

the numbers for the company would have to be supplied from the taller cadets. But owing to the energetic efforts of the Head-master, the commanding officer, the head of the School, and others, the full complement of both bodies have been made up, a large quantity of fellows throwing themselves into the breach, and now the newly-enrolled are drilled daily, a march out being instituted even in the late bitter snows. We heartily congratulate all concerned in the success that has attended the efforts that they made to prevent the dissolution of the School corps.

And now, having no more to say, and not wishing to weary our readers any longer, we will conclude our remarks in the hope that we have not trespassed too long on the attention of those who peruse our columns, and in the wish that every one may have a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

ACCOUNT OF THE SCHOOL SHOOTING AT BISLEY, 1890.

On Monday, the 14th July, three members of our VIII.,—Sergt. Walshe, Sergt. Thompson, and Corp. Doig,—under the charge of Lieut. Columbine, proceeded to Bisley by the 1.24 train, arriving in camp between 4 and 5 p.m.; here, after a little delay, we took up our quarters at 31 J. Next morning we were up early in order to get a little practice before commencing the business of the day, viz., the 200 yards in the first stage for the Queen's. The day was fine but the wind was trying, rendering high scoring very difficult. At noon we were at our appointed places ready to fire, but Sergt. Walshe alone was in form, making 27, which was a very creditable score in such a tricky wind. The rest of the day was spent in firing at the 500 yards in anticipation of the 2nd part of the competition on the morrow.

Next day, Wednesday, we were down to fire at 9 a.m., the weather being fine but the light bad on account of the mirage caused by the damp rising so early in the day; however, this did not seem to effect Sergt. Walshe, who made the fine score of 33, thus bringing him up to 60, which compared favourably with the scores made up to that point. At noon on the following day, we had to fire at 600 yards, and here we all improved on our former scoring, Lieut. Columbine making 29, Sergt. Thompson 28, Corp. Doig 29, and Sergt. Walshe 30, making an aggregate of 90, a really brilliant score, which eventually brought him well up in the 300 to fire in the 2nd stage.

In the afternoon, firing was brought to an abrupt termination by a tremendous storm which

lasted some hours; it was most exciting for us, sitting in our tents and calculating whether we should be flooded out altogether, as in fact many were. Next morning the camp was a perpetual flood, consequently we did very little shooting. On Saturday, Walshe fired in the second stage of the Queen's at 500 and 600 yards; the wind was very troublesome, varying in strength and direction from time to time; nevertheless, our representative made a very creditable score, which landed him high up amongst the 300, and entitled him altogether to £5. I believe I am right in saying that Sergt. Walshe is the first member of a Public School Corps who has obtained a place in the Queen's 300, and I am sure he has the most hearty congratulations of every member of the School.

I might here mention how very much we owe to our instructor, Lieut. Columbine, for, whenever we are in any difficulty with regard to the allowance of wind or the elevation required, he is always at hand to help us, and it is only fair to attribute a great share of our success this year to his instructive and ready coaching. On Monday the remainder of the team came into camp under the charge of Sergt.-Major Sims, R.E., and took up their quarters in two tents close to 31 J, so we were all together once more. In the afternoon, Sergt. Walshe shot in the Irish twenty for the National Challenge Trophy, for which he obtained the Irish badge; here again he was in capital form, and managed to make a good score of 89, which was tenth in the twenty, a most creditable performance for such a young shot. Tuesday was spent in practising for the Ashburton Shield, both at 200 and 300 yards, and in aiming and position drill, etc. Wednesday's routine was much the same as that of the preceding day; all of us fired in minor competitions or pool, both at the 200 and 300, but none of our scores were very brilliant, although they showed an improvement on those of the day before. We all retired early to rest in order to be fresh for the great struggle of the morrow, with the firm determination to do our level best.

