



THE
TORCH-BEARER,

THE MAGAZINE OF
THE SYDNEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

No. 3.

JUNE, 1896.

Vol. V.

Editorial.



ONCE again our oarsmen have won for us the proud title of Champion School of New South Wales. The crew, the coaches, and the cox., are to be heartily congratulated on the thorough manner in which they performed their respective parts, and maintained our honour on the river. That the Easter Camp had a great deal to do with the excellent form and condition of our representatives is universally admitted and this fact alone would mark it as one of the

most important events of the year. But it will be seen from the notice of the Camp in our present number that this annual reunion promotes not only good rowing but good fellowship, and has a powerful influence in binding members of the School into one harmonious whole. We trust therefore, to see it not only maintained, but if possible extended in years to come.

The one drawback to our perfect enjoyment of our victory is the fact that the date of the Regatta necessitates the

withdrawal of the crew from the football field during the opening weeks of the season, and thus places those schools which put crews on the river at a disadvantage compared with those that do not enter for the race. It is too much to expect that boys who have rowed in the Regatta should be in good football condition immediately after the race, and the team is thus weakened far beyond the actual date of the event, which we hope to see altered before next season. This may in some measure explain the somewhat melancholy record so far of the 1st XV.; let us hope the second half of the season may tell another tale.

The protests, usual at this season, against the roughness and brutality of football, have been duly recorded in the press and elsewhere, but we fail to note the slightest falling off in the enthusiasm of players or the interest of the public. Gruesome suggestions as to each team having a surgeon and an ambulance waggon attached to it, have been made by humorous correspondents, but, so far as we know, have not yet been acted upon. No doubt accidents—in general not of a serious character.—do happen occasionally, but we doubt very much whether, in proportion

to the number of players, they are really more numerous than in other sports. A prominent English player (Mr. J. H. C. Fegan), in a recent number of *The Minster*, states that in ten years play he never met with a bad accident, and tells the following "true incident" to show the safeness of the game. "A boy of my acquaintance put an egg, which he had just taken from the fowl house, into his pocket, and went to school forgetting to take it out. After school he played in a Rugby game without taking off his coat, and on returning home produced the egg intact. I might mention that he played 'forward.' This shows what a safe game Rugby football is from an egg's point of view." This seems to show that in scientifically played football the element of risk is not unduly great. Were that element altogether absent the game would certainly not commend itself to men of our race—nor would it have had the good influence on the national character very generally allowed to it. That rowdiness and roughness are often painfully in evidence at football matches is no more to be laid to the charge of the game than it is to be argued that rowing is a degrading sport because the larrikin crew take a delight in using the sculls to tap

one another on the head with instead of for their proper purpose, or that cycling is vicious because the "scorcher" is of common occurrence.

Our only Cricket item in this number

is the record of the continuation of the match against The King's School, in which the Eleven, though greatly weakened by their Captain's absence, scored a victory.

Cricket.

On April 15th our match with *The King's School* was played to a finish on the North Shore Oval. We had put on 221 runs in the first innings. T.K.S. had lost 9 wickets for 142, but as we were without White who had not recovered from the injury to his knee received in the Newington match, and Holtermann who did not play in the first innings, our chances of success depended to a great extent on Dent's bowling. The wicket was rather wet until lunch time, and when Verge's wicket fell, T.K.S. had a total of 158, exactly 61 behind our score. We had bad luck on the wet wicket, and 5 wickets had fallen for 25 runs; Bland and Sullivan played carefully till lunch time, and on resuming brought the score to 43, Levick joined Bland and hit out freely for 15, Purves and Lyne failed to score, the last wicket falling with the score at 65. *The King's School* required 129 runs to win, but Dent was in splendid form, and 6 wickets were down for 39; however, Willis Allen and Riley put on 22 and 31, and the last wicket fell at 115, C.E.G.S. winning by 13 runs. Dent took 7 wickets for 54 runs.

C.E.G.S. is now level with S.G.S. and Newington College with 8 points each.

The following are the scores:—

C.E.G.S.

Second Innings.

Hopkins, c Futter, b Body	..	0
Rundle, b Willis Allen	..	4
Armstrong, c Jaques, b Willis Allen	..	7
Dent, c Jaques, b Body	..	0
Holdsworth, c Body, b Willis Allen	..	0
Sullivan, c Docker, b Body	..	11
Bland, not out	..	9
Levick, b Body	..	15
Purves, b Body	..	0
Lyne, b Body	..	0
White, absent	..	0
Sundries	..	13
Total	..	86

THE KING'S SCHOOL

Second Innings.

Manchee, c Sullivan, b Dent	..	0
Verge, b Holdsworth	..	1
Futter, lbw, b Dent	..	15
Jaques, b Dent	..	19
Body, b Dent	..	4
Docker, b Dent	..	0
Barton, c Dent, b Armstrong	..	4
Willis Allen, lbw, b Dent	..	22
Riley, c Armstrong, b Dent	..	31
Gee, b Levick	..	7
Futter II., not out	..	8
Sundries	..	4
Total	..	115

Bowling Analysis.

	overs	maidens	runs	wickets.
Dent	17 $\frac{2}{3}$	5	54	7
Holdsworth	8	3	19	1
Armstrong	5	1	17	1
Levick	4	0	21	1

The Boat Club.

THE doings of the Boat Club at Camp and on the river are recorded elsewhere in this issue.

