

The S. Edward's School Chronicle

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Coming Ebents.

May 27th. Whit≠Monday. Past v. Present. ,, 30th—31st. Thurs. and Fri. Scholarship Examination.

June 1st. Sat. VIII. v. O.S.E. (Upper River).

,, 2nd. Grinity Sunday. Preacher, the Rev. A. B. Simeon.

" 5th. Wed. S.E.S. v. Lincoln College.

, 8th. Sat. S.E.S. v. Keble College.

" oth. 1st Sundap after Crinity.

" 11th. Tues. St. Barnabas.

" 12th. Wed. S.E.S. v. B.N.C. Hornets.

, 15th. Sat. Half-Term. S.E.S.

16th. 2nd Sunday after Trinity.

, 19th. Wed. S.E.S. v. Christ Church Warrigals.

20th. Cranslation of Ming Edward.

,, 21st. Fri. O.T.C. Inspection.

22nd. Sat. S.E.S. v. T. Stacey Esq.'s XI., at Buckingham.

" 23rd. 3rd Zunday after Crinity.

" 24th. Mon. St. John Baptist.

", 29th. Sat. St. Beter. IV. v. Worcester, at Worcester.

" 30th. 4th Sunday after Trinity. Chronicle published.

3rd. Wed. IV. v. Tonbridge, at Reading.

,, ,, ,, S.E.S. v. North Oxford.

, 6th. Sat. S.E.S. v. Bicester, at Bicester.

" roth. Wed. S.E.S. v. Rev. C de Labat's XI. " 13th. Sat. S.E.S. v. Lord Jersey's XI., a

Sat. S.E.S. v. Lord Jersey's XI., at Middleton.

Notes.



ERM opened with the first rain that had fallen at Oxford for seven weeks. It was but part of a day's fall, and it was not till a week after

that the ground had a real wetting. The result of last Summer and this dry Spring has been that all our grass is in a bad way. The Cricket Field is but thinly covered, and the squares in the Quadrangle look like rough meadows. All the finer grasses have been practically killed out, and the coarse perennial rye-grass has alone survived.

H. C. K. PLUMMER's appointment as Royal Astronomer of Ireland is probably the highest intellectual achievement which the School has yet reached. We congratulate him most heartily and sincerely upon it. He was at St. Edward's from 1889 to 1892 when he won his Scholarship at Hertford College. He has brought a great honour to his old School.

The following extracts tell the story of his career:—

The Morning Post, May 6th, 1912:

Mr. Henry C. K. Plummer, M.A., Hertford College, Oxford, Assistant to Professor H. H. Turner at the University Observatory, Oxford, was on Saturday elected Royal Astronomer of Ireland, in place of Dr. E. T. Whittaker, who vacated that post some months ago. . . . He is the son of Mr. W. E. Plummer, Director of the Liverpool Observatory (who formerly was Senior Assistant at the Oxford University Observatory), and has acted as Second Assistant to Professor Turner since 1901.

The Oxford Magazine, May 9th, 1912:

The appointment of Mr. H. C. Plummer to the position of Royal Astronomer of Ireland is a well-deserved recognition of much steady work of a high class during the last decade. He has already published fifty-one papers on astronomical and allied subjects. Some of these are, of course, only brief notes on points of passing interest, but others show great power of getting to fundamental principles. Such was his essay on the Principle of Relativity, and again his paper on the Structure of Globular Clusters of Stars. A recent attack on the modern problem of stellar movements and distances has already produced results of remarkable interest and promises more in the future. We should have to go back to the eighteenth century to find a comparable instance of success in an Oxford astronomer. He was educated at St. Edward's School and at Hertford College, where he was a Scholar. He took a First in Mathematical Moderations (1895) and Finals (1897), and a Second in Physics (1898). After a short absence as assistant lecturer at Owens College, Manchester (1899-1900), he returned as Demonstrator for Professor Clifton (1900-1). He showed his predilection for astronomy by writing occasional papers for the Monthly Notices, and when the post of second assistant at the University Observatory was offered him, he faced the difficulties of living on a very small salary in order to have more time for work at the science to which he was devoted. The University has not been insensible of his good work, and recently made it possible for him to spend a year at the Lick Observatory in California, where he established a connexion with that great observatory, which has since borne fruit in various ways.

