



MARCH, 1924.

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# The Bloxhamist

VOL. L.

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## NOTES.

**A**T the end of last Term we lost the services of the Rev. V. C. Roberts, who had been with us for four years. We were very sorry to have to say good-bye to him. He had always shown great interest in the various activities of the School, and the School "Rugger" owes not a little to his help and advice. We wish him every happiness and success in the future.

We welcome to Bloxham Mr. M. R. Hull, B.A., Durham, who has joined the Staff this term.

Another change to record is Captain Jacob's resignation of his command of the O.T.C. To the great regret of every member of the Corps, Captain Jacob severed his connection with the Contingent at the end of last term. He had been O.C. for the past five years, and had worked indefatigably for its well being. He hands over the Contingent in a very high state of efficiency to his successor, Lieut. M. R. Hull. Lieut. Hull is being assisted by Mr. Hirons, who has been gazetted 2nd Lieut.

## OLD BLOXHAMIST SOCIETY.

**A** GENERAL Meeting was held at the Holborn Restaurant on January 14th, 1924, when the President, Prebendary E. M. Lance, took the chair. The Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting which were passed. The accounts were presented, showing a balance of £32 16s. 8d. for the year ending October 31st, 1923.

F. C. Footner and L. C. Vaughan were elected on the Committee to take the place of the two members retiring according to the Rules.

A Vote of Thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings, and the Members adjourned to another room for the O.B. Dinner.

New Members :—W. J. Mullins (1916-21) ; R. G. Mullins (1916-20) ; R. B. Coombes (1915-20) ; V. H. S. Davenport, M.B.E., M.C., D.C.M. (1889-92) ; T. F. Kingston (1922-23) ; K. F. Morris (1921-23) ; A. Davy (1919-23) ; C. S. H<sup>^</sup> Hawkes (1917-23) ; J. E. Marshall (1922-23) ; J. H. Gregory (1920-23).

## OLD BLOXHAMIST DINNER.

THE 43rd Old Bloxhamist Dinner was held on Monday, January 14th, at the Holborn Restaurant. The Chair was taken by the Provost, The Rev. Preb. E. M. Lance, and others present were:—Rev. F. H. George (H.M. 1919—); Rev. T. Guest Blofeld (C. 1917—); E. A. F. Mould (1865-73); L. A. Shuffrey (1865-67); Canon T. Hands (1868-74) \ R- H. Read (1868-72); Canon G. J. Boissier (1869-73); E. A. Minty (1869-74); W. H. Lockey (1870-74); A. Chevallier Tayler (1871-77); F. B. Palmer (1872-79); K. H. Bird (1872-78); F. C. Footner (1881-85); R. J- Sainsbury (1881-88); Capt. L. G. Langmore (1882-84) I G. H. Shephard (1883-85); L. C. Vaughan (1885-88); Major H. H. G. Mitchell, O.B.E. (1885-89); T. C. Ovenston (1886-89) ! Lieut.-Col. J. E. Lewis, D.S.O. (1888-89) ! Capt. G. H. Moore (1890-95); H. A. I. Machen (1892-95); J. S. Stooke-Vaughan (1893-96); Rev. F. J. Winterton (M. 1895-02); T. R. Taylor (1902-06); C. A. Bernays (1902-05); J. E. Inman (1907-10); I). A. Neale (1911-17); F. V. Wickham (1916-21); E. J. Laker (1916-19); E. V. Laker (1916-20); B. M. R. Gale (1916-23) and Father; G. W. R. Caine (1917-22); L. C. Caine (1917-23); A. R. Holness (1917-18); L. Trendell (1917-19); L. E. Law (1917-20); E. C. Woods (1917-21); M. O'D. Bell (1918-20); E. W. Warrick (1919-23); D. Foot (1919-23).

Letters were received from C.J.Wilson (1860-65, M. 1866-17, S.I). 1896-17, R.R.O.B.S. 1917—); Dr. A. H. Boissier (1866-73, M.O. 1899-22); J. S. Chatterton (1878-84); Dr. J. P. Westrup (1876-77); Paymaster Rear Admiral R. Clutton Baker (1876-78); Col. H. A. R. May, C.B., V.D. (1872-79); Capt. F. A. Salmon (1885-92); J. H. Salmon (1914-20); Major General Bruce M. Skinner, C.B., C.M.G., M.V.O. (1872-74); J. J. V. Unwin Clarke (1882-87) > J. E. Marshall (1922-23); T. F. Kingston (1922-23); N. C. Oates (1921-23); E. W. Taylor (1903-06); K. F. Morris (1921-23); R. F. Worth (1921-23); Dr. D. F. Kennard (1886-1891); A. E. Fordham (1895-98); F. Kinch (1869-75); B. J. G. Wood (1912-13).

The Chairman at the conclusion of the dinner proposed the toast of " The King," which was duly honoured.

This was followed by the toast " Floreat Bloxham," also proposed by the Chairman. The Provost said he considered it a great honour to take the chair on this occasion, but, as he was President of the Society—a fact of which he had only just been made aware—there was no need for him to apologise. It was three and a half years, he said, since he first became acquainted with Bloxham. On that occasion he went down to distribute prizes, but he feared the Headmaster had some sinister object in asking him to come, as he barely escaped with his life. He was sent to the station in a rickety old cab, and half-way there the wheel came off. He eventually caught his train in a milk-cart.

The first view he had of Bloxham, he said, was charming; he was delighted with the artistic buildings and greatly struck with the picturesqueness of the whole place. He came away with an altogether pleasing impression. Soon afterwards he was made Provost of Lancing, and in his first term paid his first official visit to Bloxham. Previously he had seen only the outside of the buildings, but on this occasion he saw the inside. It was not quite so beautiful. He found that there were many drawbacks, and many wants and many difficulties with which the Headmaster had to contend, and he resolved to give him every support to improve the buildings. They then needed a really up-to-date laboratory and adequate changing rooms; and the roofing of the whole School was pronounced by an architect who came to inspect it, to be in a very dangerous condition. However, an O.B. on the Chapter, who had founded the Egerton Scholarships and was well-known for his generosity, offered to give the laboratory, and though the amount reached a larger figure than anyone had expected, he paid to the very last penny. The next matter was the roofing, and he (the chairman) had to ask the Chapter for a grant of £2,000. His predecessor spoke in favour of this, and the Chapter granted the money, though it had not yet all been paid! To-day, the Chairman said, the worst part of the roof had been put in order: the laboratory was completed, and most delightful changing rooms had been fitted up. The Headmaster had now a much better machine to work with than he had five years ago—but he was not satisfied; he was contemplating a swimming bath. There was one other thing also that needed improvement. An army marched on its stomach, and it was true, the Chairman thought, that a school worked on its stomach. The Chairman suggested that some O.B. might like to perpetuate his name by providing a new kitchen—the " Smith Kitchen " for example, or the " Smith Scullery."

About education in the School, the Chairman said he could say nothing, as he did not know anything about it.

Continuing, he said the religious tone of the School, thanks to the Chaplain, was well maintained. With regard to the Chapel, a parent of one of the boys at Bloxham had volunteered to complete the reredos by painting it. The result of his work was most effective and had improved the Chapel to no small extent.

With all its difficulties with regard to buildings, Bloxham, he said, had flourished in the past and would flourish in the future, especially under its present Headmaster—Mr. George.

The Chairman then spoke of a former Headmaster, Mr. Ward, who had recently been promoted by the Bishop of Ely to be Archdeacon of Wisbech. This was a great honour to the School and to the Society. In former years, masters of Woodard schools had been ear-marked, and promotion was unlikely, but that was now all a thing of the past.

Next year, he said, the present Headmaster might be seen in gaiters !

There were pessimists, continued the Chairman—and sometimes he was unable to exclude from their number the present Headmaster who said there was a slump coming for public schools. There might be a slump at other schools, but it was up to O.B.'s to keep Bloxham full, either by sending their sons or recommending the School to their friends. " Floreal Bloxham," ended the Chairman, " and I hope Bloxham *may* Sourish, and turn out as fine men in the future as those I see before me."

