THE AVENUE



JULY 1917

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THE AVENUE, SAFFRON WALDEN.



The Magazine of the Friends' School, Saffron Walden.

VOL. VIII. JULY, 1917. No. 23.

FOREWORD.

ON April 25th, the School re-assembled, and we were very glad to welcome a great many new children, and to find that our numbers had increased so that we once again had a full school.

The health of the children last term was exceptionally good in spite of the very severe weather which continued throughout the term.

We are sorry to lose Mr. Watts, who has been a student master for two terms, but has now joined the Friends' War Victims' Relief workers.

At the beginning of the term we had the great pleasure of meeting Miss Barnard in the Lecture Room and presenting her with various useful presents as a small token of our love and respect for her, and for the good work she has done for the School for so many years.

Owing to a late Spring, we have been able to enjoy more fully than usual the beautiful oxlips which abound in this part of the country. Several parties have visited the woods round about and returned laden with these flowers, which

have given much pleasure in the class rooms, as well as to friends far away.

Once again we are looking forward to the Athletic Sports, which are to take place on Whit Monday. These Sports have not been held since the year 1913. A fuller report will be found in this number.

LILIAN M. WALKER.

THE HOUSE SYSTEM.

[Contributed by *Jessie Carr, James C. Gibb, Raymond Leefe, Brenda Matthews, Margaret Passmore*].



LAST Term a new system was started in the School, that of dividing all the boys and girls up into groups or " Houses."

Each House is given a name, to distinguish it by, of some person (or family) who has done a good deal for the School in times past. Two captains are chosen for each House,—a boy and a girl; and it is the aim of the captains to help their House forward as much as they can. Each House has a colour, and ties and buttons of this colour are obtained.

The names and colours of the Houses are as follows :

Lister's, green.	Godlee's, grey.
Mennell's, orange.	Morland's, pink.
Gibson's, blue.	Crosfield's, purple.

The idea of this system is to help to make the boys and girls more keen on their work and their games ; they try not to get so much punishment, for the sake of their House.

The boys and girls who are in the same House are supposed to act as if they were brothers and sisters, while the boy and girl at the head are father and mother to those in their House.

"Stars" are awarded for improvement and good work in lessons, for general conduct, gymnastics, games, carpentry, literary pursuits, music, and many other things in which boys and girls show themselves to be industrious and ambitious, as well as persevering. Ten of these Stars make a Point. The Stars, when received, are handed in to the Heads of the Houses, and are counted up at the end of the Term to see which has been the most successful House. Nothing is awarded except the honour of being the first House in the School. Points are also gained for being made a Prefect, and for any other honour bestowed on a scholar; also for holding office in various Societies, such as Secretary of a Literary Society, or a Curator of the Games Club.

Exciting football and hockey tournaments are played, and points gained by the House which wins. House Sports have taken the place of Bedroom Sports.

Last term a House Competition in music and recitation was held, open to anyone who liked to enter. Pianoforte Solos were played, part songs and solos were sung, and poetry was recited, all of which had been learnt and prepared by the competitors without help from master or mistress.

The School is also given more freedom, and boys and girls are allowed to be together more. The Avenue, field and playgrounds are common to both sides. One other great improvement is that the Lecture Hall is made into a Common Room, in which we can go and talk or read the books and magazines that are provided.

The whole idea of the system is to see if the School as a whole can look after itself; also to get some of the boys and girls to work harder, because if they really care for their House, they will try harder at their lessons and play, so as to gain more Stars for it.

OUR HOUSE SYSTEM.

[*Extracts taken from accounts written by boys and girls in the Second Form*].

Saffron Walden is always trying to make life easier for the scholars the latest thing is the House system . . . If we are very good at lessons we receive Stars and these we give into our Captains and at the end of term we see who has received the most, last Term Lister's House received the most.

* * * * * *

The House system started last Term, and now I hope it will continue. One House trys to beat another, so it keeps the School in order. One way is to be good in the bedroom, and another way to be in the washroom, another to be good in class, and not get too many words, try to beat another House in cricket or football, fives, courts, tennis, and beat another House in the House Sports, and not to be untidy. That all helps to score points for your House.

* * * * * *

Last Term was my second Term and we started a House system, it was very nice and if we made an effet in our lessons we generaly got a star which is just piece of paper with a star drawn on it, like this



AWARDED TO

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FOR .....

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when you have receivied the star you give it to the Captin of your House, if you are a boy you give it to your father and if you are a girl you give it to your mother, we call the Captins father and mother Uncle and Aunt and all the other boys and girls sisters and brothers and cousins.

Our house is not so bad and we like it and it is very deasent in a way but I do not know much about it but there is one thing, it has deasent boys in it and it is nice for I like having to work for it. . . . We are going to do things for it as hard as we can. (A new boy).

* * * * * *

The use of these groups is to keep up the moral standard of the school and let everybody be as patriotic as possible for their group. To do good for your group you can gain stars and points, not exactly for good work but for briliancy and improvement of standard.

THE STATESMAN'S SOLILOQUY.

BESIDE the brook, beneath the willow trees,
Upon the grass the famous statesman sank
And idly watched the evening shadows fall
Across the stream, upon the other bank.
Behind him was the sunset sky, ablaze
With flaming red and gold ; before, the moon
Was casting down her melancholy rays,
A silver globe suspended in the sky.
And there beneath, the waters danced and leapt
And flashed and splashed and gambolled swiftly by.
The night-birds checked their rapid silent flight
And paused to gaze upon the man below
Who lay illumined by the soft moonlight.
The statesman's thoughts had wandered far away,
Forgotten all the busy World, except
A city, where he knew his duty lay.
And presently his thoughts found words, he spoke :—

" Ah Duty, Duty, heavy are your chains !
You ask for much and offer nothing back ;
You call one from the rest and peace he loves
Unto the endless turmoil of the World.

He comes, and does his work, is cast aside,
Supplanted by the first adventurer
Who wins the favour of the fickle crowd.
How bitter is it, Duty, for that man
To waste his thought and strength and power and life,
And sacrifice them all to such a god
On such a constant-turning pedestal.
Ah, thankless Duty, hand in hand with fate,
With fickle fate, that, like the mighty sea,
Upheaves and tosses headlong up and down
Like fragile ships our fluctuating lives,
To hurl them on the rocks, or bring them safe
Upon its rolling billows into port,
According to its wildest freaks of fancy,
Why do you call to me to fight and strive
And toil and work for this our country's good ?
I am not fitted for that walk of life."

