



NEW PLYMOUTH  
High School  
Boys' Magazine.

JULY  
1908.

New Plymouth:  
HOOKER AND CO., GENERAL PRINTERS, DEVON STREET.

1908.

# NEW PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

(Founded in 1881.)

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

M. FRASER, Esq. (*Chairman*)

N. K. McDIARMID, Esq.                      S. PERCY SMITH, Esq., F.R.G.S.  
E. DOCKRILL, Esq.,                         J. E. WILSON, Esq.  
E. F. FOKES, M.B. London, M.R.C.S. England, L.R.C.P. London.

---

## SCHOOL STAFF 1908.

Principal .. .. E. PRIDHAM, M.A., Trinity College, Dublin.  
Head Mistress .. .. MISS GRANT, M.A., N.Z.  
First Assistant Master .. .. H. H. WARD.  
Assistant Mistress .. .. MISS DREW, M.A., N.Z.  
Second Assistant Master .. .. E. JARDINE  
Third Assistant Master .. .. E. H. SEVERNE, B.A.

---

Woodwork Instructor .. .. F. W. SANDFORD  
Drawing Instructor .. .. E. P. FENTON

---

Secretary to Board of Governors :

W. BRWLEY, Esq., New Plymouth.

# NEW PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL MAGAZ

JULY, 1908.

## OFFICERS OF THE SCHOOL.

### Monitors—

J. R. Sinclair, O. P. Grey, R. Baily, A. McArthur, B. Glasgow, S. Hurle, E. Day.

### Sports—

GENERAL COMMITTEE—S. Hurle, J. R. Sinclair, E. Day, B. Glasgow, R. Kibby, L. McAllum, A. McArthur.

HANDICAPPING COMMITTEE—S. Hurle, J. R. Sinclair, B. Glasgow, R. Kibby, A. McArthur.

HON. SECS.—S. Hurle, J. R. Sinclair.

### Cricket—

CAPTAIN 1ST XI.—S. Hurle.

DEPUTY CAPTAIN—J. R. Sinclair.

COMMITTEE—Captain, Deputy Captain, A. McArthur, B. Glasgow, R. Kibby.

### Football—

CAPTAIN 1ST XV.—S. Hurle.

DEPUTY CAPTAIN—J. R. Sinclair.

COMMITTEE—Captain, Deputy Captain, O. P. Grey, R. Ribby, F. Brown.

## EDITORIAL.

**W**ITH this number we enter on the second stage of our existence, with the confidence that the present issue will meet with the same success as did the last.

The original proposal was to publish twice a year, but we now feel justified in doing so every term.

Although we are a young institution compared with four or five of the leading schools of the Dominion, yet we are old enough to possess traditions, and a Magazine is the very best means of keeping these traditions alive.

It is hoped that besides furnishing interesting reading matter to present pupils, that the Magazine will foster a spirit of loyalty, not only among boys actually attending the school, but among those who have gone out into the world. Old Boys can do a great deal for their old school if their efforts are organised and systematic, and the Magazine will supply that link between the Present and the Past, which is so much needed.

The question of a residential establishment will also be given prominence to in the pages of the Magazine. If our school is to take its proper place among other similar institutions, it must have a boarding school. Adequate funds have not so far been forthcoming, but we hope that the time is not far off when a substantial building will be erected for the accommodation of outside pupils.

## CRICKET.

### SECOND ROUND CUP FIXTURES.

#### HIGH SCHOOL v FIRE BRIGADE.

Fire Brigade—Newsam, c Quilliam b Mr. Ward, 8; Lye, b Mr. Ward, 2; Bullot, c McArthur b Osborne, 2; Billings, c Sinclair b Mr. Ward, 7; Bullot, c Quilliam b Avery, 16; Bullot, b Mr. Ward; Sadler, c Osborne b Avery, 7; Roch, 1 b w Avery, 4; Douglas, not out, 9; Marney, c Bullard b Avery, 0; McIsaac, run out, 1; Extras, 4. Total, 67.

Bowling—Osborne, 1 for 7; Mr. Ward, 4 for 40; Tunbridge, 0 for 5; Avery, 4 for 14.

CRICKET—*continued.*

High School—Avery, 2; Osborne, 2; McArthur, 1; Sinclair, 4; Mr. Ward, 3; Tunbridge, 4; Grey, 0; Grant, 6; Bullard, 3; Quilliam, 0; Baily, not out, 2; Extras, 2. Total, 29.

In their 2nd Innings, High School made 55 runs.

## INGLEWOOD V HIGH SCHOOL.

Inglewood—Sutherland, c McArthur b Osborne, 18; Thompson, 1 b w Severne, 37; Thomas, b Severne, 19; Orbell, b Severne, 3; Dr. Gault, b Severne, 0; Sutherland, b Osborne, 22; Biernacki, c Monk b Hurle, 1; Graham, b Osborne, 12; Harris, b Osborne, 0; Bennett, not out, 6; Robertshaw, b Grey, 8; Extras, 8. Total, 134.

Bowling—Mr. Ward, 0 for 39; Osborne, 4 for 44; Mr. Severne, 4 for 31; Hurle, 1 for 12; Grey, 1 for 11.

High School—Osborne, 0; Sinclair, 0; Monk, 9; Mr. Ward, 8; McArthur, 5; Hurle, 0; Mr. Severne, 14, not out; Grey, 2; Glasgow, 0; Kibby, 0; Baily, 3; Extras 6. Total, 47.

## HIGH SCHOOL V URENUI.

Urenui—Mabin, b Mr. Ward, 31; Foreman, b Mr. Ward, 12; Foreman, c Grey b Mr. Severne, 1; Soffe, b Hurle, 0; Malse, b Hurle, 1; Richards, b Hurle, 24; Lash, c Mr. Ward b Hawkins, 0; Mallet, b Mr. Ward, 12; Thompson, not out, 9; Extras, 2. Total, 92.

Bowling—Mr. Ward, 3 for 30; Mr. Severne, 1 for 31; Hurle, 3 for 10; Hawkins, 1 for 19.

High School—Mr. Severne, 40; Hawkins, 7; Hurle, 2; Mr. Ward, 1; McArthur, 1; Sinclair, 10; Monk, 3; Grey, 6; Glasgow, 2; Baily, 2; Tuohy, 0; Extras, 3. Total 77.

## HIGH SCHOOL V NEW PLYMOUTH.

New Plymouth, 1st Innings—Petty, b Hurle, 9; Cooke, b Osborne, 9; Arden, run out, 0; Billing, c Mr. Ward b Hurle, 8; Whitcombe, b Osborne, 0; Whittle, b Osborne, 4; Cutfield, b Mr. Ward, 9; Anderson, b Osborne, 8; Scanlon, b Mr. Ward, 2; Webster, not out, 2; Webster, b Osborne, 0; Extras, 7. Total 58.

Bowling—Osborne, 5 for 15; Mr. Ward, 2 for 16; Hurle, 2 for 11; Mr. Severne, 0 for 9.

High School, 1st Innings—McArthur, 5; Osborne, 3; Mr. Severne, 5; Mr. Ward, not out, 7; Glasgow, 1; Grey, 1; Sinclair, 6; Hurle, 1; Baily, 0; Mackie, 3; Grant, 0; Extras, 2. Total 34.

