

The Student.

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EDITORIAL.

THIS number of the *Student* brings us on to the most important of the College year, for preparations are being made for the annual examinations, while to third-year students the diplomas are almost within reach.

Examinations begin almost immediately, and before the end of February the commencement of vintage will be seen. The break up of the College year is to be celebrated on March 14th, when the prize-giving will be held at the Institution.

Improvements in and around the College are still going on. Since our last issue a new and up-to-date dairy has been erected to the rear of the old one. It is built on the latest style and will contain machinery of the most recent and approved types, including an "Alfa" refrigerator.

A special article on the new dairy, with illustrations of the building and machinery, will appear in our next issue.

PROFESSOR ANGUS.

Professor Angus, the new Director of Agriculture, has arrived in South Australia, and though our country seems strange to him at present in comparison with Scotland and England, still we hope that he has obtained favorable impressions.

Already the students have received considerable information regarding agricultural matters, and in a few years there will doubtless be many settled in different parts of the State who have gained valuable instruction at his hands.

At our forthcoming social the students, both past and present, will give him a welcome, and your Committee hope that you will make this occasion a record gathering.

TENNIS.

The new court has at last been finished, after a good deal of hard labor; the old one will, we hope, be done up next year. Professor Angus has offered a prize of a guinea tennis racquet to the best single player. This will create more interest in the game, and a keen contest is expected. We have played several matches, but have only been victorious in one; this has not disheartened us though, and we intend to try our luck again.

ASSISTANT DAIRY INSTRUCTOR.

We have connected with the dairy an assistant dairy instructor, Mr. C. Shorter. He is an expert in the line, and good results will be obtained in connection with the dairy. He is an enthusiast in tennis, and should be a valuable addition to the tennis team.

POULTRY.

A new incubator house has been erected near the College poultry yards. Mr. W. R. Day has again assumed control of the College poultry, and the flock will be brought into perfect order once more.

RELIGIOUS.

Owing to the inconvenience of travelling into Gawler every Sunday to church, Professor Perkins has arranged with the ministers of Gawler to visit the College on Sundays to administer religious services to the students. The lecture room is used, and music is rendered by one of the students.

OBITUARY.

We regret to record the death of one of the old students, Mr. John B. C. Hackett, on October 23rd, 1904, at the age of 32. Jack, as he was familiarly known in College days, first attended Glenelg Grammar School, and afterwards took his diploma with credit at the Agricultural College in December, 1891. Proceeding later to England where he studied and practised the nursery and seed business with the firm of Carter & Co. for about three years, and for a further two years was with a large market and nursery garden near London. This, with the two years spent at Roseworthy, fitted John for the position he filled in his father's establishment, Messrs. E. & W. Hackett, of Rundle-street, where his business method and unassuming manner won for him much esteem. At College Jack was one of the few who loved chemistry and botany, and he always took a deep and practical interest in all matters pertaining to agriculture.

March Social.**IMPORTANT NOTICE.**

THE usual Show week social will be held on Friday evening, March 3rd, at 8 o'clock, at Ware's Exchange Hotel, Hindley-street, and we trust to see a fair attendance. As this is the first opportunity the old students have of meeting the new Professor of Agriculture it is intended to make this social a welcome to Mr. Angus.

The Association is one of the connecting links between the present and the past of the College students, and we wish to show Mr. Angus that as old boys we still have a deep interest in the College and its work, and will do all in our power to make his labor amongst us a success. We hope that all old and present students who are in Adelaide during the show will make a big effort to be present on Friday evening.

The Secretary of the Association informs us that he does not intend to send out notices for this meeting. Will members please bear this in mind, and accept this intimation in place of the usual circular?

Remember Friday evening Show week.

Have you paid your subscription to the Association?
if not, pay! pay!! pay!!!

Subscription.

WE would again remind members that those who have not already paid their subscription for the present year, are requested to do so as early as possible. Old boys should have enough interest in the College and the Association to send along the 5s. per year, without being constantly reminded that they have not paid.

New members are taken at half subscription, viz., 2s. 6d. from now until the end of the year. The Secretary will be glad to receive the names of any who have not yet joined the Association.

Ask yourself these questions: Am I a member of the Association? Have I paid my subscription up to date? And do not rest until both can be answered in the affirmative.

Old boys, rally up, and give Mr. Angus a real Australian Agricultural welcome, on Friday evening, March 3rd.

Scholarships.

IT is with very great pleasure that we note the latest prospectus of the College just issued contains a new regulation regarding the scholarships which are annually offered by the Government. We pointed out previously that the object of these scholarships had been defeated by the exceptionally hard examination which the boys had to pass, making it almost an impossibility for a country boy to gain a scholarship unless he had spent at least 12 months or more at the Agricultural Branch of the School of Mines making special preparation for the exams. The result has not been as satisfactory as we should have liked.

Under the new regulations most of the exams. which have proved a stumbling block to country boys has been dispensed with, and only elementary subjects, equal to the highest classes in State schools, including algebra and drawing, will be given as a test for the boys' mental knowledge. Candidates will be expected to show some familiarity with simple manual operations. It is very interesting to note that stiff examinations on these subjects have been dropped, and wisely, too, for why should a boy be expected to pass in a subject for which he is going to the College especially to learn?