The echoes of the statesman's voice died swiftly in the night
But still he lay by the waterside in the pale mournful light.
A gentle zephyr from the west was stirring in the reeds,
The stream was lapping up and down among the waterweeds.
The hours of night passed slowly by, until at break of day,
The valley and the neighbouring hills in dawning twilight lay.
And then again the statesman spoke, with voice both firm and clear,
That echoed down the valley green towards the distant mere :—

" Oh Duty, only worthy aim of life,
That makes a man a man, and living, life,
Oh were it not for you what use to live !
No joys nor pleasures that the world can give
Can half atone for lack of duty done.
And, after all, what gains one for oneself
In reading, study and seclusion,
If he can make no use of these in life !
Oh how much better is your follower,
Although rejected by the busy world,
And who, from high position downward hurled,

Yet says, as from this land of toil he goes
Unto a well-deserved and lasting peace,
'I go a happy man, for in my life
I've ever played my part in toil and strife
According to the counsels whispered in
My ear by Duty's not uncertain voice.'
Oh, how much better, Duty, is this man
Than he who looks despairing towards his end,
And who in life has ever guided been
By selfish thoughts and wishes of his own,
And never stopped to answer Duty's call;
For such a man has never lived at all,
But by degrees has died, and lost his all."

And so, as o'er the eastern hills
Appeared the morning sun,
The statesman answered Duty's call;
His long night fight was won.

Edward B. Thomas.

FOOTBALL SEASON, 1916-17.

AS usual, at the beginning of the season the remark was made that the team would be a weak one. All the "colours" had left and it seemed difficult to form the nucleus of a good eleven. However, under the captaincy of Thompson, the team soon got together, and before Christmas, the only match lost was against Bishop's Stortford School, while the Boys' XI. won five matches including the return against Stortford School. After Christmas we did not lose a single game, the second XI. in particular piling up some big scores, notably twenty-three against the Grammar School second XI. Colours were awarded to Thompson, Gardner, Phillips, Falkner, Ash, and

Milne. No first XI. matches were played, owing to the impossibility of arranging fixtures.

A new feature was introduced this year, as House Tournaments took the place of the usual "pick-up" sides. These aroused much enthusiasm, and were played on the League system, each House playing every other. Mennell's and Morland's each secured eight points out of a possible ten, but the former won on the goal average, thus being the victors in the first of what we hope will be a long series.

SUMMARY OF SEASON.

	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Goals. For.	Against.
Boys' XI.	13	10	1	2	65	16
Second XI.	5	5	0	0	59	1
Third XI.	1	1	0	0	15	0

J. P. WHITLOW.

HOCKEY SEASON, 1916-17.

This season has been a very poor one on account of very few outside matches. The weather has been very much against us during the latter half of the season.

The team did not lose many of its members until Christmas, and then our Captain, Miss Allen, left. In her we lose a brilliant half-back and we shall feel the loss of her keenness and splendid coaching for some time to come.

Out of the eight matches arranged for the Christmas term, only three were played, owing to infection amongst ourselves or the opposing teams. Three matches arranged for the Easter term were cancelled on account of the very snowy weather.

Instead of the usual Bedroom tournaments we had House tournaments. This was an improvement; we were enabled to have more members in a team and so better games followed.



THE PREFECTS.

Fifteen matches were played altogether, Morland's House was victorious.

SUMMARY OF THE HOUSE TOURNAMENTS.

	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Goals. For.	Against.
Morland's	5	5	0	0	17	5
Godlee's	5	3	1	1	9	5
Gibson's	5	1	2	2	5	8
Lister's	5	1	3	1	8	8
Crosfield's	5	1	3	1	8	14
Mennell's	5	1	4	0	7	15

L. M. WALKER.

AN OUTLINE SURVEY OF SAFFRON WALDEN AND ITS REGION.

(By Members of the Saffron Walden Survey Society).

EDITED BY G. MORRIS.

Section V.—THE BRONZE AND IRON AGES.

THE Bronze and early iron remains discovered in the Walden Region show that swampy valleys, forested hill tops and open grassy slopes scattered with thorn scrub, remained much as in Neolithic times, with probably more settled villages, wider clearings under corn, and a spreading system of track-ways.

Chipped flints remained in use long after the introduction of metal, and many worked stones from our hill sides, may be of bronze or even of iron age date.

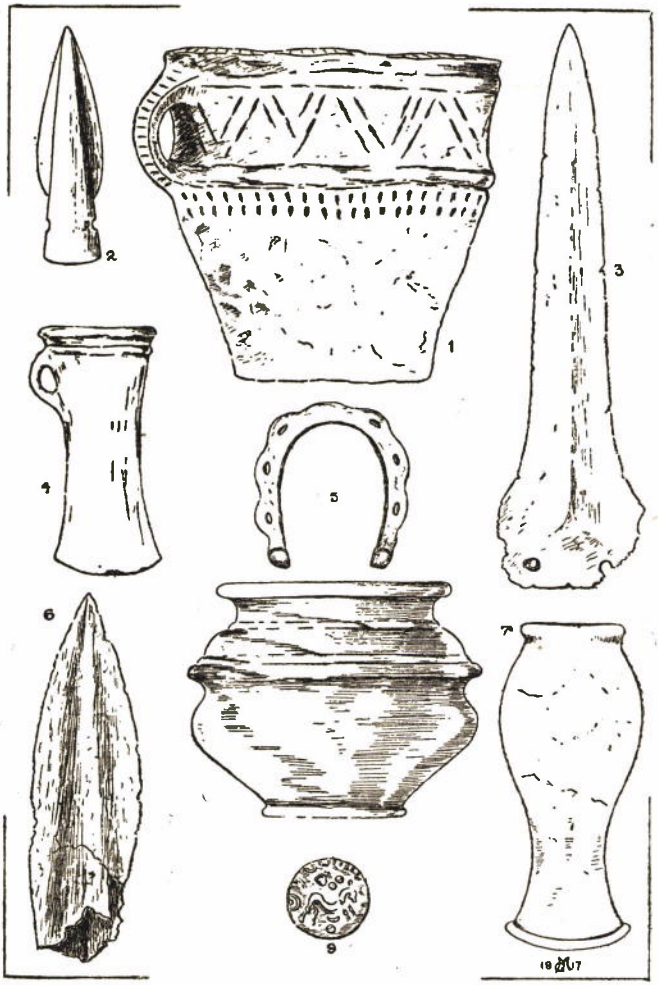
There is little evidence of the early phases of the introduction of Bronze. There are no flat axes. Bronze copies of the Neolithic stone weapons were brought over by continental traders to barter for the Irish gold of the natives, as early as 1800 B.C., but an early bronze dagger from Ludsell (S.E. of

the Region) suggests that the early bronze trade spread along the coast from the Straits of Dover and up the Essex valleys.