We are concerned here with the private life of the Club, and in particular with the annual School races which took place as usual at the end of the Lent term. The heats were rowed on Monday, March 30th, with a Southerly blowing and such a sea running as made it doubtful whether a postponement would not be necessary. The course for the Trial Fours was from the Boatshed to Mr. Dibbs' yacht, while the Junior Pairs starting from the same point finished at our old Boatshed, or what is left of it. The Finals were rowed on the following day, but the weather being more favourable, the courses were reversed and rowed as they were intended to be—from the head of the bay outwards. Some of the Old Boys kindly undertook to coach the Fours—an excellent arrangement if they are able to come down regularly, but a decided handicap to any crew which cannot command the daily presence of its coach. Mr. Robson acted as starter, Mr. Hall as umpire, and the Rev. D. Davies as judge. There were the usual prizes: cups (presented by the Old Boys' Union) for the Trial Fours, and knives (presented by the Masters) for the Junior Pairs. These were formally handed to the winners by N. Trevor-Jones and Mr. Robson, respectively, at the sing-song after the Old Boys' dinner this term.

The following are the details of the racing:

TRIAL FOURS—FIRST HEAT.

1. A. D. Blaxland, bow; E. D. Kater, 2; E. K. Wilson I., 3; J. N. F. Armstrong, stroke; O. O. H. Marshall, cox.

2. J. H. Keys, bow; J. B. Yeomans, 2; J. Lyne, 3; A. C. M. Gould, stroke; L. D. B. Dibbs, cox.

Won by nearly two lengths.

SECOND HEAT.

1. D. Wallace, bow; F. P. Hopkins I., 2; F. C. B. Bland I., 3; E. M. Sullivan, stroke; C. Terry, cox.

2. C. W. Rundle II., bow; H. J. Gould II., 2; G. W. Rundle I., 3; C. M. Fetherstonhaugh, stroke, H. S. Bland II., cox.

Won very easily by four lengths.

FINAL HEAT.

Sullivan's crew beat Armstrong's crew after a fine race by a quarter of a length.

JUNIOR PAIRS—FIRST HEAT.

F. J. Simpson, bow; A. H. C. Waine, stroke; with O. O. H. Marshall, cox, beat J. E. R. McMaster, bow; H. V. Jaques, stroke; with L. D. B. Dibbs, cox.

SECOND HEAT.

A. A. N. Mills, bow; A. D. W. Fisher, stroke; with C. Terry, cox; beat C. D. Fuller, bow; D. D. Wilson V., stroke; with H. S. Bland II., cox.

FINAL HEAT.

Fisher's crew beat Waine's crew.

After the Trial Fours comes Camp, and next the Regatta, and then for a season rowing slinks into the background, glad if it can escape the angry eye and scathing eloquence of the presiding genius of Football, who, long baulked of his votaries, at length holds the field, and as he marshals his scrum and deploys his rear guard, wishes that he could for one short moment compress all the Boat Clubs, all the Coaches and all the Regattas within the compass of a football, and kick them to the remotest verge of space.

Joking apart, we fully admit the difficulties under which Football has laboured

for the last few years, and recognizing the great importance of the game as a School sport, and the efforts that have been and are being made for its improvement, we shall do our best to get the Regatta fixed; at the latest, on the second or third Saturday after Easter Day. A motion to that effect is to come on at the next meeting of the Schools' Association.

Characters of the Crew.

C. M. FETHERSTONHAUGH, (bow).—A particularly neat oar, quite fulfilling his second crew promise. His hand and shoulder work is good, but he is at times a little inclined to let the slide run away at the end of the stroke, but this will be corrected as he learns more leg work.

E. F. HARRISON, (2).—Somewhat handicapped in training by a bad hand, during which time his place was filled by E. K. WILSON—A strong oar with goodly power, but rather inclined to cock his oar, and so to be late in stroke.

E. M. SULLIVAN, (3).—Very strong and powerful, but inclined to swing very crooked. He should learn to use his legs more evenly and to finish more with the shoulders.

J. N. F. ARMSTRONG, (str).—Inclined to be a little slack at times in the shoulders as well as to cock his oar when forward; this rather mars the precision of his stroke. When he has once got hold of the water he rows very long. In the race he showed excellent coolness and judgment.

L. D. B. DIBBS, (cox).—Can both steer and use his voice very well, but is inclined to be careless. Steered very well in the race.

A Mountain Song.

There is joy to be found on the mountains,
 'Tis relief to be far from the town,
 By fern-bower'd silvery fountains
 Of lightest spray pattering down,
 To linger, when shadows are falling,
 Where the eagle is building her nest,
 While below the shrill lyre-bird is calling
 His mate ere he settles to rest.

More welcome than wine to the
 weary,
 Than sleep to the tired child,
 Are the sun-gilded pinnacles eerie,
 And the blue of the mountains wild.

For the book lies ever before us
 If we will but open and read,
 The bush has its mystical chorus
 For ears that will hearken and heed.
 The winds to the hills tell their story,
 The birds and the bees to the tree,
 And the dawn-dew's glittering glory
 Is burdened with melody.

More welcome than wine to the
 weary,
 Than sleep to the tired child,
 Are the sun-gilded pinnacles eerie,
 And the blue of the mountains wild.

The Schools' Regatta.

THE Annual Regatta of the Schools' Association (or, to give it its full name, of the Athletic Association of the Great Public Schools of N.S.W.) took place on the 9th May on the Parramatta River. That it was a great success in every way seems to be generally acknowledged. The fine weather, the number and distinction of the spectators, the excellence of the rowing in the open events we do not propose to dilate upon. Are they not duly recorded in the Sydney Press? For us, and for "The Sydney Grammars," our worthy, and alas! again our only opponents, the interest of the Regatta centres in the Schools' Race. This we won after perhaps the hardest fought race in which we have ever engaged. Our opponents were unquestionably a good crew, with plenty of dash, but they couldn't stay. Our crew over nearly the whole course rowed three or four strokes less to the minute than the S.G.S., and yet managed to hold their own, which is a strong testimony to their catch and leg work. Some of the Press descriptions of the race were truly wonderful, and make out our rowing to have been so bad that

we couldn't possibly have won, and yet somehow we did. We are content to adopt the account given in what we think quite the fairest and most critical report of the race: "The winning crew rowed well, and never lost form, which added to the coolness of the stroke, secured a well earned victory." Well-earned indeed by long and patient training, by coolness and pluck, and most heartily do we congratulate them, their coaches and the school on this, the latest and perhaps most glorious of our rowing triumphs. For there is no doubt our rivals were a formidable crew to meet, though probably not in such good condition as we were, at least so far as No. 3 in their boat was concerned. We won by two lengths in 8 mins. 11 secs. which we believe is the record time for the Schools' Race on the One Man Wharf to Putney course. The following are the names and weights of the School crew:—

C. Fetherstonhaugh, 10 st.	... bow
E. F. Harrison, 11 st. 6 lbs.	... 2
E. M. Sullivan, 12 st.	... 3
J. N. F. Armstrong, 12 st. 3 lbs.	str.
L. D. B. Dibbs, 5 st. 2 lbs.	cox.