WE add a few details of interest from the Daily Telegraph with regard to the historic post Mr. Plummer now holds:

The Dublin Professorship dates from the year 1783, and takes it name from Francis Andrews, a Fellow of Dublin University, who bequeathed a sum of £3,000 and an annual income to build and endow an astronomical observatory in the University. In 1792 letters patent were issued (32 George III., A.D. 1792), in which it is recited that "there shall be for ever hereafter a Professor of Astronomy on the foundation of Dr. Andrews, to be called and known by the name of the Royal Astronomer of Ireland." Mr. Plummer is, therefore, Royal Astronomer of, not Astronomer Royal for, as some announcements have given the title, and by virtue of his office he is Director of the Observatory at Dunsink.

The names of the holders of the office from its foundation are Ussher, Brinkley (a mathematician and an astronomer

who was Andrews Professor for thirty-six years, and afterwards Bishop of Cloyne), Sir William Rowan Hamilton (a brilliant mathematician, whose name is associated with the invention of the calculus of Quaternions, but was certainly not a working astronomer), Dr. Brünnow (who as certainly was), Sir Robert Ball (happily still with us, who has not only delighted many audiences and many readers, but has also shown his genius in recondite mathematical science), Dr. Arthur Rambaut (now Radcliffe Observer at Oxford), the late Professor Joly, and Dr. Whittaker, the last two being renowned for their connection with mathematical physics. It will be seen from the list that the post has been as much associated with mathematics as with astronomy. Mr. Plummer's tastes incline in both directions.

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WE learn with gratification that C. F. Stallard is a K.C. He is doubtless the first of our Old Boys to earn this distinction and we offer him our congratulations.

To some of us it does not seem so very long since Stallard and Doull railed at each other across the floor, first of the School Debating Society and afterwards of the Oxford Union: and now one of them has taken silk and the other is a Dean!

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WITH six old colours left, including three bowlers, and plenty of competitors in sight for the vacancies, the Cricket Season opens with good promise. Our greatest loss is probably Bickley's unusual excellence in captaining his team, though Eyres' and Estcourt's steady batting will no doubt be missed. A 'century' and our subsequent easy victory in our first match seems to show that the promise is in a fair way to fulfilment, though too much stress must not be laid on beating a weak team.

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THE Captain of the Boats will have a harder task. The only colour left from last year is the coxswain, and though he is no doubt all that could be desired in his own sphere, he is not a crew. However, the Bumping Races showed good boating-side material in the higher boats, and there seems no reason why a Four good enough to race Tonbridge and Worcester should not be formed out of it.

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A Confirmation was held in the School Chapel at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15th,

the day before Ascension Day, by the Bishop of Oxford. This is the first time we have had the honour of seeing our new Visitor at the School. There were sixteen candidates.

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THE Cases to hold the Faulding Collection are now in Big School, and the specimens will shortly be arranged in them. We regret that in our last Number we gave Mr. A. J. Faulding's initials wrongly. They are as now printed.

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MR. F. Shaw, Mus. Bac., late Organ Scholar of Keble, has been appointed Organist and Music Master at St. Edward's, and will join us in September. Meanwhile, for this term we are getting very efficient help from Mr. W. K. Stanton, of Merton.

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'NATAL,' the Form Room next to the Sixth Form Room has been refitted entirely on the same plan as 'Jamaica.' This room, which faces the highest part of the West end of Chapel, was always rather dark. This has been remedied by opening a large window in the West wall of the room over the passage into the Prefects' Studies.

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THURSDAY, July 4th, will be observed as Gaudy Day.

The Sports.



HE Bumping Races ended on Monday, April 1st, and the Set Sports were held the next day, in fine weather. The Set Miles followed

on Wednesday, in still better weather, which continued till the end of term, with winds West to North West, culminating in a South West Gale on Easter Monday. Some heats of the School Sports were run off on Thursday, together with the Junior Broad Jump. On Saturday the remaining heats were run and the Senior and Junior Miles, in warmth worthy of Summer. The Sports were all on the Cricket Field. Events:—

THURSDAY, APRIL 4TH.