New Plymouth, 2nd Innings—Petty, b Mr. Ward, 11; Arden, b Mr. Ward, 2; Whitcombe, not out, 10; J. Scanlan, b Mr. Ward, 1; Webster, b Grey, 1; Whittle, not out, 1; Extras, 1. Total for 4 wickets, 27.

CRICKET—*continued.*

Bowling—Hurle, 0 for 16; Mr. Ward, 3 for 10; Grey, 1 for 0.

High School, 2nd Innings—McArthur, 17; Osborne, 1; Mr. Severne, 10; Mr. Ward, 0; Glasgow, 0; Sinclair, 0; Hurle, 0; Grey, not out, 5; Baily, 3; Mackie, 3; Extras, 2. Total, 41.

High School won from Carrington Road by default.

(End of Second Round.)

## HIGH SCHOOL V OLD BOYS.

Old Boys, 1st Innings—Rundle, b Grey, 8; Hawkins, c Sinclair b Ward, 5; Heldt, b Grey, 0; King, not out, 32; Deacon, c and b Mr. Ward, 1; Arthur, b Grey, 5; Mander, c and b Mr. Ward, 0; Bullard, b Mr. Ward, 0; Carter, b Mr. Ward, 0; O'Loughlin, b Mr. Ward; Extras, 9. Total, 60.

Bowling—Mr. Ward, 5 for 37; Grey, 3 for 14.

High School, 1st Innings—Mr. Ward, 5; Sinclair, 18; Monk, 4; Grey, 1; Grant, 4; Glasgow, 1; Quilliam, 4; Sole, 0; Harle, 1; Osborne, 6; Extras, 8. Total, 52.

Old Boys, 2nd Innings—Arthur, b Mr. Ward, 0; Rundle, b Mr. Ward, 2; King, b Osborne, 1; Hawkins, not out, 8; Deacon, c Sinclair, b Mr. Ward, 2; Bullard, b Osborne, 0; Heldt, b Osborne, 0; Mander, run out, 0; Carter, b Osborne, 1; O'Loughlin, c Monk b Osborne, 2; Extras, 1. Total, 17.

Bowling—Osborne, 5 for 2; Mr. Ward, 4 for 14.

High School, 2nd Innings—Sinclair, 2; Osborne, 11; Monk, not out, 14; Mr. Ward, not out, 0; Extras, 3. Total, 30.

The ploughing up and resowing of the playing field has had a more serious result on our cricket than on our football, as during the latter half of the season there was no ground to practise on at all. One or two attempts were made to practise on the racecourse, but the ground was so bumpy, as to be productive of almost more harm than good. Now that the seed has at last been put in, its growth will be anxiously watched. In case the grass is too weak to play on during the coming season, it has been suggested that some turf be imported from elsewhere, with which to form a wicket ready for matches during the coming spring. If this is done we may look forward to a strong eleven at the end of the year.

Despite their lack of practice, the first eleven were able to fulfil all their engagements, but were not very successful. Quilliam's leaving deprived us of his services as wicket-keeper, and his place was taken by McArthur, while our batting was strengthened by

CRICKET—*continued.*

Mr. Severne, who was the mainstay of our defence. He headed the batting averages for the latter half of the season. Though Osborne had left the school, he still played for us, and needless to say he was a tower of strength in bowling, though he did not strike form with the bat, no doubt from want of practice. A new bowler was discovered in the person of Hurle, who heads the bowling averages.

All our matches this term were played away from our own ground for obvious reasons, and in every case we were unsuccessful. The lack of practice soon manifested itself, as there was a want of confidence and steadiness which is so essential to the game. Next year, with regular work at the nets and a good ground, matters should improve. One feature is to be noted, and that is a rapidly growing keenness in the game. Boys are gradually realising that Football is not the only game in the world—a fault to which we think Taranaki as a whole is rather prone.

## CRICKET AVERAGES.

Batsman	No. of Innings	BATTING.		Total Runs	Highest Score	Average	Place
		Times Not-out	...				
Mr. Ward	8	...	1	26	8	3 5/7	6th
Mr. Severne	4	...	1	69	40	23	1st
Osborne	10	...	1	57	20	6 1/3	5th
Quilliam	6	...	1	11	8	2 1/5	10th
Hurle	9	...	0	14	5	1 5/9	12th
Sinclair	9	...	0	27	10	3	8th
Grant	7	...	0	23	6	3 2/7	7th
McArthur	11	...	2	154	56	17 1/9	2nd
Monk	8	...	0	69	28	8 5/8	3rd
Grey	9	...	1	22	6	2 3/4	9th
Glasgow	9	...	2	4	2	4/7	14th
Baily	7	...	3	27	10*	6 3/4	4th
Kibby	2	...	0	2	2	1	13th
Mackie	3	...	0	6	3	2	11th

\* Signifies not out.

## BOWLING.

	Balls	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average	Place
Mr. Ward	68.6	...	8	205	24	8.7
Mr. Severne	14	...	2	71	5	14.2
Hurle	71.4	...	13	137	24	5.7
Osborne	108.4	...	22	205	28	7.3
Grey	2.5	...	0	11	2	5.5

## FOOTBALL.

## HIGH SCHOOL V KIA ORAS.

Won 14-3

This match, played on the Racecourse Ground, resulted in a win for the High School, although their team was a scratch one.

School kicked off, and for a while play was even. Then a good rush by the School forwards ended in Kibby's scoring. Sinclair's kick missed the uprights by a foot. From the drop out, Grey kicked across the field, and Sinclair, dribbling across the line, scored in a difficult position. Grey failed with the kick. After some play in the Kia Oras' twenty-five, Adlam got the ball from a scrum and passed to Grey, who, in turn, passed to Sinclair; the latter ran through the opposing backs and grounded between the posts. Grey converted. Half time sounded with the score High School, 11; Kia Oras, 0.

On resuming, play was up and down the field for a time. Then, from a line out on the Kia Ora side of half-way, the opposing half passed to his five-eighths, who failed to take the pass. Sinclair snapped up the leather, and, out-pacing the opposition, scored between the posts. The same player took the kick, but failed. Just on the call of time, West, the Kia Ora centre three-quarter, intercepted a pass. He raced down the field and scored near the posts. The try was not converted. The game ended in favour of High School by 14 to 3.

## HIGH SCHOOL V NELSON TEAM.

Won 20-0.

On May 16th the High School played a seven-a-side match against a team composed of Nelson College Boys, then spending their vacation in New Plymouth. Three spells of ten minutes each were played, and, as a stiff breeze was blowing up the field, the winning of the toss gave High School a decided advantage.

High School attacked from the outset. From a scrum about five yards from the line, Hoby let the ball out on the blind side to Baily, who dashed across. Sinclair's kick failed. A passing rush initiated by Hoby resulted in Sinclair's scoring in a good position. Grey failed to convert. There was no further score in the first spell. On renewing the game, School soon had their opponents penned down on their line. Kibby, who was playing a grand game, broke away several times; he had very hard luck, being beaten for the ball just on the line. Then Glasgow headed a dribbling rush, but kicked too hard, Nelson forcing. From the drop out, Kibby got away and kicked over the line. Grey followed up smartly and scored. The same player took the kick and landed a good goal. High School were still attacking; Hoby picked up and passed to Grey, who sent on to Sinclair; the latter kicked over the heads of the opposing backs, and following up, scored. Glasgow's kick was ineffectual. The second spell ended with the score High School, 14; Nelson, 0.

