare would never have been invented, much less used, throws completely into the shade any other devices intended for the carrying on of that diabolical and destructive, but still often necessary, means of accomplishing certain objects, viz., war.

The magicians of either China or Europe had discovered, by casual or elaborate experiments, that a spark of fire applied to a mixture of saltpetre, sulphur and charcoal, produced a tremendous explosion, and this naturally leading to further investigation, it was observed that if the substance was confined within a strong tube, it would expel a missile of stone or iron with most rapid and destructive velocity. By these means a weapon which would give the Greeks a decided superiority over their Turkish foes was placed in their hands at the critical moment of their fate ; but, owing to treachery and the policy of selfish rivals, it was impossible to keep the secret long. The Turks themselves became acquainted with its composition, but the Sultan saw the wisdom of appointing a Christian engineer to instruct them as to its use and effect. The Genoese who brought Amurath to Europe, are generally accused of being his preceptors, and it was probably by their means that his cannon was first cast and directed at the siege of Constantinople. Although this first attempt was unsuccessful as far as regarded the proper manipulation of the cannon, still, even in its then primitive existence, it served to show what immense expansive force was contained within the apparently harmless looking compound by levelling with the dust those before deemed impregnable, but now comparatively insignificant towers, which had been erected only to resist the less potent engines of antiquity.

The precise era of the invention and application of gunpowder is involved in doubtful traditions and mysterious legends, and it is impossible to accurately determine the exact time of the great event, but it can be traced back to the middle of the fourteenth century by any one who has taken the trouble to study its early existence. We also know that at the end of the same century rude artillery was used both at sea and on land by the States of Germany, Italy, Spain, France, and England, but those amongst them which had before maintained priority of position with regard to the others were now no longer recognised as superior, as in the common improvement they stood on the same level in relative power and the science of war. The Venetians were not slow in communicating this important discovery to the Persian and Egyptian Sultans (their allies against the Ottoman foe), and gradually the secret was extended to the extremities of Asia, by which the advantage of the European was confined to easy victories over the comparatively innocent and ignorant inhabitants of the New World.

The advent of gunpowder marks an epoch in the world's existence. By its potent and subduing qualities the destinies of mighty nations have been determined, and when wielded by a powerful hand it is a terrible instrument for good or evil. Whether it has proved a curse or a blessing to mankind, it is hard to say, but no doubt it has often been the means by which grievous wrongs have been redressed, and has, possibly, by its aid, enabled nations who before groaned under tyranny to shake off the yoke, and rise triumphant in the glorious cause of liberty. Perhaps, in her present proud position, England owes not a little of her glory to this mighty agent. Without its aid her navy could never have arrived at the perfection which it can now boast of—the most splendid and powerful navy in the world. Without it such decisive battles as Trafalgar and Waterloo could never have been fought and won, and consequently less fame and distinction could have accrued to her name and to her flag—that flag which has “braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze.” Then, on the other hand, how many homes has it left bare; how many fond wives have been left through its instrumentality husbandless and alone, the sacred ties which bound them severed for ever, and surrounded by children who can hardly estimate what it is to lose a parent's care and a father's love. These are a few of the evils inseparably connected with war, but volumes would not contain the account of misery and woe which follow like a fiend, in its train. The rapid progress which has been made in military science since the invention and use of gunpowder, and the ingenious yet awful machinery devised for utilizing and employing it in a manner most destructive to human life is something both remarkable and terrible in its nature. Almost every day we hear of some new and improved implement of war, which will destroy, if needed, a larger proportion of human beings than the preceding ones, but it is generally the agency of gunpowder. The question has often been asked and considered,—what must this state of things eventually lead to? Military science, it is said, will be brought to such a climax of perfection that men will refuse to go to battle from which there is no chance of returning

alive. When this is the case, and disputes will be settled by moral force and the pen, rather than physical force and the sword—when Justice shall assert her rights, and the voice of Tyranny shall be heard no more—when all men are at peace and the clamour of war is hushed for ever,—then, and not till then, the earth shall have arrived at that thrice blessed point of her career, of which gunpowder may be said to be a harbinger, when “swords shall be beaten into ploughshares, and spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

T. D.

READING.