Broad Jump, Junior. No competitor reached the Standard.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH.

Cricket Ball, Senior. Halcomb won with the fine throw of 102 yards o feet 9 inches—the best since H. Fawcett's records in 1878 and 1879 (109 yards 1 foot, and 105 yards 2 feet). No one else reached the Standard, though there was a strong West wind to help.

Mile, Open. I Halford (B), 2 Smith ma. (B), 3 Segar (E). Time, 5 mins. II secs. This is the best time that has been done on grass since 1898. The second and third men followed at intervals of about 20 yards.

Mile, Junior. I Thornely mi. (\mathfrak{D}) , 2 Carter (\mathfrak{C}) , 3 Richardson (\mathfrak{D}) . Time, 5 mins. $52\frac{3}{5}$ secs. The time was not so good as in recent years. As in the Open Mile, the three first men were well spaced out.

In the Junior Cricket Ball no one came near the Standard.

MONDAY, APRIL 8TH.

Hundred Yards, Senior. I Hudson ma. (20), 2 King ma. (21). Time, 11\frac{3}{6} secs. The finish was extremely close, Halford being right up on the winners.

Hundred Yards, Junior. 1 Richardson (D), 2 Carter (C). Time, 13\frac{1}{5} secs.

High Jump, Senior. I King ma. (21), 2 Keble (20). Height, 4 feet 8\frac{3}{4} inches. Won easily.

The Junior High Jump was cancelled as none of the competitors could reach the Standard.

Putting the Weight, Open. I King ma. (A), 2 Halford (B). Distance, 31 feet 4 inches. This put came within 2 inches of Ibbs' record of 1896. Halford just reached the Standard (28 feet).

Hurdles, Junior. 1 Kidson (E1), 2 Richardson (D). Time, 22 secs.

Hurdles, Senior. I Hudson ma. (\mathfrak{D}) , 2 King ma. (\mathfrak{D}) . Time $17\frac{2}{5}$ secs. Hudson, who was far from well, did the best time since 1907.

Broad Jump, Open. I King ma. (21), 2 Halford (136). Distance 19 feet 1 inch. The second man cleared 17 feet $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The first was the best jump since 1895.

150 Yards (under 13). I Dudley Smith (18), 2 Murray (24). The winner improved slightly on his last year's performance.

Quarter Mile, Junior. I Carter (C), 2 Thornely mi. (D), 3 Richardson (D). Time 694 secs.

Quarter Mile, Senior. 1 Halford (38), 2 Keble

 (\mathfrak{D}) , 3 Halcomb (\mathfrak{D}) . Time, $60\frac{4}{5}$ secs. Won easily.

Handicap Mile (winners of Miles and Quarters excluded). I Hudson mi. (90 yards), 2 Hare ma. (180 yards), 3 Beaumont (scratch). The third man ran well and is probably the only scratch man who has secured a place for some years. No marks are given for this.

Looking at the Sports as a whole, the Senior events were good, and the Junior poor. The results of the Senior Cricket Ball and the Weight were close on the records, the Broad Jump and Hurdles produced excellent results, while all other performances were at any rate very fair. The Juniors failed to reach the Standards in the High Jump, Broad Jump, and Cricket Ball, and the other results were only moderate. December won the Cup with a lead of 16 marks, as will be seen from the following score:—

	H	Æ	C	Ð	E	
Mile, Open, 12, 7, 4		19			4	
Mile, Junior, 7, 4, 1			4	8		
Broad Jump, Open, 8, 4	8	4				
Broad Jump, Junior, 4, 2						
Weight, 5, 3	5	3				
High Jump, Open, 8, 4	8			4		
High Jump, Junior, 4, 2						
Hundred, Open, 10, 5	5			10		
Hundred, Junior, 5, 3			3 .	5		
150, under 13, 2, 1	I	2				
Hurdles, Open, 10, 5	5			10		
Hurdles, Junior, 5, 3	5			3		
Cricket Ball, Open, 5, 3				5		
Quarter, Open, 12, 7, 4		12		II		
Quarter, Junior, 7, 4, 1			7	5		
Totals, 171	37	40	14	56	4	

STANDARDS.

High Jump, Open, 4 feet 6 inches.