The Headmaster, replying to the toast proposed by the Chairman said he knew more of the Provost **as** Provost than anyone in England. He was his Provost when he was at Taunton, and now again after he had come to Bloxham, so no other Headmaster had had him as Provost for so long as he. All schools, he said, over which the Provost had had control owed a great deal to him, and this was true of Bloxham. In the past there was a suggestion that the Woodard Society did not do much for Bloxham, but that was not the case now, and this fact was due to the Provost more than anyone else. The Provost, however, had not been so kind to him personally this evening, as he had taken out of his mouth a great deal of what he was going to say—the story of the new buildings formed the greater part of the history of the past year. He had, however, omitted to mention the cricket pavilion—now a fine building, thanks to the generosity of yet another O.B.

Speaking of education, the Headmaster said lie had the greatest admiration for the attitude of O.B.'s, who were at School in former days, with regard to examination results. In those times, he had heard, there was great excitement during the days immediately preceding the publication of results, and universal rejoicings when they were announced. That this was not so nowadays he thought a pity. Nowadays boys did not care, or they pretended not to care. There were no jubilations. Nevertheless he was not sure these reports of old days were not coloured a little. He then referred to the visit of Mr. Boissier, with his brother Canon Boissier (he was uncertain whether they were both Canons), which he regarded as the chief event of the year. Mr. Boissier stayed three days, and was very satisfied with all he saw. He was, the Headmaster said, an inspiration to all, with his enthusiasm for Bloxham and his love of the place, but especially so to himself, as being an old Headmaster. With Mr. Boissier, he could talk in a different way about past times. He related a story about an Englishman and a Scotchman playing golf together. During the game they came to a large bunker where they had to separate. Though they were hidden from each other's view they could hear the sounds of each other's strokes. Eventually they came out on to the green together, and " Like as we lie! " the Englishman cried, " Ah, ye may lie as ye like," replied the Scot, " but

ye played 7." And so it was with regard to tales of the past—he did not believe all that he heard. Bloxham changed, no doubt, he said ; it had never been the same as it was under Mr. Egerton's remarkable personality, and it never would be. But boys, he said, were always the same, and probably used not to be as enthusiastic over work as they were said to be. However that might be, in the past year the record of the Annus Mirabilis had been broken, and Mr. Wilson himself had acknowledged the fact. According to the official records which have been kept from the time of the first entries in the Locals in 1864, six more seniors passed last year than in *any* previous year and there were better results in the Juniors than for some time.

With regard to games, Rugger had taken a firm hold on the School. Unfortunately during the present season a month's frost had caused some trouble and prevented an O.B. match, which had been arranged, from taking place. The School was really keen on the game, and no one wanted to go back to Soccer. In his opinion, the Headmaster said, Rugger was the better game—better lor the prestige of the School in these days, and for the formation of character. In cricket they did not do so well as in the old days, although this season on the wtiole the cricket was better than it sometimes appeared to be. They hoped to improve in cricket, and he thought they would do so now if a professional could be engaged to provide practice against good bowling.

The O.T.C., a very important branch of school life, had been very successful. He regretted that Colonel May was not there to hear about it. All the N.C.O.'s had obtained Certificate " A," and twelve more had taken the first part of it before Christmas, and had all been successful. Last year nine had passed, so probably that number would now be beaten.

The health of the School had been more satisfactory during the past term, the Headmaster said, than ever before in his experience (of 30 years). This state of affairs he put down to the new changing rooms. The old ones were open to N.E. winds and were atrociously damp. The new ones were warm and sheltered. People used to blame the climate for colds ; but the climate of Bloxham was good, he said, and he was sure the old changing rooms used to be responsible for much of the illness. However, there was one more term to go yet, so he had better touch **w o o d** ! The Provost, he said, had referred to the unfortunate swimming bath. The position was that the \\\ ater Company had said they could have water but would give them no guarantee. Though it might seem foolish for him to keep on talking about the swimming bath and to do nothing, it would be even more foolish for him to stand up and say that a large hole had been dug, **but** there was **no** water with which it could be tilled. And so the hole would not be dug until they could get a guarantee that there **would** be a sufficiency of water.

Founder's Day, now a moveable feast, would be celebrated this year on July 12th. Last year all who came down were pleased with the alterations to the buildings, and he hoped that this year still more would come. If possible O.B.'s should come on the Friday afternoon (the nth). A very large number of visitors came on that day last year—nearly 400. It was much the best time of the year to come, he said, as there was always the cricket match, prize-giving, and a Shakespeare play. Of course they were always glad to welcome Old Boys on All Saints' Day, but they could not do very much for them at that season of the year. So he urged all who could to come on July nth and 12th, and the more the better.

Books were still needed for the boys' library. During the past year two very handsome volumes had been given by O.B.'s, one of them by the author himself. They had an abundance of theological books, so that they did not need any more, but of other kinds of books they were always in need, and would be glad if any O.B.'s could send them some. They did not, of course, want books that were of no use to their owners or anybody else!

The Headmaster then spoke on the question of keeping the School at full strength. For this purpose he urged O.B.'s to do all they could in recommending the School to others, and at the same time to remember that the fees were much higher now than they used to be in the old days. If they did not remember this they would probably tell people that they went to Bloxham on so much a year, and when their friends wrote to Bloxham they would find out that things were far different from what they were expecting. He might be called a pessimist, but all the same it was going to be very difficult to get boys. He had recently been playing golf with five other Headmasters, and they all said the same thing, so all help that could be given was wanted.

Further, parents were finding it exceedingly difficult to find openings for their sons when they left School. If anyone had any positions to offer or knew of any, he asked them to think of Bloxham. He ended with many thanks for the good wishes for the School.

The Chairman was unfortunately obliged to leave early to catch a train, and was unable to stay for the remaining toasts. He received a hearty send-off. His place in the chair was then taken by Canon G. J. Boissier.

Mr. R. J. Sainsbury next proposed the toast of "Absent Friends." All were agreed, he said, that it was a most extensive and comprehensive toast, embracing, as it did, all those on the long roll of Bloxham, from those who began her history down to those on the previous term's "Valeté" list. It was a period that extended over more than 60 years, and the names on the roll must have numbered several thousands. Indeed an army of Absent Friends I

Of the O.B.'s present each in his separate sphere could visualise old faces and remember peculiar characteristics of his own contemporaries. All sorts there were: some grave, some gay, some bright, some dull, some quaint. He mentioned some of his own time, 40 years ago, among others a boy with an insatiable appetite for apples, and two others who shared the name of Jackson. Any number of old acquaintances, he said, would come to mind, and he could only talk of those of his own time. But there was one above all, one whom all knew, and whose fidelity and noble zeal for Bloxham all recognised—C. J. Wilson, there at the first, and still there now, as interested as ever in Bloxham and in every Bloxhamist individually. Mr. Sainsbury placed Mr. Wilson among the prophets of the nineteenth century. One Good Friday, he said, he, together with a number of others, accompanied Mr. Wilson on a walk. He remembered the latter saying that in former times the observance of Good Friday was much stricter than then, it being considered not right even to talk. He then went on to say how every utterance of the human voice pulsed far through space. He was speaking of wireless (and that in 1885), said Mr. Sainsbury, though with the great modesty characteristic of him he would probably disclaim any such thing. It was the speaker's wish that every O.B., young and old, would give Mr. Wilson a large place in his toast, and drink to his health with affection and regard.

For all omissions and deficiencies—it was a toast, he said, worthy of great oratory—he begged to ask pardon, then bade all present to remember Charles J. Wilson and all old pals and comrades.

The Secretary, responding, said that he had received letters from several O.B.'s, and of course one from Mr. Wilson who wished to be remembered to everybody.