The Nameless Boat.

Nameless, but deck'd with laurels,
With wreaths of victory crowned,
She cleaves her course like the untamed
horse
That spurns with his heels the ground.

Nameless, but staunchly timbered
Buoyant and stiff and true,

Does she ever lag with the mitred flag
On her bow and the Old School Crew?

Nameless, but long hereafter
In the height of the Old School fame,
They will tell at night by the camp-fire's
light
Of the racer without a name.

The Camp.

AS previously stated in our columns an important change was made in this year's Camp. It was in fact a reversion to the old order of things with some necessary alterations, and there was much in it that called to recollection the primeval camp of '92. We were not on dry land, but we had a staunch house-boat under us. Ah Chat was no more there, but we had Charlie and his assistant of the "cordon bleu," George, and the sure promise of our Apollo, that under Mr. Burnside's guidance and under Mr. Burnside's star, there should be another "Camp" to dispute the title with the first, was in every way fulfilled. We do not it is true live to eat, but we would like to live to feed as we fed in the good ship "Pioneer."

The sleeping arrangements were excellent, and though the classic mind might murmur during the night watches a verse tag or so from the opening lines of Aristophane's "Clouds," and though the morning hours saw, perhaps,

"Alcinoi

*In cute curanda plus aequo operata
juventus,"*

still there are now but happy memories among our Phæacian oarsmen.

As all could not be accommodated in the house-boat two tents were pitched on the shore, where the bushman-like hands of the party made themselves very comfortable camps.

As to the personnel of the party, we had eight of our own rowing boys, Sydney Grammar School sending five, both schools supplying two coxswains a-piece.

Mr. Bode and Mr. Ramsay were in charge of S.G.S., while Messrs. Robson,

Burnside and Mahaffy, with help from Mr. Devonshire and Mr. Russell, did the necessary for us.

We cannot allow Mr. Mahaffy's services to go unrecorded. He was with us all too short a time, but he infused new spirit into our crews and new ideas into our coaches for which he cannot be thanked too much. He taught us—and boating men will recognise what this means—the "use of the legs."

We missed some of the features of earlier camps. There was no ladies' day, no Gladesville Church Parade on Easter day, and the Old Boys' night was so stormy that only one or two venturesome explorers put in an appearance.

Our boats were all comfortably housed in Ray's shed—the same Ray who offered an asylum to the old tub in Berry's Bay, when a tub was all our fleet.

We had no complaints about the weather, only the water-party grumbled when the creeks ran low and the tank gave out; and on the Friday and Saturday in Easter week a fierce Westerly tore down the awning and drove the inhabitants of hammocks into the cabin.

Otherwise it was all favourable, and many a time and oft when the cox called "easy all," even soul-hardened oarsmen would be moved at the beauty of Middle Harbour.

Guests were numerous—Mr. Burtie Dibbs frequently sailed up to see us, and others arrived via Folly Point.

The ferry-service between the ship and the shore was attended to by the four coxswains, who developed so much power that they arranged a race in skiffs—though conditions were scarcely equal,

C.E.G.S. carrying a coxswain, while S.G.S. had to steer themselves.

Our evening amusements were of the old Mortlake order, except that we had no piano.

Joker and Right Bower were as usual in evidence, and the quarter deck was the scene of the more peaceful whist.

On the whole the Camp of 1896 was pre-eminently successful—and we hope in the cause of good rowing, good feeding and above all good fellowship that it may have many successors. For there is no doubt that our strength as a rowing school is primarily dependent upon the institution known as Camp.

We ought not to close this notice without apologizing to His Excellency the

Admiral and the officers of the Australian Squadron for the excitement caused on Monday, April 13th, by the appearance in the harbour of the s.s. Hexe with the whole apparatus of Camp on board, the long low boats housed pirate-like amidships and our crews pacing the deck with something of a buccaneer expression.

As the Hexe steamed into Woolloomooloo Bay to deposit the S.G.S. ships every spy glass in the fleet was manned, and if a shot was not fired across our bows, it must have been only our colours that saved us.

As we go to press a report reaches us that the "Pioneer" has sunk.

S.C.E.G.S. Old Boys' Union.

Notice of any change of address should be at once sent to the Hon. Secretaries of the Old Boys' Union, S.C.E.G.S.

The following changes have been notified since the last issue:—

H. Burge, 18 Thurlow Road, Hampstead, London, N.W.

W. A. Bull, Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, George Street, Sydney.

E. Twynam, Agricultural College, Richmond.

The following have joined the Union since the last issue:—

G. A. More, The University, Sydney.

R. M. Rose, Brooklyn, Double Bay.

The Annual Meeting took place at the School on Saturday, May 19th, and the

following report for the year was read and adopted:—

Gentlemen,—In presenting the Second Annual Report, the Committee has to congratulate the Union on the steady increase in numbers. Last year sixty-one (61) had joined: now there are ninety-two (92) on the roll of membership.