On the open country between Newmarket and Royston, were formerly many low, circular mounds, some of which were clearly the graves of the later Bronze age invaders—the Goidels or early Celts, dating from about 1,000 B.C. A series of their typical thick hand-made urns containing the ashes of the dead were found in Mutlow Hill, a mound on the crest of the Fleam Dyke, one of the series of long forest-to-fen earthwork ramparts, which defended the line of the old chalk escarpment road. The Goidels were the advance guard of the tall, fair-haired, long-skulled people—the Nordic Race of Northern Europe. They had probably mixed with the dark, round-headed Alpine race of Central Europe, in their wanderings, and arrived in Britain as a tall, red-haired race with moderately rounded skulls. Their occupation of Southern Britain was marked by the introduction of cremation, or burning the dead, and by the full use of bronze. Their beautiful leaf-shaped swords have been found at Fulbourne, and spear heads and socketed axes, or celts, at Sawston and elsewhere.

Hoards of broken or used bronze celts, spear heads, fragments of sword blades, etc., found at Arkesden and Elmdon, may have been buried by a bronze founder, who went up into the forest for fuel, and also to preserve the secret of the art of bronze casting.

The great torque, or collar of gold, weighing eight pounds, found at Great Chesterford in the eighteenth century, may have been a relic of the trade in Irish gold which continued for several centuries. Here also a fine food-vessel of wide-mouthed red pottery was discovered, and higher up the valley, small Bronze Age burial urns have been found at Wendon, dating from about 500 B.C., when the custom of raising burial mounds was abandoned, and cinerary urns were placed in holes in the ground.



ANTIQUITIES OF THE BRONZE AND EARLY IRON AGES FOUND NEAR SAFFRON WALDEN.

BRONZE AGE:

1.—"Food Vessel" of Red Hand Formed Pottery. Great Chesterford. ¼ size.
2.—Bronze Spearhead. Arlesden Hoard. ¼ size.
3.—Bronze Dagger. Ludsell. ¼ size.
4.—Socketed Axe or Celt. Bronze. ¼ size.

EARLY IRON AGE:

5.—Late Celtic Horseshoe. Saffron Walden. ½ size.
6.— ,, ,, Iron Spearhead. Wenden.
7.— ,, ,, Wheel Turned Pottery Vase. Great Chesterford.
8.— ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, Wenden.
9.— ,, British Gold Coin, probably of Cunobelin. Saffron Walden.

Near the Battle Ditches at Saffron Walden, traces of circular huts, of saplings daubed with clay, were accompanied by fragments of red hand-made pottery. It seems therefore that between 100 and 500 B.C., and possibly earlier, definite settlements had arisen on, or very near, the sites of several existing villages where open pasture land sloped down to permanent springs, or river. Many of the small, dark-haired, long-headed stone age natives, whose ancestors had long before worked up from the Mediterranean region, still remained in the district.

Mingled with these were the taller, dark, but round-headed Alpine people, who arrived at the close of the Stone Age—about 2000 B.C.; and probably many dark-haired families living in the North Essex villages are descended from these pre-historic settlers. Some of the Goidels may have crossed to the Norfolk coast, and so entered the Walden Region by the chalk escarpment route from the North-east, while others may have come from S.W. by the Thames valley. They subdued the older races without much disturbance, and remained the dominant class until between 500 and 700 B.C., when a second wave of the Nordic people arrived. These were the Brythons (Britons) tall, fair, Belgic tribesmen. Great struggles ensued, in which many of the hill-top earthworks, including possibly Ring Hill and Vandlebury, the local camps, were thrown up, or strengthened, and not improbably the more important of the long earthworks which guard the old escarpment road—the Fleam Dyke and Devil's Ditch—date from some phase of the long struggle between Goidel and Brython.

The new comers used iron weapons, long swords, spears, axes and swift military chariots, while they wore horned helmets and belts or body armour of iron. Their long shields, harness mountings and brooches were decorated with bronze and enamels.

Their conquest of the island probably led to great local

changes. The Goidelic tribesmen were driven over the Fens, leaving many of the dark Mediterranean race clinging to their ancient settlements, as serfs and cattle tenders. About 400 B.C. the potter's wheel became known in Britain, and by the Roman occupation in A.D. 43, the Britons were making fine, wheel-turned, earthenware vessels of graceful form, decorated with raised bands or cordons on the sides, and often supported on a tall pedestal foot.

Cremated burials in urns of this late Celtic or Early Iron Age type occur at Wenden, near the older Bronze Age burials, and at Great Chesterford, where a pan of silver brooches, dating from about 100 B.C. was also found.

At Saffron Walden thin-lobed edged horse shoes of the small race of British ponies, and part of the bronze strapwork decoration of a long shield, have been found in the peat under the Swan Meadows, formerly a swampy pool below the fordways by which the ancient track, now High Street, crossed the Slades at Bridge End, and near Abbey Lane.

The plan of the Battle Ditch earthworks at Saffron Walden is too long to be typically Roman, and may have been made about the time of Cæsar's invasions, when the Belgic tribes took to copying the Roman fortifications.

Many urn burials near the camp of Walbury, south of Bishop's Stortford, suggests that the direct route from the Fen basin to the Thames, through the Walden region and the Stort and Lea Valleys, was used before the Roman times. The forest stretching through the Eastern Counties to the Thames must have been crossed by a well-known system of such tracks, as shown not only by Cæsar's description of the way in which the British chariots harassed his columns, but also by the circulation of the rude gold coins of the British tribal kings, which, struck probably at St. Albans, Colchester, etc., have been found all over the Eastern Counties, including Saffron Walden, Bartlow, Debden, Widdington, etc., in the Walden Region.

Finally, it was in the Early Iron Age that the most ancient road of the region, the old chalk escarpment route, received the name it still bears, *i.e.*, the route to the Ikeni, the people of Suffolk and Norfolk.

GUY MAYNARD.

A SON OF DEVON.