Unfortunately these alterations did not come in force in time for this year's scholarship, but next year we trust to see good competition in the whole six districts, and five farmers' sons top in the five farming districts.

Old students and friends who have the interests of the College at heart will be thankful to hear of the alteration of these examinations, and grateful to Mr. T. E. Yelland who first brought the subject before the Council of Agriculture, and with the assistance of another old boy in Mr. A. M. Dawkins were successful in carrying a motion recommending the Government to make the above regulations.

An Hour at the Dam.

(By "CASUAL OBSERVER.")

IN a beautifully secluded spot not far from the College may be viewed the students' seaside resort. Proceeding thence on a warm day at about 5 p.m., you will probably see a few of the lads sporting in the clear blue water. We will take a seat under the old overlapping willows within earshot and watch their actions.

They are soon stripped, and then the shouting and jostling commences. "Off you go, Frank!" "Don't funk it!" and various other advice is aimed gratis at Frank's head, who, I may add, does not funk it. There is a great splash resembling a blasting operation as Frank reaches the water, and a minute later he appears with a chest very much resembling cochineal. This kind of boyish amusement goes on serenely when a hush overspreads the crowd. What is it? It is the "Tooka" approaching the board. Oh how she bends! the tip of the board breasting beneath the waves, and soon Tooka has also lost his bulky figure beneath the briny depths. About 32 minutes later he makes his appearance amid the bamboo clump, and with long strokes, much resembling Miss Kellermann, makes for a tar drum. This comprises his swimming for the day, as he sticks to the drum and floats about as if he was paid per day.

Another of George Read's pupils is "Dogger." He runs from the top of the bank and makes for the board with the speed of a runaway motor car, and a second later is off. He strikes the water, and there is a great splash for his frame is fairly well developed. The dive is superb on the whole, the only fault being that he is inclined to force his posterior portion into the cervo-stratus clouds above. Things are going smoothly when a craft of at least ten horse power pushes from the jetty. It contains something of a dead weight, presumably dead with a specific gravity of 57 or perhaps more. Another glance, and we recognise the sock of our pal who completed the dive described above, after a short cruise the owner rescues it, but is in turn borne down, and is pulled ashore limp from the effects of a strong dose of chloroform. Now we will watch the sporting crowd doing a little, a very little, swimming; the strokes used are various, the most uncommon being a slow breast by one of our record breakers. We have, for example, double, and in some cases triple overarm, overarm, side, dog-paddle, etc., etc., and again etc. Some of the swimmers have strokes entirely original, far too original to become common, so they need not trouble to put in the daily paper "Patent applied for."

Some lads who frequent the dam are of a brave and fearless nature, and will try anything from a back-sitting dive to a ferocious "bouncer." I may add that the result of these speculations shows itself plainly on their backs, chests and other parts of the body.

The interesting portion is about completed, and now only a stray swimmer is seen, who swears that he will not leave till he has done a "neat one," which, however, never comes off.

We now leave them, having seen a gymnastic performance worthy of Fitzgerald's, and quite determined never to pay the 2s. to see the above show when you can spend an hour or two watching the scenes of interest at R.A.C. watering place.

The Harvest.

IN spite of the low rainfall, and aided by a good season for the ripening of grain, our crop returns were exceptionally satisfactory.

Early in the season red rust made its unwelcome appearance, but in the end it did not do any great damage, as will be seen later. 93 acres were cut for hay, and a strip from the edges of each field for ensilage besides a few odd dirty patches. Hay cutting commenced in October, and was carried on till November, when it was all stacked in a corner of No. 8, near the farm.

A new hay trolley, dubbed "the barge" by students, was purchased from James Martin & Co., and was a great help both in hay and wheat carting. She has been knocked about a bit owing to gate posts, etc., getting in the way. There was great competition amongst students to see who could put the biggest "bumper" on. Needless to say some of the loads looked as if they were suffering from cancer or some other disease, and a few came to grief.

The fields under crop were :—Ebsary's A, B, and C ; Nottle's ; No. 5.

Ebsary's A.—This field was sown to varieties of wheat, the manure being drilled in previously at the rate of 170 lbs. per acre. The crop came away fairly well on the whole, but growth was bad up to August, when a top-dressing of 1 cwt. of nitrate of soda per acre was applied. Luckily wet weather prevailed shortly after this and the result was apparently satisfactory.

Red rust was present in most of the plots, but with a few exceptions did not do much harm. King's Early, Bearded, Innominate, Rerraf, Californian Purple, Majestic, Petalz, Surprise, and Boomerang were slightly affected in the stalk, while Silver King, Waddy, and Wenman's Early suffered more severely, and Early Purple Straw was affected badly. The rest of the plots, viz., Gluyas, Carmichael's Eclipse, Come Back, and Jonathon were practically free from the fungus. Silver King, though badly affected with rust, returned a yield of 20.55 bushels per acre ; Californian Purple came lowest with 9.86 bushels per acre. Good results,

were obtained from Rerraf, a new wheat to the College, which yielded 18·87 bushels. Gluyas went 17·6, and Carmichael's Eclipse 17·89. Come Back and Jonathon, both new wheats, returned 15·89 and 14·17 bushels respectively, but better returns are expected from these in future. Samples of Come Back averaged 71 lbs. per bushel.