The Secretary said that the highest number ever present at an Annual Dinner, Mr. Mould informed him, was 64. This was one year (the date could not be remembered) when the dinner was held at St. James's Hall. The numbers had been increasing again of late, and this year there were more present than there had been for several years past, so he lived in hopes of seeing that record beaten. Mr. Mould also informed him that this was the 44th Annual Dinner and that he (Mr. Mould) had been present at 38 of them.

The Secretary then remarked on the question of having musical items at the dinner. Some wrote and asked him to have music, and some said cut it out, so this year he had had printed on the notices that any help with the musical programme would be greatly appreciated. He had received one reply to this, to the effect that if he were pushed for someone, the writer would do something. So this year he had cut out the music. He would always be glad if anyone had any suggestions to offer or any improvements to make.

Mr. F. B. Palmer, rising to propose the health of the Chairman, said he did not know whether he was supposed to speak about the absent Chairman or the present occupant of the chair (Canon G. J. Boissier). He was better qualified, he said, to talk about the latter, as they were contemporaries together at school. All knew how well through life Canon Boissier had borne out the tradition of Bloxham. But, Mr. Palmer said, he had come prepared to talk about the Provost, and about him he would say two words. Firstly, he would speak of his connection with Bloxham on educational grounds. Bloxhamists, he said, belonged to the largest voluntary educational body in England, and the absent Chairman was Provost of the Southern Division of this body, and senior Provost of the whole, taking the chair at the Annual Corporation Meeting held at Lancing. Bloxham had been regarded as the Cinderella of the Woodard schools, but if this was so, the Provost was her fairy godmother, in all the work he had done and the encouragement he had given to the Headmaster. Secondly, the Provost had a close connection with Bloxham on personal grounds, for both he and Mr. Egerton were Old Wykehamists. Bloxham was the child of that great foundation of William of Wykeham, said Mr. Palmer, and it was to that great School that the inspiration of Mr. Egerton was due ("Dulce Domum"—the Wykehamist song—was always sung at our Concerts and was reckoned our School Song). The Provost's health was then drunk.

Canon Boissier, responding, said that it had been a very pleasurable experience for him to come once again to the dinner, and to get again into the Bloxham atmosphere. It was the same atmosphere as it was years ago, and was easy to recognise again. He agreed with the Headmaster as to being aware of old tales. If one paid a visit to the School to-day one would find many improvements. In the old days, things were rather amateurish: to-day they were more scientific.

He would not for a great deal have missed seeing his old friends once more—Mould and Lockey, the cricketers, Tom Hands, and Chevallier Taylor (around whose pictures, whenever he saw them, he always found a little crowd gathered) and Palmer. The School bond he said, was very wonderful. First of all, of course, came the family bond, and next after that the School bond. His work brought him a great deal in contact with the working classes, and the one thing they wanted, he said, was the public school. They had no esprit de corps; they were too much for self: they had no idea of corporate life and fellowship. It was the public school which gave the first lesson in esprit de corps, and in playing for the side, and provided that corporate life which was the foundation of religious life.

Canon Boissier then thanked the Headmaster for coming up and being present at the dinner. He also wished to propose, from the Chair, a hearty vote of thanks to the worthy Secretary, and to place

on record the deep debt of gratitude that was owed him. He then proposed the Secretary's health, and ended by expressing thanks for the toast of "The Chairman."

Mr. Read, seconded the motion of a hearty vote of thanks to the Secretary. He knew, he said, the labour and trouble of a secretaryship and advised anyone who wished to do a work of great use to get such a post. Digressing for the moment, he said he wished to call attention to the fact that the ten years from about 1870-80 (his own years were 1868-72), were represented more strongly at the dinner than any other like period, there being ten of that time present. He expressed his great pleasure in seconding the motion, and the health of the Secretary was then drunk.

The Secretary, replying, said that he was pleased to hear about the record of Mr. Read and his contemporaries, but he had had it brought to his notice by younger members present that O.B.'s who were at School between the years 1916-23 were there that night in even greater force than those of Mr. Read's time, there being twelve of them present. So they were coming on! He hoped in time that Mr. Mould's 64 at a dinner would be beaten. His own period from about 1906-12 was the worst, but he hoped that this state of things would soon be rectified. He was very grateful for the vote of thanks that had just been carried.

## O. B. NEWS.

### TERM III., 1923.

VISITORS.—Rev. H. R. Willimott (C. 1904-17); H. J. S. Walkley (1917-21); W. J. Mullins (1916-20); R. G. Mullins (1916-21); E. W. Warrick (1919-23); G. D. Hardwicke (1918-23); Rev. S. F. Leadley Brown (1886-93); Rev. R. A. E. Harris (1902-05); Lieut. E. Jacob (1918-19); O. C. Webber Jones (1919-21); A. R. Holness (1917-18); Rev. F. S. Boissier (1865-71, S.M. 1878-86, H.M. 1886-98); Canon G. J. Boissier (1869-73); A. Paul Boissier (1891-94); Commander M. E. S. Boissier, D.S.O. (1895-98); J. W. N. Bonner (1883-88), E. J. Brooks (1873-75), and wife; H. C. Brooks (1912-14); F. B. Palmer (1872-79); S. J. Shuffrey (1895-97), and wife; H. R. J. Birch (1918-21); R. B. Coombes (1915-20); D. F. Sutton (1916-23); T. F. Kingston (1922-23); E. V. Laker (1916-20); D. J. Heath (1918-23).

## BIRTH.

OCTOBER 9th, 1923, at Shanghai, to J. T. Read (1896-00) and Mrs. Read, a son, Raymond George.

## MARRIAGE.

JANUARY 9th, 1924, at Sheffield, Captain L. A. Winch (1909-15), son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Winch, The Avenue, Trimley, Suffolk, to Doris Simpson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Higginbottom of Norton Lees, Sheffield.

## DEATHS.

JULY 9th, 1923, Augustus Mervyn Marsden Jones (1907-10). In 1909 he obtained his Junior Gym. Colours, leaving the following year to join the *Worcester* training ship for Mercantile Marines, where he obtained first-class extra certificates for seamanship and scholastic work and also the King's Medal. In September, 1913, he joined the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., and during the great war he was taken into the Royal Naval Reserve, rising from Mid-shipman to Lieutenant and serving on various ships, and after the Armistice in the Mine Clearance Service in the iEgean, Dardanelles and Black Sea. In March, 1923 he gained his "Masters" certificate when chief officer on R.M.S.P. *Sarthe*, but on 9th July, 1923 he died on duty at the age of 27. R.I.P. As a memorial, his father has furnished a room, known as Mervyn's Room, at Toe H., Southampton.

SEPTEMBER 27th, 1923, Ernest Edward Palmer (1870-74), aged 63—a son of Mr. G. J. Palmer, the well-known Founder and Proprietor of the *Church Times*, which has always stood up for the Catholic Faith and Practice and which is read all over the world. R.I.P.

NOVEMBER 21st, 1923. William Bannard Bennett (1862-64). As will be seen he was one of the very early Bloxhamists. Since leaving School he has been farming at Adderbury, taking an active part in parish matters and for many years he sang in the choir of his Parish Church. After a seizure which rendered him unconscious, he passed peacefully away on the 21st of November. R.I.P.

DECEMBER 17th, 1923. Henry Dawkes (TI.-III. 1870). Owing to a long very serious illness he had recently retired from his post as an official under the City of London Corporation, which he had held for many years. He had become prominent in Freemasonry, being a member of several Lodges and Chapters. The burial took place in St. Marylebone Cemetery after a preliminary service in Finchley Parish Church, where he had served as a sidesman for many years. Owing to his affection for his School he had named his house "Bloxham." R.I.P.

## ORDINATION.

ON the 4th Sunday in Advent, by the Bishop of Southwark in his Cathedral, Arthur Esmond Selwood Riddle, B.A. (1903-09), Worcester College, Oxford, and Westcott House, Cambridge, to the Curacy of The Lady Margaret, Walworth.