A LITTLE over one hundred years ago, the noon-day sun was shining down upon the blue rippling waters of Morthoe Bay. Round the Head, steering clear of the bobbing life-buoy which marks Mort Rock, on which so many gallant men of Devon have lost their lives, came a little fishing boat—all sails spread to catch any breath of wind which might be stirring over the almost lake-like surface of the sea. Deftly she made her way among the huge black rocks, and finally ground onto the pebbles of the beach. A man, grizzled and tanned by long years of contact with the sea in all its moods, clambered over the side and pulled the boat as far out of the water as he was able.

A boy, perhaps fourteen or so, jumped out after him. Together they unloaded the boat and filled a large basket with the slippery, glittering fish. Then they climbed the cliff path and made their way up to the village of Morthoe, which is built upon the hill above the sea. On either side of the one and only street, the white-washed cottages with their red roofs emitted from their chimneys wreaths of blue smoke which curled lazily upwards, making the only clouds visible in the otherwise cloudless sky.

Morthoe boasted of no shops at all, and the people had to journey to Woolacombe, a small town two miles away, if they wished to procure any small things ; but if anything large was needed they had to catch the coach, which journeyed past

once every week, into Ilfracombe, which was then an important fishing centre.

Usually at this hour of the day, except for a few men who spent their time lolling outside the tavern, Morthoe was deserted. To-day, however, there were groups of women standing excitedly in the middle of the road discussing some seemingly important matter.

As the man and boy toiled up the hill, the sun beat down pitilessly upon their heads, and the rough stones, which paved the road, burned their naked feet.

Hardly were they within calling distance, when several voices, each eager to impart the news, called to the man—"Ai, John, the young squire's come home!" John, as though waiting for the news to sink through his slowly working brain, gazed out toward the white-sailed fishing smacks, anchored on the horizon. "When?" he asked calmly, though the glint in his eyes showed what excitement he was feeling. "He rode in alone this morning, and, as he came through, said that you were to go up to the Hall as soon as you got back." This was from a tall, thin woman, whose strong vocal organs made her able to make herself heard above the babel of voices.

Several surmises as to the reason for the Squire's sudden appearance were lost upon John, who hurried up to his home—the last white-washed cottage of the village—and not long after reappeared, looking supremely uncomfortable in his holiday clothes. Without taking any notice of the gossiping women, who endeavoured to ascertain whether he had any previous knowledge of the matter in hand, he made his way back through the village until he reached a wicket gate, through a thick hedge of holly, almost opposite to the cliff-path.

The garden inside, with its abundance of old-world flowers, the flagged paths leading between the rose-beds, the mingled scent of hundreds of fragrant flowers, the sundial standing at the foot of the stone steps leading up to the house, the house

itself, low and rambling, with the crimson cluster-roses rioting right up to the latticed bedroom windows, with here and there a little spray of fast-fading jasmine, seemed to have no effect upon John. He was thinking, in his slow way, of the last time he saw the squire, nearly ten years ago, when he was scarcely more than a boy—a boy who had spent many days fishing and rowing in the boat with John, and who had listened to the stories of the rough old seaman as though listening to one of the greatest sages in the Kingdom. He had been sent to the court of George III. and since then had never returned to his home, which for half the year, was vacant when the old lady, his mother, went to live in London, in order that she might be near her only son.

John, waiting on the terrace, heard steps behind him, and turning, saw a young man, clean-shaven and tall, dressed immaculately with white ruffles at his throat and wrists, his hair dark and waving, his face almost effeminate in its beauty, but having the high broad forehead of a scholar. For a moment they looked at each other, each noticing what difference ten years had made, and then they clasped hands—the small white hand of the courtier almost lost in the horny hand of the man of toil.

" John," he said, " you have always been a true friend to me. Can you help me to leave England to-night ? Because I have written pamphlets criticising the actions of the king, there are orders out that if I am found in the country, I shall be taken to London and imprisoned for life. Can you take me in your boat to-night, down the Bristol Channel and over to France, where I shall join an expedition to Virginia ? "

John nodded his head, but though his eyes spoke volumes, he only said, " Yes, Sir," while he nervously twisted his hat in his hands. " Then will you be ready for me at nine o'clock ? " The man nodded, and, perhaps afraid that he might betray his emotion, turned and strode rapidly down the garden and through the gate. The Squire stood looking after him long

after the footsteps had died away up the road. Then with a sigh he entered the house.

The sun travelled round towards the west and the air became less stifling. The men returned from their fishing and laboured up the village with the baskets of fish. The sun sank lower in the heavens and the shadows lengthened on the grass. The birds began to sing their evening songs, while beneath their glad chatter there was the incessant rumble of the waves as they broke gently upon the beach.

Out of the Hall came the Squire, with his frail silver-headed mother leaning on his arm. Together they paced along the paths between the tall stately holly-hocks and the great golden sunflowers. Once as they passed the sundial she murmured—" If only I was a few years younger ! "

Together they watched all the glories of the sunset over the Bristol Channel, and stood still, marvelling at the great quietness which seemed to fall as the sun dropped beneath the water. Even the gulls appeared to feel the silence, and were quiet as they rocked up and down on the incoming waves. As dusk began to settle, they both re-entered the house, and once more there was perfect peace in the old garden.

Darkness fell, and the moon rose. The tide was high when the two came out of the house again, and arm-in-arm made their way to the top of the cliff path. The air was laden with the scent of the flowers, and the people of Morthoe seeemed to be all asleep. Their parting was swift, for, though both knew that it would be their last meeting in this world, they realised that no number of miles could sever their great love. She watched him as he disappeared over the edge of the cliff; she heard the stones rolling from under his feet on the beach below as he descended ; she heard the crunch of the pebbles as he went toward the boat, and the two men dragging it down to the edge of the water ; she heard the splash of the water as they floated out ; she thought that she could discern the dark outline of the boat as it made its way out between the rocks.

Long after the sound of the rush of the water had died away, she stood there, her head bare—gazing out to sea with unseeing eyes. The little gray clouds were chasing each other across the face of the moon, but suddenly a ray broke through and shone down upon the lonely woman. As though awakened by it, she turned with a sob and went back toward the house.

Nina Townshend.

SCHOOL SOCIETIES.

VIII.—THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

EIGHTY years seems a great age, especially for a Society which to-day appears to be so young. This one was formed, however, in 1837, as a part of the Juvenile Literary Society, but little evidence of its existence is obtainable earlier than 1857, when definite and lengthy reports were written of the papers read by its members before the Juvenile Literary Society. This form of report was clearly not a new thing and reference is made to previous work having been done.