Ebsary's B.—Sown to varieties of oats, the manure being drilled in beforehand at the rate of 1 cwt. per acre. The whole of this crop, except about 11 acres that were cut for ensilage, was cut as hay, yielding 2·75 tons per acre.

Ebsary's C.—Sown to varieties of barley, viz., Cape, Chevalier, Duck Bill, Skinless. This crop germinated well, but growth being slow and seed thin, the weeds almost got the better of it. The old Garret hoe was put on it, and this practically saved it by giving the barley another start. Unfortunately, early in November rain fell and discolored what otherwise would have been a good sample. The yields were as follows:—Cape Barley 38·66 bushels per acre; Skinless, 24·40 bushels per acre; Chevalier, 19·29 bushels per acre; Duck Bill, 19·12 bushels per acre. The three last are two-rowed varieties.

Nottle's.—This field was also devoted to varieties of wheat drilled in with the manure throughout during April. The crop was good from the time it germinated, King's Early and Gluyas being particularly noticeable. As far as rust is concerned the variety affected worst was Early Purple Straw which was all cut as hay. Next came Leak's Rust-proof, Dart's Imperial, Defiance, Smarts, Pioneer, Silver King, Fan. A part of each of these was cut for hay also. Those with rust, but not damaged by it, were:—Marshall's No. 3, King's Early, Bearded, Innommate, Warwick, Jerkin, Phyllis's Marvel. Gluyas was untouched.

The results from the whole paddock were, however, uneven, the highest yield being from King's Early, going 26·62 bushels, while on the other hand another plot of the same variety went 15·16 bushels. Also in Gluyas, the second highest yield, viz., 22·24 bushels in one plot, but 19·41 in another. Other plots worth mentioning are:—Silver King, 23·29 bushels; Marshall's No. 3, 22·20 bushels; Phyllis's Marvel, 21·14. A tip top sample of hay was cut from Majestic, also a good sample from 6 acres of mixed wheat and lucerne. The latter never came to anything owing chiefly to the absence of summer rain. The hay cut from this paddock altogether yielded 2 tons 9 cwt. per acre.

No. 5.—In this field, unfortunately, the plots were somewhat indistinct, so that the results, being open to question, are not

published. The total area under crop was 150 acres, some of which was cut for ensilage. In wheat, however, there were 122.35 acres, 110.39 under Bearded Innommate, and 11.96 under King's Early, the former yielding 17.23 bushels per acre, and the latter 10.77 bushels per acre; this crop was sown very late, and was practically free from rust. All the grain was threshed and straw pressed as usual.

The barn is just about full, and a nice stack of straw stands near the cow byres. A large part of the corings and cocky chaff has been kept this year, being stored in a large heap with walls built of straw bales. It is to be fed to the stock. A little was raked into the paddock, and sheep are doing remarkably well on it.

Practically all the seed was graded before sowing, which most likely has a lot to do with the good results. A few bags of different varieties (graded samples) have been sold already at about 4s. 6d per bushel.

Lurks.

Eggs.

Exams.

Dismal.

Vintage.

Dam, Weedy.

"Have at him!"

Speech day.

"Little brown jug."

"Dogger's got the gun."

Laird conquered at last.

Small vintage anticipated by all.

"Don't say that again or you'll make me larf."

Q. Why does South Australia like the new dairy at R.A.C.?

A. Because the bosses are Shorter (sure to) Suter (suit her.)

The Dairy Trip.

(By J.K.S.)

ON Thursday, 9th February, the dairy expert, Mr. P. H. Suter, kindly undertook to escort the third year students to various places connected with the dairy interest of South Australia. The establishments visited were the Port Adelaide

Government Freezing Works and Messrs. A. W. Sandford and Company, while a trip was also taken to Mr. A. W. Silver's dairy farm at Brighton.

It was decided to visit the Freezing Works first. Leaving the College for the early train we arrived at Gawler after a brisk drive, caught our train, and were soon whirling southwards, changed at Dry Creek, to land at the Port shortly after 9.20 a.m., Mr. Suter turned up a few minutes after, and we lost no time in reaching the works, arriving there after a brisk six-mile-an-hour walk. Were met at the works by the Chief Engineer who kindly showed us over the stores. First place of interest pointed out to us was the engine room, where massive refrigerators were on view, and a machine admired by us all was a smooth and silent running dynamo. The brine cooling coil was next visited, consisting of a huge coil immersed in a tank of brine. The liquid ammonia expanding in this coil abstracts heat from the surrounding brine which is cooled down considerably. This brine is the medium employed in cooling the rooms for freezing purposes. The rooms were next visited. First we were shown through where the freezing of lamb carcasses is carried out. Some of these smaller rooms are capable of holding 1,000 lambs, while larger rooms hold from 25,000 to 30,000 carcasses, making a total storage for 75,000 lambs. Unfortunately, all the lambs had been shipped for the London market the day before. The freezing of dairy produce was the next item; here we saw various brands of S.A. and Victorian butters, some of which showed signs of not too careful packing. Bulked eggs, pigeons, veal, and rabbits were also seen a fair quantity. While in the freezing rooms our thoughts travelled back to threshing time when the temperature reached 110 deg. in the shade, so we enjoyed the situation all the more. A rather ludicrous incident was expounded to us while in these frigid regions. It ran something like the following:—"A young chap who had the habit of continually twisting his mo., was in the act of curling the growth on his upper lip while in a freezing room one day when he had the misfortune to snap it off—it had frozen solid." Leaving the cool regions, Mr. Suter then sampled a few cases of butter, amongst which were a couple from the College, and it is pleasing to state that it was the best butter received at the depôt this season, including cleanliness of packing, excellent color (one case was a little on the deep side), and good flavor.