II.

To those in whom there is naturally implanted a thirst for knowledge and an inquiring mind, physical science, which during the last century has made such wonderful strides, at once presents a boundless and a pleasingly varied field. An accurate acquaintance with any branch of natural science is to be acquired by patient observation and reading—the reading first, and subsequently the observation. Neither one nor the other alone makes a true student of science; for the reading is eminently necessary to give the start to the acquirement of knowledge, whilst the observation is as necessary to test and impress the reading. The advantages to be derived from the careful study of, and consequent acquaintance with any branch of natural science, and the reasons for such a study are many and sufficiently obvious.

In the first place, learning to think and reason scientifically gradually creates in the mind a logical sequence and arrangement of thought (of such perfection as can perhaps be derived from no study, except that of mathematics), and marshals into order what has for years been accumulating in the mind in disorder. The advantage of such an arrangement and order can be seen at once by a homely illustration. If any of my readers wished to pack a trunk so as to hold as much as possible, I presume that he would most likely pack everything in order, and as far as practicable, symmetry. The foremost duty then, of man, being as I believe it to be, to acquire and transmit to others all the knowledge possible in the time allotted to him as his life, it is clearly a part of duty to acquire his knowledge in the most orderly and *portable* way, this way being, I maintain, by the pursuit of natural science in the field and in the lecture-room.

Another reason, which I urge upon my readers, for the study of physical science is that it, of all other things, combines instruction with amusement most happily, neither limiting the one nor destroying the other.

The process of true scientific reasoning is so simple that it seems wonderful that it was never thought of before. It is simply this—proceeding to argue the unknown by the known; and the great fault of old thinkers is that they explained (or tried to explain) the unknown, not by the known, but by the still more unknown. From this class of thinkers come such theories as the existence in times gone by of an atmosphere

highly charged with carbonic acid, and to this cycle they attributed the formation of coal, whereas, by a not very elaborate succession of arguments, combined with increased knowledge from personal observation, it has been proved that under favourable circumstances any cycle may be carboniferous. Thus science presents no painstaking and laborious introduction to be learnt first, but at once receives and interests a "student of Nature for her own sake," as Kingsley says, leading him gradually to an accurate acquaintance with the causes of such phenomena* as he may meet in his everyday walks. Such being the case, science at once presents itself as the easiest-attainable and most permanent source of amusement and instruction; it meets, moreover, one very frequent objection to reading under any form, viz., that after school boys need physical rather than intellectual employment; but surely when both the intellectual and physical exercise may be got at once without one clashing against another, it is at least a saving of time to do so? And this can be obtained by the study of natural science.

One most important argument in favour of scientific studies is that it brings directly under the salutary influence of nature, and that there are very few indeed who would not profit by communication with nature, and "through nature up to nature's God"; or, who would not when noticing how in the smallest forms is displayed the most perfect mechanism, how, in a word, "Nature is greatest where it is least"; marvel at the power and wisdom of a being who can control at once the vast firmament of heavenly bodies whilst directing the tiny yet complicated mechanisms of a creature invisible to the unassisted eye.

I suppose that very few will suppose that I will advocate the study of science on *commercial*, still less on *political* grounds; yet it is so. I urge it on commercial grounds because science, in one or other of its forms, is constantly giving to the world new civilization, and has for some time past directed and assisted the enterprise of many of our greatest benefactors. In this way, perhaps, geology and physics have as yet done most good. But there is a stronger reason than this. I urge the study of science on commercial grounds because "science is common-sense well-regulated," because it sharpens the faculties of observation, sometimes arousing them when dormant. And no one will deny that the two most important elements of that mysterious creature a "business man" are common-sense and shrewd observation. Again, I contend for the study of science upon political grounds. Firstly, because the great cry of all ages, sometimes indeed smothered by oppression and tyranny, but always continuing to make itself heard, a cry which we must all echo, is "Liberty, Freedom, and Equality!" And in science only is to be found what I believe will be ere long the true basis of that Liberty, Freedom, and Equality. Poor and rich are here on equal terms. In other branches of knowledge the rich have so got the start of the poor that the poor would make an almost hopeless attempt to catch the rich. But in science, in fact because it has only been accurately expounded within the last few years, both start on equal terms. In other branches of knowledge books