During the year the Union has lost two of its members, and the Committee begs to record its deep sorrow and regret at the great loss the Union has sustained by the deaths of S. B. Wallace and F. S. Harrison. Both were ever ready to do what they could on behalf of the School and of the Old Boys, and any society might well be proud of having men of such character on its roll of membership. This can also be said of A. H. D. Purcell, who, though not a

member of the Union, yet took the greatest interest in the doings of anything in connection with the S.C.E.G.S. both past and present, and his death which took place in England will be deeply regretted by all who knew him.

The annual cricket match, Past *v.* Present, resulted in a drawn game, the scores being 9 wickets for 99, to 144 made by the present. The annual football match was won by the present by 16 points to 9.

This year a change was made in picking the Old Boys' team. Members wishing to play were invited to send their names to the Hon. Sec., and from these a selection was made by a Committee consisting of G. R. C. Clarke, representing the old captains; H. Ireland, the last captain who had left the school; and E. R. Holme, representing past and present.

Another advance was made by the Union placing for the first time a cricket team in the field against the Old Boys' Unions of other schools. One match only was played, that against the Old Boys' Union of The King's School, and this resulted in a drawn game, T.K.S. closing their innings for 183, and our representatives scoring 83 for 1 wicket. It is to be hoped that such a start will not be allowed to drop, but that we shall have in future a regular representative Old Boys' Union Team playing matches against other clubs. For this purpose a motion is tabled for to-night *re* special colours for the Old Boys' Union.

The Committee begs to congratulate the School on again obtaining the coveted honour of being Champion School in Rowing.

For honours obtained by members during the past year, the Committee begs to

congratulate A. H. Yarnold on being bracketed for the Frazer Scholarship in History, and on his enjoying the great distinction of being the first C.E.G.S. Old Boy who obtained his degree in honours at the University; also G. R. C. Clarke for being picked for the Inter-University Cricket Match, and H. W. Kendall and G. A. More for the Inter-University Eight; also N. Y. Deane and A. J. Hopkins for their success in the electoral cricket matches, and also in playing for the Metropolitan Team *versus* the Northern Districts; also J. Langhans on winning the Taylorian Exhibition for German at Oxford.

The Committee also begs to congratulate Mr. Robson, our President, Mr. Davies and Mr. Baker, on their marriages, and to wish them every prosperity in their new life.

The Committee wishes to remind members that the TORCH-BEARER is now issued once each term, and that in each number there is a chronicle of the doings of Old Boys, and a special article devoted to them. In the last number, which was sent free to all Old Boys, there was a list of members of the Union with their full addresses. This it was hoped would prove of great benefit in bringing Old Boys more in touch with one another. It is to be hoped that all members will become subscribers to the TORCH-BEARER so that it may become the official organ of the Union. A good number have already responded to the appeal.

The annual camp Sing-song did not come off, only two members turning up owing to the severe storm. The Sing-song after the cricket match was a great success.

Last year a prize fund was started

which enabled the Committee to offer prizes for the Athletic Sports, and also Cups for the Trial Fours. This year it is hoped to give a prize for some subject at the Annual School Examinations, a prize at the Athletic Sports, and Cups for the Trial Fours. Members are informed that contributions of any amount will be gladly received at all times of the year.

This year at the suggestion of some members the Treasurer will send membership cards instead of the usual receipts, and all remittances will be also acknowledged in the TORCH-BEARER.

The Committee has to report that in accordance with the power given to it by the rules, that in the case of one member they authorized the Hon. Treasurer not to receive a subscription, and that they also had to caution another member.

We have the honor to be,

Yours faithfully,

D. DAVIES, } Hon.
A. H. YARNOLD, } Secs.

Adopted—

ERNEST I. ROBSON,
Chairman.

After the adoption of the report, the election of officers for 1896-97 took place with the following result—

President (*ex officio*): The Headmaster.

Vice-Presidents: E. R. Holme and N. Trevor-Jones.

Hon. Secs.: G. R. C. Clarke, and Rev. D. Davies, (Hon Treas.)

Committee: Russell Barton, W. B. Clarke, M. Dawson, N. Y. Deane, J. F. Fitzhardinge, H. Ireland, H. W. Kendall, G. A. More, W. J. Morson, H. C. Pockley.

The motion *re* special colours for Old Boys' Union Teams was referred to the

Committee to report on. This ended the meeting and all adjourned to the Sing-Song in Hall, which was got by up R. G. Burnside and proved very successful. An account of it will be found in another column.

The Hon. Treasurer begs to remind members that subscriptions for 1896-97 are now due and should be sent as soon as possible. Also that he will be glad to receive contributions to the "Old Boys' Prize Fund" as mentioned in the Annual Report.

All were glad to see Rus. Barton and White on the day of the Old Boys' Football Match, and to congratulate them on their recovery from their accidents in the cricket field.

Playing for North Sydney in the Senior Electorate matches, N. Y. Deane and A. J. Hopkins had a very successful season. Hopkins heads the list with an average of 35.4 for 11 innings, his top score being 66. Deane had an average of 29.3 for the same number of innings, his top score being 92 v. University. He also got 70 v. Waverley. In bowling, Deane heads the list with an average of 17 for 17 wickets.

G. R. C. Clarke playing for University II. had an average of 43.2 for 9 innings, his chief scores being 120 v. Manly, 85 v. Burwood II, and 93 not out v. Waverley II. In the whole competition his average was the second, the top being 47. He played with the A's in the last two matches.

H. W. Kendall stroked the University Maiden Four at the All Schools' Regatta, and G. A. More rowed 3 in the same boat.

J. C. McNickle won the second prize in the open trotting competition at the late

Royal Agricultural Show Meeting. G. A. More played for the University A in their annual football match v. Newcastle.

The Hon. Treasurer begs to acknowledge receipt of subscriptions from the following for 1895-96 received since our last issue:—

E. A. Bice, R. G. Burnside, H. W. Kendall, M. Dawson, Russell Barton, H. N. Wilkinson, C. H. Wilkinson, F. L. M. Merewether, J. W. Gibson, A. D. Hall; and towards the "Old Boys' Prize Fund for 1895-96," from H. N. Wilkinson, and C. H. Wilkinson.