THE Rev. T. Brancker (1887-90), Vicar of St. Mary's, Selly Oak, was the preacher at the Advent Ordination in Birmingham Cathedral on St. Thomas's Day.

THE Rev. G. S. Hand (1893-98), late Chaplain to the Bishop of Thetford and for the last ten years Rector of St. Lawrence's, Norwich, has been appointed by his Bishop, Rector of St. Philip's, Antigua.

G.S. PRATT (1916-20) has obtained an appointment in the Asiatic Petroleum Co. Ltd., at their Depot in Shanghai, where J. T. Read (1896-00) is the Managing Engineer.

F. C. FOOTNER (1881-85) has been appointed manager of the Watford Branch of the National and Provincial Bank.

THE Rev G. H. WARD (H.M. 1899-14), has recently been appointed Archdeacon of Wisbech, by the Bishop of Ely, and has also been elected Proctor in Convocation. With his extra engagements it is feared that he will not now be able to find time to write the supplement to our School History—still there is hope according to the old saying "It is busiest men who find the most time to do things."

DEEP sympathy will be felt by O.B.'s for R. J. Gifford Read (1866-70), commonly known as John Read, and his family at the sudden death from heart failure of Mrs. Read, nee Holt, who in the early days had her three brothers here. It is well to remember that John Read and T. F. Holt were the first secretaries when the long-talked-of Annual O.B. Dinners were started in 1875. John Read, together with two sons, has always been a devoted Bloxhamist. While at School and ever since he has done great credit to the School. Not only did he distinguish himself in the Locals and the games when here, but as a Civil Engineer he has made himself a name in designing and carrying out great works of *various* descriptions. To mention only two amongst them, namely, the designing and carrying out the erection of the Blackpool Tower—the highest erection in England—and later a great water supply at Berwick. During the war he gave up his private practice and undertook important work for the Admiralty at Immingham Docks and at Ardrossan Harbour and also erecting a Fort commanding the entrance of the Tyne. With his brother, R. H. (1868-72), who also distinguished himself at School and afterwards, he owns the Cadogan Iron Works at Chelsea, where much ammunition was made for our Army during the war. John has now retired and much sympathy will be felt for him in his affliction in back and legs after severe operations last year for internal trouble.

ON All Saints' Day there was placed in the Ante-Chapel near the two War Memorial Tablets a "Book of Remembrance" presented by Colonel H. A. R. May, C.B., V.D. (1872-79), containing the war

service of O.B.'s in the South African War (1899-02) and in the recent Great War (1914-19), compiled chiefly by The Rev. H. R. Willimott and continued by Mr. C. J. Wilson. This Colonel May has had typed and beautifully bound. A fuller account will be given in our next BLOXHAMIST.

WE thank J. S. Chatterton (1878-84), for the two interesting volumes on Rood Screens of the West of England. Some of the beauties of the screen in Dartmouth Church were brought to light by the Father of an O.B. He, helped by his Curate, set to work carefully to remove the top coat of paint and so revealed the original.

### SCHOOL NEWS.

VALETE, December, 1923.—J.V. Bingham, Via. (Crake), Prefect, 2nd XV. Colours, Captain of Gymnasium, Sergeant O.T.C. A. Davy, Via. (Heads), Prefect, 1st XV. Colours. R. P. W. Potter, V**1b**. (Wilberforce), Prefect. M. A. M. Lock, V**16**, (H.M.H.), Sub-Prefect, Running Colours, 2nd XL Cricket Colours, 1st XV. Colours. D. C. Carey, IV. (Wilberforce). A. W. Cox, Rem. (Wilberforce). S. S. Everett, V. (Wilberforce), 1st XV. Colours. E. C. Gibbons, Rem. (H.M.H.). J. H. Gregory, Via. (Wilberforce). C. S. H. Hawkes, V**16**. (Crake). E. E. Law, IV. (Crake). R. K. Lowe, V. (H.M.H.). J. E. Marshall, IV. (Crake). F. A. Roads, IV. (Crake). G. B. Smith, IV. (Crake). W. F. I. Taylor, V. (Wilberforce), 2nd XV. Colours.

SALVETE, January, 1924.—C. Bealby (H.M.H.). L. A. R. Bonney (Crake). C. W. Chamberlain (Prep.). W. S. A. Henman (Crake). H. J. C. Walker (Wilberforce).

We offer our congratulations to :—

F. R. Crump on being promoted to Prefect; to L. H. Pratt, C. R. Evans, T. D. R. Aubrey, G. Gray on being promoted Sub-Prefects; to F. D. Hibbert, M. Lock, L. H. Pratt, S. S. Everett, K. B. Birch, A. Davy and F. Trainin on being awarded 1st XV. Colours, and Aubrey, Brown, Bingham and Taylor (J. T.), 2nd XV. Colours.

ENTERTAINMENT.—The Entertainment at the end of Term was as usual in two parts. Part I. was supplied by Mr. Goldring's Concert Party, and then came the annual Christmas Play. The Play chosen this year was a Play in one Act, from a story by W. W. Jacobs, entitled "In the Library." The following was the cast :—

James Fletcher	Mr. E. C. Smith.
Pragton Burleigh	Mr. E. T. Hirons
The Burglar	Mr. S. L. Ware.
Sergeant of Police	Pratt.
Constable	Marshall.

It was a good show and we offer our congratulations and thanks to all concerned.

CHES AND DRAUGHTS CLUB.—The annual Competitions in Chess and Draughts for the School Championships were held during the Michaelmas Term. There were quite a good number of entries. The Chess Competition was won by D. Gale, and the draughts by A. Mead.

### HOUSE NOTES.

#### "Head's" House.

*Football.*—We drew to play against "Crake," and after a very good game we just won on time by 16 points to 14 points. At the end of the 1st half we were leading by 11 points to 0 points, but we had to continue the game without M. Lock, the stand-off half, who was injured. In the 2nd half the "Crake" forwards played well and completely dominated the game. Thanks to a fine breakaway by Foster we managed to reach the "Crake" 25, whence we scored the deciding try. Our points were scored by Aubrey and Wheat. Against "Wilberforce" we succumbed to a better combined team by 19 points to 3 points. The "Wilberforce" halves played a very good game, and made many openings, which were not always stopped. Aubrey scored our try after a good run in which he out-paced the "Wilberforce" full-back.

*Team.*—Phillips; Hall, Foster, Wheat (Capt.), Aubrey; Lock, Gale; Brown, Davy, Napier, Barnes, Powell, James, Smith, Musgrave. Owing to Barnes being unable to play against "Wilberforce," Good took his place.

We were unfortunate in having Jones on the sick list.

We congratulate A. Davy and M. Lock, on obtaining their 1st XV. Colours. We are sorry that they have left us; their loss is very much felt.

In the Junior House matches we drew against "Crake" and after a good game our advantage in the speed of our halves and three-quarters told, and we won by 20 points to 0 points. Barnes and Good played well as forwards, and Young, Butler, Fowler and Gale, played well in their respective places outside the "scrum." Against "Wilberforce" our juniors played very well and owing to the pluck of the forwards and the speed "outside," we just won by 8 points to 6 points.



Young saved us several times by his tackling. The notable feature of both sides was the clean handling of a greasy ball. By winning both matches we won the Junior Cup.

*Team.*—Mead ; Butler, Young, Lightfoot, Fowler ; Gale, Williamson ; Good, Barnes (Capt.), Whitehead, Hutchings, Adams, Wells, Allen, Pittar.

#### "Crake" House.

J. V. Bingham succeeded E. W. Warrick as House Captain in September, and at a House Meeting held early in the Term, Bingham was elected Captain of Football.

We congratulate F. R. Crump on being promoted to be a School Prefect.

*Football Cup.*—Our first match against "Heads," was a very close affair, only two points separating the two sides. Score :—"Crake," 14 points, "Heads," 16 points. In the match against "Wilberforce" a somewhat scrambling game ended in a win for us by 2 tries to nothing.