FOOTBALL—*continued.*

Early in the final spell, Ron. Quilliam charged down a kick by Sinclair, and matters looked serious for High School, but Okey saved well. Then Glasgow took the ball up the line and some uninteresting play followed, till the School forwards worked the ball up the line; where, from a scramble, Grey scored. Sinclair failed to convert. Shortly afterwards Grey obtained possession and scored behind the posts. Baily's kick was fruitless. No side sounded with play still in Nelson's twenty-five. The final score was High School, 20; Nelson, 0.

## HIGH SCHOOL V OLD BOYS.

Lost 12-3.

The opening match of the season was played on April 23rd, on the Racecourse Ground. The Old Boys' combination was a very strong one, including, as it did, several of the best players of last year's team. The game had to be confined to two spells of thirty minutes, as another team wanted the ground. This was in favour of the Old Boys as they were hardly as "fit" as the School fifteen.

Shortly after the kick-off, Reg. Quilliam obtained possession from a loose rush and scored near the corner. Ellis's kick was not successful. Still keeping their opponents on the defensive, Old Boys started a good passing rush, which ended in Ellis crossing the line. No goal resulted. Just before the close of the spell, Grant picked up about quarter way, and, beating the defence with a tricky run, scored behind the sticks. Again no goal. The first spell ended with the score, Old Boys, 9; School, 0. During the second spell, the game was of a much more even character, yet, in spite of School's efforts, Laing scored another try for Old Boys, but it was not converted. Then the School livened up considerably, and Kibby, with a good rush, transferred play to Old Boys' twenty-five, where Sinclair, securing from the loose passed to Grey, who, after a good run, scored in the corner. The attempt at goal was fruitless. For the rest of the spell, school continued to attack, but the defence was sound. The game ended with the score, Old Boys, 12; School, 3.

## HIGH SCHOOL V OLD BOYS.

Lost 12-6.

On May 25th High School met Old Boys in a seven-a-side match, but as rain fell during the whole of the game, good football was out of the question. Old Boys kicked off, and, by smart following up, smothered the return. After some even play, School worked the play into Old Boys' twenty-five, where, from a penalty, Sinclair kicked a goal. After the kick-out, School continued to attack. From a line-out, Hoby got the ball away to Grey, who transferred to Sinclair; the latter, beating the opposing wing, scored near the posts. Grey failed with the kick. The first spell ended with the

FOOTBALL—*continued.*

score, High School, 6; Old Boys, 0. In the second spell, Old Boys, playing with the wind, made things lively. From a scrum on the School line, Ellis scored on the blind side. The same player made a good, but ineffectual attempt to convert. Shortly afterwards, Grant scored a good try from a passing rush. No goal resulted.

In the third spell, it was expected that High School would have the better of the game; but a try registered against them by Quilliam immediately after the kick-off seemed to demoralise them. Old Boys kept play on the School side of half-way. Then Heldt broke away with the ball at his feet, but Baily saved. Just before time, Grant picked up, and, streaking for the line, scored in the corner. The angle was too difficult for Ellis to make anything of the kick. No side sounded with the score, Old Boys, 12; High School, 6.

## HIGH SCHOOL V. OLD BOYS (seven a side)

Won 6-3.

This match was played on 3rd June. The weather, being fine, a good game resulted.

Old Boys kicked off and School immediately rushed play into Old Boys' twenty-five, where Sinclair picking up from the loose, cross-kicked to Clarke, who had no difficulty in getting over. Sinclair's kick failed.

After some play, Kibby passed back to Sinclair, who ran round the opposing backs and scored. Grey's kick struck the post, but went outside. The spell ended with the score High School 6, Old Boys 0.

In the second spell Old Boys had somewhat the better of the game, and from a scramble A. Grant got over in the corner. The try was not converted.

The third spell opened with a vigorous attack by Old Boys, but, though they kept play in School's twenty-five, they were unable to score.

Thus an evenly-contested game ended with the score High School 6, Old Boys 3.

The departure at the end of last term of S. Hurle, Captain of the First Fifteen, necessitated the election of a Vice-Captain and one Committee member. P. Grey and P. Ambury respectively were elected to fill the vacancies.

FOOTBALL—*continued.*

The football team has one or two disadvantages to labour under this year. One is the loss of many of last year's team which set up a standard not easy to emulate. With the loss of forwards like Quilliam and Coker, and backs like Osborne and Grant, the team has started this season with a very heavy handicap. These losses have been added to by Hurle's leaving in the first term. Along with Grey and Sinclair, Hurle made a nucleus in the back division, which gave a permanence and solidity to the machinery of the team, and his going has been a heavy blow to the back division. However, we must do our best from the material which remains to work up to last year's form.

Another serious drawback has been the want of a ground. Thanks to the courtesy of the Star Football Club, we are able to play on that team's ground in the racecourse, but the inconvenience of the ground's being rather far away has taken the keenness off the edge of one or two waverers.

The number of boys whose parents object to football has been in excess of the numbers in previous years, and consequently the roll of active members is not quite so large as formerly. We do not presume to dictate to parents with regard to such matters, but we cannot help feeling that they are judging the game by the style of play seen in Cup fixtures. Accidents there are caused by unhealthy club feeling, and also by the fact that those playing in such matches are men. It is a rapidly growing opinion that football is a game for boys—not men. It is a very rare thing indeed for boys to be hurt when playing against other boys. During the past ten years there has not been a single case of anything but the most trivial injury in our school matches. Moreover there is no doubt whatever that the interest shown in the school games teaches a boy to keep his temper, and strengthens his character for a stronger contest that awaits him afterwards. It also tends to make him take a greater interest, not only in the school life outside, but inside.

Coming to the team itself, we think that at present they have not yet reached last year's standard. The forwards are rather light, and Grey's transference to three-quarter and Brown's to scrum-half have accentuated this. But when they have "settled down to the collar" so to speak, we think they will give a good account of themselves. We have the Stratford match before us, and the Napier and Palmerston matches to follow, so that assiduous practice must be the order of the day.

## THE TEAM.

OKEY—Full-back; not very good at taking the ball; an accurate though not a powerful kick.

CLARKE—Wing three-quarter; one of last year's forwards; safe, but not brilliant; tackling fairly good.

FOOTBALL—*continued.*

AMBURY—Three-quarter; also one of last year's forwards; fairly fast, but rather lacks dash.

BROWN—Half-back; gets the ball away well; fair kick; will do better when he knows more about the position. Should go down more to rushes.

MACE—Wing-forward. Plenty of pluck and dash; rather light; Good tackler.

TUOHY—Wing-forward. Good in the loose. Should watch more for chances on the line out. Good tackler.

KIBBY—Lock. Our best forward. Always on the ball. A regular "Dreadnought;" always accounts for his men, and a few to spare. The mainstay of the forwards. Heads most of the rushes.