The various branches of Natural History, such as Botany, Entomology, Geology, Conchology and Ornithology, all provided work and pleasure for young enthusiasts in a greater or less degree. Some of the reports of work done by the different sections are almost essays in themselves, and these are probably the only record of work done by the Society month by month. They also show that the amount of work done in the different sections varied considerably, as it does now, according to the interests of the members, and they were probably the beginning of the individual papers of to-day. With what pleasure would some of our present members read those carefully written pages, obtaining much useful and interesting information from such reports as "Ants,"

" Fungi," and " The best means of stocking and preserving an Aquarium " ! Time for the perusal of many such records is unfortunately not at our disposal.

In 1888, the Juvenile Literary Society became known as the Natural History and Literary Association comprising both girls and boys, and it continued as such, holding its meetings regularly, until 1896. During this time papers were regularly given and there were reports and discussions on the work done. The majority of the members about 1895 were apparently literary in taste and the Natural History papers few in number in consequence. To improve this state of affairs various " officers " were appointed, a number of rules drawn up, and the meetings held once a fortnight. Even with this alteration it was evidently difficult to deal satisfactorily with the work of both sections, and " it was decided to take the Natural History and Literary work at separate meetings once a month or more frequently if desirable."

From the words of one of the rules we believe that the keeping of diaries was even then the least popular part of th work, and several of the minutes state that various members were from time to time suspended from the Society for failing to comply with the regulation.

The much needed room for Natural History work was at last fitted up on the Boys' Side, and this greatly helped the members in their work. It became comparatively easy to work where books, an aquarium and all kinds of specimens could be kept and studied.

From the time of the separation of the Natural History and Literary Societies the Girls and Boys of the former held separate meetings, with only occasional joint ones, and all papers and reports of work done were read.

From 1899 to 1901, and again from 1902 to 1905, the Girls' section as a Society lapsed, but regular work was done by a few enthusiasts. In 1901, the Girls were members of a joint society but the interest waned at the end of a year and

only really revived in 1905. From that time separate meetings were held by both Societies at regular intervals. In addition, definite times were arranged for " work meetings " each week, which ensured greater regularity in the keeping of diaries. Most of the members gave their attention to Botany or Zoology, and although a few addresses had previously been given on such Archæological subjects as " Norman " and " Tudor " Walden, little interest was shown in the subject before 1909, except that a few members took up brass-rubbing. This extension of the " field of study " was shortly followed by an extension of the Society, for " both parties willing, the motion that the Girls' and Boys' N. H. S. should be amalgamated was carried unanimously." With the exception of one or two walks, however, this was the only form of amalgamation reported for some time, and curiously enough, combined meetings were not held until a year later, except one at the year end reporting the year's work. The two sections therefore worked quite separately and neither benefited by the other's work, but as diary work was the cause of anxious thought again, the two parts were by this means brought more into touch with each other. Little wonder is there that the " officers " decided that every member was expected to enter a minimum of one page of work per week. To ensure this being done, one evening was selected quite apart from the usual fortnightly meeting, and an additional evening each month was devoted to the reading of the diaries. Good work must have resulted from this effort as shortly afterwards the minutes record that a very interesting excursion took place, some members visiting several places of interest in London, *e.g.*, The Tower, Westminster Abbey, and the Houses of Parliament, whilst others visited Waltham Abbey and Epping. This the present members would regard as a most delightful " Long Excursion," but are we not privileged in being able to visit places of interest near at hand which are less easy to get to in " after school days."

In the Autumn of 1910, the Society for the first time entered the names of both girls and boys as members of one Society, and the two sections henceforward held their meetings together. Since then the Society has regularly met once a fortnight, diaries have been kept and the best sent up for the Inter-School Diary Competition each year. At the beginning of each term the papers and excursions have been arranged for the session, and applications for membership considered in the Preliminary Meetings.

From 1911 to 1915, the Archælogical section was in a very flourishing condition, and during that time the neighbouring churches were frequently visited for special study, but for the last two years the members have mostly confined themselves to brass rubbing. The work that is now done in either Archæology or Natural History is of a very definite character, and the excursions are arranged to further the interests of the various members in special directions. To the ponds of the district, the various woods, the chalk pits, and the different areas of vegetation, other excursions are made for this purpose, and we must acknowledge that it is much more fascinating and instructive, under the guidance of a capable and very enthusiastic leader, than it was under less favourable conditions during the Society's youth.

SARAH WAITES.

THE ATHLETIC SPORTS.

ONCE more, and for the first time since 1913, our athletes at the School were given the opportunity to display their powers. This year there were several changes in connection with events. The chief of these was that there were no entrance fees and no prizes—competition was kept keen by the knowledge that places meant points for one's house. Another interesting change was the raising of the Junior

Boys' age limit to fourteen years. The " kick," " hurdles " and girls' " ¼-mile " were excluded.

Whit Monday could not have been more favourable for sports—the ground was springy after the rains of the previous week and there was a brilliant sun, tempered by a slight breeze. School ended at 10.15, and by 10.30 we were all assembled on the field. Soon after Sports started with the Junior Boys' High Jump. Considering the fact that there have been no Sports for four years, the running by both boys and girls was exceedingly good, and, although no Senior Boys' records were broken they were in many cases closely approached. In the Senior Girls' events Nina Townshend succeeded in establishing new records for the throw and long jump ; in the latter the new record exceeded the old by over a foot. On account of the raising of the age limit the junior results can hardly be compared with former records. However, J. C. Gibb ran, jumped and threw splendidly, and he is to be congratulated on having established a new set of Junior records which will probably hold their own for some time to come.

The results of Junior events were foregone conclusions, but the Senior events afforded more excitement, as there was never much difference between the places. E. Ash just cleared seventeen feet in the long jump, and was closely followed by H. Dent ; in the high jump J. Milne took first place with a jump of four feet five inches. The hundred yards was exceedingly close ; in this the start and the finish should have been practised more thoroughly.

The open handicaps were most exciting. Unfortunately no scratch man gained a place in the final of the 220 yards handicap, though H. Phillips nearly succeeded in doing so. Intermingled with the stern championship events came the tripod and sack races, which, as usual, caused a great deal of merriment. Just before tea the heats for the ever-popular obstacle race were run off and the final was run after tea.

The programme for the day was concluded by the House relay-races and tugs of war. The relay race was quite a new feature and proved to be one of the most interesting events of the day. In this six people out of each House took part, each person running fifty yards. Godlee's, in the girls' race, and Morland's, in the boys', came in first. In the tugs of war no one could withstand the weight of Morland's, who secured an easy victory. We were not yet tired of running, so Whit-Monday was ended in the approved fashion—with Terza.