*Junior Football Cup.*—We lost both games in this competition, and in consequence the one little lonely cup has left our shelf.

#### "Wilberforce" House.

*House Football Cup.*—v. "Crake." Played on November 14th, and resulted in a win for "Crake" by two tries to nil. Our hopes of retaining the Cup were considerably lowered by this result. It was fast, but the play was very poor. Owing to the tactics of the "Crake" team it resulted in a duel between the forwards, with an occasional break-away by our three-quarters. Considering the greater weight of the "Crake" scrum, our forwards held their own very well, but they were never quick enough on the ball, and did not work together well. Taylor and Trainin were the most prominent, both in the loose and tight scrums. White played well at full back, but his kicking was rather weak at times. As in this match last year, we were without Pratt who was again suffering from knee trouble.

*Team.*—White ; Potter, Gray, Hibbert, Hurst ; Miller, Everett ; Wroughton, Taylor, Willoughby, Matthews, Fawdry, Sammons, Trainin, Evans.

v. "Heads." We fully avenged our defeat at the hands of "Crake" by winning this match quite easily, the score being two goals and three tries (19 points) to one try (3 points). We had an entirely re-arranged team, and it proved much more successful.

Soon after the start, Trainin scored, and the try was converted. Hibbert scored soon afterwards, but failed to convert. Just before

half-time, Aubrey scored for "Heads," and thus at the interval the score was 8—3.

In the second half we played down the slope, and three tries were scored in the first ten minutes, one by Pratt and two by Hibbert. There was no more scoring after this, but "Heads" fought desperately hard for points. Our forwards played much better than against "Crake," Taylor and Morgan-Smith being conspicuous in the loose. Everett played extremely well as scrum half, and it was chiefly due to him that the "Heads" three-quarters did not see more of the ball.

*Team.*—White ; Trainin, Hibbert, Gray, Potter ; Pratt, Everett ; Wroughton, Taylor, Willoughby, Sammons, Fawdry, Gregory, Matthews, Morgan-Smith.

Colours were awarded to Taylor and Potter, and re-awarded to Trainin, Pratt, Everett, and Gray.

*Junior Football Cup.*—Against "Heads" we lost (3—8), but the team played very well, and it was only lack of scoring power behind the scrum that robbed us of victory, for we were in the "Heads" twenty-five most of the game. Matthews, who played exceedingly well, kicked a penalty goal during the second half; the "Heads" points were scored during the first few minutes of the game.

A few days later the same team beat "Crake" (6—3). Matthews kicked another penalty goal for us, and Standage scored an unconverted try. The standard of play was not so good as against "Heads," but in both games much better football was played than in this competition last year.

*Team.*—Carey ; Hurst, Standage, Miller, Stratton ; Parker, Zvegintzov ; Sammons, Dobson, Bell, Fawdry, Morgan-Smith, Ballard, Matthews (Capt.), Greenham.

### FOOTBALL.

ALTHOUGH we have not yet got to the stage of winning our School matches, this term has marked a very distinct step forward in football ability. In the matter of building up a 1st XV. we were particularly fortunate in having practically the whole of last season's back-division available, and it was upon them that our hopes of a fairly successful season were founded. And indeed our backs were undoubtedly a considerable attacking force, and, had their powers of defence been at all commensurate with their powers of attack, or had they been served with the ball by the forwards as frequently as they deserved to be, the results in at least two of the School matches would almost certainly have been reversed.

Outside the scrum our greatest weakness was certainly at full back, and after having to bring Pratt from that position back to his old place at half, we were unable to get anyone to fill the position at all satisfactorily. In the three-quarter line Wheat showed himself an admirable centre in the way he nursed his wing ; his defence, too, improved considerably and his powerful kicking was always of immense value to the side. After he had got over the effects of an early " crocking " Hibbert proved himself excellent in attack, running very strongly and cutting through delightfully. His kicking too was good, but his tackling, for the most part, woefully weak. On the wings Lock and Aubrey both performed very creditably in view of their lack of weight : both were quick off the mark and ran strongly, and both showed up quite well in defence. The play of the two half-backs taken over the term was distinctly good : as the term went on Everett at scrum-half improved out of all recognition, his readiness to go down on the ball in front of the burliest opposition was an object lesson to all, while his passes out from the scrum were excellent. Pratt, in the outside position, was quick off the mark and usually made good openings and kicked well, and his off-days were marked by inability to gather the ball properly; his defence improved considerably, and on occasion was very sound indeed.

The very moderate success of the forwards, throughout the season, provides thought for some serious reflection. Here were five members of the previous season's pack, backed by three quite adequate substitutes for those who had left, they all played hard, they looked to have the weight, at any rate of the School packs with whom they came into opposition, and they were outplayed on almost every occasion. In the opinion of the present writer the whole explanation is to be found in two well-worn commonplaces one having to do with unity and strength and the other with brains and brawn. Our forwards last term were never a pack but always a collection of well-meaning individuals, and things went wrong when people were doing their best simply because they were doing their best in another direction from that in which their neighbours were doing their best. The remedy lies in intelligent subordination to intelligent leadership : play hard, but always in such a way that you are playing with the rest of your forwards. The forward who shows up in brilliant individual flashes away from his fellows is rarely doing the best for his side.

#### MATCHES.

##### SCHOOL V. WARWICK SCHOOL " A."

Played at Bloxham on October 13th. For this, our first match of the season, Warwick had brought nearly their best fifteen, and a very good game resulted, with Warwick always a bit the better side.

Although our forwards did not seem at all happy, they stuck valiantly to their task : their packing, however, was not good and when they got the ball it came out far too slowly to give our backs much chance of getting going. Ruck, too, at stand-off half was painfully slow and was far too frequently collared in possession of the ball. Warwick, though getting the ball much more frequently, were not making enough use of their wing three-quarters, and with our people making determined, if not always classical, efforts in defence, we managed to keep them out for the first quarter of an hour. Then, however, their left-centre went clean through our defence, to be followed in the same way, shortly after, by the stand-off half : for us, Lock managed to get possession and scramble over in the corner from a loose-scrum near the Warwick line, and at half-time the score stood at 8—3 against us. During the second half Warwick set up repeated attacks on our line but met with such desperate resistance that they managed to cross on only one occasion, and eventually ran out winners by 13 points to 3.

##### SCHOOL V. LOWER SCHOOL, RUGBY.

Played at Rugby on October 27th. On this occasion our team showed up very badly and were deservedly beaten. Rugby opened very strongly and our forwards were completely overwhelmed ; in fact so completely demoralised were they that they appeared to have reverted to the " soccer " style of play. Of attempts to stop the opposing forwards by falling on the ball there was no sign, nor was the defence of our backs very much better, and, as a result, Rugby had hustled over our line three times before the game was a quarter-of-an-hour old. Then indeed our side seemed to wake up a bit and put more vigour into their play, but there was no cohesion about either forwards or backs. The second half was more even, each side scoring one try, but no very good football was seen, and Rugby won a scrambling game by 14 points to 3.

##### BLOXHAM V. ST. EDWARD'S SCHOOL, OXFORD, 2ND XV.

Played on December 12th at Bloxham. This match provided a close and interesting game and the School X V . put up quite a good show. In fact, if the forwards had heeled out quickly and cleanly, the match would have been won by the three-quarters who were distinctly superior to the opposing quartette.

Bloxham's try was one of the best yet seen here. Pratt cut out an opening which Hibbert (who seemed yards faster than usual) carried on to give Wheat a clean run in with Aubrey waiting unmarked on the right. Wheat's kick only just failed. St. Edward's replied later with an unconverted try in the corner. The School centres were out of position and the forwards much too slow in coming back to help the defence.

As already mentioned, the backs played very well. Aubrey showed marked improvement in tackling and altogether played his best game so far. The forwards were inclined to be slow and did not pack well in the loose scrums. White made quite a creditable debut at full-back, but must improve his kicking.

