

Vol. I.—No 6.

MAY, 1899.

"Et conflabunt gladios suos n vomeres
et lanceas suas in falces."



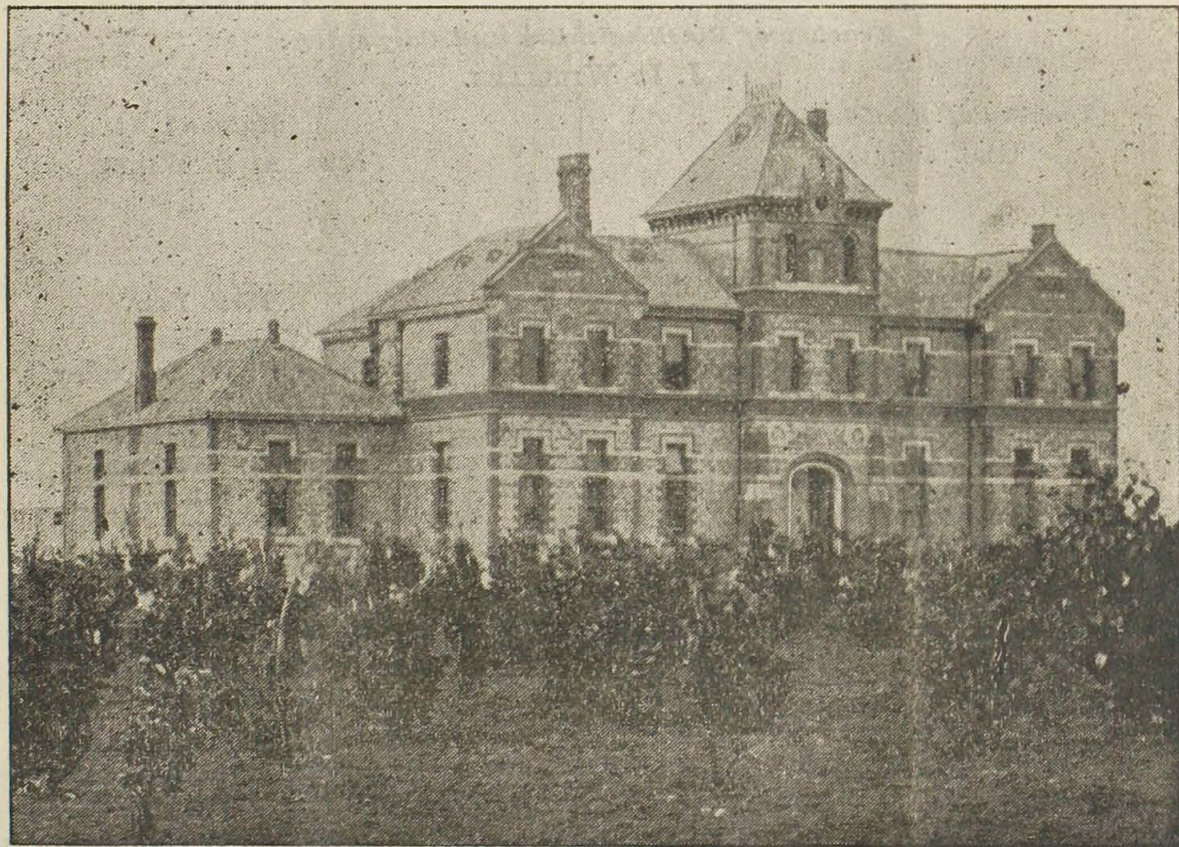
.. The ..

Roseworthy

Agricultural

College . . .

Student.



Agricultural College, Roseworthy.

Our Minister, Council, Staff, and Students, 1898-1899.

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U. W. Seppelt.
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A. Chillingworth.
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C. P. Hodge.
M. L. Holthouse.
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G. Warnes.
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E. R. Emery.
H. W. England.
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G. C. Gurr.
H. Hogg.
E. G. Hubble.
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N. H. Pearse.
P. W. Reed.
A. E. V. Richardson.
W. R. Richardson.
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A. C. Smith.
C. Vaudrey.
F. F. Weaver.



THE
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MAY, 1899.

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SUBSCRIPTION.

Two shillings per annum. Postal-note or stamps for this amount forwarded to The Manager, A.C.R. "Student," will be gratefully acknowledged. SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE.

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The Cellar Trip.

BY THIRD YEAR.

It is my privilege to write up the "Cellar Trip" for the "Student." I say this, not because writing is such a delightful occupation, but because only a very select portion of our community, namely, the "Third year," are allowed to make the aforesaid excursion, and as this magazine only publishes strictly veracious accounts of all College functions, it would never do for an outsider, who would mainly depend on what the fellows told him on their return for his information, to write about it. From this it follows that I am a member of the "Third Year," and therefore privileged.

It was said by the theologians of the Middle Ages that the joys of the blessed were enhanced by the fact that they were able to witness from afar the torments of the damned. It seems a fiendish thing to say, but on reflection I believe it was an emanation from human nature, for I noticed that the contrast between our state, as we drove away after breakfast behind four horses and at a rattling pace, and that of the "First and Second Years" who were going out to "toil," made our joy almost ecstatic.

Hitherto only two days had been spent over the "Cellar Trip"; but this year, Professor Perkins, knowing how interested we all are in anything that appertains to the science and practice of wine-making, made arrangements for our being away three days, thus giving us time to go more deeply into the question of cellar arrangements, and also more time to digest whatever information we might consume before sitting down to the next meal, so to speak.

We drove, *via* Shea Oak Log, to Seppeltsfield. There we were met by our host, who conducted us into the house, and invited us to partake of a light refreshment—liquid, solid, or both, according to taste. And this was the first of an unbroken series of refreshments, the details of which I should blush to relate, and which lasted until we were once more confronted with cold mutton at the College.

Now, I am not going to give a description of all the cellars we visited, nor the processes brought under our notice. To old students who have been there themselves, it would be as weary as a "twice-told tale," and to others who may honor us by reading our magazine, I can only say that what "eye hath not seen" is very difficult to be understood from description, however lucid or graphic it may be.

I may, however, mention that at Seppeltsfield a large bond store has been built during the last year, and by next year in all probability the new wine will be pumped from the fermenting cellar to the storage cellar through a solid tin pipe, instead of being carted across, as it is at present.

We spent about an hour and a half round the fermenting cellar and distillery. In the former the vintage was still employing a large number of hands, though the press of work was over.

Then lunch was announced; and we felt that it was a pleasant variation of the proceedings.

After lunch we were told that we could walk round the garden, or sit down; in short, we could do whatever we liked. If I remember rightly most of us sat down—for a time at anyrate. And I noticed when we went to see the vinegar process, and to look over the storage cellars, and round the pig yard, there was a little lack of enthusiasm which was not apparent before lunch.

