

## R E T R O S P E C T .

THE record of the doings at the last exhibition differs only in details from that of the previous year. The fine weather enabled us to make a two days match of "past and present," and gave ample opportunity for the visitors to concur in the general verdict of satisfaction as to the new cricket ground. The dry hot summer had left but little trace on the turf, and the condition of the ground, at the end of the season, gives us every cause to expect a very satisfactory field for the next year. The match was interesting. The eleven had increased considerably in power towards the close of the season, and this principally in batting. C. Murphy continued a careful and effective play, and W. Sweetman and B. Kindersley developed into serviceable and reliable batsmen. The "past" was not without its hopes, but was doomed to disappointment, the match finishing, on the second day, with the victory of the present generation, with six wickets to spare against the total score of the "past" of 104.

The aquatic sports had not so much of the interest which the very close competition in some of the races offered last year. The race of five lengths resulted in an easy victory for L. Cave, C. Birt coming in second. The time was not good, owing to the inequality of the competition. The race of one length was more interesting, as the two competitors who made a tie in the same race, twice last year, again disputed the prize. The race was good, and left the victory to F. G. Connolly, C. Murphy second. In diving, the same pair took the prizes, Connolly changing places with Murphy. In the 2nd division R. Murphy carried off all the first prizes. In the races of two lengths, and of one length, he had W. Gallway for a second. In the 3rd division, F. Bradney won a good race of one length, J. Britten second. In diving Bradney made a second to Britten. The race for beginners across the bath was won by H. Cave, with H. Ware as second. The prizes were distributed at the bathing place immediately after the sports.

The proceedings of the St. Gregory's Society and the distribution of prizes were marked by a considerable increase in the attendance of members and of visitors. The business transactions of the society showed a satisfactory increase in the roll-list of members.

The projected "medal" was translated from the vague field of speculation in which it had merely served as the subject of suggestion and amicable dispute among the devotees of numismatics, and promises in a not remote period to add a "classical" ornament to the long expectant candidates. The report of the proceedings of the general meeting does not explain why the sum of £15 allotted for proficiency in studies has been reduced to £10. To those who look upon the advancement of studies as the most important of the ends of the society, this seems to call for explanation.

During the annual dinner of the society, at which both visitors and members of the college were present, toasts were given, and speeches made, touching the special interests of the society. Denis O'Connor, M.P., LL.D., spoke upon the subject of studies. Sir Walter de Souza and H. Howard C.B., made a grateful acknowledgment of their indebtedness and attachment to their Alma Mater. Canon Richards O.S.B., touched upon the growth of the society. J. E. Harting, A. Maskell, L. Mostyn and the Rev. H. E. Ford O.S.B., responded for the official staff. The general tone of enthusiasm is matter for proud recollection and encouragement both for those who compose the society, and for those who fall within the sphere of its action. The distribution of prizes took place in the palace. About 140 visitors were present. The excessive heat of the weather was such that one could not but envy the prize takers who struggled through to the prize-laden table, where at least they had temporary breathing-room. The occasion was made more interesting by the presence of the Right Rev. Dr. Clifford, whose first visit, after a long absence and a severe illness, was greeted with a hearty and enthusiastic reception. From the prize-roll we must content ourselves with selecting the names of G. Hicks and F. Way, for especial mention. Musical and elocutionary performances accompanied the distribution. His Lordship Dr. Clifford, alluding to his absence and reception, spoke of the strong ties which bound him to Downside. Jas. Ford Esq., spoke again on the subject of athletic sports, which he has made his own by his advocacy and his support. In an interesting speech he expressed his satisfaction of the report he had received of the competition for his prize for athletics. The distinction afforded by the prize is made more valuable by its being conferred by the public vote of the school. F. G. Connolly appeared at the head of the poll, V. Keenan being second, and C. Murphy third. In the evening the farce "Frederic of Prussia," was performed for the

second time on our boards, and was thoroughly appreciated by the audience. M. Dunlea (King Frederic) and B. Rawlinson (Brochette), who held the same characters as in the previous cast, were especially successful. E. Ware and B. Kindersley, in their respective parts, won a satisfactory verdict of applause from the spectators.

We may now turn to the term which is just expiring. We are glad to be able to record what seem to us to be some important innovations. The great cause of complaint as to the want of some definite interest in games at this period, has in great measure been taken away by the institution of the "Downside Harriers." The old sport of "paper-chase" has been invested with qualities which enable it to take its rank in the circle of scientific pastimes. The "chases" are made regular and periodic, and are conducted on definite laws. The hounds work now in a "pack," and are no longer left to the vagaries of private instinct. The result has been not only an improvement in the regularity of the running, but also in the quality of the work done. It has been found necessary even to put a check on the ardour of the members. One run we will record, which will illustrate the enthusiasm, if it does not commend the prudence of the runners. One autumn afternoon's course ended in Wells, where, the paper falling, the hares took sanctuary in the cathedral precincts. To those who know the nature of the country between this and Wells, and who take into consideration the circuitous route of the hares, this will seem excessive, even in a first fervour.

A second subject of congratulation is the setting on foot of an institution which has been in abeyance for two or three years,—the Abingdon Debating Society. A change has been made in the manner of conducting the debate, inasmuch as the debaters court a publicity which must add considerably to the trials, as well as to the utility of the exercise. The public is free to attend the debates, and has availed itself liberally of the invitation. As might have been expected, the debating has shewn the want of experience and the embarrassment of beginnings; but it has supplied for these by energy and enthusiasm. Supplementary to this has been the inauguration of a literary society for the reading of essays. This too has been carried on with great display of interest, both in the lecturers and in the audience. The junior magazine, "Wild Flowers," continues to appear, and we understand that its more retiring senior, the "Literary Magazine," is contemplating a reappearance in society.

The very mild autumn enabled us to bathe throughout September. Football has been vigorous and successful, but has suffered from the rainy season. Hockey has been well and persistently played. Gymnastic exercise calls for particular notice. The new professor has done wonders. Those who witnessed the competition of December 1st, were more than astonished, for not only the elder boys, but the youngest and smallest did feats that we should have hesitated to credit upon hearsay. We have only space to single out and briefly name, C. Murphy, F. Connolly, V. Keenan, W. Cox, and E. Margrave. The school of carpentry still shews vigour and action, and the naturalist section has been persistent and energetic in its self-imposed labours.

Though we must leave any detailed account of the progress of the new church to a more fitting place, yet we cannot refrain from testifying to the public satisfaction and admiration. The shell of the transepts is almost complete, and the glazing and carving are well in progress. The public verdict has not been so unanimous as to the colour of the roof-tiling. One thing however, must satisfy both parties; that the present tiling could not be surpassed for practical utility; and in our present climatological conditions, that must be a very great recommendation. The severe gale which, alas, threw down some of our finest trees, had no effect upon the roof, although, in its incomplete state it was considerably at a disadvantage.

After looking back over the past we cannot help forecasting for the coming term. All that we can find to say gives us great interests and great hopes for the future. May the New Year bear out the promise of the Old!

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