High Jump (under 5 ft. 4 in. and 16 years) 4 ft.

Broad Jump, Open, 16 feet.

Broad Jump (under 5 ft. 4 in. and 16 years) 14 ft.

Weight, Open, 28 feet.

Cricket Ball, Open, 80 yards.

Cricket Ball (under 15), 60 yards.

Referees:—A. M. Wallace and L. C. Blencowe, Esquires.

Judges:-V. Hope, Esq., Rev. L.F. Harvey.

Time-Keeper: —The Warden.
Starter: —L. F. Cass, Esq.
Committee: —The Warden, L. F. Cass, Esq.,
N. B. Hudson, Q. E. M. A. King, C. R. Halford.

Werse.

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THE COMING OF SPRING.

He came across the tillage,
He came across the moor,
He wandered up our village
And found the workhouse door;
He pierced the pane with golden darts
Winged of his April skies,
He put a song in lonely hearts,
A light in lonely eyes.

He came with children's laughter
And dance and daisy chain,
With scent of rain, and after
Of sun upon the rain;
He came with blossom in the fence
And sweep of swallow's wings;
He had a smile for innocence,
A tear for sufferings.

He came in gracious manner,
In loveliness complete,
And Hope with vibrant banner
Was herald of his feet;
He came into his heritage
In joyousness and ruth,
Welcomed—the child of Winter's age,
And loved—the Summer's youth.

AUBYN TREVOR-BATTYE.

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THE Fourth Form sends us two more contributions; in the first, two lines have been altered since it was sent up; the second has not been changed.

—o— SONNET.

Sing on, sing on, thou herald of the Spring!
Sing thy love-song to thy devoted mate!
Sing, for past is the Winter's dying hate!
Thou hast not the swift eagle's soaring wing,
Nor gorgeous beauty of some southern king,
But by some kindly whim of fickle fate
Thou hast received a treasured gift more great

Than strength or beauty vain—the power to sing. Oh, who could be so wicked as to lay
That eager throbbing breast upon the ground?
Have mortals nothing else to do but slay
The lovely voice that fills the woods with sound
From day-break till the sun's last fleeting ray
Fades, dies, and night her curtain draws around?

-o-BILL SYKES.

BILL SYKES he goes about his job With calmness and precision. His aim in life is how to rob The swells of high position. About the middle of the night, When at his destination, He forces locks by lantern-light And reaps his compensation. When he regains his low abode, He gloats o'er his possessions. "There'd be a stir if people 'knowed' My numberless transgressions." He has a faithful dog as well, Who follows the same calling, And if a person tries to yell, He settles him by mauling. His tools are never known to fail, While he a house is burg'ling, Although some day he'll go to gaol, Or on a rope be gurgling.

Cricket.

S.E.S. v. TRINITY COLLEGE 2ND XI.



LAYED on Saturday, May 18th. Won by 114 runs. In this the first match of the season, our opponents were not a strong team.

The School XI. acquitted itself creditably. King's innings, though by no means faultless, was undoubtedly a good one. At no time was his scoring slow, and he made many fine drives. When in his forties he was rather badly missed at mid-off. The School made over two hundred runs in a little more than an hour and a half. The batting of the College team was not particularly good, and there were two catches missed in the slips. The wicket was dry and sound, though at times the ball rose awkwardly. The

School fielding was on the whole moderate. Halcomb made two good catches in the deep-field.

S.E.S.			
Q. E. M. A. King, not out		13	3
R. F. Halcomb, b Griffiths		I	2
L. T. Seymour, b Wright			3
R. L. Owen, c Pumphrey, b			9
N. B. Hudson, c Coode, b \			3
Martyn, not out			5
Seymour mi		****	,
Crosse			
Cookedid not	hat.		
C. P. Coates	. Dat.		
Williamson			
Extras		3	2
	To	tal 21	7
TRINITY COLLEG	E 2ND X	Ι.	
I. H. Griffiths, c Halcomb, h			2
H. R. Marshall, b King ma.			5
D. Coode, c Williamson, b			ī
E. B. M. Delmege, c Cooke	and the same of th		I
J. L. Pumphrey, b Seymour	125		0
H. C. Brown, b Seymour m			0
J. Nutall, b King ma			0
J. Wright, 1-b-w, b King ma			0
N. Gray, not out			4
R. H. Tait, c Halcomb, b S	eymour n	12	2.
R. Lobb, c Crosse, b Seymo	our ma		5
Extras)	2
		—	-
DATE: 110 111	To	tal IC	93
BOWLING ANA	Non-American Company		
TRINITY COLLEGE			117. 1
Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wickets.
L. T. Seymour 15 C. P. Coates 7	2 I	18	5
		-307.80	0
Q. E. M. A. King 7	0	31	4

Fibes Cup.