Score :—Bloxham (one try) 3 points, St. Edward's (one try) 3 points.

In our matches against Club teams, who usually do not display the cohesion that school teams do, the School team showed to rather better advantage. A weak St. Edmund Hall XV. was beaten at Oxford by 13 points to 3, though the same College had its revenge later in the term, when they sent a much stronger team to beat us on our own ground by 12 points to nil. The closest game of the season was that against the Oxfordshire Nomads on our own ground: the game was very evenly contested throughout, our forwards holding their own quite well against a heavier pack and our backs having a fair share of the attack, and resulted in a win for the visitors by 9 points to 6. The best display of the season, however, was undoubtedly that against Lincoln College towards the end of November, despite the fact that the final score was 19 points against our 6. Our forwards played together much more than they had previously done, and until the last ten minutes when weight began to tell, held their own fairly well against the much heavier pack of their opponents. The outsides, too, played well and defended very stoutly against the heavier and faster line opposed to them: in fact, the tackling on this occasion was as direct and effective as we should like to see it on every occasion.

The following represented the School on various occasions throughout the term :—Backs, Phillips, White, Gray i; Three-quarters, Aubrey, Wheat (capt.), Hibbert i, Lock, Foster; half-backs, Everett, Pratt and Ruck; Forwards, Davy, Birch, Trainin, Brown, Bingham, Taylor i, Passey, Thomas and Willoughby.

First XV. Colours were awarded to Hibbert, Lock, Pratt, Everett, Birch, Davy, Trainin, and Second XV. Colours to Aubrey, Brown, Bingham, Taylor i.

The Second XV. played, in all, three matches throughout the term, winning one and losing the other two. Stratford School 2nd XV. were beaten rather easily by 31 points to 6, but Stowe School and St. Edward's "Colts" provided far stouter opposition. Both of the latter were fast and clever sides, who ran up big scores against us, partly by reason of their own superior cleverness, partly on account of the very poor defence shown by our side on each occasion.

The Junior XV. were altogether outweighed and outplayed by the Warwick School Juniors, losing on the latter's ground by 25 points against 3. Against Winchester House School, Brackley,

however, they made a much better showing. Their opponents were a much heavier side but had not much knowledge of the game, and our people, who played well together and were much more nimble, had no difficulty in beating them by 11 points to nil.

#### O.T.C. XMAS TERM.

The work throughout the term was based entirely upon the Cert. A, Part 1 Practical Exam.

In order that the work of the senior cadets might not be impeded by the recruits, all cadets who had attended the annual camp worked together as No. 1 Platoon. This platoon reached a very high state of efficiency in spite of the fact that it was "practised on" by the Cert. A. candidates all through the term and never had any permanent N.C.O.'s.

No. 2 Platoon, working as a recruit platoon, was handed over to the senior N.C.O.'s., Sergt. Wheat taking command of the platoon, Sergt. Lock, Sergt. Bingham, Cpl. Hibbert and Cpl. Davy commanding the sections. Three quarters of this platoon were recruits and had never handled a rifle before: at the end of the term its sections were showing some signs of working together: the manual was better and the work in general was a credit to the N.C.O.'s. in charge.

At the end of the term the following cadets passed the Cert. A, Part 1, Practical Exam. :—Cadets Brown, Crump, Evans, Gray, Jacob, Potter, Raymond, (B. G.) Trainin, Warrick, Wroughton, L.-Cpls. Pratt and Birch. There were no failures.

*Promotions.* Actg. Sergt. Lock to Sergt.; Cpl. Bingham to Sergt.; Cadets Brown, Crump, Gray, Jacob, Potter, Raymond, Trainin, Warrick, Wroughton, and Evans, to Lance Corporals.

Sergt. Lock, who left us at the end of the term, will be a great loss to the contingent. He had a thorough knowledge of his work and was a splendid instructor. His keenness and efficiency did a great deal for the contingent.

The contingent strength for the term was 98.

#### CHAPEL NOTES.

WE are most grateful to The Rev. G. A. Walter for acting as Deacon at the Solemn Eucharist on All Saints' Day, and to the Rev. Dom Bernard, O.S.B., for his sermon at Evensong on the Sunday within the Octave of the Feast.

A handsome set of Altar Cards, framed in gilded oak, has been presented to the Chapel by Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Smith.

We are most grateful to them for this splendid gift.

" James Peter, I baptize thee in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen." It is not often that Holy Baptism is administered in the School Chapel.

James Peter, the little son of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Smith, received his first Sacrament on Sunday, August 12th. It was a lovely Summer afternoon that he was given that life which " by nature he could not have," the life that would never have an ending, and one was very conscious of the presence of the Angels, " who do always behold the Face of My Father which is in Heaven."

Little Peter has the prayers and best wishes of a large number of Bloxhamists past and present.

### THE REREDOS.

**T**WELVE years ago the Reredos and Riddle Posts were placed in the Chapel as a permanent memorial of the Founder. Owing to lack of funds, the architect's scheme was not completed at the time. Through the great generosity of a friend of the School the stone work of the Reredos has now been coloured in accordance with the original designs and the memorial is complete. The painting has been done by one of the best firms under the superintendence of Mr. Bucknall, and the finished work is entirely worthy of the firm's reputation. In its former state the Reredos was impressive, but rather hard and grey: now it is a blaze of colour and gilding. The whole Chapel has gained in brightness and dignity. We owe a great debt of gratitude to our anonymous friend for this splendid gift.

### GENERAL KNOWLEDGE.

**T**O mark a general knowledge paper and not to make a list of the more grotesque among the overwhelmingly large number of incorrect answers that must be encountered, is not only to miss an opportunity which many would welcome, but also to disappoint a very large number of people. Yet, when the last paper is laid aside and the examiner takes up his hastily compiled list, he frequently finds that what had seemed humourous enough at the moment of discovery has now lost its power to divert him; that his list is one of no particular merit, and is, indeed, more pitiful than funny. To read, for instance (as did the writer of this article), that insulin is " a piece of land nearly surrounded by water," may strike him as being funny when he finds it among the host of answers which are either ponderously correct or wearisomely inaccurate. He may find relief in this oasis in a desert of monotony—but the feeling generally fades when his task is completed. Again, he may

well smile at the frantic plunging of the youth who, drawing his bow very much at a venture, volunteers the remarkable information that " General Smuts was a famous character in the well-known play of H. G. Wells, called Peter Pan " ; since, quite apart from the question of the authorship of the play, for a boy to confuse the famous soldier and politician with Barrie's " lovable " Nonconformist, piratical sense, is unquestionably an achievement. Nevertheless, the feeling of amusement generally gives place to one of surprise, not untinged with perplexity, as to how such amazing mistakes ever came to be made.

Some very entertaining replies, however, can generally be found, and some wonderful stories could be made up by doing little more than stringing together some of the strange inaccuracies which abound in all general knowledge papers. The following moving incident, for instance, would perhaps be a trifle difficult for anyone to follow intelligently who was unacquainted with the language: " Some Bloxham *doldrums* on their journey back to the school suddenly startled the only other occupant of the carriage—a rubicund *king's shilling*—by their strange behaviour. One of these youths suddenly cried out, ' Oh, I have got it, I know I have got it! That dreaded *Black Maria*!' while another frantically pulled the *die-hard* and shouted for H. G. Wells, who, however, at that moment was 20 miles away in Banbury." Yet, to any Lower School expert, the passage would present few difficulties. Realising as he would that *doldrums* are simply " melancholy people," that the *king's shilling* is only " a slang expression for a policeman," that *Black Maria* is " a severe disease," and that a *die-hard* is simply another name for a communication cord, then translation becomes an absurdly easy matter. But after reading that one miserable, spineless *doldrum* shouts for H. G. Wells (who, of course, as everybody knows, is the school doctor), the expert would probably decline to read any further on the ground that the story was improbable. . . .

Still *general* knowledge is a strange name to give such an examination: for, surely some of the papers—presumably written in answer to the set questions—reveal a degree of knowledge that must always be at the command of the few rather than of the multitude.