We had to leave about 3 o'clock to reach Tanunda in time to look over the Chateau Tanunda cellars. But before we left we were fortified against the perils of the journey with coffee and cake.

At the Chateau Tanunda the vintage was still going on, and appeared much the same as any other vintage. Before we left the manager said that we must have a little refreshment, and we found, to our horror, that we were expected to eat and drink again. It was five o'clock, and in an hour's time Herr Sobels would be beaming on us from the head of his hospitable board. Six meals in one day! Should we share the fate of Mark Twain, who drank so much lemonade that he could wear nothing but his umbrella? If so, seeing that there were only two umbrellas between the party, the case was likely to become serious.

The next day we started as soon after nine o'clock as we could induce Mortimer to put his horses in, and drove to Tolley's distillery. There they were

trying a new cooler for reducing the temperature of the must. At present it will reduce 1,000 gallons 10°F. in an hour. That is hardly enough. But it is thought that with improvements it would reduce it 20°F. in an hour.

We made a long stay at Mr. Salter's cellars, and lunched at his house. From there we drove to Yalumba, where the vintage and fruit preserving were in full swing. Mr. Smith turned us loose amongst the peaches, pineapples, &c., besides sending us away with a goodly supply of fresh and preserved fruit. I do not know whether Mr. Smith has studied physiology or not; but he certainly knows the easiest way of reaching the heart.

We spent the night at Leech's hotel, and the next day had only to visit the Moppa cellars before lunch, which was served at Tanunda at 2 o'clock.

It was a very jolly trip from start to finish. And we fully appreciate the kindness of those wine-makers who go to so much trouble to show us as much as possible; especially at such a busy time as the vintage, when it is a wonder that they can be bothered to have us about at all.

Our only regret is that we shall never again, as students at A.C.R., be able to put their hospitality to the test.

Farm Notes.

HARVESTING is once more over, and on the whole the results are very satisfactory. King's wheat again heads the list, and is closely followed by several others. The average per acre was 19 bushels 35 lbs., and about 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons of hay.

Full particulars of results of manure and wheat tests will be found elsewhere.

The advent of a new steam straw press has done away with the old "man killer," but owing to the little demand for straw at present, the machine has not had much work. It stood its trial admirably, and the neat, hard bales are a great improvement on the old style. The press adapts itself very well to pressing of hay, and in a year or so, no doubt, a lot of fodder will be marketed as pressed hay rather than as chaff.

The early rains started weeds on the fallows, and these have been killed by scarifying in hot weather.

The Sorghum proved a success where it came up. It was patchy, owing to the drill being set too deeply in some rounds. That sown deep failed to germinate, as the light summer rains did not reach it. The cattle and sheep ate every bit of it, and the field has now been scarified.

The agents for the rotary disc plough have sent one to the College to have it thoroughly tested. So far it has worked splendidly, six horses working four furrows quite easily. It turns up land which no other plough will touch, and does very neat work. It still remains to be tested on sticky land, and we hope it will render a good account of itself.

The condition of the cattle is a proof of the usefulness of preserving all surplus feed as ensilage. The silage was made from a self-sown crop of oats, poppy, dandelion and other weeds. Cattle eat it readily, and have had it all the summer. They are looking fat and healthy—a great contrast to cattle round about.

Scarifying is being pushed on to prepare for seeding in a week or so. There will be about five hundred acres of crop put in this year. We have a "Massey-Harris" drill on trial and it can be tested alongside of the "Superior."

Wheat cleaning took some time, as it had to go through the winnower twice and through the grading screen once. This made a beautifully clean sample of seed, some of which went to Western Australia and some to all parts of South Australia. With the early rains we have had the year should be very successful and the average yield should be higher than the preceding one.

The End of College Year 1898-1899.

THE terms usually employed wherewith to describe the celebration of the final day in a college year are "Break-up," and "Speech Day." Accepted in a literal sense either of these terms could be rightly used as a heading to this notice, but, fortunately or not, custom has invested each with such functions as were impossible for the A.C.R., on February 15th, 1899, The interfering element consisted of an outbreak of "German Measles," but so mild in its nature that the patients had rather a good time—at least so it seemed to those who could not get the semblance of a symptom! Never were chests examined so rigorously, and when the oft-times longed for "rash of roseate hue" appeared, the owner of the chest acted somewhat similarly to the lepers of old; but the pathetic cry—"Unclean!" "Unclean!" must have been very different from the somewhat triumphant whoop—"Measles!" "Measles!"

It was a sober audience that assembled in the Dining Hall on the day we speak of, the staff and the prize-laden tables occupying the "platform." In less than an hour the principal (Professor Lowrie) had delivered a short address, Professor Perkins had presented the prizes, and the rush for the home trains had set in.

It is at once our duty and our pleasure to take this opportunity of thanking those who again so generously swelled the prize list. First comes J. H. Angas, Esq., who for many years has awarded the Gold and Silver medals to the first and second students of the third year; we, as a college, heartily share the gratitude of the winners. The competition for the gold medal was keen, although practically only two students were in the running. The brilliant win of Frank Lyndhurst Faulkner merits our sincere congratulations, and at the same time we offer a tribute of praise to Alex. W. Nicholas, who was only beaten by a "short head." Our old friends, Messrs. E. Salter and H. Buring were mindful as ever, and the prizes they gave for "Viticulture" and "Oenology" respectively were much appreciated. Our thanks are also hereby given to Messrs. Jas. Martin & Co., who presented a prize seed-sower to the best practical student for the year, and we would desire to specially mention the Hon. James and Mr. J. F. Martin, who are continually doing us favors; to Mr. B. Seppelt who sent along a handsome prize for Agriculture and Veterinary Science; to Mr. A. L. Brunkhorst, the donor of the Silver medal to the First Year Dux; to Mr. John Lowrie for a prize in connection with the Drilling Competition; to Mr. Geo. Jeffrey, who gave the wool-classing prize. Finally, we beg to acknowledge gifts from each of three old students—Messrs. A. H. Morphett, F. W. Formby, and A. G. Pritchard; the prizes they gave were valuable, but much more to us was the evidence of affection for and interest in the "old College," and our gratitude is theirs.

DIPLOMA LIST.

F. L. Faulkner, Stansbury; A. W. Nicholas, Lyndoch; C. J. Landseer, Milang; W. B. Ralph, Adelaide; W. B. Read, Port Victor.

