

## REMINISCENCES OF ENGLISH SCHOOLS.

Having been requested to make a few jottings upon the system of English public schools, I think the best way to do so will be by dividing my subject-matter up into different heads.

First, let me mention some of the public schools by name: Eton, Harrow, Rugby, Marlborough, Wellington, Charterhouse, Cheltenham, Clifton, are a number of them. By a public school we mean one possessing a charter by which any boy is permitted to pass through a regular training in study, games, and church-teaching. During their public school course, nine boys out of ten are generally confirmed. There is the home of many of our fathers, the nursery in which England's public statesmen have spent their boyish days. We all know of the handsome boy of Eton, who is now England's Premier.

Some of the public schools, from age and influence, consider themselves in such a position as can never be attained by any others. One of the junior, or rather newer of them, on challenging an older one to cricket, was given this reply, "Eton we know, and Harrow we know, but who are ye?"

The average attendance of a public school will be about six hundred (with about fifty regular masters, all of standing at one of the two great universities). About five hundred of these will be boarders, divided up, perhaps, into ten or twelve houses. Then the townboys will, perhaps, be divided into those north of the town, and those south, these counting for football and cricket matches, etc., as two more different houses. All these branches of the school contend against each other in friendly games of ball, and what honour and glory is it to those who come out victorious! Each house is distinguished by its cap, with stripes perhaps either down or lengthwise of blue, white, yellow, green, red, brown, purple, and some of these combined.

A full public school has generally three compartments, namely, the preparatory for boys of ten and under, the junior for boys of fourteen and under, and the senior for boys of fourteen and over. A boy often enters these schools at seven years of age; passes through, perhaps, three forms in the preparatory; gets his remove to the junior, where there are four further forms to pass through; and then passes into the senior, where he will have about eight more classes in which to study. Latin is generally begun at the age of nine, Greek at thirteen. Removal from these classes is entirely by competition; the average stay, however, being two terms, or half a year. So the ordinary boy will arrive at the head form in about eight years, or between sixteen and eighteen, as the usual age of entrance is between eight and ten. The sixth is the head senior form with about