### A DOCTOR'S HOLIDAY.

**I**T was a winter night in war time. The Commandant of a large military hospital sat by his desk writing. The police had telephoned a preliminary warning that an air-raid might take place that night, and he had already given the necessary orders for all precautions to be taken. He finished the letter he was writing and took up a sheet of paper with a long list of wards, studying it carefully

by the light of the shaded lamp. He was waiting for the Night Sister to bring him the list of beds available for any air-raïd casualties that might be brought in that night.

A knock at the door, and a nurse walked in quickly and stood at the opposite side of the desk. The Colonel looked up, and she said, "I have brought you the list of beds, Sir, there are twenty-six altogether, six in No. 8 Ward, ten in No. 12, three in No. 14, and seven in No. 17." The Commandant jotted down the numbers on his large sheet, and was about to say "Good-night, Sister," when he saw that the figure standing there was not the Night Sister, but a bright, youthful military nurse. "Where is the Night Sister?" he asked, "Night Sister was called, to an emergency operation, Sir, and asked me to bring you the list, as she knew you would be waiting," was the answer. The Commandant got up, thanked the nurse and turned away towards the fire; but the nurse still waited, and at last she said, "I am Wee Janey." "Wee Janey," said the Colonel, "why it must be nearly thirty years since—" "No," said the nurse, "not thirty, about twenty-three I think. Do you remember some years ago I wrote to you that one day I should be a nurse,—but I must not wait now. Good night, Sir," and the nurse quickly left the room closing the door quietly.

In his armchair by the fire the Colonel repeated the words "Wee Janey, Wee Janey," and his thoughts went back to that Scotch holiday so long ago when he had come across Wee Janey. How well he remembered that year when, tired out and sad at heart, he and his wife had set out for a holiday in one of the western isles off the Scottish coast. The steamer arrived in the mist and rain one Saturday evening in August, and they made their way in the gloaming to the cottage they had taken close to the shore. All night the lapping of the water soothed their tired hearts, and Sunday morning broke in glorious sunshine.

After breakfast, the doctor and his wife climbed the hill to the only church in the island, the little Presbyterian chapel standing in the old graveyard overlooking the bay, where a beautiful steam yacht and several small boats rocked gently at their moorings. The service was nearly over, but they entered the building and stood just outside the chapel, that was filled with men and women listening intently to the long extempore prayer, which should bring the service to a close. Their attention wandered at first, but was soon caught by these words: "O Lord, we thank Thee for the flowers and the sunshine, for the clouds and the rain; we thank Thee for the song of the birds and the sound of the sea; we thank Thee for the mountains and valleys, with the grass for the cattle and the heather for the bees. We thank Thee, too, for this house of prayer, and for Thy help in all our time of need. And now, Lord, we would pray for all those in trouble or in sickness; keep them in Thy love all the day long.

Specially we would pray for one family of this congregation who are now in great sorrow. Be with the father and mother of the child whom Thou hast afflicted, and of Thy great mercy prepare them for the parting with their child, and make them to bow to Thy decree. Lord, we would give this child into Thy keeping, have mercy and comfort the parents. Help us all to remember them at Thy throne of grace, and may our prayers be acceptable in Thy sight."

Out of the little chapel poured the congregation. Some stopped a few minutes with greetings for friends, but most hastened down the steps towards the little village where the Sunday dinner was awaiting them. The doctor and his wife stood aside in silence. At last the wife spoke, "The child is not dead, possibly we have come here so that the child may live, that would be some reward for your years of work at a children's hospital." The minister came out of the chapel at that minute, and the doctor said he would find out about the case from him. The two men went off together towards the manse, and the wife waited with the tense longing of a mother to save a child's life. At last the doctor came back to her and said,— "A case of tetanus from an injury to the foot while running barefoot through a stable; not much hope I fear, for three doctors have already seen the child, and all agree that there is absolutely nothing further to be done, and no chance of saving the child's life. However, the cottage is only about a mile off, so I am going down at once to see the child. There is now a new remedy for tetanus; the German reports are very satisfactory, and though it has not yet been tried in England, I could get the material from a laboratory in London." The doctor strode off quickly, leaving the wife to return alone to the cottage.

Two hours later he came back and sat down quietly, and told his wife sadly that he feared there was no hope; the case was far advanced and the convulsions very severe. He had however been to the post office, to try to get a telegram through to London for the stuff to be sent off at once, but he found to his dismay, that no telegram could be sent till Monday morning, and Wednesday would be the earliest possible date for him to receive the parcel by post. He ended up with "If I could only get the stuff to-morrow—I feel sure the child cannot live till Wednesday night." The wife considered a little, and then asked whether it would help if she could get the telegram through so that the parcel could be given in charge of the guard of the Sunday night train; but the answer was, "No, there is no boat across till Wednesday." However the wife was not daunted, she remarked that the steam yacht now in the bay would do quite well to fetch the parcel from the mainland, and that if her husband could find out who was the owner, she would take another telegram down to the post office and try and get it through. Armed with a new telegram written out by the doctor, she went off at once to the village, and met the post-mistress at the door of the little post office. %he begged her to come back into the office. The post-mistress unlocked the

door, and the two women went into the little room together. " We must get this telegram through to London to-day, it is a matter of life and death," said the doctor's wife, " I don't believe Glasgow is closed to urgent calls the whole of Sunday. I want you to sit down and ring Glasgow every quarter of an hour till Glasgow answers." The post-mistress evidently thought it would be useless, but she knew all about the child's illness, and she agreed to sit down and ring Glasgow all the afternoon if necessary, and to send up a messenger to the doctor's cottage if she had any success.

Feeling there was no more to be done, the doctor's wife retraced her steps and sat down on the shore near the cottage waiting. Her husband soon joined her, and said he had found out about the yacht from the Scotch minister, who thought the owner would consent to run her over to the mainland if need be. Returning to the cottage they found a messenger from the post-mistress to say the telegram had gone through, the minister also came down a little later, and persuaded the doctor to come with him to interview the owner of the yacht. They went up the hill together to the big house, and found an oldish man walking up and down his garden. " Must have some exercise, even if it is the Sabbath," he said to the minister, when he had greeted him and been introduced to the doctor. " What is it," he went on, " I am sure you want something, or you would not be up here to-day." The doctor smiled, but the minister gravely told the story, and ended up with, " Now we want your yacht to go across to the mainland to-morrow to meet the night train from the south." The old man looked at the doctor, who nodded without speaking. After a few moments' consideration, the owner of the yacht told them that at five o'clock the following afternoon he would be on board with steam up, and if they both liked to come he would take them across; but they must bring him a telegram from London to say that the medicine was on the tram, a note from the child's parents that she was still alive, and a letter from the doctor on the island that he agreed to a trial being made of the new anti-toxin. Both doctor and minister thanked the old yachtsman, they took their leave and walked down the hill in silence.

The next morning a telegram came to say that the guard of the train had taken charge of the precious parcel, and later in the day a messenger arrived with two notes, one from the doctor agreeing that the new treatment should be tried, and the other from the mother saying Wee Janey was still living. At five o'clock the two men rowed alongside the yacht, and after twinging the boat back, the doctor's wife watched the beautiful yacht steam away out of sight.

The wind had risen, and rain was falling as the men went ashore on the mainland. They picked their way in the dark across the yard of the goods station, the railway lines were gleaming in the strong

light of the big lamps, but beyond all was darkness and gloom. They reached the platform of the passenger station and waited for a while, till at last with a rush and a roar the southern train came to a standstill just in front of them. The guard was looking out, and the doctor hastened up to him saying, " You have a parcel for a doctor who was to meet this train." He gave his name, and the guard handed him a tiny package sealed up carefully. The yachtsman who was looking on said, " Do you mean that we have come all this way for that scrap ; open it and see that it is all right." The doctor obeyed, and remarking that it was exactly what he wanted, but that he must get some scales and a metric glass measure, the party trudged into the town, rang up a chemist who supplied what was needed, and then they made their way back to the yacht.