The mile was run on the following Thursday. This was run in excellent style, and ended in K. Mauritzi beating J. Milne by about a yard.

On the next evening the cross countries were run. It was an ideal evening for the purpose, and the ground, which in former years has very often been muddy, was in a fine dry condition. We were rather disappointed that J. C. Gibb did not break the old Junior record; however on the whole it was well run. There was a good field for the Senior event, and it was run in very good time. A new course, slightly longer than the old one, was run over this time, and though times cannot be compared, in all probability the old record would have been broken on the old course. K. Mauritzi, closely run up by M. Jeffrey, came in first, and the rest followed in close succession.

Now that we have fallen into these good habits again, it is to be hoped they will be kept up year by year without fail in the future.

John H. Thompson.

[*The writer of the above would in all probability have carried off the School Championship, if he had not met with an accident shortly before the sports took place. In making an excellent jump of four feet nine inches in the House sports, he slipped and sustained a fracture of the fore-arm which of course prevented him from taking any further part.*—EDS.]

BOYS.

Senior :

100 yards : 1, Ash, 2 Milne, 3 Phillips. Time, 12⅕ secs.
¼-mile : 1 Milne, 2 Mauritzi, 3 Ash. Time, 59 secs.
½-mile : 1, Milne ; 2, Mauritzi ; 3, Falkner. Time, 2 min. 25⅕ secs.
Mile : 1, Mauritzi ; 2, Milne ; 3, Falkner ; 4, Phillips. Time, 5 min. 18⅘ secs.
Cross-country : 1, Mauritzi ; 2, Jeffrey ; 3, Milne ; 4, Falkner. Time, 21 min. 40⅘ secs.
Long Jump : 1, Ash ; 2, Dent ; 3, Tebbutt. Distance, 17 ft. 1½ in.
High Jump : 1, Thompson ; 2, Milne ; 3, Deane and Hobart. Height, 4 ft. 9 in.
Throw : 1, Milne ; 2, Ash ; 3, Wright. Distance, 72 yds., 2 ft., 6 in.

Junior :

100 yds. : 1, Gibb ; 2, Burlingham ; 3, Barker and Gregg. Time, 12⅘ secs.
¼-mile : 1, Gibb ; 2, Burlingham ; 3, Gregg. Time, 64⅗ secs.
½-mile : 1, Gibb ; 2, Burlingham ; 3, Barker. Time, 2 min. 38 secs.
Mile : 1, Gibb ; 2, Burlingham ; 3, Gregg ; 4, Barker. Time, 6 min. 1⅗ secs
Cross Country : 1, Gibb ; 2, Gregg ; 3, Barker ; 4, Ball. Time, 13 min. 10 secs.
Long Jump : 1, Gibb ; 2, Engelmann ; 3, Gregg. Distance, 14 ft. 4 in.
High Jump : 1, Gibb ; 2, Engelmann ; 3, Ball. Height, 4 ft. 4 in.
Throw : 1, Gibb ; 2, Barker ; 3. Engelmann. Distance, 61 yds. 6 in.

Open :

½-mile handicap : 1, Gregg (160 yds.) ; 2, Tebbutt i, (120 yds.) ; 3, Gibbins (170 yds.)
220 yds. handicap : 1, Carr (50 yds.) ; 2, Dent (11 yds.) ; 3, Wellman (32 yds.)
Sack Race : 1, Tebbutt ii ; 2, Wellman.
Obstacle Race : 1, Falkner ; 2, Howitt.
Tripod Race : 1, Tebbutt ii and Palmer ; 2, Deane and Matthews.

GIRLS.

Senior :

100 yds. : 1, N. Townshend ; 2, E. Deane ; 3, D. Thompson. Time, 13⅕ secs.
220 yds. : 1, N. Townshend ; 2, E. Deane ; 3, B. Wellman. Time, 35⅕ secs.
Long Jump : 1, N. Townshend, 2, N. Matthews ; 3, B. Matthews. Distance, 14 ft. 9 in.*
High Jump : 1, D. Thompson ; 2, N. Townshend ; 3, M. Baker. Height, 4 ft. 2 in.
Throw : 1, N. Townshend ; 2, D. Emson ; 3, J. Bannister. Distance, 46 yds. 2 ft.*
Tripod Race : 1, E. Deane and W. Ruwald ; 2, J. Bannister and N. Townshend.

* School Record.



WHITSUNTIDE SPORTS, 1917.

Junior :

100 yds. : 1, M. Horsfield ; 2, E. Cousins ; 3, E. Smith. Time, 15 secs.
220 yds. : 1, E. Cousins ; 2, M. Horsfield ; 3, E. Smith. Time, 37⅘ secs.
Long Jump : 1, E. Smith ; 2, M. Horsfield ; 3, E. Cousins. Distance, 12 ft. 4 in.
High Jump : 1, E. Smith ; 2, P. Rigby ; 3, M. Wright. Height, 3 ft. 5 in.
Tripod Race : 1, E. Cousins and M. Horsfield ; 2, E. Smith and M. Edwards.

Under 11 years :

100 yds (Boys). 1, Williams i ; 2, Allbon ii. Time, 15⅘ secs.
100 yards (girls). 1, F. Cousins ; 2, A. Allan. Time, 16⅕ secs.

House Tug-of-War (Boys) : 1, Morland's House ; 2, Gibson's House.
House Relay Race (300 yds.) ;
Boys : 1, Morland's House ; 2, Lister's House.
Girls : 1, Godlee's House ; 2, Morland's House.

Boys' Cup Holder—J. Milne.
Boys' Junior Champion—J. C. Gibb.
Girls' Cup Holder—N. Townshend.
Girls' Junior Champion—E. Smith.

HOUSE SPORTS.

Boys' : 1st, Morland's ; 2nd, Crosfield's.
Girls' : 1st, Godlee's ; 2nd, Gibson's.

SUMMER.

THE Summer's here again with all its flowers,
In which the bees are humming all the days ;
The sun is pouring its own glist'ning rays
Upon the trees and cool and leafy bowers ;
The birds are singing all the happy hours,
The hov'ring sky-larks, linnets, and the jays,
And all these birds are singing dif'rent lays
In stately trees which stand as high as towers,
Whilst butterflies are flut'ring all around.
Down in the grassy meadows, cool and green,
The cattle wander by the winding stream ;
And by this water dragon-flies abound,
And brightly coloured lizards may be found,
Which lie among the grass and bask and dream.