THE Final of the Fives did not produce so good a match as was expected, as 16 beat 15 by 15—4, 15—2, and 15—0, thus winning the Cup. The match was played off on Saturday, April 6th. The teams were:—18, King mi. and Hett; 15, Owen ma. and Williamson.

D.T.C.

SECOND-LIEUTENANT L. F. Cass attended in the holidays a course of instruction at Portsmouth, at the conclusion of which he passed Examination A (the first examination for an officer to qualify for promotion). He then proceeded to Aldershot and was attached to the 2nd (regular) Battalion of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry for a fortnight during their battalion training.

School News.

VALETE :-

J. A. T. Craig (1324), C. Upper Modern.

A. Thornely (1216), D. XV., Upper Modern.

J. R. Buller (1338), D. XI., Shell.

E. C. Holt (1413), D. Middle Fourth.

E. Hobbs (1383), E. Upper Fourth.

R. S. Hudson (1384), E. Lower Third.

SALVETE :--

G. B. W. Scholefield, C. Lower Fourth.

C. M. Kirby-Smith, D. Lower Third.

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PRIZES.

Fifth.-Keble.

Upper Modern .- Prior.

Legagneur.

Shell.-James.

Upper IV .- Gillmor.

Middle IV .- Holt.

Lower IV .- Marsh mi.

Upper III .- Turner mi.

Lower III.-Kidson.

Holiday Task .- Seymour ma.

Melly.

Seymour mus.

-0-

REMOVES.

To Sixth .- King mi.

To Upper Modern.—King mus., Ollard, Coates.

To Shell .- Gillmor, Hare mi.

To Upper Fourth .- Bird mi., Seymour mus.,

Carter.

To Middle Fourth.—Marsh mi., Paget ma.,

Hyde.

To Lower Fourth.—Turner mi., Richardson.

To Upper Third .- Kidson.

O.T.C. CERTIFICATE "A" has been awarded to

W. L. King.

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Offices are held as follows this term :-

Prefects:—N. B. Hudson, Senior Prefect (2D), L. T. Seymour (C), C. H. Geake (M), B. K. Cooke (D), R. L. Owen (E), W. B. Morrison (E), W. L. King (M), J. H. C. Keble (D), D. C. Beaumont (D), Q. E. M. A. King (A), C. R. Halford (M), J. H. Churchyard (A).

Captain of Cricket :- N. B. Hudson.

Secretary of Cricket: L. T. Seymour.

Captain of Boats :- D. C. Beaumont.

Sacristans:—N. B. Hudson, W. B. Morrison. Library Custodians:—Kidd, Bernays, Green

mi., Green ma., Stonex, Matson, Firminger, Crosse, Bourne, Smith ma.

Editors of the Chronicle: L. T. Seymour, R. L. Owen, W. B. Morrison.

PREACHERS IN CHAPEL:-

Good Friday (the Seven Words), the Rev. C. de Labat, Rector of Wytham.

Rogation Sunday, the Rev. E. W. Pullan, Vicar of St. Margaret's, Oxford.

@.S.X.

OUR visitors have been:—At Easter, L. C. and O. C. Blencowe, H. C. Draper, E. J. C. Davenport, J. P. Higgs, A. G. East, T. H. Hudson, the Rev. T. W. Hudson; in the holidays, L. Q. Tollemache, C. H. Jenner, J. L. J. Speck, the Rev. J. E. V. Bode, A. B. Kingsford (Rossall), G. E. V. Abbott; this term, the Rev. B. H. Oswell, W. A. F. Platts and Mrs. W. A. F. Platts (home on leave from Mombasa), C. S. Gillett, T. W. Beasley.