*I use the word phenomena in its broadest sense—things seen! (*φαίνόμενα*)

of any comparative worth are so dear that they are only to be bought by the rich. But high-class books on science may be bought for a few shillings, books sufficiently exhaustive to form an ample basis to conduct personal and practical observations.

Here also is seen the true equality, the true fraternity, for here alone students of nature though poor may associate with men truly great, some of the greatest of whom indeed are men of their own birth—with men like Hugh Miller, the Cromarty stone-mason, who rose by degrees to occupy a front rank in the aristocracy of science, an aristocracy, not of men with heads so many hundred years thick, as Dickens expresses it, but of men who from time to time have justly attained their high position, not by a sudden valiant act, not by any marvellous popularity, but by patient, careful, *scientific* industry.

And we see here liberty, which according to Mr. John Stuart Mill is a liberty such that a man may do as he pleases so long as he does not interfere with the comfort of his fellow-man.

If, however, all arguments failed, there would remain this strong but unworthy inducement, that if we don't wish our children and younger brothers and sisters to grow up round us with far greater knowledge and intelligence than we ourselves possess, our only resource is in the study of natural science, a study which cannot fail to elevate the mind and encourage lofty and sublime thoughts.

I stay not to enumerate and answer the objections which unscientific people have hurled against science with (to themselves at least) wonderful genius.

Their answer is to be found in the simple fact that, despite the petty objections of such people science still continues to advance and to fulfil its great mission of civilising and elevating the world.

THE ATHLETIC SPORTS.

THANKS to the occurrence of a day exceptionally fine, even for this sunny Australian climate, our Athletic Meeting of 1879 proved, in the opinion of most present, the most successful one we have ever held. The season devoted to these meetings is always liable to rain, and on this particular occasion the prolonged heavy rains of the last month caused us to await the appointed day with considerable apprehension. The same fears caused the committee to make the excusable mistake of printing too small a number of programmes; and as the whole stock was sold out during the first hour, an unexpected dearth prevailed during the rest of the afternoon—the only hitch in the whole proceedings. The rest of the arrangements were carried out with excellent precision, and the committee are especially to be congratulated upon the punctuality with which the separate events were brought up to their advertised times—a result which was only attained by smart action. The attendance was very large and highly

fashionable ; indeed, there appeared to be even more persons present than at the Sydney Amateur Athletics last month, although theirs was also a crowded meeting. The excitement naturally aroused in the breasts of our visitors by the sight of the contests was allayed in the intervals by the melodious strains of the Albion Band, which played during the afternoon with unabated vigour.

The fields were generally large. In one or two instances, however, although there were a great number of entries, the competitors were remarkably sparse. This was very noticeable in the All Schools race, which is not a handicap ; yet, with 23 entries, only 6 started. Again, in the Sydney Amateurs race, only 3 out of 17 appeared ; but as this was a handicap, it was open to the rest to say that they disapproved of their allowance. Whilst we are on this subject, we would enter a protest against the extent to which the system of handicapping overruns the whole programme, like an obnoxious weed. It may be very well at local meetings, where the same competitors come up year after year ; but, in a school, where none remain long, where those who do remain change greatly every year, and where new stars are constantly rising to the zenith, it is most undoubtedly out of place. At the most it should be confined to two or three races, the prestige of which would be lowered accordingly. There can be no doubt that it fosters the habit of regarding these contests in a commercial or mercenary spirit, and that it is in great part responsible for the creation of the "pot-hunting" persuasion, who are rather numerous in our midst. It would be a much more desirable means of attaining the desired end, either to make a rule that no one should be allowed to win the same race two consecutive years, or else to penalise winners only in a certain amount of distance. After once winning a race, none need grumble at being obliged to make way for another next year ; but the present morbid growth of the handicap system inevitably entails an enormous amount of dissatisfaction, however well the handicappers may strive to do their task—the reason being that everyone is encouraged to hope that he may get more than he justly should, and to grumble if he does not. Moreover, no handicapper is infallible ; and on the present occasion there were one or two regular gifts to fellows whose abilities were not sufficiently respected ; although it is only fair to state, on the other hand, that one or two of the handicapped fields produced remarkably good races.