MULLOY—Quite new to the game, but a fast and reliable man. Could do more work in the loose. Has the makings of a fine forward.

BAILY—Forward. Fair kick; rather gentle in his play. Should learn to have more control of the ball when dribbling.

MARTIN—A good forward. Follows up well, and a hard worker.

MACKIE—Has not played very much this year; fairly fast, and should, with training, make a good forward.

GLASGOW—Hooker; a fine dribbler; lacks dash; honest worker.

HOBV—Hooker; good worker, both in tight and loose; with Glasgow, makes a fine front ranker.

SINCLAIR—Centre three-quarter; with Grey, the mainstay of the team, fast, and a strong runner; a good kick; tackling his weak point. The best man in attack in the team.

GREY—Five-eighths. A fine kick and splendid tackler. Certainly the best defensive man in the team. Hardly runs enough.

## HIGH SCHOOL v OLD BOYS.

This match, played on a Saturday, was not very interesting, as the Old Boys did not muster in sufficient force. With the aid of some substitutes however, a good game resulted. Tries were gained by Sinclair and Grey in the first spell, and by Kibby in the second spell. Hawkins for the Old Boys potted a goal. Score: School 9, Old Boys 4.

## HIGH SCHOOL v KIA ORAS.

We played this match on the Star ground. After a most interesting game, which was confined chiefly to the forwards, we won by 12 points to 5 points. Sinclair gained two tries, and Kibby one, and Sinclair placed a penalty goal. For Kia Oras West scored a try, from which a goal was kicked.

## FOOTBALL—*continued.*

### HIGH SCHOOL V OLD BOYS.

This match was played at Western Park. The Old Boys had put in a very strong team against us, including Coker, the two Grants, Laing, and Osborne; so that the combination—practically last year's team, was a very formidable one, and our team must have been quite two stone lighter all round. Old Boys won by 20 points to nothing. I. Grant 4 tries; Osborne 2 tries; and a goal from one of the tries. The game was not so uneven as the score would show, and we were beaten by Grant's pace, and the weight of the opposing forwards. For us, Grey, Sinclair, and Kibby did yeoman service. Mackie played a plucky game at full back.

## GYMNASTICS.

It is very pleasing to note the increased interest which is being taken in Gymnastics this year. Several of the boys are particularly enthusiastic, and seek every spare moment in which to improve themselves. Though no one boy can rival the wonderful form shown by Grant last year, the all-round standard of work is much higher. Mr. Lints is naturally delighted, and proposes to challenge some other school, say the Napier or Palmerston High School, to a competition. It is hoped that such a display can be arranged.

## THE POND.

There now seems to be a prospect of boys being able to bathe during the Summer months, without going down to the Henui river or the Municipal baths. Mr. Percy Smith, whose interest in the cultivation of nature is well known, has induced the Board to grant a sum for reclaiming part of the raupo swamp, with the idea of making Swimming Baths. During the early part of the first term, a gang of Natives under Mr. Smith's supervision, were employed in constructing a dam. The result is that now there is a fine sheet of water which should afford good bathing.

So far there has been a difficulty with an underground spring, which causes a leakage. This trouble Mr. Smith intends to remedy. Some of the raupo too is growing again, but this can be cut from time to time.

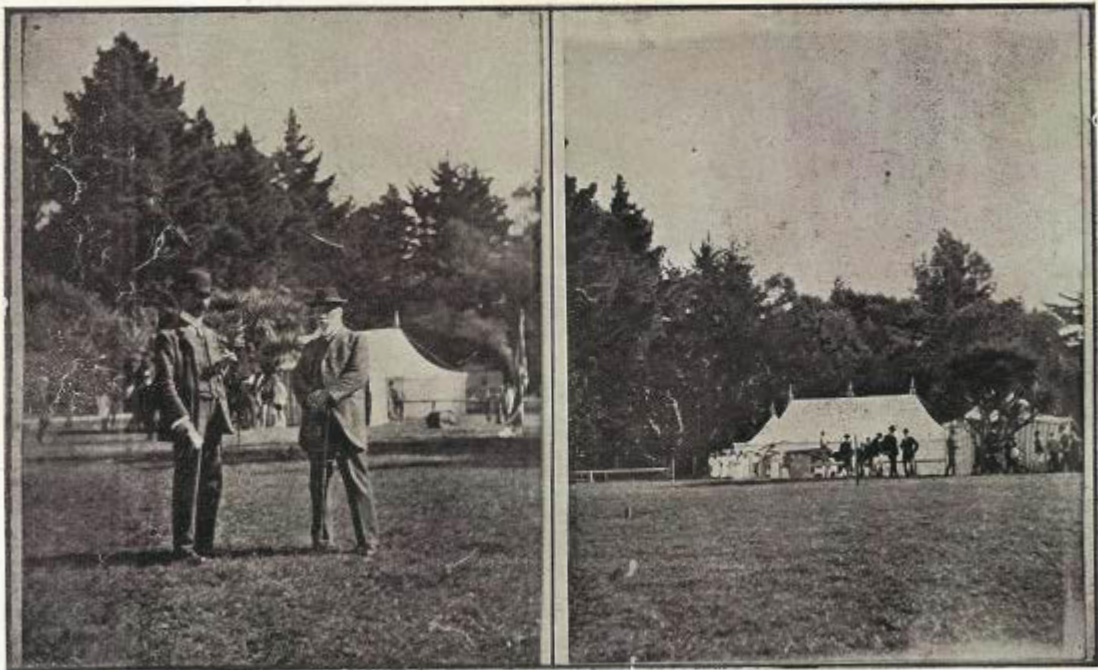
A few weeks ago Mr. Smith obtained a further grant from the Board of £10 to be expended in tree planting, and already some Native shrubs have been put in.

In time we should have a very pretty spot, which eventually will be a Pukekura Park in miniature. In fact, what was a wilderness, is already showing marks of attention and cultivation. No doubt as time goes on, the boys will themselves show interest in planting, and help to beautify the surroundings of the pond.





HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS, MARCH 12. 1908



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS, MARCH 12.

## THE SPORTS.

Owing to our ground having been ploughed up, we were obliged for the first time in the annals of the school to have our Sports on a public ground. Luckily we were able to hold the meeting on the beautiful grounds of the Pukekura Park, which the Sports Association allowed us to use. Though it was in many ways inconvenient to carry out the necessary arrangements away from the school, yet we had a beautiful course, which the runners no doubt appreciated. For the afternoon tea, a large marquee was erected, which, though a makeshift from a sentimental point of view, answered its purpose admirably.

The hero of the day was Sinclair, who showed himself the best all-round athlete at present in the school. Hurle ran a very good second in the open races, but was not quite up to Sinclair's standard. Of the juniors G. Hurle and P. Wright were easily the most promising, and should be heard of in school athletics later on. P. Webster again showed his great turn of speed, and though penalised too heavily in the 100 yards, won the Old Boys' 220 yards in fine style.

As the Sports Committee wished to preserve the ground for the coming football season, we had to strike the Hurdles event from the programme, thus losing perhaps the most attractive event of the day.