After thanking our guide for the trouble he had gone to for our benefit, we left the works, and catching the train for Adelaide visited the establishment of A. W. Sandford & Company. Here we made a tour under the direction of Mr. John Sandford, first

inspecting the refrigerating machinery, where two large refrigerators, built on the principle of which Messrs. Sandford are the patentees, were in full swing. Besides the cool chambers on the ground and first floors, the large storage rooms underground were a source of interest. Here also egg packing is being carried out with great skill, the eggs being packed for export in casks, each one of which hold 100 dozen. Extreme precautions are taken to see that each egg is fresh and absolutely free from cracks before they are sent away.

The churning room, where six large churns are constantly kept employed, and the butter working and printing rooms were next visited, and the manner in which the whole operation was performed from the time of the arrival of cream until printed up ready for local stores, or packed for export to London, was seen. Also we visited the freezing rooms, where butter forwarded for sale is hardened during the summer months.

Left Sandford's at 1.30 p.m. to go to dinner, and this over we had ample time to catch the Bay train, arriving there about 2.30, caught the Brighton tram, and shortly arrived at Mr. Silver's. Unfortunately, Mr. Silver was away, but his foreman showed us over the farm. The buildings and stock favorably impressed us. Taking the tram back to the Bay, we enjoyed a good swim and arrived in town in time for tea. Catching the 7.10 train to Gawler, we arrived after a good drive at the College, having spent a most enjoyable and instructive trip, for which many thanks are due to Mr. Suter.

Veterinary Notes.

(By "AMATEUR.")

VETERINARY science has taken a prominent place amongst the topics of student talk this last few weeks. Mr. Desmond, M.R.C.V.S., our Veterinary Instructor, gave us the opportunity of seeing an operation upon a deep-seated abscess of the shoulder, which has proved a great nuisance of late as the working of the horse had to be stopped in a busy time. The individual to be operated upon, commonly known as the Laird, and whose occupation is chiefly that of hauling a Planet Jr., for for he belongs to the V. and O. squadron, the thought of whom is generally associated with a cloud of dust, and a half day's hard work. He is rather a wayward member of the quadrupeds, as was noticed by all those who witnessed the scene of operation. Well it was this creature that Archie led from the stable

to straw heap in No. 9. The next item was the roping of Laird, and was begun by trying to put a strap around his front foot, to which he forcibly objected, and heedless of Archie's warnings, as "Whea! Don't jump on me you son of horse!" he careered round on his hind legs, being very careless as to where he put his front ones. A few visitors were present, one of whom kindly lent us the necessary assistance to secure our victim. After a little casual advice to us, he left us, and with "Goodbye, Mr. 'Desmal'" was off, to our great amusement, he, having an appointment, was unable to witness the operation. Mr. Desmond next began to give the chloroform by means of a muzzle of canvas within which was a sponge saturated with the drug. It was about 15 minutes before the anæsthetic had total effect. The next procedure was the cleaning of the shoulder with a little of our useful friend, washing soda and hot water. The knife was then used with considerable skill, resulting in lancing the armor about one-and-a-half inches deep in the muscles, also securely draining the wound with a seaton, and stitching up the cut with four stitches, and syringing out the wound again with warm water. By this time Laird had nearly come to life again, and began to struggle, and it was thought advisable to remove the leg straps, etc., when there was least possible chance of becoming another item for a surgeon's practice. This releasing of bonds being effected, Laird again lay quite still and we had the pleasure of sitting on a conqueror fallen, but after a short time he staggered to his feet, looking very much as though he had had a bad night and got up not feeling very pleasant. He was then removed to his stall, where he is at present progressing favorably, the wound having swollen a little and being inflamed.

It is hoped that we may see a few more of these instructive operations; of course, not wanting to see all the horses getting bad for us to act upon, or rather see them so treated.

It is not very well known at present that Mr. Desmond would be very glad of all opportunities afforded him of giving advice to the farmers round about, and if they will kindly bring all their diseased horses to him on Wednesdays at the College some time during the day he will gladly prescribe for them, and I am sure, as all of us know, that these cases will be fully and thoroughly attended, as a few of those farmers who know will readily tell anyone of how their animals were treated. We have had upwards of six cases, and still hope to get many more both as instruction to ourselves and as relief to distressed animals.