PRIZE LIST

III. YEAR.

Gold Medallist (Medal, presented by J. H. Angas, Esq.), F. L. Faulkner ; Silver Medallist (Medal, presented by J. H. Angas, Esq.), A. W. Nicholas ; Viticulture (presented by E. Salter, Esq.), F. L. Faulkner ; Oenology (presented by H. Büring, Esq.), A. W. Nicholas ; Wine-tasting (presented by Professor Perkins), W. B. Read ; Drilling, 1st (presented by F. W. Formby, Esq.), F. L. Faulkner ; Drilling, 2nd (presented by John Lowrie, Esq.), W. B. Read and R. Heggie equal ; Agriculture and Veterinary Science (presented by B. Seppelt, Esq.), F. L. Faulkner ; Agriculture and Veterinary Science, Practical (presented by A. G. Pritchard, Esq.), F. L. Faulkner ; Farm Prize (presented by Messrs. James Martin & Co.), F. L. Faulkner ; Woolclassing (presented by Geo. Jeffrey, Esq.), F. L. Faulkner.

II. YEAR.

Silver Medallist (Medal, presented by Professor Lowrie), G. M. Main ; Second Prize, J. S. Malpas ; Third Prize, U. W. Seppelt ; Chemistry (presented by W. R. Jamieson, B.Sc.), J. S. Malpas ; Farm Prize, H. Laffer.

I. YEAR.

Silver Medallist (Medal, presented by A. L. Brunkhöst, Esq.), H. D. M. Adams ; Second Prize, Jno. Adams ; Natural Science (presented by J. A. Haslam, B.Sc.), H. D. M. Adams ; Book-keeping (presented by J. A. Haslam, B.Sc.), M. L. Holthouse ; Chemistry (presented by A. H. Morphett, Esq.), G. Warnes ; Farm Prize, G. Warnes.

The Extension of the Use of Artificial Manures AND A MORE INTELLIGENT APPLICATION OF THEM

PROFESSOR LOWRIE.

I AM happy to be able to say that farmers are rapidly adopting the use of artificial manures, and many are now assured of the financial advantages which attend their use. Years ago I was convinced by experience on the college farm that it was practicable to restore the exhausted wheat lands of the colony by this means, and that it could be done with considerably augmented profits. Were the use of manures merely a means of increasing the returns of agricultural produce, while the clear profits remained as heretofore, the indirect gain to the colony would be very considerable from, for example, increased railway returns, increased employment of labor, and increase in the volume and interchange of money ; but when it has been demonstrated that not only can the land be so replenished as to yield returns comparable to those obtained one or more generations ago, when the land was rich in its virgin wealth, and that this can be done with increased attendant profit to the farmer, the general adoption cannot be long delayed. Land values have firmed very appreciably lately, partly no doubt as a result of the cheapness of money ; but when we bear in mind that this firming has been evidenced in the face of the most severe and prolonged drought the colony has experienced, one must look to some other cause than the low rate of interest to account for the development. It is, I take it, that investors are satisfied that the day of exhaustion of our wheat lands has passed ; that in the face of adverse conditions unsurpassed remunerative crops can be grown over the lands subject to an average rainfall of 15in. to 16in. or even less ; and that with the return of the average season of past cycles, the use of artificial manures will expand the returns from the land safely and surely. In the College report in which the

returns of wheat from a rainfall for the year of 12in. are detailed, there is some evidence that manures may be profitably used on country with even a lower average than that instanced.

In the full conviction that no innovation in the practice of wheat-growing is so pregnant of advantage to the farmer as the introduction of the drill and the use of artificial manures, I have in season and out of season advocated this matter. At first all manner of objections were advanced: that the climate was too dry, and that manures would result in the blighting of the forced crop when the dry season set in; that artificial manures were too expensive, and their use would not be remunerative; and that rust would affect a manured crop more seriously than one which had not been manured. But it has been shown that phosphatic manures do not lead to a crop being blighted in the same way as when it has been dressed with nitrogenous manure, or when the land has been dressed shortly before the crop was sown with farmyard manure; that as the extension of the use of manures proceeded, the price has been reduced, and superphosphate is offered now for £2 per ton less than was quoted three or four years ago; and that although the objection that heavy crops forced with artificial manures are more liable to rust, or are affected more seriously, still holds, much can be done to lessen the loss from even this cause. There are still many farmers in the colony who have curious, ill-defined suspicions that the use of manures will ultimately ruin the land for wheat-growing. These manures, they say, are simply stimulants, and will leave the land exhausted beyond measure, capable of growing neither wheat nor feed. They can point to no instances, but nevertheless cherish the suspicion, and hesitate to try the manures. They forget that though artificial manures are only being introduced here, they have been in use more than half the century in more highly farmed countries, and with results, when judiciously used, ever satisfactory. That manures should be spoken of as *exhaustive* is practically a contradiction in terms. It has been again and again pointed out that the continued use of manures with only one or two manurial constituents may bring about a condition of things that the land will not respond to these manures, and is apparently ruined, but this result is only the effect of increasing the return for a time and reaping heavy yields by the use of, say, nitrogenous manures alone. The available phosphates will naturally have been exhausted sooner than would otherwise have been the case, but the remedy is at once suggested—manure rationally and apply that in particular in which the land is more exhausted, in this case phosphates. The continued use of phosphatic manures, on the other hand, does not bring about the exhaustion of nitrogen in this climate so readily as nitrogenous manures the exhaustion of phosphates; but it will be understood that after the continued use of phosphatic manure alone for a succession of crops, nitrogenous manures will be found necessary. When that condition is brought about a blend of nitrogenous and phosphatic manures becomes desirable, and experience will readily point out the relative proportions in which the two substances should be mixed; each farmer can discover for himself by having one or two turns of the drill in each field as it comes into crop in rotation manured with phosphates alone and with blends of phosphatic and nitrogenous manures in different proportions. The crop on these plots will readily point out the mixture (if any) most remunerative. Again, the use of even a mixture of nitrogenous and phosphatic manures may fail to make the land sufficiently responsive; in that case the available potash is likely to have become deficient, and the remedy will evidently be to add a certain weight of a potassic salt to the mixture, according to the condition of things prevailing and the character of the cropping. To the man who understands the principles and the practice of cropping, there is no occasion for sickly forebodings on this score. He is satisfied that while the increased returns remunerate him for the immediate expenditure on manures, he has everything to gain and nothing to lose; his crops continue heavy, his land improves in heart or maintains its conditions, and his feed when

the fields lie out carries more stock. Exhaustion in any farm by manuring is really a myth; it is a condition arising from ignorance in the use of manures rather than from any inherent stimulating action of the manures. As experience of manures is gained, and evidence of the financial advantage of their use is increased, we will hear less and less of this bogey. I take it that the use of the drill and artificial manures now so rapidly extending is the greatest improvement which our practice of agriculture has witnessed for many years; it has been estimated that upwards of £70,000 value of artificial manures has been used in the colony during the past year. This will mean at the least an increase in our returns in one form or another to the amount of £110,000 to £130,000, or thereabout, a very appreciable increase relative to the total value of our produce.