Edward K. Jennings.

THE FLIGHT OF DUCKS.

THERE are many ways of studying birds; some people prefer to keep them in captivity, others to obtain their dead bodies and examine them in a technical way, but in my opinion the most beautiful and interesting way of studying them is to watch them in their native haunts, and to observe their natural habits and peculiarities. This may seem difficult, but all one has to do is to choose a good position in some quiet spot where birds are frequently seen, and keep very still.

When going out for such a purpose one must not go with the idea of proving one's arm-chair theories or conjectures, but with the simple desire to learn as much as possible about the habits and reasons for the habits, of the birds being watched.

Last Christmas holidays I took the opportunity some fourteen or fifteen times of watching the nightly flight of wild fowl.

During the winter months large flocks of different kinds of duck migrate to England from Scandinavia, and with the home ducks live in the neighbourhood of the sea-coast, lake, or any large flooded area. The Washes between the Great Ouse and Old Bedford rivers being flooded in winter, they form a stretch of water a mile wide and over twenty miles long. This Wash is largely frequented by duck, flocks of which collect and remain floating on the surface during the day-time in perfect safety. But as night—their feeding time—approaches they fly up, one flock after another, and travel up the river until each flock finds for itself a piece of suitable grass or arable land—swampy enough to allow their feeding there during the night. At first streak of dawn some of them return to the Washes, but others remain at their feeding grounds until they are disturbed, and may be seen returning even in the afternoon.

If one goes just before twilight to a place somewhere along their line of flight (preferably as near their starting place as

possible, as they will not be so scattered), a most interesting sight may be seen. About half-an-hour before the duck arrive come the sea-gulls, thousands of which live inland during the winter. Their feeding habits are exactly contrary to those of the duck. They feed up the river all day, and return to rest on the Washes at night. They come thickly in flocks of some hundreds; twisting, turning, and skimming the ground; often a whole flock will fly to within a few feet of one's head, and then with a discordant rush wheel off almost at right angles.

When these have all passed, one may begin to expect the duck, but if one has been the night before it is easy to know when they will arrive, for, unless the evening is an exceptionally dark one, they will come with laudable punctuality,—one or two minutes later each evening as the days begin to lengthen. During the time I watched them they came at about 4.30 at the beginning, (about December 24th,) and just after 5 o'clock about January 14th.

First a small lot of three or four mallard would usually swing over with outstretched necks, showing jet-black against the pale sky, and quacking softly; then perhaps a dense black flock of widgeon, whistling shrilly; flocks of pochard, mallard, teal and widgeon follow in quick succession, until at times large skeins of duck stretch across the sky as far as one can see, and the air is full of quacks, shrill calls, and the whistling of many wings as they beat the air.

After about half-an-hour it is nearly dark, and all is over.

By observing the "flight" night after night, one soon begins to find out the little peculiarities of the birds, and how their speed, height, and mode of flying are affected by changes in the weather or light. In clear, still weather ducks usually fly at great heights, but on a cloudy night with an adverse gale, they fly low; but there is no wind, however strong, that can ever stop a duck, which is the most perfect flier there is.

C. Frederick Tebbutt.

FROM FAR AND NEAR.

Concerning Old Scholars.

Old Scholars who were in the Fifth Form last term.

Albert W. Gardner writes from the Friends' Ambulance Unit Training Camps at Jordans, "I am now training in the F.A.U., and after only three weeks' training have been told to be ready to go to France as soon as my passports can be obtained. I have, however, to get through the Tribunal yet. . . . We are having a very nice camp here, but are worked very hard. We have many route marches; the longest so far was twenty-three miles. . . . Mr. Marsh and Wallis Powell were both here at first, but the former has gone to France now. . . . I have just heard that I have passed the Prelim. Exam. for the Veterinary College."

(A. W. Gardner has now obtained exemption from his Tribunal, conditional upon working with the F.A.U.).

Joan McKenzie

Roland Partridge is working in an uncle's mill at Aylesbury.

Mabel B. Reynolds

Gwendoline B. Rolfe.

* * * * * *

Extract from a letter from Mavis Kemp (1911-14.)

"I am being trained at W. Hoathley on a farm for two months. I came here on Friday, April 19th, and leave somewhere about June 17th.

"There are seven girls besides me, and we are all so happy, jolly, and well; I haven't felt so fit since I left Walden. Courtlands is where we sleep, but we have our meals at a little cottage just at the end of the drive. The house is tremendous, and the flowers, fruit trees, green houses, etc., are lovely. What am I doing? At present I am on the cow sheds, which means: Up at six—milk cows, separate the milk from the cream, take the milk to Courtlands (five minutes walk from

the farm), wash the separator things up roughly in hot water. Breakfast at eight, work at nine. Then we wash the cans, churns, pails, etc., properly. Next, clean out the cow troughs and bed it down for them when they come in at night. Sweep the passages, put water into the troughs for the young calves, also feed them with hay, etc. Now that all the animals go out into the fields, we go out too, to dig out docks. There are three things we have to train in; stables, cow sheds, and poultry. I am going on the stables on Wednesday, where I am longing to be.

* * * * * *

Extract from a letter from T. Edward Tawell (1892-6), *Friends' Ambulance Unit, France.*

"*April 27th*, 1917.

". . . As the papers will have told you, most of the fruit trees have been cut down or ring barked in many villages, orchards or hedge-sides, so that it is no mere hobby that sends folk hunting the fallows and the stubbles for dandelions for culinary purposes. Fuel, fortunately, is plentiful, for the amount of wasted wood, native and imported, is simply enormous here on all hands.

" If one goes about with the mind's eye, open one may see a great deal that is pathetic in many directions. Not only are inhabitants few,—as indeed are whole and habitable houses,—but the few who are to be seen are old, so old, or just now and again, a sprinkling of young children. The majority of the kiddies, at least, appear to be refugees from elsewhere. . . . We passed a churchyard to-day containing a poor little grave next to a row of German soldiers' graves. On it was a crude cross of two split box-boards nailed together, on which was scribbled in charcoal simply, " Clothilde—agée 7 ans, evacuée de M——."

" One of the first sights we saw from the train when we crossed the lately fortified trench-lines and entered this newly ceded territory, was a poor old dame taking stock of the ruins of her gate-house and garden, situated at a level crossing, and

therefore well destroyed. The station, or the level place from which every rail and sleeper had been ripped up, and where everything above ground had been razed, including the seats and the very lamp standards on the platforms,—is sometimes all agog with women and children, refugees from further east, who are brought down by the lorry load as far as here, to be entrained for boarding out nearer the sea or the south.