Don't forget Friday evening (Show week), at Ware's Exchange Hotel, Hindley Street.

Among the Crops on Iandra.

(CONTINUED.)

WE found the best wheat on undulating granite country, some of the very best being on top of the ridges: Mr. Murray informed us that there were eight miles of solid Iandra wheat between the spot where we first saw the paddock of Baart wheat and the Iandra railway station without a break. From the heights it looked like a sea of wheat with Brundah holding showing in the distance—a splendid sight, unequalled perhaps in the Commonwealth.

BLUESTONE.

We next wished to know why crops on other holdings we had inspected were so thin, while the Iandra crops were just the opposite. Mr. Murray said bluestone was the cause of it, and further stated that bluestone had a wonderful power, even on metal; five or six years ago he noticed wheat that was bluestoned and sown in a dry month—April—had the germ destroyed. He followed this up with experiments, and after five years' trial found that wheat bluestoned and sown in dry ground seemed to malt, and the germ to mildew—that is when the wheat lies dormant for three or four weeks. So he did not bluestone any seed sown in dry weather, and had not yet experienced any rust or smut—and this after five years' trial. He estimated that at least 20 per cent. of the crops of New South Wales were lost to the State this year by bluestoning; some crops would have to be resown owing to the same cause. As soon as rain came and the ground got damp he used bluestone. Another reason why he discarded bluestone in dry weather was because he had noticed that self-sown crops never had smut. There was not one acre resown on Iandra, and the crops speak for themselves.

MANURES.

“We use Shirley's No. 1, Superphosphate because we find that it pays.” The visiting party thoroughly inspected all the crops, which, in some cases, were not manured; the lands treated with the Superphosphate, and those that were not, were very distinct. In new ground the difference was fully 25 per cent. in favor of the manure, while in old ground the manuring advanced the crop 100 per cent.—not that it was much taller, but the stools were denser and better headed. The manured land was also ten days earlier in ripening. The visitors found this to be the case right through the area inspected, and Mr. Murray said he had found it so for the past three years.

EXPERIMENTS WITH MANURE.

During last year on Mr. Thos. Rolls' area, eleven five-acre blocks were experimented on under the supervision of Mr. McKeown, of the Experimental Farm at Wagga; the different blocks were equal in every respect. No. 1, no manure, yielded 21 bushels per acre; No. 2, Superphosphate, 48 lbs, at a cost of 2s. 4d. per acre, yielded 29 bushels per acre; No. 3, Superphosphate, 80 lbs., at a cost of 3s. 10d. per acre, yielded 30 bushels to the acre; No. 4, Bonedust, 112 lbs. per acre at a cost of 6s. 5d., yielded 22 bushels. Bone phosphate, sulphate of ammonia, nitrate of soda, and other manures were tried, but the No. 1 Superphosphate easily came first. Mr. Murray recommends about 50 lbs. per acre at a cost for that area of 2s. 5d., as giving the best results. In this test Mr. McKeown wrote:—"Seed was sown with the drill, 45 lbs. to the acre being used. I believe in half-bushel, but it being late, and at the request of Mr. Murray, 45 lbs. per acre was sown. I always recommended half-bushel for early sowing with the drill, but for late sowing more is required."

HOW TO CULTIVATE.

Mr. Murray said "Do the right thing at the right time, use the right machines, and no farmer can fail." The landra system is to plough deep, and early in January and February; get as much ready as is possible by April, when the seed should be sown by means of drill and manure. Eleven years ago it was difficult to get men to start getting land ready for crop till April or May, now they are anxious to get early to work. Mr. Murray said that after his eleven years' experience he would not advise cropping under the old system, particularly on old ground, if not put in by drill and manure.

NEW EXPERIMENTS.

The manager informed the visiting party that 700 acres were to be cropped with rape this year. It is thought by Mr. Murray that by sowing old land with rape it would be ready the following year again for wheat, and would in the meantime supply green fodder, whilst a trial might also be given in green manuring. This year experiments are being made of fifty acres of each new variety of wheat from the Wagga Experimental Farm; each sort bears a good name; of these, "Federation" is a red wheat--a perfect rust resister; "Schneider," a white wheat, which at present is 4ft. 6in. high, and looks splendid; "John Brown," another white wheat, which is also forward, and seems an early wheat. "Farmer's Friend" is also being tried, and also malting barley, which is ready to cut, a perfect sample, promising a splendid yield. These tests are all on Mr. F. Kentz's area, and the seed was put in by drill, with Shirley's manure.

Correspondence.

"R.Y.L."—Hope you enjoyed the joke.

"W.A.L."—Less resistance is met with in water than in mud.

"Dormant."—Application of manures does not usually reduce the temperature to freezing point.

"P.O.E.S.R."—The thickness of cement is not usually taken into consideration in the construction of buildings.

"Bridget."—We don't think it advisable to tie the cart up instead of the horse.

"Coulter."—Cider is not generally made from spuds.

"No. 10."—It has been proved that 1 cwt. of cucumbers will kill a man.