Thursday, the 24th, dawned bright and clear, but we soon found that there was a very nasty wind blowing. However we consoled ourselves with the thought that it would be the same for everyone. A few minutes after 'gun-fire' we were down at the 200 yards range to get our elevation, &c., for the Ashburton; here Cadet-Sergt. Thompson distinguished himself by making a 32, for which he eventually received a cheque of £2. At 10.30 we paraded with the rest of the schools and marched down to the firing point, where we were joined by Capt. Glünicke,

who had come up to watch the contest. We immediately set to work and made a total of 175 at 200 yards, which was 11th on the list. After lunch we again commenced work at the 500 yards, Doig being the most successful with a good score of 33; the figures at both ranges were as follows:—

	200 yds.	500 yds.	Total.
Corpl. Doig	25	33	58
Sapper Butcher	21	32	53
Sergt. Walshe	25	25	50
Sergt. Thompson	21	28	49
Sapper Radice	23	26	49
Sapper Crighton	20	25	45
Cadet-Sergt. Thompson	21	24	45
Sapper Barnes	19	21	40
	—	—	—
	175	214	389

Our total, 389, was most creditable considering the wind which at 200 yards made it very difficult to hold one's rifle steady, and at 500 yards rendered it necessary to alter the aim very frequently. Thus the School obtained the 6th place out of 21 schools, and was only one point below Marlborough. While this was proceeding, Tatum and Lewis were firing for the Cadets' Trophy, and made 34 and 49 respectively, coming out 5th on the list.

After the conclusion of the Ashburton, Sergt. Walshe fired for the Spencer Cup; he made 32, and was placed 4th on the list, the Cup being won by Sergt. Richardson, of Rugby (last year's winner), after a very exciting tie with Band-Sergt. Hindley, of Dulwich. After this we packed up our traps, and, after being photographed, entrained and arrived at Bedford soon after 10 p.m., after a most successful and enjoyable outing. That the VIII. may have all success next year and that the Shield will be brought back to Bedford is the sincerest wish of

A SHOOTIST.

OXFORD LETTER.

Oxford is certainly not at its best this term; damp, dismal weather prevails, and exercises a depressing influence on all but the most ardent spirits. It will be unnecessary for me to give an account of the occupations of all the O.B.'s up here, as in the O.B.'s column of every *Ousel* we read of their gaining laurels on the river, in the football field, and in athletic sports, while we must not forget that some, in view of

coming schools, are already working ten hours a day. But though the winter term is not usually a lively one, it has been a very interesting one to lovers of rowing and football. The *University Light Fours* have been rowed, and ended in a rather unexpected victory for New College. Magdalen, a light but fast crew, had beaten Brasenose by two seconds in the first heat, creating a new record in so doing, and had to meet New College in the final; the race was one long to be remembered; never before has the race been rowed in such a gale, indeed it was hardly thought that the light boats could struggle through the 'gut' without being swamped; when the two boats met the full force of the wind, they almost stood still, but the gale told most strongly against the lighter of the crews, and though Magdalen stuck to their work splendidly, the superior weight of New College, brought them in winners by half a length, the time taken over the course being four minutes longer than usual, in fact quite a record. Since then two trial eights have been practising daily, in which some of our O.B.'s were rowing, though at present we are unrepresented: both eights are considerably above the average, and there should be no difficulty in finding three good oars to fill the vacancies in the 'Varsity boat.

In football, the 'Varsity has been most successful, only once have we had to lower our colours, and that occasion was when Bradford, after a most even game, beat us by the narrow margin of two tries. Among the first class teams we have beaten are Old Leysians, East Sheen, Blackheath, and London Scottish; ten wins to one defeat speaks well for our prospects in the 'Varsity match on December 10th.

Members of the School Volunteer Corps may be interested to hear of our corps here: there does not seem to be a general wish in the *University to put on armour and fight and die* for their country, and the cry for recruits, a cry I remember hearing so often in our School corps, is being continually raised. The mounted infantry had some recruits in their ranks a few days ago, and an amusing sight ensued, for several 'freshers' seem to have thought the best way to learn to ride was to join the 'mounted infantry'; next day many were complaining of the hardness of the ground on which they had practised their manœuvres. I am surprised, considering the energy which the School always showed in warlike matters, that we have not a single O.B. in the Oxford corps. Is it because members of a first class corps do not care to join an inferior one?

Let me remark, in conclusion, that there are very few Bedford men in Oxford at present,