Also subscriptions for 1896-97 from A. J. M. Simpson, T. S. L. Armstrong, G. Milbourne Marsh, W. J. Morson, R. D. Hill, D. T. Kilgour, F. O. Day, W. A. Bull, H. Ireland, H. McWilliam, L.

Bowyer, J. W. Gibson, D. Davies; and towards "Old Boys' Prize Fund," from G. Milbourne Marsh, W. J. Morson, and A. H. Yarnold.

Also subscriptions from the following for the 'TORCHBEARER,' for year ending May 1897: A. Blake, H. Burge, T. S. L. Armstrong, A. D. Campbell, F. D. Cobb, J. F. Fitzhardinge, J. W. Gibson, R. D. Hill, D. T. Kilgour, G. Milbourne Marsh, F. L. M. Merewether, J. McIntyre A. W. Parton, E. O. Pockley, H. C. Pockley, A. G. Reid, W. J. S. Bundle, W. J. Morson, G. C. Thomas, N. S. Wallace, L. St. Vincent Welch, W. H. Wilkinson, A. H. Yarnold.

The Hon. Treasurer will be glad to hear from members if there is any mistake in the above list.

The Balance-Sheet which was not ready at the General Meeting owing to some bills not having been sent in is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance from last year	3	0	0	Receipt Book	0	2	6
Four Subs. for 94-95	0	10	0	Circulars	0	6	0
Forty-nine Subscriptions	6	2	6	Wreath for S. B. Wallace	1	3	6
Errata in 95	0	0	6	Advertisements, cyclostyle paper,			
Balance from Mr. Robson's				&c.	1	5	6
Wedding Present Fund	0	5	0	Stamps	1	16	5
Prize Fund	4	8	6	Prizes to Sports	1	10	0
				Cups for Trial Fours	3	7	6
				Balance in hand	4	15	1
	14	6	6		14	6	6

E. and O.E.

D. DAVIES, Hon. Treasurer.

Football.

THE account of our football doings during the lately concluded first half season of 1896 forms a most melancholy recital of misfortune and disaster. Never before have we had the extreme mortification of publishing a record so bad as this must be, and the School has every right to ask and to be told how it is that the football authorities can only make such an unfavourable report. First of all must come a plain statement of the facts. The season began nominally about the middle of April but actually on the 11th May, when the Captain and the bulk of the members of the first XV. were able to begin football practice. On the 16th May the first match—that against the Old Boys—was played and won by 16 points to 9. Four days later, and nine days from the date of the first full practice, when the team had only played once together and been coached three times, we began our series of Schools' Matches, meeting first the Sydney Grammar School. Our opponents put into the field a better trained and more capable combination than any that has represented them for years past. Nevertheless during the first half of the game our play proved superior and we scored six points to their nil. After the interval however we had the misfortune to at once lose Lyne (scrum-half) who had to leave the field while his colleague Herring (five-eighths) was quite unable to do any work owing to a previously-received injury. The forwards too very soon showed signs of bad condition, and, bit by bit our defence fell to pieces. Finally, just on the call of time, we were beaten by five points (a try and a goal).

Following upon this match came the Queen's Birthday recess lasting from the Friday afternoon to the Tuesday morning, so only one more practice could be had before we faced the King's School team on their own ground. To add to our difficulties no less than four regular members of the team, including both the halves, were unable to play owing to accidents or illness. Four very light and inexperienced men from the second took the vacant places, but, though they played up well, they were in no way "class enough" to pit against our very skilful and well trained opponents. The score against us reached the great total of 51 points. Five days later, and after one more practice, the team played its fourth game of the season against St. Joseph's College at Hunter's Hill. None of the invalids had as yet returned to their places, while one of the second men who had filled a gap against King's had also gone on the sick list. Our weighty opponents had the game in their own hands during most of the time, and we got another dressing down—this time by 40 — 0.

Two days afterwards came our fifth and last match that against Newington College. For it one of the incapacitated forwards returned to the rank, and an experimental change was made in the back division. The game was played in pouring rain and on a very wet ground. Our opponents, who were without their chief scoring three-quarter, felt the damp and slippery state of the field more than we could do with our inferior condition and play. After a hard battle we were beaten by a comparatively small margin of points, the final scores being N.C. 11, S.C.E.G.S. 5.

Thus ended, and more fortunately than it might well have done our first round of matches. The reasons why we emerge from it with a balance of more than one hundred points to the bad are pretty evidently contained in the above bald narrative. And yet it would be wrong to put too much down to ill-luck. A team that can't stand a good dose of misfortune has no right to offer to play football or any other athletic game. The records of the All Schools Championship remind us that in 1893 a Sister School lost no less than eight men from its team by sickness and then won the Championship. We have been dogged by the most consistent ill-luck in the past—ill-luck which culminated this season when we were deprived by a previously unheard of accident of the most promising five-eighths in the Schools—but we've always grinned and borne it, and we shall do the same it is to be hoped in every case. The more important reasons are apparant enough, and yet go beyond ill-luck. Why, for example have we not a supply of clever youngsters to take their seniors' places if need be? Simply because for a long time past, amounting to about two full seasons, the School has necessarily been deprived of the benefit of constant and systematic coaching, and of course the lower teams have suffered most. This has been a bad enough handicap, but the first cause of all our inefficiency is not to be found in it but in the other great impediment with which we have been burdened from our very entrance into the Schools' Football Competition.