In my lectures I have urged farmers to use almost universally in the first place phosphatic manures, for I believe we have evidence that nitrogenous manures are not relatively to phosphatic manures so important for cereal crops in this colony as in some other countries. The explanation seems to me to be found—

- (a) In our regular practice of fallowing;
- (b) In the more rapid nitrification occurring in our soils;
- (c) In our habit of taking only the grain and allowing the straw to be consumed or to rot on the land; and
- (d) In the light rainfall, which renders under drainage unnecessary, thereby avoiding the leaching of nitrates.

Of the phosphatic manures, bonedust will be found, in districts where less lime is present and the rainfall fairly heavy, a profitable form to use. On limestone soils and in the drier districts superphosphate, or at least soluble phosphates, give the best result. Many farmers who use these manures appear to have an exaggerated notion of the value of light dressings, and I think err in applying as little as from 40 lbs. up to 80 lbs. of superphosphate to the acre. They would be better advised to apply from $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. up to 2 cwts. to the acre, the amount varying according to the rainfall of the district. In our hills' districts as much as 3 cwts. could, I think, be profitably used. There is not much advantage in drilling compared with broadcasting when no manures are used, and broadcasting is more expeditious. It is of the very utmost importance to get the seed in early when the weather allows of it. By applying the manure more heavily a less area would need to be drilled, and the remainder could be broadcasted to expedite the seeding; but where such light dressings are used, the whole area has to be gone over with the drill, and the few days later in seeding may counteract such advantages as might be gained from such a light dressing.

Wheat Yields, 1898.

Nottle's (King's)	...	...	...	...	16b. 57lbs.
No. 7 (King's)	...	...	...	...	20b. 31lbs.

EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS No. V. (In Order of Merit).

BROADCAST V. DRILLING (LEAK'S R.P.)

1. Wheat drilled, Manure broadcast	..	..	..	15b. 25lbs.
2. Wheat and Manure drilled	..	..	..	13b. 58lbs.
3. Wheat and Manure broadcast	..	..	..	13b. 19lbs.
4. Wheat drilled shallow, Manure drilled deep	..	..	..	12b. 13lbs.

VARIETIES OF WHEAT.

1. King's	..	..	..	..	..	22b. 57lbs.
2. Baart	..	..	..	..	..	18b. 12lbs.
3. Early Para	..	..	..	..	..	15b. 50lbs.
4. Smart's	..	..	..	..	..	14b. 12lbs.
5. Leak's R.P.	..	..	..	..	..	13b. 58lbs.
6. Purple Straw	..	..	..	..	..	12b. 23lbs.
7. Baroota Wonder	..	..	..	..	..	11b. 43lbs.
8. Medeah	..	..	..	..	..	6b. 28lbs.

MANURE TESTS—KING'S WHEAT.

1. Eng. Super., Sulph. Ammon., and Kainite	..	..	..	..	..	24b. 25lbs.
2. Eng. Super. and Sulph. of Ammon.	..	..	..	..	..	22b. 39lbs.
3. Ohlendorff's Guano	..	..	..	..	..	22b. 36lbs.
4. Ohlendorff's Super.	..	..	..	..	..	22b. 15lbs.
5. B. & A.'s Dissolved Bone Compound	..	..	..	..	..	21b. 34lbs.
6. Lawe's Super.	..	..	..	..	..	21b. 20lbs.
7. Trotman's Leather Manure	..	..	..	..	..	20b. 53lbs.
8. B. & A.'s Concentrated Manure	..	..	..	..	..	20b. 6lbs.
9. Adelaide Chem. Works' Super.	..	..	..	..	..	19b. 45lbs.
10. Col. Sugar Co.'s Super.	..	..	..	..	..	19b. 42lbs.
11. B. & A.'s Super.	..	..	..	..	..	19b. 3lbs.
12. No Manure	..	..	..	..	..	18b. 40lbs.
13. Bone Dust	..	..	..	..	..	18b. 11lbs.

THICK V. THIN SOWING (KING'S WHEAT).

Thick (Eng. Super.)	...	...	...	...	...	24b. 31lbs.
Thin " "	...	...	...	...	...	21b. 58lbs.

The Vintage.

BY No. 7.

THIS session commenced on the 21st February, and, as is our usual custom, the students started the year by turning out at half-past five the following morning for grape picking. Everything had been made ship-shape during the holidays, so no time was lost in starting. Everyone put on a business-like air, went over to the tool room, seized a pair of shears and more kerosene buckets than he could comfortably carry. We started on the Pedro Ximenes, which grow around the cottage, and soon picked all that the birds (feathered and unfeathered) had left on the vines. The pickers, especially the raw hands (who had not yet acquired the Government stroke), were very energetic over this patch, but they cooled down considerably before breakfast. When eight o'clock came round some remarks, to the effect that grapes were not as good as they looked were heard. Only a few loads were picked of Pedro Ximenes, and, as there were too few to use the press, the old fashioned, genuine style of treading was used, as you may imagine, much to our delight. This wine is to be used for blending with Doradillo, which is rather insipid by itself.

We then set about to pick all the other grapes, except Muscatel and Doradillo, that grow on the north side of the vineyard. They consist of Shiraz, Cabernet and Cariugan for the most part. These grapes were run from the crusher to the western vat, being destined for the manufacture of red wine. After all these vines had been stripped of their crop, which was very much knocked about by the hail and scorched by the hot winds (most of these vines are trellised), we moved over to the sandhill to pick enough Mataros to fill the vat we had started on.

On the sand hill the newcomers began to feel the effects of what was to most of them unaccustomed work ; one of them, in particular, evoked our admiration by falling asleep under an especially shady vine. This feat however, was, later on in the session, eclipsed by one of our students, of farmyard name, who slept under the shade of a red bandana tied to the trellis work.

After the first vat was filled Professor Perkins ordered a move to the different patches of Doradillos. These were quickly finished, as they are very open vines and carried fruit not very nice to eat. These grapes were made into white wine, which is of a light character and makes a very good summer drink.

Then we moved back to the sand hill, where all the remaining grapes were picked and put into the second vat, together with the skins of the Pedro Ximenes and Doradillos. This vat will not give such a good wine as the first one, as the majority of the grapes were Mataro and Grenache.

The barometer was falling during the vintage, which made the temperature of the must rise. Our great drawback was that the water we used for the coolers was pretty warm. It went into them at 25° C. and came out of them at 41°, which was higher than the must itself. However, all went on without mishap, so we cannot grumble.