We were wonderfully favoured in the weather; a light southerly was blowing which, while tempering the heat of the sun, was not strong enough to cause any discomfort. There was a good muster of parents and friends. Messrs. Wilson and Glasgow and Dr. Fookes kindly acted as judges. The following are the details of the racing:—

150 Yards (under 14)—P. Wright, 1 yd., 1; Fleming, 4 yds., 2; Warren, 10 yds., 3. Also started: Sole, scr, Little, 1 yd, Grant, Dowling, Simpson, Wood, 3 yds, Colson, 4 yds, H. Shaw, J. Grey, 6 yds, Rundle, 8 yds. Won by five yards. Time, 20 secs.

100 Yards (over 15)—Sinclair, scr, 1; S. Hurle, scr, 2; Martin 12 yds, 3. Also started: R. Baily, 9 yds. Won on the tape.

High Jump—Sinclair, owes 7in., 4ft 8½in, and S. Hurle, owes 6in, 4ft 7½in, dead heat, 1; Mackie, 3in, 3.

100 Yards Handicap (under 15)—Hurle, 2yds, 1; Clarke 2; Wright, 5yds, 3. Also started: McArthur, scr, Okey and Tuohy, 2yds, Howell, 3yds, Mackie and Norris, 4 yds, Sole, 5yds, Little, 6yds, Grant and Mulloy, 7yds, Fleming, Colson, Simpson, Blanchett and Shaw, 8yds, Dowling, 9yds, Grey and Rundle, 10yds, Warren, 12yds. Won by three yards. Time, 11½ secs.

100 Yards Handicap (old boys)—McIsaac, 12yds, 1; Grant, 11yds, 2; Day, 11yds, 3. Also started: L. B. Webster, owes 10yds, Harle, 1yd, Heldt, 5yds, Monk, Tunbridge, Perry, 10yds, I. Grant, scr. Time, 11 secs. Won on the tape.

SPORTS—*continued.*

440 Yards Handicap (under 15)—Clarke, 1yd, 1; Mulloy, 15yds 2; McArthur, scr, 3rd. Also started: Tuohy, 2yds, Hurle and Okey, 4yds, Mackie and Howell, 5yds, Sole, 10yds, Little, 12yds, Dowling, 15yds, Grant, 20yds, Warren, 30yds. Time, 1.3 3-5. A hard race.

880 Yards Handicap (open)—I. Grant, 20yds, 1; A. Grant, 50yds, 2; Day, 50yds, 3. Also started: Harle, 10yds, Heldt, 25yds, Perry, 40yds, Monk, 45yds, McIsaac and Tunbridge, 50yds, Martin, 75yds, Okey, 80yds, Howell, 85yds. Time, 2.8. Won easily.

440 Yards Championship—Sinclair, 1; S. Hurle, 2; Baily, 3. Also started: McArthur and Mackie. Time, 58 1-5 sec. Won by several yards.

220 Yards Handicap (school)—Sinclair, owes 4yds, 1; S. Hurle, owes 2yds, 2; Clarke, 10yds, 3. Also started: McArthur and Baily 5yds, Tuohy, 7yds, Hurle, Glasgow, Mackie, Okey, 10yds, Martin, 11yds, Howell, 12yds, Norris and Smith, 15yds, Dowling and Grey, 18yds, Blanchett, 20yds, Warren, 25yds. Time, 25 4-5 sec.

Girls' Race—K. Tobin, 1; E. Wallach, 2; E. Gilbert and P. Clemance (dead heat) 3.

220 Yards Handicap (old boys)—L. B. Webster, owes 15yds, 1; A. Grant, 18yds, 2; I. Grant, scr, 3. Also started: Monk and Perry 15yds, Tunbridge, 18yds, Day, 19yds, McIsaac, 20yds. Webster sprinted from the start. He ran a very pretty race and won by an exceedingly narrow margin. The time was not taken.

One Mile Handicap—Sinclair, scr, 1; Baily, 75yds, 2; Glasgow 150yds, 3. Also started: Mackie, 100yds, Okey, 130yds, Howell and Mulloy, 150yds, Dowling, 180yds. This was a fine finish, Sinclair only just catching the eye of the judge. No time was taken.

## SCHOOL NOTES.

## NAMES ON ROLL.

R. Adlam, G. Baker, R. Baily, R. Blanchett, L. Bellringer, F. Brown, F. Clarke, E. Day, B. Dowling, R. Gaukrodger, B. Glasgow, A. Gray, P. Grey, N. Howell, S. Hurle, G. Hurle, S. Hoby, Heppell, R. Jackson, R. Kibby, N. Little, H. Mackie, L. McAllum, A. McArthur, V. Martin, A. Matthews, R. Okey, Philpott, C. Quilliam, G. Sykes, J. Shaw, T. Tuohy, W. Whitton, C. Wright, C. Norris, W. Simmons, J. R. Sinclair, T. Clemance, Fleming, Grant, Grey, Henrichs, Hooker, Rider, Rundle, Shaw, Simpson, Smith, Sole, Sykes, Warren, Wood, Wright, Colson, Mulloy, Mace, Whitham, Day.

Gaukrodger and S. Hurle of the Seniors, and Day of the Juniors, left during the term.

SCHOOL NOTES—*continued.*

For want of something more exciting, the boys usually spend the few moments they have to spare in playing a kind of Association-Rugby-Northern Union rough and tumble game of "footer" in the confined space in front of the gym. Shouts of "Pull him down" and "Roll him in the mud" assail the ears of the studious ones who prefer to have one last glance at their imperfectly prepared home-work.

An interesting ceremony took place at the close of a drawing lesson the other day. On behalf of the form, Master \_\_\_\_\_ was presented with a squeaking-doll, as a slight token of the esteem in which he is held by his fellow-students. The recipient suitably responded.

A decided acquisition to the Cricket Team is Mr. Severne, whose tricky "slows" wrought such havoc with the Inglewood team. Although he played in only three matches, Mr. Severne heads the batting averages with the respectable figure of 29½.

The Sixth form room is at present infested with a species of cultured and intelligent rodents. Scorning such common-place articles as batting-gloves and football boots, etc., they suddenly became filled with a desire for classical knowledge. Proceeding to Sinclair's desk, they started to devour a volume of "Selections from Latin Authors," but evidently wearied by the difficult constructions of Livy and Vergil, and also by the toughness of the cover, they turned their attention to a treatise on "Elementary Botany," which they eventually left in a mutilated condition. Efforts to annihilate these ferocious animals by means of dissolved match-heads, spread on pieces of bread were unavailing. We deeply sympathise with Sinclair in his affliction.

We take this opportunity of welcoming our new drawing-master Mr. E. P. Fenton, who took up his arduous duties about the middle of last term. Mr. Fenton is extremely popular with his pupils.

The Senior Room now rejoices in the possession of a Cocoa-Club, with a membership of eight. Financially it is a very "stable" concern (although its members are not horses, as their appetites might suggest), having a credit-balance of 8d, which surplus it is proposed to expend in procuring table decorations. However, it is highly improbable that the executive, a very staid body, will countenance such extravagance. Many and varied were the proposals received in drawing up the code of rules. The following are a few of the choicest—(1) "No member shall use a cup, the capacity of which exceeds one quart" (2) "Any person damaging, or in any way interfering with the property of the Club, shall be compelled to drink one cup-ful of a solution, consisting of ink, cocoa, soap, methylated spirits and match-heads." If any person, not noticing the word "methylated" on the label of the bottle, should be tempted to imbibe, a proceeding which would be against the express laws of Club, man, and digestion, it was unanimously resolved that the members should form themselves into a Vigilance Committee.