" Dirty night," said the captain as they came aboard, " we shall have to make the south bay, it is too rough to put you ashore at the Manse." " All right," said the owner, " that will be nearer to the child's cottage, and we can get a machine to take us to my house and drop the doctor and the minister on the way." Dinner was ready in the saloon, and though the yacht pitched and tossed a good deal, all three were good sailors and enjoyed a hearty meal. The yacht's dinghey put them ashore at the south bay, and the bright light in the cottage window guided them up the sea road. The child was lying on the mother's lap looking more dead than alive, and the doctor proceeded at once to weigh out and mix the medicine, and then gave the little patient three injections. The father and mother looked on awaiting a miracle, but no change was apparent; the doctor told them to be patient and wait, as he did not expect any sudden improvement.

In the meantime one of the yacht's hands had somehow produced from the inn an old wagonette, which he called a machine, and the three men left the cottage and drove off home. The doctor found his wife sitting up over a bright fire waiting for him. He told her all the story, but begged her not to be too hopeful, for he scarcely thought that at this stage of the disease the case would respond to the treatment.

The next morning the milkman waited after he had delivered the milk, and said that he had heard the " big doctor from London " was going down to the village that morning to see the sick child, and he would be glad to drive him in. Every morning and every evening the doctor went down to see the child, often finding someone—it might be the butcher or the baker or the milkman—waiting to offer him a lift. For a few days there seemed no hope, but at last the convulsions became less frequent and less violent, the teeth were less firmly clenched, and the child began to drink milk at intervals. Life was returning, and the mother, though nearly worn out with nursing was full of joy and thanksgiving.

The news of the cure spread abroad, and a blind man and one or two other sick folk were brought over by their friends from the other side of the island to beg the doctor to heal them too. It was sad to send them away sorrowful, and the doctor realised a little what a wondrous joy the gift of healing must be to the heart of the Healer.

At last the Scotch holiday was over, the three weeks had come to an end, and the old wagonette was driven up to the cottage once more to fetch the doctor and his wife and take them down to the steamer. As they passed through the village, a mother with a child in her arms stood outside a cottage. Framed in the dark doorway like an old picture of the Madonna and Child, they were looking eagerly for the doctor to pass, and when the child saw him she held up a little wasted hand and waved a farewell. "The Child is blessing you," said the doctor's wife, smiling through her tears.

The steamer bore them away, the sea-gulls swooped round the boat in the brilliant sunshine, dipping their white wings in the rainbows of spray tossed up from the foam in the wake of the ship. The outline of the island grew faint, but for a long time one glorious mountain wreathed with golden clouds towered up into the sky. Two silent figures stood on the deck, a man and a woman, watching while the sunset glory faded and all was hidden in a misty haze of blue.

\* \* \*

The Commandant roused himself from his long reverie, the "All Clear" signals had been sounded some time, the air-raid had been at a distance from the hospital, and no casualties had been brought in. He was feeling stiff and cold, for it was three o'clock in the morning and the fire had gone out. He got up and went off for a few hours' rest, thinking, "Queer sort of a *holiday*, but perhaps one of the best, for here—nursing the sick and wounded—is Wee Janey."

H. M.

#### WHY CRAKE LAUGHED.

HAVING lately re-read Colonel May's very interesting contribution to the *BLOXHAMIST* of April, 1920, it occurs to the writer that the following anecdote may interest the readers of that magazine.

After Midsummer, 1869, when but nine years of age, I joined Bloxham School on the recommendation of the Rev. Wilkins, whose son was already a scholar. My father, a great friend of that clergyman, was a young solicitor, practising at Ventnor, where he had a large circle of well-to-do neighbours, but a limited number of clients.

In those days, as the School History informs us, Bloxham had been but recently founded, in 1860; while, the Chapel wing being in the course of erection, its appearance was unlike the present pile of buildings.

To assist in the completion of the latter, or of the dining-hall wing, the Headmaster provided each scholar with a subscription list, whereon the donations of our relatives and their friends were entered. Armed with one of these I returned to Ventnor; and, during the ensuing holidays, I visited a number of wealthy people, collecting a fair sum.

Among my father's clients was that fine old soldier General Sir John Cheape, who, as second in command in the battle of Sobraon, had won the military K.C.B. Having retired from active service and become a widower he married for his second wife a beautiful young French woman from Pondicherry; and, quitting his estate in Ceylon, he purchased the Old Park Estate near Ventnor. There is a very amusing story anent Sir John and his chief, Sir Hugh Gough, which I shall one day tell. Suffice it here to say that my Bloxham Subscription List was headed with the name of "Dame Jane Cheape."

Upon perusing this list of subscribers the latter apparently attracted some attention; for, when in my turn, I proceeded to the study of our Chaplain, Mr. Crake, there to be catechised on my juvenile shortcomings, the good man curiously asked me how I knew Lady Cheape, and if my parents were intimate with Sir John?

I replied that I was fond of the lady because she had given me many Ceylon postage stamps, and that at her parties we used to get trifles, of which I was inordinately greedy.

Did my parents, asked the good Chaplain, know many people? I enumerated half a score of families who usually wintered in the Island, retired Naval captains, soldiers, and Indian civilians. He was evidently impressed.

"Why," said Mr. Crake, in what *seemed* to me to be an austere tone, "you must be a *little aristocrat* I!" I had never heard such a long word. Evidently he had something against me. With visions of a cane arising I faltered:

"Oh! no Sir, indeed it isn't true Sir. *I've never done anything so horrid.*"

F.O.F.

#### THINGS WE SHOULD LIKE TO KNOW.

- 1.—Whether there is anyone in the School who has not heard a "Jarine" tale, and whether the 1st folio of the "Jarine Odes" was found in the Bureaux?

- 2.—Whether the gentleman who buried the bogey-wheels hoped that they would be unearthed as Roman remains ?
- 3.—If it is true that the VI. form bought all the " Claries " out of the tuckshop ?
- 4.—Whether the VI. Form " Country Gentleman " has got his 'ard 'at yet ?
- 5.—Who was not sure whether Hamilton-Wickes was a Poet or the Labour Leader ?

EXPLAIN, WITH REFERENCE TO THE  
CONTEXT :—

- (a) " I expect he'd have a fit, sir."
- (b) " Rally round, forwards ! "
- (c) " Well played indeed, sir ! "
- (d) " Hi, dog'sbody, which way to S——? "
- (e) " Scwum there."
- (f) " Yes, we have no Cosine Tables to-day."
- (g) " Quick, quick, fetch a match, I've got my finger over the gas-pipe."

We are told that John Brown's Body has at last been laid to rest.  
Can anyone tell us if this is official ?

There is a rumour in the air that there is to be a Gardener's Prize.  
Will this be given for the best bed of Mustard and Cress ?

EDITORIAL NOTICES.

For the present, we are restricted to one number of " THE BLOXHAMIST " each Term. It is published at the beginning of the Term, and chronicles the news of the previous Term.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following contemporaries:—  
*The Lily, The Aluredian, The Framlinghamian, The Denstonian, The Chelmsfordian, The Portcullis, The St. Edward's School Chronicle, The Hurst Johnian (ij), Ardingly Annals, The Pauline, Lancing College Magazine, The Ellesmerian.*

Contributions to the next Number should be sent to the Editor by May 31st, 1924  
MSS. should be written on one side only of the paper.

*The Annual Subscription is js. post free. Members of the Old Bloxhamist Society are supplied with copies. The Secretary is Mr. T. R. TAYLOR, " Barani," Albert Road, Watford, to whom members should send their subscriptions—5s. per annum, or £1 ts. for five years, or £4 4s. for life. Subscriptions are due on Nov. ist. Other subscribers to " THE BLOXHAMIST " should send their subscriptions to C. J. WILSON, Esq., Bloxham School, Banbury.*

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