In every football issue of the TORCHBEARER since that date, it will be found directly stated that the lateness of the annual rowing contest renders it impossible for a properly trained XV. to

be placed in the field to represent the School, in a most important branch of sport. For this year we may add that never before has our Football suffered so much from the interference of our rowing. Of the nine forwards no less than eight were picked for the boats—which simply meant that our forward game had to be quite futile, and the consequences of that were obvious to any one with a knowledge of the game. Only the inevitable has happened. At last, it is said, the Schools' Association is to be moved to fix an earlier date for the Regatta, one that will give us a chance in Football, even though we remain primarily a rowing school, and never was news more welcome. On previous occasions, because no good could be done by dwelling on the difficulties caused us by existing and apparently unalterable arrangements, we have always been content with simply indicating how matters stood.

As it is, no harm can result from a somewhat more explicit handling of the old grievance which we now have great hopes of seeing removed. Our experience has constantly been, that, in a small school like our own, the best footballers are also the best in the boats. Therefore, when preparation for the boatrace takes place at the same time as preparation for the Football competition the very flower of the first XV. is liable to be kept away from the practices, which are then of little benefit to the remainder, owing to the necessary intrusion of the very small fry. Practice matches against superior teams—a most important part of the preliminary training of school boys—cannot be contemplated, for one can't ask men to come and play children, nor, if one

had that impudence, could any possible benefit be derived from such games. The result is that the representative combination when it gets together at last is no combination at all. It may know the rules, and individual members of it may have some idea how to do their work, but, in these days of scientific football, it must be as a whole quite unable to play the combined game itself, or to fight another team that really knows how to do so. With us, we may say, the Football Season begins each year about 10 days before the first Competition match. This too in a young and not numerous School, where every possible help and stimulus is required to keep the teams up to the mark. How differently do they manage, and are they forced to manage, in places where a reputation in this most scientific and most arduous branch of Sport is desired or maintained. No novice XV.s' after one or two short and hurried practices are thought good enough to represent King's or Newington. But then of course they do not share our great difficulty. Is it any wonder we make such a poor show against them at the start?

And if our football preparation is ruined and we cannot therefore train a team, it must be added that the footballers who row, are, when their race is over, quite unfit to plunge at once into a round of hard-fought matches. Training for a boat-race is the most severe variety a boy can undergo. On the day of the contest he should be in the very pink and perfection of condition. Beyond that he cannot go, and after doing that for which he has been brought into this particular state, he must either be

allowed to go completely out of training or he will inevitably become stale. But with us the absolutely requisite spell of three weeks or a month he cannot possibly have. Hence he must play through the first half of the football season in that awful condition of staleness which no athlete can contend against, and which can be cured only in the one way.

Each season then we have put into the field during the first half a team doomed to be beaten badly by all others that have really prepared themselves for their matches. Each season, to prove that adverse circumstances alone accounted for the previous disasters, the same team during the second half has stood up very creditably to its very strongest opponents. But some ill effects from those earlier downfalls have never failed to last or even to become permanent. Thus regularly shocked and disheartened, the School as a whole has tended to lose its enthusiasm for and even its interest in the game. Hence the number of boys whose parents won't hear of their playing, has grown steadily greater and greater. And lots of fellows who do play have got firmly to believe we must be beaten before we start to play, and so they have but little stomach for lickings, and no great ambition to win. This is no slander against our sportsmen. We have as good and keen a general run of boys as any School in existence. We have now, and have always had in our team some fellows who will play under all circumstances with really grand heart. But we don't possess enough to constitute three Fifteens or even one. There were heroes all through Greece but only Sparta could furnish a Lacedæmonian band. Without any doubt in our recent disasters

a certain want of spirit was noticeable in our team in addition to the inevitable lack of discipline, knowledge, and condition.

And in this connection it must be remembered that while we are prevented from making proper progress by our unfortunate circumstances, our opponents are making grand advances. The Kings and Newington games become more and more keen and scientific each year, and the difficulty of withstanding them increases proportionately. Sydney Grammar School too has roused herself from the lethargy that has spoilt her football for years past, and is making a bold bid for a prominent position among the schools. And St. Joseph's, the latest entrant into the competition, has at once stepped far beyond us. How far into the background must we soon fall unless we now put forth mighty efforts to prevent further retrogression, and next year get full and final relief from our great cause of weakness. To drop altogether out of the ranks of School Football would be to bely our title of a Great Public School and no such step can for a moment be contemplated. But things have distinctly come to a crisis with us, and some action must be taken to remove our handicap. The Schools Association will shortly be appealed to, and we have every reason to hope that new arrangements will be made by it whereby rowing will be given a period of its own, and the most valuable part of the Football season will be preserved for Football necessities. Then we shall be able to make a fresh start with a fair chance of gaining immediate credit and future distinction for our School. There is no sort of reason why Rowing and Football should not exist together,

nor is there any footballer amongst us who is not very jealous of our aquatic honour and very anxious to see it sustained. In being thus plain and emphatic about the ill effects that the arrangements of one branch of Athletics have had on another, we only want to plead as a matter of right and expediency for the establishment not only of a sort of *modus vivendi* but *modus florendi* as well. We are all proud of our Rowing but we don't want to see it become a kind of athletic upas tree, flourishing itself and magnificent to behold, but killing everything else upon which it casts its shade.

Meanwhile, of course, we must not forget that it's a far cry to next year, and there is still a half-season to be played through. We shall be untrue to our traditions if we let it see us disorganised, ignorant, or unwilling. Next term we intend to begin right away with really hard work, and to do our very utmost to retrieve our losses. We have a backbone of good men in the team, and they intend to remain with us, and even those whose play is weakest now will improve wonderfully with plenty of coaching, hard work and knocking about—all of which, if the fates are agreeable, they're sure to get. About the past round we shall decline to think any more, it is to the second we shall look with plenty of hope and any amount of determination.

Of our matches during this last term very little detail need be given. All those with other Schools we lost, scoring eleven points against one hundred and thirteen. Our Old Boys' match we won by sixteen points to nine. The complete record for the half season is therefore:—Matches played, 5—won 1, lost 4; points scored—27 against 122. The Second XV.

played 3 matches—won 0, lost 3, scoring 5 points against 66. The Third XV. played 4 matches—won 2, lost 2, and scored 47 points against 42.