SCHOOL NOTES—*continued.*

An epidemic of pun-making has seized the School. In all probability the contagion was caught from Coker, last year. A certain person, who shall be nameless, is reported to have perpetrated the following: "Queen Dido died o' fever." The "punster" evidently agrees with the Irishman, who said "It is better to be a coward for five minutes than be dead all your life," for when he makes a pun, he generally makes a bee-line for the door, followed by a shower of missiles.

The School is to be congratulated on the results of the last examinations. Out of 22 who went up for the Continuation and Civil Service examinations 20 passed with credit, and Grant was eleventh on the list for the whole of New Zealand. Out of 7 who sat for the Matriculation examination 5 passed. The Scholarship examination results were most gratifying. Though we failed to gain the first place, most of the High School candidates were high up the list, and five gained scholarships.

The Old Boys' Club has vacated the premises which they occupied last year, and sold their Billiard table. They have generously voted the balance which remained, after paying their liabilities, to the School Sports Fund. The interest on the sum will provide prize money for two races every year, until such time as the Old Boys' Club will again require the money.

At the last meeting of the High School Board of Governors, a sum of £7 was voted to defray the cost of the new matting, the account for which has been outstanding for some time. We wish here to express our cordial thanks to the Governors for their generosity.

The second Dux Shield is so filled up with the names of previous "duces" that another board will have to be procured.

Owing to the confined space for recreation during recess, boys find it difficult to put in the time. Luckily the gymnasium has been found an agreeable distraction, and also a new game of "footer," which has evolved out of the confined playing ground. In the spring, it is to be hoped that the pond will be in proper order for bathing to be indulged in.

The pond is looking well, and the recent rains have filled it almost to overflowing. We shall be anxious to see the effect of the underground spring, which at present has made no noticeable effect on the supply of water. In the hot season however, the leakage will be apparent, and some skilled labour will need to be brought into requisition to stop the outflow.

Owing to the Concert which the school girls propose holding at the end of the present term, our own entertainment must be postponed until the succeeding term. We wish the girls every success.

SCHOOL NOTES—*continued.*

The accident to Norris's ankle reminds us that boys should be warned against trying dangerous tricks, when Mr. Lints is not present. Regular practice outside of the actual lesson is most essential to progress, but nothing should be attempted which has any element of risk in it, unless some elder boy, or other responsible person be present.

The number of candidates for the Matriculation examination is in excess of previous years. As a form they seem to be doing good work.

The Golf Club, though numerically small, is enthusiastic, and its members never miss an opportunity of tackling the "Colonel" when football does not interfere. The Club Championship was won by Glasgow, with Baily runner up. A new nine hole course has just been laid out. Occasionally a foursome is enlivened by some "slight bickering," and "honourable debate."

Two boys who deserve especial praise for the way in which they turn up to football practice, are Hoby and Martin. These boys have a long ride home, Hoby five miles and Martin nine; and yet both attend as regularly as any one else.

We were very pleased to hear that Martin's saddle—which had been taken by some sneak thief—has been recovered. Boys who ride to school must be careful to place their saddles and bridles in a safe place, where the same, or another equally unprincipled stranger will be unable to steal them.

The Sports Ground is still very uneven, and will require a good deal of rolling before it will be fit to play on. The grass is coming up nicely, and given a mild winter, we should have a fine sward in the spring.

We are sorry to record that Hoby will be unable to play football for the rest of the season. He is feeling the results of a strain received some months ago. With his loss, we are deprived of the services of one of our best forwards.

## OLD BOYS' COLUMN.

[By H. F. AND A.O.]

Donald MacDiarmid is at present studying at Dunedin University. He will probably be joined by Jack Dockrill next year.

H. R. Billing has been appointed manager of Messrs. Weston and Weston's Inglewood branch.

"Bob" Cutfield had the misfortune some weeks ago to hurt his foot. He is now, however, progressing favourably, but will be unable to fill his place in the New Plymouth Hockey Seniors.

Herbert O'Loughlin, of the local staff of the Bank of Australasia, has been promoted to Auckland. Hugh O'Loughlin is also in Auckland.

OLD BOYS'—*continued.*

R. P. Quilliam and T. Ellis have joined Messrs Govett and Quilliam's staff. They represented Old Boys against the school this year.

R. D. Coker and D. Laing have joined the staffs of the New South Wales and Australasia Banks respectively.

Arthur Osborne is in the local branch of the New Zealand Insurance Company. During the cricket season he played for his old school, and has been playing for Old Boys on the football field.

I. Grant has joined Messrs. Roy and Nicholson's staff. He played for Old Boys on more than one occasion, and was responsible for a goodly number of the points registered by the team.

D. Harle is now at Wellington College.

Onslow West is on the reporting staff of the *Daily News*.

G. N. Morey and H. Smith have taken up chemistry, and are both with Mr. W. Fraser, Chemist, New Plymouth.

G. Mander is in the New Plymouth Branch of the Union Steam Ship Company.

Our Old Boys are represented at Nelson College by R. H. Quilliam, J. N. Bullard, and Eric Shaw. "Ron" is playing for the first fifteen, and during the cricket season was a member of the second eleven. Bullard has been handicapped by an attack of scarlet fever, from which he has lately recovered. He and Shaw are playing in junior fifteens.

Eric Cutfield is in Messrs. Arch Clark's Warehouse.

D. L. Collis is in the Native Court Department of the Auckland Government offices.

P. Tunbridge, who was for some time pupil-teacher at the Central School, has joined the Railway Department.

Syd Paul, who is working in Wellington, has this season been conspicuous on the football field. He has been playing full-back for Poneke Seniors—this team includes the famous "All Blacks" Wallace and Mitchinson.

Edgar Osborne is now assistant to Mr. McKay, Dentist, Gore.

V. Tate is this season playing wing three-quarter for Clifton Seniors.

G. Osborne is "putting in" his final year of his Medical course at Dunedin University.

On April 21st at Hamilton, Mr. Campbell L. MacDiarmid was married to Miss Olive Graham. His honeymoon was spent in Auckland and the surrounding district.

Basil Thompson was successful in passing his Dentist's examination at Dunedin last November.

H. M. Bauchope, who is farming in the Hawke's Bay district, has been spending a short holiday in New Plymouth.

G. Hawkins has been playing full-back for Star Seniors this season.

OLD BOYS'—*continued.*

Mr. Harold Clark is now practising in Whangarei. He is ably assisted by his brother Cyril, better known to Old Boys as "squib."

Dick Davies is studying Law in Wellington.

We regret to hear that "Tim" Matthews has been in bad health of late. We trust that England's summer will see him back at his studies.

T. King is playing for Victoria College first fifteen. During the cricket season he represented Taranaki against the New South Wales teachers.

H. Cook is also at Victoria College.

In North Taranaki Senior Cricket last season R. Baker obtained the best bowling average. He is now keeping terms at Victoria College.

Alex MacDiarmid has been promoted to the rank of Captain of the Wellington Highland Rifles.