HOME :-

H. C. K. Plummer has been elected Royal Astronomer of Ireland.

T. W. Heale is a Master at Stone House School, Broadstairs.

E. J. Hanson is at Salisbury Theological College.

T. W. Beasley, Esq., has been appointed Head Master of the County School for Boys, Richmond, Surrey.

P. Merivale has been playing Cassio, in Othello at His Majesty's Theatre.

A. C. Tibbits, Birmingham University, has qualified as M.R.C.S., Eng., and L.R.C.P.

M. H. B. Nethersole, Wadham College, Oxford, obtained a Second Class in Classical Moderations.

The Rev. H. M. Johnson, who has been ill after an operation in the beginning of 1910, has now recovered. He went on a voyage for health's sake to Australia in that year, which did little good at the time, but with one relapse he has been better since. He is still at Ilfracombe.

W. Johnson is now a partner in the engineering firm of Easton and Johnson, at Taunton. Address, The Orchard, Trall, W. Taunton.

The Rev. A. E. Buchanan is Rector of Nymet St. George, Southmolton, Devon. The Rectory is also known as George Nympton. We believe Mr. Buchanan holds with it the Curacy of St. John Clapworthy, Umbersleigh.

In the Eights at Oxford the following O.S.E. are rowing:—Worcester, J. P. Higgs, 6; St. Edmund Hall, H. A. Wilkinson, stroke; St. John's II., M. B. Thompson, 4, C. D. Upstone, 5; St. Catharines', F. A. C. Tidmarsh, 7.

On May 18th, N. Wilks gave a recital at Bechstein Hall

with a violinist, Miss M. Law, and astonished the critics by his 'self-effacing tact' in a Beethoven Violin Sonata, 'hardly to be expected in so robust and impetuous a solo player.' His solos were doubly encored. The audience was large and appreciative.

- C. S. Gillett has recovered from his long illness. His address will be in future 'St. Edward's,' Islip, Oxon.
- A. S. Gillett has gone to China as Medical Officer on one of the P. and O. liners.
- G. M. G. Gillett's address is now Thornbury, Gloucestershire.
- J. E. Grigson is a master at St. Cyprian's, Eastbourne, at which School C. H. Jenner is also a master.

The Rev. R. C. Morrell, who is Senior Curate of St. Marylebone, writes that C. C. Morrell has just taken an M.D. degree at Brussels. R. d'A. Morrell is still at Grange-over-Sands. He has recently been made a Fellow of the Entomological Society, and lectures on Entomology. He is in command of the local Territorials, and engaged in most of the local Clubs (Rifle, Scouts, Brigade, etc.).

We notice with interest in the Church Times of May 17th a letter on the subject of St. Thomas ye Martyr, Oxford, from the Rev. F. W. Davis, who has been for over 41 years Rector of Blairgowrie, Perthshire. From it we learn that he was for three years a Master at St. Edward's. He gives no date, but this must have been before 1869. We have no record of Assistant Masters before that year, and know only one so early. Records of the New-Inn-Hall Street days are not easy to discover.

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN :-

- J. C. de M. Malan is in Brittany. Address, Chimère, Paramé, Ille et Vilaine, France.
- F. T. Neale is on the Relieving Staff of the Department of Justice, Pretoria, and goes about from place to place in the Cape Province, relieving Magistrates, Assistant Magistrates and Clerks, when they go on leave. At present he is relieving a man in the Staff Office at Pretoria and expects to be there till September. He has recently been made a J.P. for the Cape Province.
- R. G. Thompson kindly sends us news of the Ceylon O.S.E. as follows:—
 - J. R. Neale, Manager, Tea Estate. Chapelton Estate, Bogawantalawa.
 - R. T. S. Neale, Assistant Manager, Tea Estate. Kotiyagalla, Bogawantalawa. Was runner-up in the Ceylon Tennis Single Championship this year.
 - C. B. Collisson, Assistant Manager, Tea and Rubber Estate. Cairness, Talawakelle.
 - J. R. Dashwood, Assistant Manager, Tea and Rubber Estate, Wattegama.
 - H. B. Thompson, Assistant Manager, Tea and Rubber Estate. Yattawatte Estate, Matale. Member of the Ceylon Turf Club; Races as 'Mr. Blundell.'
 - R. D. Thompson, Assistant Manager, Tea Estate. Upper Koslande, Haputale.
 - R. G. Thompson, Manager of Tea and Rubber Estate.