FIRST FIFTEEN.

S.C.E.G.S. Past v Present.—This most enjoyable game was throughout chiefly in our favour, the Old Boys not having quite such a strong team as they can usually get together. For them there played H. Pockley full back, E. Pockley, G. R. C. Clarke, and Hopkins three-quarters, M. L. Clarke and Yarnold halves, Stevens, Roseby, Ireland (Capt.), Bull, Bowyer, Twynam, Day, Dawson and Bice forwards. Our team was composed of Kater fullback, Aiken, W. Rundle I., F. C. Bland I., three-quarters, Herring and Lyne halves, C. Abraham I., A. C. M. Gould, E. K. Wilson I., Sullivan, F. P. Hopkins I, Harrison, Armstrong, Willis, Fetherstonhaugh, forwards. For us the first try was got by Abraham, who following up a good run by Bland took a short pass close to the line and ran over. A splendid kick by Armstrong added the two points for a goal. Shortly afterwards Abraham scored again, taking a nice pass from Lyne, who was playing a good game at half. Before the end of the first spell the forwards, with Lyne and Herring, carried the ball up the O.B. goal line and the latter crossed over, Bland kicking an easy goal. In the second half want of condition told more on the Present than the Past, for whom G. R. C. Clarke kicked a splendid goal from the field, while Hopkins scored a try and a goal. Just before the whistle went for time the Present rallied again, and some fast attacking resulted, Rundle running strongly up the field punted high in front of the Old Boys goal-post, and Lyne following on hard got the ball over, thus making the final scores, Present 16, Past 9.

S.C.E.G.S. v. Sydney Grammar School.—Played on the North Sydney Oval on May 20th. For this match Holtermann took Aiken's place at wing three-quarter, otherwise the team was the same as played the Old Boys. Our opponents, who were a really good team and in very good training, made a great effort to reverse the verdict of past seasons and beat us in the first match of the season. In this they were successful, owing to their superior condition aided by

our misfortune. Shortly after the kick off Kater in stopping a rush punted wildly across the field, and Bland rushing up took the ball cleverly from his opposing wing three-quarter, and with a good run got over the line. The kick was not difficult but no goal was scored. A good deal of hot attacking work along the S.G.S. line resulted in nothing until Armstrong, getting started with a good dribble led the forwards across at the corner where Abraham fell on the ball. At half-time we led by 6 to 0, and so far our play had been tolerably good, and better than that of our opponents. No sooner had the second half begun than we lost Lyne through a slight injury, while want of condition appeared and crippled our forward play. We were forced to defend during the whole of this latter part of the game, which we did without very great success, though it was not till the last couple of minutes that the S.G.S. passed our score. Our team played very feebly towards the close, while our opponents did better and better, fully deserving every point they scored.

S.C.E.G.S. v. The King's School.—Played at Parramatta, on Wednesday, May 27th. We were without Lyne, Herring, Harrison, and Fetherstonhaugh, and one of the emergency men was not available. Yeomans and Holdsworth from the Second came up to take the places of the halves, but against the splendid half-work of our opponents they could do little, though both tried hard to play their game, the latter being often noticeable for plucky work. The forwards were Abraham, Wilson, A. C. Gould I, Sullivan, H. J. Gould II, Hopkins, Armstrong, Hobson and E. Giblin I, while Aiken was tried again instead of Holtermann as wing three-quarter. The forwards and the halves were hopelessly beaten from the start, and the very clever back combination of the King's team was consequently enabled to enjoy itself. We were too disorganised, and in too poor training, to offer a firm defence, though several individuals played good and determined games. The score finally stood at 51 to 0 against us.

S.C.E.G.S. v. St. Joseph's College.—Played at Hunter's Hill, on Monday, June 1st, under conditions very similar to those which prevailed in the King's match. For this occasion we made a couple of alterations in the team, one of them being rendered necessary by yet another small accident. Holdsworth took the scrum half po-

sition and Holtermann was brought into the team as five-eighths, while Harriott played in the scrum instead of Giblin. We had the misfortune to lose the toss and had to face a strong southerly wind during the first half. The St. Joseph's backs used their fine kicking powers which great effect, and, penning us in our 25, gave us more than we could do to keep them off our line. When the interval arrived we were already 20 points to the bad. During the second part of the game the wind began to lessen in force, and the little aid it afforded us was not sufficient to perceptibly strengthen our weak defence. Our opponents, who were much heavier than we were, used their superior weight very well, and kept up a steady attack which brought them another 20 points before the whistle went for time. We thus lost by 40—0.

S.C.E.G.S. v. Newington College.—Played on

the North-Sydney Oval, on Wednesday, June 3rd, and resulted in our being beaten by 11 points to 5. Newington were without the services of one of their regular three-quarters, we on the other hand had one of our invalids with us again. The team was placed as in the St. Joseph's match, with the exception that Murnin was tried at full back and Kater put into the forwards. Owing to the day being exceedingly wet, very scientific play was out of the question, nevertheless the Newington College fellows did a very fair amount of good passing. We were generally beaten in the scrum, but, helped by the weather, managed to prevent much scoring and to have a tolerable share of attacking work. In the second half the ball being dribbled over the N.C. line Abraham fell on it and scored a try for us, while Armarrong by a very good kick added the extra points.

SECOND XV.

Wed., May 20th	...	...	v.	Sydney Grammar School.	Lost, 26 to 0.
Wed., May 27th	...	...	v.	The King's School.	Lost, 28 to 5.
Wed., June 3rd	...	...	v.	Newington College.	Lost, 12 to 0.

THIRD XV.

Wed., May 20th	...	...	v.	Sydney Grammar School.	Lost, 30 to 0.
Wed., May 27th	...	...	v.	The King's School.	Won, 29 to 6.
Sat., May 30th	...	...	v.	Australian College.	Lost, 6 to 5.
Wed., June 13th	...	...	v.	Syd. Gram. School, Lower School.	Won, 13 to 0.