The last thing to be done was to pick the Muscatels to make a sweet wine ; as we had so few, and also because Professor Perkins had noted the appetites of some of the students, these grapes were picked rather earlier than they might have been, and 20lbs of sugar had to be added to make it up to the required density. As in the case of the Pedro Ximenes, treading was again resorted to. The unfortunate member of the third year who was employed at this pleasant task had no time to disappear when a party of ladies from Gawler appeared at the cellar door ; it may be said, however, that he took his awkward position without much embarrassment.

As we had finished picking at about half-past two, Professor Perkins gave us the rest of the day to ourselves. Most of us, having an agricultural as well as viticultural turn of mind, went down to No. 16 to see a field trial of a rotary-disc plough. In this pleasant way was the '99 vintage finished, after making 1,650 gallons and having two and a half days' picking.

Some Impressions of the Last Season's Adelaide Wool Sales.

BY GEO. JEFFREY.

DURING a series of wool sales one must be impressed both favorably and unfavorably. Happily, however, so far as last season's sales are concerned, the unfavorable impressions were comparatively few. Here are the chief—the general shortage in the clips, the poor condition of many of the more northern wools, the relatively low price of crossbred and long wools and the careless way in which many farmers' lots were put on the market.

Let us deal with this latter statement first. In order to convince ourselves that *carelessness* in the "get-up" is very short-sighted policy, we have only to look at the unsatisfactory prices obtained for farmers' lots generally. And what carelessness! Crossbred and merino mixed together, fleeces covered with chaff and dirt, in some cases tied with hemp, without even having the "bellies," "stains" and "locks" kept out. Can we wonder at the results? Surely not, especially in the light of the facts that even if well got up small lots do not sell as well as larger, and also that few direct buyers will value such lots ; they generally

fall into the hands of the local wool scourers, who perforce must sell again and make a profit.

The low prices which were realised for crossbred and long wools are to be accounted for by the fact that cloth made from this class of wool had gone out of fashion, and there was little demand for such wools. That fashion has its effect even on merino wools cannot be denied, but it is a fact beyond dispute that long and crossbred wools are much more susceptible to market fluctuations than the merino. Now, while it is true that crossbreeds are kept more as meat than as wool producers, it is also true that if the prices of crossbred wool are low, crossbred skins will sell low too, and thus even the price of the sheep from the butcher's standpoint is affected.

The unparalleled drought from which the northern part of our colony has suffered is chiefly responsible for the weak and tender condition of the wool from this part, and we may look to the same cause as principally bringing about the shortage of our wool generally. Still, a moment's reflection will convince us that this is not the only reason. For instance, in many cases after a bad season the squatter, in order to recoup himself when a good season comes round, allows his run to get overstocked, and however we may sympathise with the unfortunate sheep farmer, we dare not shut our eyes to the evil of such a practice. Overstocking means, among other things, that dams are emptied and feed is eaten up far sooner than under normal circumstances; the result follows that with the next drought sheep perish by thousands. Again, in many places the wrong type of sheep have been, and still are depastured. Experience has proved that the fine-woolled merino is not at all suitable for the dry, arid plains of the north; the more robust-woolled merino has not only a hardier constitution, but the fleece is of good weight and quality, and where well-bred rams of this type have been used the results have been highly satisfactory. So much, then, for the gloomy side.

On the other hand, there were many things about the wool sales which were decidedly pleasing. There was the splendid rise on merino wool; to the casual observer the rise was not apparent, as many clips did not realise any more per lb. (in some cases they brought less) than they did the year before; but, compared with the previous year's wool, that at the last sales had more condition, that is, more yolk. This being so, the fleeces weighed considerably heavier, and while the rise in price per lb. was perhaps not so much, the extra weight per fleece made all the difference in the value (total) of the clip. A cheerful sign, too, is that as far as can be seen the price is likely to keep up. No doubt the rise was largely due to the manufacturers being short of stocks, both wool and top, and also to the general shortage of wool from Australia. Further, more wool, in proportion, was sold at the last sale in Adelaide than ever before; this means that in addition to practically all the old brands being sold, several new clips were disposed of. This is as it should be, and signs are not wanting that next season will show a still further increase. The advantages of selling in Adelaide against sending the wool to London direct are many. In the first place, the seller of wool here gets his return in a few days from the sale, but by sending to London one has to wait in patience some time; and seeing that in many cases the result of the sale is the whole of the man's earnings, a speedy return is of especial benefit.

As to whether the local or the home market gives the grower the best return, in the absence of conditions favorable for testing the matter, it is difficult to say definitely. However, in theory, selling in Adelaide has all the best of it. The wool so sold can be shipped by the buyer direct to its destination, whether it be Germany, France, or England, thus saving the indirect charges of sending to London first, and then on from there. Another advantage is that a buyer here, should his client be short of wool, can send one lot straight home by steamer, and forward the remainder by a sailing vessel, thus saving the manu-

facturer the trouble of having to store all his wool at once, as he would have to do if it were bought in London. The fact that there are more buyers in the old country does not necessarily mean there is more competition. It is well known that nearly all buyers or manufacturers of repute who buy our wool are represented at our Adelaide sales. Yet another gladdening feature was that the robust wool sold as well as the finer type, thus demonstrating that in South Australia, generally speaking, there is very little difference in clean value between most of our wools—the point that decides being the yield when scoured.

In proof of the contention that classing wool properly pays the grower, it may be mentioned that the competition for well “got-up” lines was extremely keen. Well classed wool means that the different sections of buyers have been catered for, insomuch that the different qualities have been kept separate; and what is almost as important, the risk of being “out” in their calculation is so reduced that buyers can and do stretch a point when bidding. There are other points to which one could refer, but I have taken enough space, and I can only trust that what I have written may create an interest in one of our principal industries.

Hawkesbury Agricultural College, New South Wales.

BY C. T. MUSSON.

SITUATED one mile from Richmond, and thirty-eight from Sydney, the property occupies 3,300 acres of flat land, of which about 1,500 still remain to be cleared. With no permanent water on the ground dams have had to be made; whilst we are connected with the town supply obtained from the Hawkesbury River three miles away.

There is accommodation for 90 students, about 10 of whom work only in the dairy; a few others taking special courses in other departments, such as—Orchard, Pig and Poultry. Vacancies are quickly filled up with farm students to await the opening of lecture courses in January. So many are awaiting their turn to come in that there is some talk of enlarging the student accommodation.

Our sessions runs for 5 months— opening January 23, and July 23, giving two vacations of a month. The plan of work is as follows:—Students are divided into two classes, Diploma and First Year (the full course extending over two years). These take lectures and outdoor work on alternate days. Each taking a progress examination fortnightly on Saturdays. Those who wish can remain for a third year for special courses.