"J.P.N."—Tennis Club cannot afford to supply tar as a beverage for summer drinks.

"H.D.S.L."—It is not advisable to lay your greasy head upon my left shouldah.

"J.P.N."—We cannot define the term "skeltings" in reference to wool-classing, but will find out.

The Vineyard and Orchard.

BY "CAR-BOY."

SINCE our last issue almost all our hopes of a good vintage have fallen, and what appeared to be a good show of fruit has turned out the reverse in most cases. This can easily be accounted for, in the fact that we had no rain from November 3rd to the end of the year, and also exceptional heat, ranging up to 119 deg. in the shade.

The second heat wave in January added to the damage done by the previous one, and dried up a great part of the fruit. Apart from this, however, the ripening is about a fortnight later than it was last year. The result of these conditions will probably lead to high densities.

Our hungry and mischievous friends, Sparrow, Starling and Co., have played "old Harry" with the grapes. We have a dozen or so of the Mazure patent bird scarers from last year at work, but in spite of these and a man with a gun, the birds manage to satisfy their inner birds at the expense of the Government. What these and other two-legged birds have left of the currants, are being picked for drying, but do not promise a very high yield.

In reference to the orchard there is not much to say, except that the young trees required watering two or three times on account of the hot weather. In most cases they responded to this treatment, notably the pears and figs, but some of the stone fruits "pegged" in spite of it. The crop of apricots was poor, but that of peaches is fair, but somehow they manage to drop off and disappear as they ripen. Of course, we blame the starlings. On the whole the vineyard and orchard are very clean, chiefly on account of the absence of summer rain.

The pines that were planted along the drive to replace the old gum trees are doing fairly well considering the weather experienced. They are being kept alive by frequent waterings. Those along the main road from the front gate to the cross roads have been temporarily fenced off, to keep off stray cattle and horses, and so give the trees a better chance of making headway.

The horses are in the pink of condition, but Brother Laird has been under an operation for a large abscess on his near shoulder, and is progressing favorably.

Our rainfall for 1904 totalled 14.53 in., this is nearly two inches below the average.

The Egg-Laying Competition.

THE Egg-Laying Competition which is being held at the Agricultural College, Roseworthy, under the auspices of the Royal A. and H. Society, and comprises 31 pens, which are nicely situated in a plantation of Carob trees. The erection of the pens being so arranged as to enclose three trees in each, which are greatly appreciated by the hens, as the trees provide good shade during the hot weather, and are a good shelter during the rough windy season of the year. The occupants of the 31 pens represent 14 different breeds as follows:—White Leghorns, Buff Leghorns, Brown Leghorns, Buff and Black Orpingtons, Minorcas, Silver Campines, Black Hamburgs, Langshans, Black Spanish, Silver Wyandottes, Anconas, Golden and White Wyandottes, all of which are doing their best to uphold their reputation as layers of a remarkable number of eggs, but, with the exception of perhaps half-a-dozen pens, I have not noticed anything very startling in that direction up to the present. All the hens are in a very healthy condition, and there has not been any sickness or disease of any kind so far, beyond the four deaths already recorded—two from colds and dysentery during the early stages of the Competition, and two from natural causes more recently—al-

though the heat was very trying during the last few days of the old year and the early part of the present year. I am very pleased to be able to say there were no casualties to record as a result from a shade temperature of from 112 to 119 deg., the only difference being a fairly large increase in the number of broody hens, and a corresponding decrease in the number of eggs laid. I should like to mention just here that the broody season seems to be rather an extended period with some breeds, as they have been at the game off and on since the middle of August. The moulting season, which, by the way, is rather early this year, is in full going order just now, as nearly every hen is going through her moult, some light and some moulting very heavily, but as the season has thus far been of a fairly even temperature, and mild weather has prevailed, the hens have not suffered any ill effects, as they probably would have done if the weather had been at all cold and wet, and thereby prolong the moulting season which, as a rule, is a very critical period with poultry, and anything that can be done should be done to assist them through with their moult as quickly as possible. As this is the second time some of the hens have moulted since their arrival here, it will be understood that a great deal of time has been lost out of the 12 months in which they were supposed to, and expected to, lay most of their eggs.

As the Competition has now been in progress for nine months out of the 12, it will be interesting to note the positions of the various breeds as egg layers. It will be seen that the leading position has been held by the same pen from the start, namely: White Leghorns from the Sunnyhurst Egg Farm, Baker's Gully, near Clarendon, and owned by Mr. W. L. Williams, who, no doubt, is very proud of them, as they have succeeded in putting up a very fair record, 1,106 eggs for nine months from six hens, which is the record number in any of the competitions held in any of the States at the present time, and if they maintain a fair average until the end of the test they will do very well indeed. White Leghorns are holding the second position also, as the pen owned by Mrs. Butler have 896 to their credit, but there is a rather keen struggle going on just now between A. E. Smith's Silver Wyandottes, Foot's Buff Leghorns, and Peglase Bros.' Minercas for third place, which has been held all along by A. E. Smith's, but, having spent a good deal of their time lately walking about the broody pen, have given the others a chance to catch up, but as there are still three months to go there is plenty of time for several changes to take place in regard to positions as several of the pens are running very close in number of eggs.