The rest of the details may be gathered from the subjoined account ; in connection with which, however, it should be remembered that many fellows usually prominent at our meetings, were undergoing the pangs of the Matriculation examination at the University during the week, and although most of them showed up, it was evident that some at least were not in their usual form, and they would perhaps have done better to have stayed away altogether.

100 YARDS FLAT—Two prizes ; first presented by J. R. Fairfax, Esq.
F. B. Wilkinson, 1 ; T. M. Thomson, 2 ; F. Baylis, 3.

Won by about two yards, the same between second and third. Time, $10\frac{1}{2}$ secs.

220 YARDS FLAT HANDICAP (under 15). Two prizes. Trial Heats.

First Heat: J. Angove (8 yards), 1; S. Eaton (7 yards), 2; H. Scroggie (12 yards), 3. Time, 27 1-5th secs.

Angove won easily by 8 yards; a good third; the rest distanced.

Second Heat: W. M'Pherson (13 yards), 1; J. Cleeve (5 yards), 2; A. Cox (10 yards), 3. Time, 26 3-5ths secs.

This proved a hollow thing for M'Pherson, who won by at least 12 yards, and should have started scratch; 10 yards between second and third.

HOUSE CUP (Half-mile Handicap).—Two prizes; presented by C. J. Fache, Esq.

A. Thomas, Fache's House (33 yards), 1; E. A. Grainger, Fache's (5 yards), 2; D. Mackay, Stephenson's (28 yards), 3.

About fifteen started. Grainger soon worked off his handicap, and was leading at the quarter-mile (1 min. 1 sec.), with Pye and Kenna in close attendance; Thomas reserved his energies, and coming up at the end, won by 4 yards. The second and third were much done up, as indeed were several others. Martin would have come in third, but fell upon the tape without crossing, from sheer exhaustion. Time, 2 min. 28 secs.

220 YARDS FLAT—All Schools Race.—Two prizes; presented by E. Pratt, Esq.

T. M. Thomson, S.G.S., 1; F. B. Wilkinson, S.G.S., 2; W. B. Fairfax, S.G.S., 3. Only six appeared at the post; the entered competitors from the other schools did not turn up. This was an excellent race; Thomson made the running from the first; Wilkinson spurted well from half-way, but failed to catch him by a yard; Fairfax a good third, with Moore almost level to him. Time, 24 1-5th secs.

100 YARDS FLAT (under 13).—Prizes presented by Mrs. Weigall.

W. Johnson, 1; E. P. Woolcott, 2; A. Cox, 3.

Johnson won by 4 feet; the same between second and third. Time, 13 2-5th secs.

220 YARDS FLAT HANDICAP (under 15).—Final heat.

W. M'Pherson (13 yards), 1; J. Cleeve (5 yards), 2; J. Angove (8 yards), 3.

M'Pherson led the whole way, and won with ease by 8 yards; second and third hardly separated by a foot. Time, 26 4-5th secs.

300 YARDS FLAT—MAIDEN HANDICAP.—Two prizes; first presented by Lamb and Fairfax. Trial heats.

First: G. A. Higgins (12 yards), 1; A. Gerard (3 yards), 2; W. Amess (14 yards), 3. Time, 38 secs.

Second: W. Battye (scratch), 1; C. M'Kay (5 yards), 2; W. Stoddart (12 yards), 3. Time, 37 1-5th secs.

Third: T. M. Thomson (5 yards), 1; R. J. Higgins (7 yards), 2; W. Bird (12 yards), 3. Time, 35 4-5th secs.