". . . To-day's walk, as well as others recently, provided us with plenty of material for the study of Dug-out making and equipment. Yesterday, we found some glorified night-lights for use in groping about in the under-world, and known as 'Hindenburg's Lamps.' . . . To-day we brought for the use of the casualty clearing station, who are old friends of ours, a small church bell, complete, to serve as a cookhouse bell. What was it doing at the bottom of a blind alley dug-out Fritz only knows! Another interesting find was an enormous sort of thermos flask, quite new, which was presumably a means of distributing hot tea or drink to isolated groups of men in the trenches. Its internal capacity must have been over four gallons."

Extract from letters written by Tom Danels (1901-2).

" Gallipoli,
19*th Sept.*, 1915.

". . . The heat and dust have been trying, but this last week we have had three showers, and I believe the shortes of these, which lasted three-quarters of an hour, would make up for a week's rain in England, it is just as though a trap door opened in the heavens and let it fall in a lump—I never saw rain like it. Afterwards the ground is like clay and very heavy to get about on, but in a few hours the hot sun puts it right again. . . . * The Turks have a village three miles from here; we shell all round it, but not the village itself, so they reap the benefit of fighting square. . . ."

* Deleted by the Censor.

" Palestine, 2.5.1917.

". . . Thanks so much for the socks; you can guess how glad I was to receive them after marching over 170 miles across this peninsula. There is more vegetation about here than on the desert, and that has its disadvantages to a soldier who finds his bed on the ground, and the sky for a roof,—meaning more insect life. Scorpions, spiders, huge ants, and a peculiar big black flea are among the chief offenders, but by far the worst are the swarms of flies. . . ."

SCHOOL DIARY.

March 1st.—Lit Soc. Mtg. Girls' Diary, Elsie Deane. Essays: "The Poetry of Earth is never dead," Marjorie Pollard; "The Fiddle," Lionel Wright; "Daddy Long-legs," Mabel Reynolds. Pianoforte solo, Ruby Griggs.

" 3rd.—Lantern Lecture on "Armenia," by Mr. Krikorian.

" 12th—Lantern Lecture on "Mountain Limestone," by Mr. Corder.

" 14th.—Lantern Lecture on "The Wheat Plant," by Mr. Morris.

" 15th.—Lit. Soc. Mtg. Boys' Diary, Roland Partridge. Essays: "The Torpedo," Edwin Ash; "Glimpses of Church History," Daisy Shepherd; "Thoughts from G. K. Chesterton," Bedford Deane; "The Folk Song," Doris Thompson. Pianoforte solo, Miss Bird.

" 17th.—Football Match: Boys' XI. *v.* Cambridge County School, away, won, 3-2.

" 25th.—Address in Sunday Evening Meeting by Mr. Oyston on "The Tabernacle."

April 2nd.—House Singing and Recitation Competition in evening.

" 3rd.—Entertainment at night.

" 4th.—Easter Holidays began.

" 25th.—School re-opened.

May 3rd.—Lit. Soc. Mtg. Girls' Diary, Julia Bannister. Essays: "Iron and the Iron Foundry," Cecil Falkner; "Beginnings of Monasticism," Mr. Pearson; "A Son of Devon," Nina Townshend. Pianoforte Solos: Doris Thompson, Julia Bannister.

" 8th.—N.H.S. Business Mtg.

" 17th.—Lit. Soc. Mtg. Boys' Diary, John Thompson. Essays: "Diamonds," Harry Dent; "The Child is Father of the Man," Julia Bannister; "Rubber," Reginald Falkner; "Poland," Mary Baker. Violin Solo: Lionel Wright.

" 22nd.—N.H.S. Mtg. Lecture, "The Natural History of Newbury," Mr. Morris.

May 28th.—Athletic Sports.

,, 30th.—Cricket Matches *v.* Newport Grammar School. 1st XI. *v.* 1st XI., away, lost, 38-43, J. Milne 6 wkts for 13, E. M. Jeffrey, 4 for 8. 2nd XI. *v.* 2nd XI., home, won, 109-89.

,, 31st.—Lit. Soc. Mtg. "Five Minutes" Essays by thirteen members. Pianoforte Solo, Mary Baker.

June 2nd.—Cricket Matches *v.* Saffron Walden Grammar School. 1st XI. *v.* 1st XI., home, lost, 52 and 121 for 3 wkts.,-69 and 20 for 2 wkts. C. A. Falkner, 40, H. L. Wright, 38, J. Milne, 23. 2nd XI. *v.* 2nd XI. away, won, 107-52 and 39. J. Barker, 37; R. Falkner, 8 wkts. for 4, and 8 wkts. for 20.

June 7th.—N.H.S. Mtg. Essays: "Pond Insects," Lawrence Palmer; "Protective Colourings of Animals," Marjorie Harrod; "Protective Colourings," Clifford Jones; "The Study of Birds," C. Frederick Tebbutt.

,, 9th.—Cricket Matches, *v.* Saffron Walden Grammar School Boys' 1st XI. *v.* 1st XI., away, won, 84-81. 2nd XI. *v.* 2nd XI., home, won, 93-24.

,, 13th.—Cricket Matches *v.* Newport Grammar School. Boys' 1st XI. *v.* 1st XI., home, lost, 42-56. 2nd XI. *v.* 2nd XI. away, lost, 35-50.

,, 14th.—Lit. Soc. Mtg. Girls' Diary, Nina Townshend. Essays: "People of Ceylon," J. Chalmer Gibb; "Shakespeare's Welshmen," Mr. Davies; "The Sage of Chelsea," Elsie Deane. Pianoforte Solo, Miss Wright.

,, 16th.—N.H.S. Excursion to Strethall.

,, 21st.—N.H.S. Mtg. Exhibition of Specimens.

ELEANOR G. JONES.
John H. Thompson.

NOTICES.

The next number of *The Avenue* will be published in December. Price, 6d. per copy (post free, 7d.) Price per annum, 1s. 6d. (post free, 1s. 9d.).

Articles and subscriptions may be addressed to *The Avenue*, Friends' School, Saffron Walden.

Articles and illustration in *The Avenue* by boys and girls are signed in *italics*.

SCHOOL MAGAZINES.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following School Magazine: Stramongate School Magazine, By Kent and Skerne.

INITIAL LETTER.

An initial letter designed by *Elsie Deane* will be found at the beginning of the article on "The House System."

3

reasons for drinking

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