It is very pleasing to note that three old students, in Messrs. Yelland, Muecke, and Robson, are among the competitors, being represented by Buff Leghorns, Golden Wyandottes, and Silver Wyandottes, in the order named, and each of the owners is prepared to supply intending purchasers with either eggs or fowls of several well known breeds of good quality at reasonable prices. The feeding of the competition hens has been conducted on much the same lines right through, with bran and pollard mash mixed with crushed liver and warm soup for breakfast at 7 a.m. Crushed bone and green feed, such as cabbage leaves, beetroot leaves or sow or milk thistles for midday meal, the evening meal at 5 o'clock is grain, only varied as often as possible. Peas, torrefied barley, maize, wheat, and Cape barley having been fed through the cold weather, but the peas and maize were left out with the approach of warm weather, and more torrefied barley and oats will be used in their place. Particular attention has been given to cleanliness, cool fresh water is supplied in clean dishes, and placed in the shade each day, whilst a liberal supply of shell grit, oyster shell, quartz grit, and charcoal is always within reach of the hens.

Cricket Notes.

(By "FELIX.")

The first half of the season being over, the second half opened with a trip to Gawler, where the College team met the Early Closers. Vice-Captain Cooper won the toss, and decided to bat, but, after a somewhat poor display with the bat, the College team were disposed of for 79. The Early Closers then batted, and had it not been for the remarkably fine innings by Walker, the tables would most probably have been reversed. Howarth 21 and Rudall 13 not out also reached double figures. The final total was 101, or 22 ahead of the College team. For the College, Leppinus batted well for 20; Emery, Naish, and Robertson being the other members to pass 10.

COLLEGE—Emery, c. Walker, b. Lovedridge, 10; Cooper, b. Lovedridge 7; Leppinus, b. Lovedridge, 20; Naish, b. Howarth, 11; MacIndoe, c. Woods, b. Rudall, 6; Aldridge, b. Woods, 0; Fairweather, b. Howarth 2; Robertson, c. Hewitt, b. Woods, 11; Honey, st. Hewitt, 0; Tilley, b. Howarth 0; Martin, not out, 8; byes, 3; wides, 1.—Total 79. Bowling—Lovedridge, 3 for 25; Howarth, 3 for 13; Rudall, 2 for 12; Woods, 2 for 6.

EARLY CLOSERS—Hewitt, b. Emery, 3 ; Howarth, c. and b. Fairweather, 21 ; Woods, b. Fairweather, 1 ; Lovedridge, b. Fairweather, 2 ; Walker, b. Fairweather, 25 ; Dawkins, b. MacIndoe, 7 ; Rudall, not out, 10 ; Hibberd, b. Fairweather, 0 ; Gordon, b. Fairweather, 7 ; Williams, b. Emery, 0 ; Button, b. Emery, 4 ; byes 18.—Total 101. Bowling—Emery, 3 for 33 ; Fairweather, 6 for 28 ; MacIndoe, 1 for 23.

After a spell of two or three weeks, the Lyrics visited the College, and again succeeded in securing a victory, thanks to the splendid innings by May. The Lyrics winning the toss, decided to bat, and sent P. Berriman and Harker to face the trundling of Emery and Martin. Wickets fell rapidly for a start, 6 for 36 being registered, and May was the next on the list, and hit splendidly for 49 not out, being compiled in a very short space of time. Rusby also batted well for 19, and Elliott, 14, was unfortunate enough to play one on.

LYRICS, first innings—Berriman, b. Emery, 9 ; J. Harker, b. Emery, 0 ; D. Fergusson, l.b.w., b. Martin, 5 ; W. Elliott, c. Baker, b. Martin, 0 ; A. Cheek, c. and b. Martin, 1 ; C. Fergusson, b. Fairweather, 28 ; A. Jones, c. MacIndoe, b. Martin, 3 ; F. May, not out, 49 ; L. Dean, c. Naish, b. Fairweather, 2 ; F. Rusby, c. Leppinus, b. Cooper, 19 ; R. Elliott, played on, 14 ; byes, 8 ; wides, 4.—Total, 142. Bowling—Emery, 3 for 41 ; Martin, 4 for 20 ; Fairweather, 2 for 32 ; Cooper, 1 for 30.

The Lyrics being all disposed of, the College sent Naish and Leppinus to make a start, Naish running up 15 before being out l.b.w. Leppinus compiled 17 in good style, when he was bowled by Elliott. Cooper totalled 20 in his usual good form, but was unfortunate in being caught by Berriman off Fergusson. The only other one to reach double figures was Emery with 14, hitting one 5. The other wickets fell fast, all being out for 93.