Lectures commence at 8.30 and continue until 11.30 From 1 to 5 in the afternoon practical work in the laboratories or class fieldwork, with only occasional lectures. 7 to 8, evening study. On Wednesdays these arrangements are varied to suit field surveying, field botany, veterinary work, and wool classing.

Although the College was opened in March, 1891, the permanent quarters were not ready for occupation until January, 1896. Cultivation has been extended every year, and the different departments are now in full working order, though several improvements are contemplated. A fruit canning establishment has just been built; a vineyard for wine grapes is in course of preparation, and the necessary cellars are to be erected; a nursery for young trees is also to be planted. When these are in work we may be said to be fully equipped.

Our main experimental plots measure an acre each.

In spite of the exceptionally dry seasons we have been experiencing (our average rainfall is 33 inches. This has not nearly been approached for four years until 1898, which gave 31), we have had same fair crops, our wheat going over 20 bushels, though in many cases the return was light. Our light, sandy loam (almost pure sand in places) sadly needs a thorough soaking.

We have a Gymnasium, Tennis and Cricket grounds (our cricket team is exceptionally strong just now), and a Golf course; whilst Football holds the sway in winter. These matters are controlled by a Sports Club. We get no fishing or boating. We can bathe only in waterholes or in the river, three miles away. Hares are fairly plentiful; otherwise there is no shooting, except at flying foxes or sparrows.

We have a Debating Society, which is in future to be carried on under the wing of the Old Boys' Union, which with its quarterly magazine bids fair to be useful in keeping ex-students in touch with the place during after life. We desire not to lose sight of them on leaving us, and it is gratifying to find them constantly revisiting us.

There is a strong branch of the A.S.C.U., of which R. F. Weir, a student from King William's Town, Cape Colony, is President. An ex-student, J. A. Bulkeley, is at present studying at the Michigan College, U.S.A., under a special travelling scholarship instituted by the late Minister.

Taking things all round, this is a favorable location for the College. We are near Sydney, and visitors, who come in large numbers, are thus able to see us without great expenditure of time or money. Then we are enabled to use two seasons for our crops, summer and winter. Moreover, we have all the plant pests that were ever invented; insects, eelworms, and other beasts, with parasitic fungi and weeds innumerable. This though bad for the crops can safely be described as excellent for teaching purposes, as it is to the students' great advantage to see everything they can in that way. The study of plant disease and how to cope with it is gradually taking its proper place, a most important one, in all such Colleges as our own.

We are adapting our system to the needs of the times, consequently the details of our work are varied as found necessary. Lately we have been reducing the lecture hours and increasing the time devoted to practical work in chemistry, botany, vegetable pathology, and entomology.

There is here, as elsewhere, a tendency to decry the value of headwork for farm students: it is a common thing for parents to say, "Put my boy to work," "No lectures," "Put him on the farm." Were this the general rule we should be turning out plenty of pound-a-week-and-their-tucker men, no doubt, but that is not our object, so we counteract the ideas as far as possible, and have to try and educate people up to seeing that unless the brain is properly cultivated the soil certainly never will be.

We in N.S.W. like to hear from the sister colleges, and any news is always acceptable. We have an old Roseworthy student living only a few miles away in the person of Mr. W. Charley, who visits us occasionally. The various college magazines lie on our reading-room table, and whilst wishing our friends at the other colleges every success, we can safely say that a hearty welcome awaits any representative visitor.

A hope may be expressed that there will soon come a time when representatives from the staff of our Australasian colleges shall meet at regular intervals, say biennially, at the various colleges in rotation, for discussion of methods and exchange of ideas. We may be sure such a meeting would be invaluable alike to instructors, students, and the respective colonies generally.

In Memoriam.

SINCE the publication of our last number death has visited our ranks, and we mourn the loss of one who had but completed the First Year's Course.

John Adams entered the college in February, 1898, having won the scholarship for No. 2 district, and within a week or two of the beginning of the College year his popularity amongst the students, especially those of his own year, was established, and the affection in which he was held remained right through to the last. Though small of stature, no work was too hard for Jack to try. Inside or out his energy was apparent, and the high place he held on the First Year list was only what he deserved.

It was not until after Adams had arrived home after Speech Day that the discovery of disease was made. Diabetes, unknown even to himself, had got a hold, and though he rallied from time to time, the end was fatal. Jack suffered bravely, and frequently spoke of returning here to work, but it was not to be. The College has lost a worthy student, and those who worked with him miss one who always proved true and bright.

John Adams was born at Smithfield, on January 16, 1883. He was always called "a sharp little fellow," and at the age of six he was enrolled as a pupil at the Public School, Smithfield. After five years' work he gained his compulsory certificate, and spent his twelfth year at Salisbury school, where he gained second place, being beaten by a pupil teacher. His next school was at Rose Park, near Adelaide, and at the end of twelve months he won the first place of a school numbering 600 pupils. Six months' preparation at the Adelaide Agricultural School immediately preceded his appearance at this institution as a scholarship holder for District No. 2. Adams' work here lasted exactly a year, and at its close he won the second prize in the First Year. The good things said of him by his teachers before he came proved to be fully justified; with keen interest he worked steadily and with ability to the end of his term. He was a student whom it was a pleasure to teach, and whose keen and intelligent interest in the work of the College made the appreciation in which he was held easily understood. We take this opportunity of expressing our sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. Adams.

Scholarships.

THIS year the six District Scholarships offered annually have all been awarded. The holders are as follows:--District No. 1, A. E. V. Richardson, Agricultural School; District No. 2, E. R. Emery, Agricultural School; District No. 3, P. C. W. Eckersley, Milang Public School; District No. 4, E. G. Hubble, Agricultural School; District No. 5, H. W. England, Agricultural School; District No. 6, C. Vaudrey, School of Mines and Industries.

Cricket Matches for '99.

ANGLE VALE.—Played at the College on March 4th. Total score, 149. Principal scorers:—Richardson, J. P., 63; Bills, A. H., 21; Swift, D., 15; Way, J., 12. Bowlers:—Smith, D., 1 for 9; Gordon, W. M., 1 for 13; Way, J., 1 for 14; Richardson, 1 for 17. Result:—draw. Visitors, 4 wickets for 95.

REEVE PLAINS.—Played at College on March 11th, 1899. Total score, 156. Principal scorers:—Richardson, J. P., 43; Hodge, C., 34; Mr Haslam, 18; Adams, H. D. M., 18. Bowlers:—Way, 5 for 7; Adams, 3 for 17; Richardson, 1 for 16; Camper, 1 for 19. Result:—College won by 100 runs.