150 YARDS FLAT (under 14).

W. M'Pherson, 1; J. Angove, 2; K. Hungerford, 3.

M'Pherson won easily by 7 or 8 yards; a good third. Time, 18 3-5th seconds.

THREE-QUARTER-MILE FLAT HANDICAP.—Two prizes; presented by Sir G. Wigram Allen.

F. Baylis (scratch), 1; F. B. Wilkinson (scratch), 2; C. Hawkins (70 yards), 3.

Hawkins and Mackay, with 70 yards, led for the first quarter; Baylis, running very steadily, then pushed his way to the front, and kept up his lead to the winning post, winning as he liked by 30 yards; Wilkinson spurted gamely at 200 yards from home, but was completely exhausted, and barely crossed the line, being evidently out of form; Hawkins a bad third, also much done. Time, 3 mins. 37½ secs.

KICKING FOOTBALL (Place).—Place-kicking at a goal, commencing at 30 yards, distance gradually increased; three trials allowed at each distance; failure to exclude.

T. M. Thomson, 1 (44 yards); W. Roberts and J. Butler, 2,

100 YARDS FLAT (under 12). Prize presented by C. H. Francis, Esq.

W. Fitzhardinge, 1; J. Little, 2.

This, the first race given for fellows under 12, only produced six competitors; we hope a second year will see a larger field. Fitzhardinge ran well and won a good race by hardly two yards; Haldane and Moule ran a dead heat for a good third place. Time, 13 3-5ths secs.

300 YARDS FLAT—MAIDEN HANDICAP. Final heat.

T. M. Thomson (5 yards), 1; G. A. Higgins (12 yards), 2; A. Gerard (3 yards), 3.

This was a good race, won by 2 yards, 3 between second and third, the rest well up. Time, 34 2-5ths secs.

HIGH JUMP. Prize presented by Mrs Higgins.

R. J. Higgins, 1 (5 ft. 1 in.); A. Gerard, 2 (5 ft.).

Some delay occurred here; eventually only two competitors appeared. Higgins might probably have gone an inch or two more, but after winning chose to reserve his forces for later events.

300 YARDS FLAT HANDICAP—MEMBERS OF S.A.C.C. Two Prizes.

W. E. Rush (4 yards), 1; A. G. Gerard (15 yards); H. H. Gerard (21 yards), 3.

Only these three came to the post; Rush won as he liked by 4 yards, the same between second and third. Time, 33 4-5ths secs.

1 MILE—CHAMPION RACE. Two Prizes—presented by A. B. Weigall, Esq.

F. Baylis, 1; E. A. Grainger, 2; C. D. H. Rygate, 3.

Only these three started; Wilkinson was incapacitated. Rygate took the lead during the first lap (1 min. 22 secs.); Baylis then came on to the front, and gradually increased his lead the whole way, passing second lap in 2 mins. 50 secs., third in 4 min. 11 secs., and winning with plenty of spurt in him by over 20 yards. Grainger and Rygate struggled very gamely for second place, Grainger winning by barely a yard from Rygate, who was untrained. Time, 5 mins. 25 3-10ths secs.

120 YARDS HURDLE HANDICAP. Two prizes; first presented by P. B. Walker, Esq.

G. C. Addison (owes 10 yards), 1; A. Gerard (owes 6 yards), 2; R. Bowman (owes 10 yards), 3.

Only these three started. All were level at the second hurdle; Addison got ahead from the fourth, and won by 5 yards. Bowman twice caught his foot and fell at the last hurdle, just missing the second place in consequence by half a yard. Time, 21 3-5ths secs.

440 YARDS FLAT HANDICAP (under 15). Two prizes.

H. Pockley (13 yards), 1; C. Rowling, (19 yards), 2; S. Eaton (10 yards), 3.

An excellent finish; Pockley came forward well from the half distance, and won by 3 yards; a foot between second and third, the field close in. Time, 1 min. 7 3-10ths sec.

220 YARDS FLAT HANDICAP—SCHOOL CUP. Two Prizes. Trial Heats.

First: T. M. Thomson (8 yards), 1; E. Frederick (18 yards), 2; W. Bird (14 yards), 3.