Musical Society.

THE usual Sing-Song was given in the Hall on the evening of Saturday, May 16th, after the Old Boys Football Dinner. The programme was of a varied character, and the different items were received by the audience in such a way as showed their hearty appreciation of the performers' efforts. The general verdict was that this was the best Sing-Song yet held in connection with any of our Institutions

The proceedings commenced, as is customary, with the School Song, which was given with even greater enthusiasm than usual. This was specially noticeable at the end of the boating verse, when three hearty cheers were given in honour of our recent victory on the river. At a later period of the evening the same spirit was in evidence in the rendering of our adaptation of the Eton Boat Song. Handel's *Largo* on piano and organ was

artistically rendered by Messrs. Burnside and Devonshire who were enthusiastically encored. Moseley sang "Cherry Ripe," which was admirably rendered and well received. Mr. Robson recited "The Southern Cross" (Gibson), the humour of which was well brought out and heartily enjoyed. Mr. Holme then gave Kipling's ballad, "The Oont," with an energy of action that drew forth tumultuous applause. Mr. Baker followed with 'Hearts of Oak,' and in response to a well-deserved encore gave "Off to Philadelphia" in his usual

excellent style, the audience joining in the chorus in the heartiest manner. Roseby sang "But the Cat came back" in a highly humorous manner. Perhaps the gem of the evening was the duett "I don't want to play in your yard" by Moseley and Senior. Their make-up was artistic, and their singing and acting of such a character as, with a little more rehearsal, would do little discredit to the stage. The proceedings terminated with "God Save the Queen."

The Library.

MATTERS in connection with the Library are progressing favourably. It now contains close on six hundred volumes, which have been recently numbered and catalogued. There has been a considerable increase in membership this term, but a glance at the catalogue will show that our Library is worthy of still greater support than it meets with at the hands of the day-boys. We are now in a position to add twenty or thirty books at least each term, and trust that a further increase in the number of our subscribers will shortly enable us to add still more rapidly to our collection. Catalogues were issued at the end of last term, and in addition to the books therein contained, the following have since been added:—

The Refugees—Conan Doyle.
In the Days when the world was wide—Henry Lawson,

Adventures of Sir John Mawndeville.
The History of the Post Office Packet Service—Norway.
The Rise of Wellington—Lord Roberts.
The Fall of Napoleon—Lord Wolseley.
Cavalry in Waterloo—Sir Evelyn Wood.
A Monk of Fife—Andrew Lang.
The Moving Finger Mary Gaunt.
(Presented by Mr. Davies.)
The Jungle Book—Kipling.
Philiberta, an Australian Story—Talbot Thorpe.
Swimming (Badminton Library)—A. Sinclair.
Sir Roger de Coverley—Addison.
Round the World in Eighty Days—Jules Verne.
Stanley in Africa—H. M. Stanley.
Windabyne, an Australian Story—Geo. Ranken,

S.C.E.G.S. Calendar.

March 30	1st Heats Trial Four and Junior Pairs.
March 31	Death of S. B. Wallace. Final Heats of Trial Fours & Junior Pairs.
April 2	End of Term.
Apl. 2—13	Annual Rowing Camp in Middle Harbour.
April 14	1st day of Term. No. on Roll: 34 boarders and 95 day boys.
April 15	1st XI. v. T.K.S. Won by 14 runs. Half Holiday in honour of A. H. Yarnold winning Frazer Scholarship.
April 16	1st Football Practice.
May 4	Anniversary Day.
May 6	Half Holiday instead of on Anniversary Day.
May 7	1st XV. v. Strathfield. Lost 12 to 3.
May 9	G.P.S. Regatta All Schools' Championship four-oared race, won by S.C.E.G.S.
May 16	1st XV. v. Old Boys, (H. Ireland, Capt.) Won by 16 to 9. Annual Meeting of Old Boys' Union. Annual Football Dinner and Sing-Song in Hall.
May 20	1st XV. v. S.G.S.; Lost 11 to 6. 2nd XV. v. S.G.S. II., lost 26 to 0; 3rd XV. v. S.G.S., Lost 30 to 0.
May 27.	1st XV. v. T.K.S., lost 51 to 0. 2nd XV. v. T.K.S. II., lost 28 to 5. 3rd XV. v. T.K.S. III., won 29 to 6.
May 30	3rd XV. v. Australian College, lost 6 to 5.
June 1	1st. XV. v. St. Joseph's College, Lost 40 to 0.
June 3	1st. XV. v. N.C. I., lost 11 to 5. 2nd. XV. v. N.C. II. lost 12 to 0.
June 8	Annual School Examination starts. Junior Examination starts.
June 10	3rd. XV. v. S.G.S. Lower School, won 13 to 0

The Editors of the TORCH-BEARER beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following Magazines:—*Alma Mater, Aurora Australis, Bathurstian, Christ's College Register, Coorwull Magazine, Cinque Port, Droghedean, Feltedean, Geelong Quarterly, Hutchins' School Magazine, The King's School Magazine, Leodiensian, Melbournean, Newingtonian, Rossallian, Salopian, St. Peter's School Magazine, Sydneian, Tonbridgian, Ulula, Uppingham School Magazine, Wanganui Collegian, Wellingtonian, Wesley College Chronicle.*

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The TORCH-BEARER will in future be published Quarterly. The Subscription is 2s. 6d. per annum, post free.

Communications for the next number of the TORCH-BEARER should be sent in before the end of August to "The Editors," S.C.E.G.S., North Sydney. Contributions should be written on one side of the paper only, and must be signed by the author as a guarantee of good faith and originality.



BEATY, RICHARDSON & Co.,
PRINTERS,
PALING'S BUILDINGS, SYDNEY.