ONE TREE HILL.—Played at College, March 23rd, 1899. Total score for 5 wickets, 63. Principal scorers:—Richardson, 13; Weaver, 13; Way, 12. Bowlers:—Smith, D., 2 for 17; Camper, 3 for 41; Richardson, 1 for 23; Way, 1 for 27. Result:—Draw. Visitors making 162.

SAINT PETER'S.—Played at College on March 25th, 1899. Total for 7 wickets, 81. Principal scorers:—Hodge, 23; Camper, 13; Way, 11. Bowlers:—Camper, 3 for 27; Way, 3 for 44; Richardson, 1 for 37. Result —Draw. Visitors 260.

PRINCE ALFRED'S.—Played on the Adelaide Oval on March 31st, 1899. Total score, 216. Principal scorers:—Gurr, G. 55; Hodge, 54; Weaver, 49; Cargeeg, 22. Bowlers:—Camper, 2 for 20; Richardson, 3 for 25; Read, B. O., 3 for 25; Smith, D., 2 for 8. Result:—Won by A.C.R. by 70 runs.

Old Students' Column.

T. A. WILSON is still at Port Pirie, and is full of good wishes for the College and old friends.

H. Liston goes in for mixed farming at Morphett Vale with success.

F. L. Faulkner, our latest gold medallist, is helping at the home farm at Stansbury.

A. W. Nicholas has made a start at Tippara.

W. B. Read, *on dit*, meditates settling in Manila with his brother.

C. J. Landseer is about to start dairy farming at Milang.

R. F. Martin is taking up work at the Moppa Vineyard and Cellars.

R. James has returned from Charters Towers, Queensland, and is at present farming at home at Charleston.

G. Lewis visited the College the other day. He has been managing an orchard at Stirling North since February, '98, but finds it very lonely up there.

H. J. McDougall, in a letter to Professor Lowrie, from White Hill, Minburra, says, *inter alia*, "I am writing this, sitting on the ground at the foot of a big bush, with my dinner bag and the 'Observer' as a table on my knees. I am camped in a tent with another man, batching. When it has been a very hot day the sheep are yarded at the water, about a third of a mile from the camp, and I carry down my mattress and bedclothes and sleep near the sheep for fear of dogs coming; but the only disturbance yet has been from kangaroos coming down every night for water. Yesterday week and the Sunday following killed nearly 30 lambs for me; the heat made them very languid and weak, and the sudden change that came completed the mischief. On the Saturday evening I carried 17 about a quarter of a mile to the yard from trees where they were camped, so you see it is not the easiest of jobs minding weak lambs in hot weather. I sold a little pure bred Berkshire sow seven months old. She had won second

prize at the Orroroo show for "sow under two months." I got first for the boar I had from the College, and second for sow and litter; also second for a boar, brother to the little sow, and first for the bull I had from the College.

W. J. Colebatch is working hard for his exams. at Edinburgh. In our next issue we hope to be able to report his successes.

H. Harrington writes from Momba Station, Wilcannia, New South Wales, where he is kept very busy. We think the 10s. subscription he enclosed a worthy example for other old students to follow.

A. H. Morphett is still at Tower Hill Park, Illowa, Victoria. Wrote to Professor Lowrie in January of this year, and we take the liberty of quoting the following extracts from his letter: "The barley crops this year are turning out pretty well; we have now thrashed out about half the grain on the estate, and so far it has averaged 40 to 50 bushels, for which I managed to get from 3s. 10d. to 4s. a bushel. Potato crops on the whole are light this year." The enclosure of a donation as a prize was much appreciated.

J. G. H. Giles writes occasionally from Kersbrook, and we are glad to hear of his success.

S. P. Taylor has taken up work at Mr. Temple's vineyard at Eden Valley.

H. J. Yelland has been appointed assistant in charge of the Agricultural School at Clare.

Geo. Lockyer is with Elder, Smith & Co. at their Burra branch.

TO OLD STUDENTS.

We would remind old students who have not yet joined the Old Collegians' Association that we are anxious to enroll them. The subscription is only 5s. per annum.

There are fifty on the register, with only a very few who have not paid their subscription in full.

Our annual dinner will be held next September during show week, and we trust to meet many old friends.

Would remind the students that left the College at the commencement of this year that they are now *old students* and, as such, we are anxious to hear from them.

We have on the list of old students those representing nearly every year since the college commenced, Mr. A. M. Dawkins being the oldest, having attended the College during the first year of its existence.

Old students forwarding their first subscription would greatly oblige by stating the year or years they attended the College, their present occupation, and their full address.

The Secretary is always pleased to hear from old students, and to answer any questions relating to the working of the Association.

T. E. YELLAND,

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

38 Waymouth Street.

Adelaide.

AGRICULTURAL OLD COLLEGIANS' ASSOCIATION.

A social gathering of Old Collegians was held in Ware's Exchange Hotel on March 3. Professor Lowrie (President) occupied the chair, and expressed great pleasure at meeting so many old students. Their presence showed how

deep an interest the students of the past took in the College. He was always pleased to hear of the success of old students, yet when one told him in the room that evening that he had reaped 1,000 bags of wheat from 240 acres, and another 18 bushels of wheat and two tons of hay per acre, it almost made him envious. However, these results were gratifying to the Professor, the College, and the students themselves. Letters received at the College from old students from different places spoke of the success gained, and although it was impossible to reply to all, their success was noted with a great deal of pleasure.

The business part of the meeting was to discuss the advisability of giving a prize or prizes at the Diploma Examination. Several present expressed their views on the subject, and finally the following resolutions were carried:—"That a prize be given." "That the prize be a silver cup valued 5 guineas." "That it be offered to third year students for agriculture, practical and theoretical, in all its branches."

Several old students expressed a wish that a special day be set apart for them to visit the College, and a suggestion from Professor Lowrie was accepted: that the old students go up to the College on Farmer's day (the Monday after Show week in September), and spend the evening, returning on the Tuesday after having a good look over the farm, &c. It was also suggested that a cricket match, Past v. Present, should be played on the same day.

A varied programme of music, &c., was contributed by Professor Lowrie, Messrs. J. A. Haslam, B.Sc., H. A. Parsons, LL.B., C. F. Heyne, A. M. Dawkins, and A. Hall. A vote of thanks to the Chairman and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. T. E. Yelland) terminated a pleasant and enjoyable evening.

Subscriptions Received.

WE beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of subscriptions as under. As this is the first subscribers' list which we have published, we have entered the total amount for each subscriber for two years ending March, 1899.

We shall be much obliged if old students and friends will send along subscription for this year, which is now due. Two shillings in stamps or postal notes, addressed to the manager, "Student," Agricultural College, will be gratefully acknowledged in our columns. [We shall certainly *not* refuse amounts over the two shillings.—ED.]