A very good race; all finished close together. Time, 24 7-10ths secs.

Second: W. B. Fairfax (5 yards), 1; G. C. Addison (7 yards), 2; S. Smith (18 yards), 3.

Also exceedingly close; won by a foot. Time, 25 1-10th secs.

150 YARDS FLAT—EX-STUDENTS. Two prizes.

A. C. Mansfield, 1; A. G. Gerard, 2; L. Zollner, 3.

Eight competitors appeared. Mansfield had it much his own way, winning by 6 yards; a good third. Time, 16 3-10ths secs.

HOP, STEP, AND JUMP.

R. Bowman, 1 (37 ft.); F. Baylis, 2 (36 ft. 8 in.)

This competition excited some amusement. Bowman cleared 37 feet in his second attempt, which no one was able to surpass.

220 YARDS FLAT HANDICAP—SCHOOL CUP. Final heat.

T. M. Thomson (8 yards), 1; E. Frederick (18 yards), 2; G. C. Addison (7 yards), 3.

Thomson won a good race by 4 yards; Addison a good third, Fairfax hardly behind him. Time, 24 3-10 secs.

1 MILE WALKING HANDICAP. Cup presented by L. Stephenson, Esq. Two prizes.

This event brought out some thirty competitors of extremely variable sizes, like mixed biscuits. Great interest was raised [by the uncertainty of the contest, some small individuals having as much as 170 yards start, and the effect at starting was somewhat farcical.

W. Lamrock (50 yards), 1; A. H. Thomas (100 yards), 2.

Lamrock forged ahead from the half-distance, and increased his lead to the end, winning with ease by over 20 yards. Street, who walked in excellent form, made up well throughout, and spurted well for second place at the end, finishing almost a dead heat with Thomas, but was disqualified, his efforts at the end causing him to break his pace. Some of the smallest fellows walked exceedingly gamely and well throughout. Time, 8 mins. 20 4-5ths secs.

440 YARDS FLAT HANDICAP. Two prizes — presented by F. H. Dangar, Esq.

F. Baylis (5 yards), 1; R. Bowman (15 yards), 2; G. Eden (27 yards), 3. Eden quickly ran up to the front, and at the half-distance was leading by over 10 yards; Baylis and Bowman then gradually overhauled him, and passed him at 80 yards from home; eventually Baylis won easily enough by 20 yards; Eden, who failed to spurt, a fair third; a numerous field not far behind.

The following gave their services as officials: Judges, Mr. Pratt and Mr. Stephenson; referee, Mr. Skinner; time-taker, Mr. L. Whitfeld; starter, Mr. Francis.

DEBATING SOCIETY.

FRIDAY, May 9.—Mr Weigall occupied the chair. The room was crowded to excess. The Premier (J. Mullins), opened the debate, "That participation in some branch of outdoor exercise should be made compulsory in the School," in the affirmative. The following also spoke;—

For: —

R. J. Higgins
R. Bowman
C. H. Francis, Esq.
F. R. Barlee
J. McIntyre
E. Meyrick, Esq.
W. F. Tarplee

Against:—

J. Herbert
G. Higgins
N. W. Montagu, O.S.
T. Trebeck
G. T. Mullins
L. Samuel, O.S.

On the motion of J. Mullins, seconded by R. Bowman, visitors were allowed to speak twice, which was taken advantage of by Messrs. Francis and Samuel. On division, 30 votes were given for, and 15 against the motion.

FRIDAY, May 16.—On account of the inclement weather there was a small attendance. The Ministry, (Mullins') brought forward the following debate—"That laws should be made to prevent strikes," which, after a lively debate, was lost. The Ministry therefore resigned. The chairman called on J. Herbert to form a new Ministry. The new Ministry consists of J. Herbert (premier), W. F. Tarplee, G. A. Higgins, J. Butler, and W. James.