W. Perry is a member of the Tukapa first junior vanguard.

A. McIsaacs has joined the staff of Messrs. Standish & Standish, Solicitors, New Plymouth.

H. Fraser is on the staff of the *Taranaki Herald*.

Mr. William Bayly left a few weeks ago on a six months' tour of England and America.

Eric George is studying Electrical Engineering at the Sheffield (England) University. In a recent letter he says he much prefers the New Zealand climate.

Harry Avery is at present taking a holiday in England.

## CRICKET—PAST AND PRESENT.

It would probably surprise many who take part in what seem firmly and often finally established sports and pastimes, if they could view the state their favourite relaxations presented some century or more ago. Such enquirers would often find to their astonishment that laws and regulations which govern the games at present, and which appear as unalterable, not to say necessary, as those attributed to the Medes and Persians, were not only unnecessary, but quite unthought of in the recent past. This is as it should be, since it shows that people still take a sufficiently vital interest in the games they hold dear to think of and initiate improvements in them. Who would imagine, for instance, that the Englishman's national game--Cricket--which he propagates wherever he roams, was once like football, his other great pastime, an interdicted sport banned by royal proclamation, under penalty of both fine and imprisonment. Yet this is an historical fact and was the case in the reign of Edward III., who included the game among pastimes, which he denounced as "*ludos inhonestos, et minus utiles aut valentes.*" And yet again in the reign of Edward IV., in 1477 to be exact, a decree was issued

CRICKET—*continued.*

that anyone who allowed the game to be played on his premises, was liable to three years' imprisonment and a fine of twenty pounds, and any player to two years' imprisonment and a fine of ten pounds—the implements to be burnt. Clearly cricket, in those days, was an affair for bold spirits who were prepared to take risks. Referring to these enactments, a writer in 1766 says justly as follows: "This is perhaps the most severe law that has ever been made against gaming, and some of these forbidden sports seem to have been manly exercises, particularly the handyn and handout, which I should suppose to be a kind of cricket, as the term hands is still retained in that game." How well illustrated is the old saying that History repeats itself, is well seen in the diatribe not long since pronounced by a great Imperialist writer on the modern followers of the game! And how similar the occasions for each pronouncement! Edward III feared that archery would suffer owing to his subjects' predilection for cricket and football; our modern Imperialist apprehends, under similar circumstances, a lack of well-trained rifle shots to further Imperial interests. To this it might be replied that the men of the former period were certainly not found wanting in times of national stress, whether the interdict had much force or not, and presumably their modern successors have sufficient virility to attend to national defence in addition to pursuing their national pastime. This is a point to which further reference will be made in the course of this article. To show that the statutes forbidding the playing of certain games, among which was included cricket, were not mere dead letters, the following instance may be quoted. In the reign of Elizabeth there was a waste piece of land in a certain parish of Guildford, and this was enclosed by an innkeeper for the purpose of affording his patrons opportunity for participating in cricket. A lawsuit was the result of his action, and a verdict was returned ordering the garden to be laid waste again and disenclosed. However, in the eighteenth century the game became popular, and is mentioned by some of the leading writers of the period, such as Swift and Pope. In 1740 it was decided that cricket was not an illegal game, the Court of King's Bench holding that "it is a very manly game, not bad in itself, but only in the ill use made of it by betting more than ten pounds upon it, but this is bad and against the law."

Cricket is seen then to be slowly winning its way to popular approbation; even Princes took part in it at this period: the Prince of Wales died in 1751 from internal injuries received at the game. Even then, however, numerous critics condemned the commingling of patrician and plebeian in the pursuit of the game, and it was not till the early part of the nineteenth century that cricket emerged as a national game.

CRICKET—*continued.*

Modern cricket of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries is on an altogether different basis to its prototype of former centuries. To enumerate first of all some of the differences in the actual playing of the game. The term cricket itself comes from the Saxon *cric* or *cryc*, a crooked stick, cricket bats having at first a sweeping curve at the base, which made them available for hitting only. They were broader and more cumbersome than the implements at present in use—the present style of bat seems to have been adopted about the year 1825. At first and for a long while no wickets were used but a hole was made in the ground at the spot which the wickets now occupy, and if the ball upon being struck by the batsman was returned to the hole before the striker could insert his bat in it, he was counted out. This kind of play led, according to the writers of the period, to unseemly strife between batsmen and fielders, often much to the disfigurement of the latter's hands, and accordingly in the process of time a single stump was adopted about eighteen inches high, which was displaced by the ball instead of holing the same. The date of the addition of a second stump is unknown, but the two stumps were placed about twenty-four inches apart, with a connecting cross bar on top, the height being one foot. The style of stumps in use in 1743 is described by a modern writer as "A skeleton hurdle about two feet wide and one foot high." So the form of the stumps remained for many years, till at length the obvious possibility of balls passing between the stumps without dislodging the crossbar was obviated by the addition of a third stump, with bails connecting all three as at present; the height of the stumps was also raised to twenty-four inches, and the width decreased to seven inches.

The runs were apparently scored literally, namely by notching each individual run on a stick. The characteristic conservatism of the British temperament is well shown in the storm of disfavour which greeted the introduction of round-arm and afterwards over-arm bowling, in place of the under-arm style, which was prevalent till well into the nineteenth century.

A professional named Walker, of the Hambledon Club, is generally admitted to have introduced the new style of bowling about 1785; but owing to outcries on the score of unfairness, the innovation was repressed, and efforts made to revive it were unsuccessful until about 1825, when, after much controversy, it was finally adopted as the prevalent style of bowling. As there has thus been an evolution in the manner of playing the game so a corresponding evolution has taken place in the game from a spectacular point of view. Village cricket, often promoted for the sake of gain by innkeepers, and cricket played by people of leisure in private grounds, constituted the chief branches of the game for many years. Travelling teams of professional players afterwards toured parts of the country, thus

CRICKET—*continued.*

popularising the game, and on the dispersal of some of the old clubs the disbanded members spread a knowledge of the game far and wide. By enlisting popular support, the great extension of the game in recent years has been rendered possible.

That cricket is the Englishman's natural game at present there can be little doubt. Whereas football has tended to split up into a number of diverse codes, each of which claims a certain section of adherents, the great Summer game remains unique, requiring the same obedience to its rules from all its adherents. Again, no doubt, the conditions under which cricket is played, the green fields, the absence usually of very trying weather conditions, the pleasant gossip and kindly criticism that accompany the course of the game, these and other factors unite to enhance its value in popular estimation. Once more it is a game that can be played with pleasure to an age at which football devotees have long since ceased to take any active part in their favourite pastime. A game which can thus retain its hold on the esteem of the player and which admits of being pursued with pleasure for so many years of his life, is surely worthy of being singled out as a national pastime. Cricket again excels many games in that it requires a constant use of the judgment in addition to calling forth the muscular powers to the full extent. In many sports an error of judgment may be often rectified without getting one's side into trouble; but a batsman must be constantly on his guard defeating by anticipation the plans of the bowler. The influence of such a splendidly developed and well-organised national game on the character of the people must be indeed far reaching. Prince Ranjitsinghi relates how a German who had witnessed a cricket match between two county elevens expressed his astonishment, not only that a crowd of between twenty and thirty thousand people should be present at the game, but that such perfect order should prevail during the play, that the services of but four or five policemen were deemed abundant in view of possible contingencies. A similar gathering on the continent, this critic continued, would have required the services of perhaps two hundred guardians of the peace. And the reason for the orderliness of the English spectators was their absorbing interest in the national game, causing them to think only of gaining an uninterrupted view of the game.