£2—Professors Lowrie and Perkins; £1 5s—J. A. Haslam; £1 1s—Jas. Martin & Co.; 18s—Clutterbuck Brothers; 14s 6d—W. R. Charley; 12s—C. F. Heyne; 10s—F. H. Snow, H. Harrington, A. F. McBain; 9s—D. Nicholas, E. W. Cotton; 8s—Mrs. Robinson; 7s 6d—R. James; 7s—J. C. Morphett, E. F. McBain, Mrs. C. C. Hill, R. L. E. Bosworth, C. C. Castine, O. G. Marshall, T. Colebatch; 6s 6d—W. R. Jamieson; 6s—T. E. Yelland, S. Smith; 5s 6d—A. H. Dobbie; 5s—W. Birks, D. Wheaton, C. Nicholas, F. H. McKirdy, G. Lewis, E. Propsting, J. L. Murray; 4s—Sir Langdon Bonython, Alick J. Murray, F. Krichauff, L. W. Stanton, S. A. Vanes, E. Tate, H. J. McDougall, Grigg Bros, J. Darling, H. B. Robson, Mrs. Douglas, A. M. Dawkins, E. E. Stuckey, J. Dunstan, F. Warren, A. H. Riggs, C. H. Cotton, C. Jarman, C. Faulkner, Miss L. Coglein, L. Salter, H. Grierson; 3s—R. C. Lovidge, G. J. Shakes, H. A. Phillips; 2s 6d—F. W. Formby, W. J. Colebatch, P. Jones; 2s—Miss Richardson, H. Lewis, S. Hughes, F. G. Saunders, H. Davis, A. McDonald, A. M. Willcox, A. W. Robinson, H. A. Parsons, W. J. Hawkes, G. J. Goldsack, A. Longbottom, W. L. Graham, A. G. Pritchard, A. L. Brunkhörn, H. Richardson, G. G. Rankine, J. C. Haslam, A. B. Robin, C. W. Chinner, G. M. Bednall, J. Bee, W. Patrick, A. H. Morphett, H.

P. Burden, R. Burden, W. L. Dawkins, M. F. Hodge, H. P. Davis, G. R. Laffer, C. J. Young, W. Longbottom, W. G. Hawkes, T. A. Wilson, W. C. Grasby, A. E. Simpson, F. G. Saunders, H. Yelland, L. A. Dunn, Thos. Hardy, Jas. McLachlan, G. W. R. Lee; £12 2s 6d—Students at the College.

Culture v. Agriculture.

A VISION OF THE NEAR FUTURE.

"No foreign trips," said Jones, resolutely. "None of your miserable seaside places for me this year. I shall spend my time at Puddleworth, in the depths of the country, staying in those delightful farmhouse lodgings where I was made so comfortable before. Mr. Giles, the farmer, will be delighted to see me, his wife is an admirable cook, and life there is thoroughly primitive, simple, and charming."

A few days later he arrived at Puddleworth, and very refreshing the country air seemed after the stifling heat of London. Farmer Giles greeted him warmly, and after a few remarks about the weather—a topic Jones noticed, which seemed to interest his host less keenly than was once the case—the visitor enquired what kind of a season it had been for hay.

"Well, Sir, said the worthy Giles, "the hay was all right, but we couldn't carry it."

"But why?" enquired Jones. "Surely the weather——"

"It wern't the weather," said the farmer; "'twere along o' that Shakspeare class. We couldn't get no hands nohow."

"Shakspeare class?" echoed Jones, with much surprise.

"Yes, Sir. P'raps you mayn't have heard how we be moving on in the country. Them there County Councils have started lectures on every sort of subject, offering prizes, and scholarships, and foolishness. All the place be clean overrun with them dratted lectures—asking your pardon, Sir. Mondays and Thursdays 'tis "Shakspeare," Tuesdays and Fridays 'tis "Advanced Sanitation," and Wednesdays we has a course on "Applied Dynamics." Wunnerful useful, Sir, they tell me they be. All those lectures be in the afternoon, so we can't get a man to do a day's work. Then of an evening——"

"But, good gracious!" cried Jones, "you don't mean to tell me that the laborers attend those lectures?"

"That they does," said Mr. Giles. "They be that daft on 'culture,' and 'edication,' and such like nowadays. Or, even if they bain't fools themselves, for one thing there's the County Council bribing them handsome (out of the rates) to come, and then there's their women-folk egging of them on. You've brought a cook, Sir, I hopes?" he broke off.

"A cook?" said Jones, with dismay. "No; why, I thought that Mrs. Giles——"

"Lor' bless you, she don't cook nowadays. She spends her time a-reading Browning, and the gals are learning painting and the violin. As for the food—— Well, in the old days, as you knows, Sir, we got what we could eat. Now we eat what we can get—and be thankful, or otherwise, according to our digestions."

"And is your old father alive? And if so, what does he think of this system?"

"Father," said Mr. Giles, smiling for the first time, "is a sight for to see—let alone to hear. There's a new course of lectures on Wordsworth, for 'Infants and Senile Adults,' and parson's wife, she came along and dragged off father to the school for it. And the language the old gennelman used about 'lectures'! Well, you should have heard it, Sir."

"But what becomes of the farm, Giles?"

"Farming bain't of no account nowadays," said Mr. Giles, decisively. "Missus finds that American flour very good, and our butter comes from Norway. We does a little ourselves, of course, so long as it don't interfere with lectures. And—'scuse me, Mr. Jones, but I am due at one now—'tis on 'Ruskin and Ideal Art'—and my missus, well, she just makes me go. Make yourself at home, Sir. There's some bread and cheese, and we'll be back about nine!"

But on his return, he found that Jones had taken the 8 50 express for London.—*Punch*.

Staff of the "Student."

At a meeting held for the purpose of electing the officers for 1899-1900, it was resolved to appoint a committee of management to act in conjunction with the editor and Mr. Haslam in controlling the affairs of the magazine. The following students were elected: Third year—J. S. Malpas and G. M. Main; Second year—C. P. Hodge; First year—W. B. Blue.

H. E. LAFFER, Editor.

Balance Sheet, March 1st, 1899.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Subscriptions.—Year ending February, 1898	19	9 6	Expenses to June 30, 1898		
Subscriptions.—Year ending February, 1899	18	1 11	(<i>Vide</i> Vol. 1, No. 4) ..	27	15 1
			Printing	5	15 0
			Postage and Sundries ..	0	13 6
			Balance on hand—		
			Cash	3	4 7
			Stamps and Wrappers	0	3 3
Total	£37	11 5	Total	£37	11 5