 Dangan, Matale. Hon. Sec., Ceylon R.U. Football
 Union; played for 'All Ceylon' v. the Leicester
 Regt., 1911.

B. H. Warner, writing in March from Ubombo, Swaziland, says:-

I think you know I am now Assistant Commissioner here and live in "the Residency." It sounds very swagger but the Palace consists of three large round brick huts and various rooms behind: altogether a very queer looking place it would be considered in England. We have just been through the hottest Summer and the driest that has been recorded here and we are feeling like wet rags. The climate is unhealthy in the Summer but delightful in the Winter. As a result of the bad season the native crops are a complete failure and famine stares the wretched people in the face. I can see that Government must help or many of the people will die.

If I can manage it, I hope to get home for next

Christmas.
MILITARY:-

From the Daily Telegraph, April 13th:—The Army Aircraft Factory has lately come in for much criticism, which has often been unjustifiable in point of fact. The latest aeroplane constructed by the factory, for instance, has given proof of exceptional efficiency in the capable hands of Mr. de Havilland. It has already made a number of cross-country flights, risen to a considerable altitude,

and—most important of all—has already fulfilled every single one of the conditions imposed by the War Office in the official specification for Army aeroplanes.

From the Daily Telegraph, May 18th:—Military Aeroplane Display at Cove Common before the King and Queen. His Majesty and the Queen chatted for a few minutes with the commandant of the Royal Flying Corps, who explained the programme that had been arranged. The officers who were to take aeroplanes up were then summoned, and each

of them was presented to the King.

As soon as this was done, each officer took his place in his allotted aeroplane, and, without delay or hitch, one after the other rose gracefully into the air and flew away to the south-west against the wind. It was a really remarkable exhibition. Captain Burke, in the B.E.r, built in the Royal Aircraft Factory, was the first to mount, and he was followed at regular intervals by Mr. de Havilland, Captain Lorraine, Lieutenant Cox, Lieutenant Reynolds, and other officers of the Flying Corps. * * * *

A variety of manœuvres was carried out. Some of the aeroplanes mounted to a great height; others flew lower, and went in and out and round about over Cove Common and its vicinity, tracing the measures of an airy quadrille with perfect ease and certainty. Then, one by one, they circled round, and came to earth again as gracefully and

easily as birds alighting after a flight.

Mr. de Havilland, who has a great reputation in his corps as an airman, executed a magnificently-daring volplane as he came down. His aeroplane had risen to a height of about 2,500 feet. At this elevation he shut off his engine, and, shifting his planes, darted almost straight down towards the earth, like an eagle striking at a quarry. The spectators held their breath as they watched the apparently reckless flight, and half feared that the daring aviator would be dashed to pieces; but 100 feet from the ground the aeroplane, perfectly under control, altered its course, and sped away horizontally for a space, its engine humming rhythmically again, and then alighted without a jar in front of the hangar. A cheer broke from the spectators—half relief, half genuine admiration at the conclusion of Mr. de Havilland's daring feat.

Their Majesties expressed unstinted approval of the

display given by the aviators.

From the Daily Telegraph, April 27th:—This little town of Daventry is all agog with excitement for the morrow, when hundreds of motor-cyclists will have to negotiate its narrow streets. General Alex. Thorneycroft, C.B., will be present to inspect the motoring cyclists on their arrival, and to consider the military value of the work accomplished.

The credit of organising this mobilisation is due to the Legion of Cyclists, and, with few exceptions, those taking part are members of the Legion. The date and place of the rendezvous has been kept a secret from them until tonight, but I have been asked by Captain A. H. Trapmann, the Hon. Secretary of the Legion, to state that all motorcyclists who read these lines will be welcome if they will speed to the rendezvous.

A letter to the same paper's Territorial Notes from Captain Trapmann, also in April, gives a five years' record of his recruiting for the 25th (City of London) Cyclist Battalion of the London Regiment, during his Adjutancy. It reaches the remarkable total of 22 officers and 504 men.

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