

Correspondence.

Correspondents must send in their names, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. No anonymous contributions can be accepted. Correspondents are requested to write on one side only of the paper.

To the Editor of the *Ousel*.

Dear Sir,—I beg the hospitality of your columns to ask all Bedfordians, both young and old, but especially old, to 'scrum up' in the matter of 'Cherry's Benefit.'

May I, in doing so, dip into history for a moment? I ask this as I was captain of cricket when Cherry came to the School and quite apart from the feeling of friendship between us, perhaps I know as much about the difficulties against which he has had to contend as most Bedfordians. His advent was at a time when Mr. Dasant was abroad and the School temporarily without its chief games master while its cricket captain was wofully ignorant of the management of sports. How the Athletic Sports of 1890 were ever carried out has always been a mystery to me.

That detail apart, the state of the cricket pitch then and now is a matter upon which no player can have two opinions. Wholly to Cherry's clever and persistent care is it due that Bedford School to-day possesses not only one of the best School wickets but one of the best wickets, county grounds not excepted, in England. That is no small thing we Bedfordians have to thank him for. This has been brought about in spite of that arch enemy 'punt-about,' and the unwillingness of some people to recognise the fact that a first-class School cannot have a first-class wicket if Rugby football (of whatever ages the players may be) is permitted to be played upon it. County cricket clubs have foregone the pleasure of a huge increase of membership by scratching all football, Soccer or Rugger, for the reason that other counties refused to arrange fixtures with them so long as football is played during the off-season.

Not alone have cricketing Bedfordians to thank Cherry. Rugger—the pride and boast (gentle though not unnatural) of the old School—could not have been better served than it has been these past twenty years. Therefore it is not obligatory only on cricketers to 'scrum up.' Considering the extra amount of damage they have done to his cherished turf, I think our Rugger men ought to subscribe fifty per cent. more than our cricketers towards the fund.

What of the Rowing men? Well, some of even that exclusive body have been known to use Cherry's turf to run on when training. At any rate they did in my day in preparation for their perennial hammering at Henley, and as most of them play Rugger and all of them are Bedfordians they are in just the same plight as those of us whose rowing (?) was confined to shirking homework once a year in order to do as much damage as we could to the tub-fours while practising for the punishment meted out annually to all fat men in the XI. and XV. for their terrific struggle of about 150 yards on the river.

I understand that funds are not coming in as they should. Possibly Welsh methods in Parliament, hitting, as they do, all and sundry below the belt, have something to do with this undesirable reticence on the part of Bedfordians. Whatever the reason I hope it will completely disappear by July 18th, when the 'week' begins.

My Latin not being quite up to the standard of some of my other accomplishments I hope I may be excused for finishing this totally inadequate appeal to Bs. and O.Bs. with the

Bis bat qui cito bat

which is derived from the spirit saturating Kent cricket, from one of whose cricketers I crib.

Yours since ely,

E. H. D. SEWELL,

Surrey County Cricket Club.

Kennington Oval, S.E.,

May 30, 1910.

To the Editor of the *Ousel*.

Dear Sir,—May I ask for a small space in your columns to make a proposal regarding the School Shooting Eights? My suggestion is that photographs of past and future teams of the School in the Public Schools Competitions be hung in one of the School buildings suitable for the purpose.

The School has now competed in the Ashburton Shield Competition—formerly at Wimbledon and latterly at Bisley—since 1889, and I believe it would be possible to obtain photographs of all the teams since that date. The cost should not be great. Possibly the Games Committee might give their help in this direction as they have done, I think, in providing the Gymnasium VIII. photographs.

Yours faithfully,

O.B.

24th May, 1910.