FRIDAY, May 23.—J. Herbert (V.P.) occupied the chair. The Premier (Herbert), announced the names of the new Ministry. The usual entertainment took place, in which S. Jones, J. Herbert, G. F. Mullins, N. Montagu O.S., K. Hungerford, Kenna, R. Anderson and F. Mackay took part. C. Dezarnaulds and Pelletier treated the company to some French songs, which were highly appreciated.

The next meeting will take place on the second Friday evening after the vacation when the officers for the rest of the year will be elected. Some important business will also be brought before the meeting.

OUR NEW CHAIRMAN.

WE are informed that the vacancy caused by the death of the late Professor PELL, has been filled by the appointment of M. H. STEPHEN, Esq., Q.C., to be Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The School has reason to be congratulated upon this appointment. Mr. STEPHEN has for a long period been associated more or less intimately with the institution. He was educated at the school, which was at that time known as the Sydney College; he has been a Trustee for several years, and since the resignation of the late Hon. G. ALLEN has acted as Vice-Chairman of the Board. Mr. STEPHEN has therefore had exceptional opportunities of acquainting himself with the requirements and the capabilities of the school. We know that our new Chairman brings to the discharge of his responsible duties a large amount of practical experience, and a cordial sympathy with all movements that aim at moral, intellectual, or physical improvement.

Mr. G. KNOX, M.A., Cambridge and Sydney, has been appointed as Trustee, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of the Hon. W. C. WINDEYER, who as Attorney General becomes an *ex-officio* member of the Board. Mr. KNOX was educated at the Grammar School, and subsequently graduated with distinction at the Sydney University and at Caius' College, Cambridge. We can only hope that Mr. KNOX will prove as good a Trustee as his father was. At any rate we know that he has a personal interest in the welfare of the school, and that is the one great qualification for the position to which Mr. KNOX has been appointed.

THE ROWING CLUB.

The following subscriptions have been received since our last number towards the purchase of a new gig:—

	£	s.	d.
E. Barton, Esq.	2	2	0
Capt. Trouton	1	1	0
E. Webb, Esq.	1	1	0
C. Cope, Esq.	1	1	0
A Friend	0	5	0
M. Arnold, Esq.	0	10	0
	£6	0	0

The following sums have been handed to Mr. Weigall by Mr. E. M. Bowman, of St. Andrew's College:—

E. M. Bowman	0	10	0
H. P. Owen	0	10	0
J. D. Lang	0	10	0
L. Badham	0	10	0
W. H. Lander	0	5	0
W. H. Linsley	0	5	0
	£3	0	0

CORRESPONDENCE.

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To the Editor of the Sydneian.

SIR,—The Debating Club at present, nearly every one will admit, is not such as it should be, and in this letter I will endeavour to point out the abuses only; the remedy I will leave to an abler pen.

The debates, as you doubtless are aware, are carried on by means of a Ministry, who choose the subject, and an Opposition. As a rule the Ministry lose the debate, no matter what the subject is, nor how good the arguments may be which are brought forward. If, indeed, the Ministry win the debate, it is either owing to the influence which some master or masters bring to bear on the subject, or to the extreme one-sidedness of the debate. I am referring to no particular ministry; for what can be said of one can be said of all. Now this must be very discouraging to a speaker—viz., to know that, no matter how well he might speak, he would have no influence, and that he would be just as much appreciated as if he had uttered the greatest nonsense—since a great many come for the express purpose of ejecting the Ministry. Again, the Club is not sufficiently patronised by the school; for, out of two hundred boys who can come, there are on an average between twenty and thirty. As regards the entertainments, which are held one night out of three, the less said about them the better; for I am sure they do not tend to improve the moral or the intellectual qualities of the audience. I also do not see why there should be no meeting on the night following the monthly half-holiday; that, I should think, ought to cause a good meeting, as it would give ample time for preparation. I may add that the rules of the society ought to be posted up as formerly, so that every one might have an opportunity of becoming acquainted with them.

In concluding, I hope that the meetings will be better attended next quarter, and that henceforth the debates be decided by the arguments brought forward, and not as they are now.

Giving this note publicity you will oblige,

CAIUS.