COLLEGE, first innings—Naish, l.b.w., Berriman, 15 ; Leppinus, b. Elliott, 17 ; Cooper, c. Berriman, b. Fergusson, 20 ; Fairweather, c. Rusby, b. Berriman, 9 ; MacIndoe, c. Cheek, b. Harker, 0 ; Emery, run out, 14 ; Honey, b. Elliot, 0 ; Martin, not out 6 ; Baker, b. Elliott, 4 ; Aldridge, b. Harker, 0 ; Magarey, b. Elliott 4 ; byes, 2 ; wides, 2.—Total 93. Bowling—Berriman, 2 for 33 ; Elliott, 4 for 18 ; Harker, 2 for 6 ; Fergusson, 1 for 28.

The second essay of the Lyrics was an improvement on the first, having 6 down for 102, when play had to be stopped owing to rain intervening. Berriman, Hawker, and Elliott, all reached double figures by good sound cricket.

The bowling was not up to the general standard, and fielding was not over good on account of the wet and cold.

Second innings—P. Berriman, b. Emery, 20 ; J. Harker, c. Aldridge, b. MacIndoe, 28 ; D. Fergusson, b. Emery, 0 ; W. Elliott, c. Naish, b. Emery, 16 ; A. Cheek, c. Naish, b. MacIndoe, 3 ; A. Jones, not out, 2 ; F. May, not out, 5 ; byes, 14 ; leg-byes, 1 ; wides 2.—Total, 6 for 102. Bowling—Emery, 3 for 49 ; MacIndoe, 2 for 3.

The match was declared on the first innings in favor of the Lyrics by 49 runs.

The students being granted a half holiday, a return match was arranged with the Early Closers, only this game was on our own ground. The College Skipper, again winning the toss, decided to bat, sending Naish and Emery to withstand the bowling of Humphries and Howarth. Naish played well for 10 ; Emery 36, Pickering 39, Leppinus 18, also being prominent members with the willow for the College. The innings finally closed for 119.

With 119 to make the E.C.'s set to work and soon rattled up the score of 139. F. Temby 10, Hewitt 29, Humphries 14, Byrnes not out 36, and R. Temby 19, all playing well. The fielding on both sides was very good, but bowling on either side was not very startling.

With an hour or so to bat the College again tried their luck and had 5 down for 63 ; Baker 14, Martin 11, Honey 16 not out, and Cooper 14, all scoring well.

The Early Closers won on the first innings by 20 runs.

COLLEGE, first innings—Naish c., b. Dawkins, 10 ; Emery, c., b. Dawkins, 36 ; Cooper, c., b. Dawkins, 0 ; Martin, c., b. Howarth, 3 ; Leppinus, b. Humphries, 18 ; Fairweather, c., b. Humphries, 2 ; Pickering, c., b. Humphries, 39 ; MacIndoe, b. R. Temby, 3 ; Honey, c., b. R. Temby, 1 ; Baker, not out, 1 ; Magarey, b. Humphries, 0 ; byes, 3 ; sundries, 3.—Total, 119. Bowling—Dawkins, 3 for 42 ; Humphries, 4 for 24 ; Temby, 2 for 17 ; Howarth, 1 for 19.

Second innings—Cooper, c., b. Dawkins, 14 ; Martin, c., b. Dawkins, 11 ; Fairweather, b. Temby, 4 ; Honey, not out, 16 ; Baker, c. Hewitt, b. Humphries, 14 ; Magarey, b. Humphries, 0 ; sundries, 4.—Total, 5 for 63. Bowling—Dawkins, 2 for 14 ; Humphries, 2 for 20 ; Temby, 1 for 11 ; Howarth, 0 for 14.

EARLY CLOSERS—F. Temby, b. MacIndoe, 10 ; Dawkins, c. Emery, b. MacIndoe, 10 ; Hewitt, c. Magarey, b. Fairweather 29 ; Howarth, b. Emery 12 ; Humphries, lb.w., b. Fairweather 14 ;

Byrnes, not out, 36 ; R. Temby, c Honey. b. MacIndoe, 19 ; A. Hewitt. b. MacIndoe, 0 ; Green, l.b.w., b. MacIndoe, 1 ; Scurry, b. MacIndoe, 0 ; Gordon, b. Emery 0 ; sundries 8.—Total, 139. Bowling—Emery, 2 for 53 ; MacIndoe, 6 for 43 ; Fairweather, 2 for 21 ; Cooper, 0 for 13.

Review of Cricket Team.

(By "COULTER.")

P. H. Pickering, (Captain).—Good batsman, uses judgment and manages his team well.

F. T. Cooper.—Best all-round man in the team.

C. Leppinus.—Best batsman in team, and excellent field.

W. Fairweather.—Good bowler and fair bat. Wants to use more judgment when batting.

J. Naish.—Steady bat. Would make a good change bowler with practice.

R. MacIndoe.—Probably best bowler in team. Bats well at times. Excellent field.

R. Martin.—Good left-hand bowler. Has improved much this season in batting.

R. Honey.—Fair bat, good change bowler, and good field.

E. R. Emery.—Very fast bowler, and fair bat.

C. Robertson.—Fair bat and bowler. Should come out to practice more.

R. Baker.—Improving in batting. Should learn to play on leg side.

W. Aldridge.—Should try and get over his nervousness when going in to bat. Wants waking up in the field.

The team would be greatly improved if the members would take more interest in the game, and go out to practice more often.