In an earlier part of this article reference has been made to the view now held by many that the Englishman's devotion to his national game or games is harmful from an international point of view, and many critics would have us cast off or greatly diminish our allegiance to cricket and football in order to train ourselves after the continental plan for home defence. As far as physical results are concerned, it can hardly be argued that the Englishman is less well developed by his national sports than the citizen of the continent by his compulsory military service. The Englishman derives not

CRICKET—*continued.*

only physical benefit from his sports but enters into them with cumulative zeal and enjoyment, while his brother on the continent is only too often filled with disgust at the enforced drill at a period when he should be spending his time in embarking upon his chosen career. National defence is no doubt a pressing question; but it will evidently not be answered by abandoning stimulating and pleasurable sports, the expression in many ways of national life, in favour of rifle shooting and the study of military tactics. The attempt to foster cricket and football in French and German schools and the progress made by these games among adults in these countries, show that they realise how far from foolish it is to imbue their youth with a love for a wholesome, manly sport, which can be relished apart from merely practical considerations.

Such in brief outline are a few of the thoughts and considerations that arise in one's mind while reflecting upon the history of this great game. Whether cricket will continue indefinitely to enjoy its present high estate or whether it is destined to succumb eventually owing to the increasing stress of modern life, which leaves so few people with the necessary leisure to become proficient in the game, at least none will deny that it has exercised a most beneficial influence on the national life by bringing all classes of the people together for a mutual, pleasurable and wholesome purpose. For such services, therefore, we may well be pardoned for sounding the praises of our national game.

## SCHOOL ATHLETICS.

Is too much importance attached to Athletics in our schools—the great Public Schools of the Mother Country, and those modelled on the same lines in her Colonies? This is the question that has for some time been calling forth all sorts of criticism from all sorts of critics; critics competent and critics feeble; critics who have been athletes themselves; critics who have not been athletes themselves, but are broad-minded men, whose opinion is worthy of consideration; and arm-chair critics, who have never in their lives played a game more manly or more exhilarating than “marbles,” or “kiss-in-the-ring.”

According to three particularly well-qualified writers on this subject, one of whom has been physician at a famous English school for nearly forty years, the permanent benefits which have been conferred by games upon boys during school-life, and thereby upon the character and directed energy of the nation, cannot be over-estimated or adequately appreciated. To put the blame for “athleticism” on the schools is ridiculous; the failing—if it be a failing—is national, and neither public school boys nor public school masters think a whit more about games and athletic heroes, than our manual labourers in mine and workshop and factory.



SCHOOL ATHLETICS—*continued.*

Dr. Dukes says—"School games not merely tend to generate a well-balanced mind and character, but they instil, also, into the boy-nature, as nothing else can, glowing spirits from robustness of health; quick response to calls of duty in place of lethargic habits; good temper under testing circumstances; a love of justice and fair play, which becomes ingrained for life; self-reliance; endurance; confidence in comrades; a desire to excel, which may develop into a noble ambition; rapid judgment; aptness to act unselfishly with others for the benefit of all; courage under difficulties; and self-control. In fact most games form an exercise concurrently to muscles and brains, and involve both swiftness of observation and quickness of decision.

Physical exercise, finally, rises above even bodily and mental development, and possesses a dominant share, especially in youthful life, in the cultivation of virtue. Every encouragement should be given to the young to become manly, energetic, and enthusiastic at their games, as the basis of a fine training for the healthy and ingenuous energies of after life. And not only so, but the happy recollections and experiences, as well as the attained skill, of the games of boyhood confirm the habit of exercise in early manhood, when physical recreation is manifestly so important. In schools where games are not encouraged, there can only arise an unmanly precocity; the boys develop into premature "men of the world," and the schools become tainted with the undesirable features of "society."

The Hon. George Lyttelton, while upholding the value of athletics in schools, shows that there is something to be said for the critics who consider that athleticism is too dominant a factor in the life of our public school boys. "It is quite impossible," he says, "to give an adequate idea of the veneration with which the most prominent athletes are regarded; experience of it alone can do so. Let it suffice to say that in the eyes of the school at large, the chief performers at the various games can do, or say, no wrong—their position is more absolute than that of the Pope, and from their decisions there is no appeal. For no one who has been to a public school requires to be told that to the boys of the lower forms the captain of the eleven is a far more awe-inspiring figure than the headmaster."

Mr. Lyttelton, speaking of Eton, refers to the nervous strain on a boy's mind in the higher flights of cricket, for there the game has lost its primary object, which is recreation; it has nothing of recreation about it; it is the real business of life, oppressive and almost ludicrous in its seriousness. Instances have been known of boys thankful for a rainy day, or even an injury, as bringing some brief respite from their anxieties, and many are the sleepless nights spent by those who aspire to the honour and glory of the eleven. We

SCHOOL ATHLETICS—*continued.*

have not yet reached the pitch of hysterical enthusiasm displayed in America, where grave senators burst into tears at the defeat of the institution which they represented forty years before, but perhaps we are not far from it.

In an English Public school the chances of those who aspire to representative honours are eagerly discussed, and their performances daily recounted. The body of the school is far more engrossed in the prowess of the school Eleven than in playing the game themselves. For days before the principal school match excitement is at fever heat; during the match itself all other games are left off, the whole school assembles round the protagonists to yell themselves hoarse with delight or dismay, and the excitement takes some time to settle down. The match is fought over again ball by ball, and the heroes of it are exalted to demigods in the eyes of their fellows.

Where the real success of the system appears is not so much in the more distinguished circles as in the rank and file of the school. Here there is no thought of individual glory; the battle is for the victory of the side, it may be house or form, and it is in this kind of game that the real value of athletics as well as the most lasting pleasure is to be found. There must be many, now grey-haired and rheumatic, who still cherish memories of a football match snatched out of the fire, or a last wicket stand with some old comrade against the cock house of the year. These are some of the things that go to form the charm of school life, and lay the foundation of character; and when one calls to mind the triumphs won, the crises survived, the hardships overcome, and above all, the life-long friendships formed on the playing fields of Eton, or in the "Close" of Rugby, one is inclined to cast judgment aside and vote with the immortal school debating society, which declared its unanimous conviction "that too much athletics is a good thing."

Speaking of the "Close" of Rugby, brings to my mind some lines from a poem of Newbolt's, a poem by which he earned for himself the position of schoolboy laureate, and no boy is too sophisticated to respond to the straightforward appeal of his *Vitai Lampada*:

"There's a breathless hush in the Close to-night,  
Ten to make and the match to win;  
And a bumping pitch and a blinding light,  
And an hour to play and the last man in;  
And its not for the sake of a ribboned coat,  
Or the selfish hope of a season's fame,  
But his captain's hand on his shoulder smote:  
Play up, play up, and play the game."



320

16

1/2