MASTERS SPEAKING IN DEBATES.

To the Editor of the Sydneian.

Sir,—With all due deference to the masters of the Sydney Grammar School, may I be allowed to ask them, through the medium of your paper, whether it is fair to the boys, fair to themselves, that they should influence a debate by speaking for or against the question during the progress of the debate? For, that the masters do influence the debates, it must be admitted. When the boys (the lower school boys especially) see one master after another get up and speak, so naturally enough, the boys vote with them, either because they think that what a master says must be right, or they shrink from voting against the masters; especially so, if the boys see their own form-master exhorting the meeting. This speaking of the masters whilst the

debate is proceeding, has really a pernicious effect; first, because a boy does not care to enter into an animated discussion with one of his masters, whom he knows to be so much superior in every way: this thus practically stops boys from speaking who might otherwise be induced to pluck up their courage and give their opinion on the question; and second, because of the undue influence which it exercises on the boys, so preventing them from voting fairly and impartially; and third, because it places the masters on a level with the boys. Not that the masters speak with any desire to influence the debates in any way, of that I am perfectly convinced; but, at the same time, they do do so, unwittingly, no doubt. I feel sure their only reason for speaking is to give a little instruction, when necessary, or when they think it opportune; but, might it not suggest itself to the masters to give, if desirable, a short lecture or summing-up of the debate, after a division is taken, so that those who might wish could see where their arguments were false, or where they would hold good. Such a plan would surely result in much instruction being given in a friendly way, and would be beneficial to the audience.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

AEQUUS.

FOOTBALL.

To the Editor of the Sydneyan.

SIR—Now that Football has again commenced, I should like to write a few words in reference to the giving of the “Caps of Honour.” Last season the Sports Committee decided who were to get the “Caps of Honour,” and the result of their decision seemed to be very unsatisfactory to the majority of the Football Team, who I think are the only ones who have a right to have a say in the matter, and I think that in the giving of the “Caps,” the whole of the First Fifteen should have a vote and not leave it to the Committee.

Hoping some attention will be given to this, and apologising for using so much of your valuable space,

I am, &c.,

GEO. A. HIGGINS.

23rd May, 1879.

MAGAZINES RECEIVED.

WE beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following magazines:—

Melbournian, Vol. IV., No. 3.

Wesley College Chronicle, No. 7.

Young Victoria, No. 9.

Cliftonian (English) Vol. V., No. 12.

Wellingtonian (English) Vol. V., No. 12.

St. Patrick's College Gazette, No. 5.

Australian, Vol II., No. 3.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WE are glad to see that Fred. Wilkinson has once more brought honour to the School by winning the champion schools' race at the late meeting of the S. A. A. Club, and getting second prize for the Strangers' race.

Fred. Baylis won second prize for the Schools' Champion and G. C. Addison for the Schools' Hurdle-race. May other Sydneians follow their example.

THE librarian of the sixth form begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following books:—

Julian Home	J. Adam.
Macaulay's History of England (2 vols.) ..	G. Rennie.
Plutarch's Lives (Langhorne)	C. Rygate.
The English Essayists	M. Moriarty
Pickwick Papers, &c.	F. Barlee

At a meeting of the Prefects, held Friday, May 30, John E. McIntyre was elected Head Prefect, Vice Wilkinson resigned.

ENIGMA.

How oft to peevish children
 You'd like my first to do ;
 Our clothes full oft receive the same,
 And many a wise head too.
 I've seen full many an honest hand
 Perform it in the street,
 And cowards do it freely,
 When enemies they meet.

My second with an arrow's speed,
 Flies to his victim's heart,
 And through its ghastly gaping wound
 The crimson torrents start.
 'Tis spoken of in Scripture,
 'Tis seen in Afric's wild,
 In warfare and in rivalry
 Used by Australia's child.

My whole is seen on every shelf
 Where learning holds her sway,
 The learned and the ignorant
 Will quote it every day.
 It stands alone, unrivalled,
 'Mid Britain's early song,
 And with its tragic grandeur
 Draws myriads in its throng.

B.

