

sixth-form boy will generally study seven hours a day, and perhaps from nine to ten before examinations, and will give probably on an average three more hours a day to cricket and other games. The boys are allowed to go where they please during play-hours, except in the city, which is out of bounds.

Our notice of the remaining schools must be even more meagre than the skeleton sketch we have given of the oldest of them. Next in date comes the royal foundation of Eton, or "The College of the Blessed Mary of Eton, near Windsor." It was founded by Henry VI., A.D., 1446, upon the model of Winchester, with a collegiate establishment of a provost, ten fellows (reduced to seven in the reign of Edward IV.), seventy scholars, and ten chaplains (now reduced to two, who are called "conducts"), and a head and lower master, ten lay clerks, and twelve choristers. The provost and fellows are the governing body, who appoint the head master, and claim the right to name the provost also, though this has always in practice been done by the Crown. Around this centre the great school, numbering now a thousand boys, has gathered, the college, however, still retaining its own separate organization and traditions. Besides the splendid buildings and playing-fields at Eton, the college holds real property of the yearly value of upwards of £20,000, and forty livings ranging from £100 to £1,200 of yearly value. The income of the provost is about £2,000 a year, and of the paid fellows £850. The offices of vice-provost, bursar, precentor, sacrist, and librarian have until recently been also held by fellows. King's College, Cambridge, stands in much the same relation to Eton as New College, Oxford, to Winchester, being fed by the King's scholars year by year, and having had until recently the practical monopoly of the masterships at the school. King's has been now thrown open to all Eton boys, oppidans as well as scholars. Besides the King's scholarships, there are sixteen other scholarships at the universities yearly competed for at Eton. The system of private tuition prevails there more than at any other of the public schools, and the school-work is consequently lighter. There is daily chapel with choral service on saints' days, at which the conducts, one of whom acts also as curator to the parish of Eton, officiate. The monitorial system scarcely exists at Eton, except in college, the sixth-form boys being, however, expected to preserve order, and having the right to fag, which is shared also by the fifth form. The river competes with the playing-fields at Eton, where rowing is at least as popular as cricket, and the cap-

tain of the boats even a greater personage than the captain of the eleven. The boys are free to go where they please in play-hours, including the town of Windsor; but are expected to "shirk," or, in other words, to run away, when they meet a master outside the playing-fields. The prestige of Eton, arising from its royal foundation and proximity to Windsor Castle, and its convenient distance from London, has made it the fashionable school for many generations, and has attracted to it large numbers of boys, the sons of rich parents, who look more to pleasant surroundings than high intellectual culture, and desire to provide them at an early age for their sons.

The school next in date stands out in sharp contrast to Winchester and Eton. It is St. Paul's School, founded by Dean Colet, the friend of Erasmus, A.D. 1512, for the teaching of a hundred and fifty-three boys "of all nations and countries." The number is that of the miraculous draught of fishes, which is supposed to have been the Dean's guide in fixing it. There is no distinction among the boys, as at Winchester and Eton, between scholars and commoners or oppidans, every boy having his education free, subject only to the payment at his admission of 4*d.*, "once and for ever, for writing of his name." Dean Colet was before all things a citizen (son of a famous Lord Mayor) and a radical reformer, and his notions of school management stand out in sharp contrast to those of Bishop and King. He will have no machinery of warden, fellows, and the rest, or allied college at the university, and has little confidence in clerical management. So he constituted the Mercers' Guild, of which he was an hereditary member, the governing body of his school, to whom he conveyed certain estates in Buckinghamshire for its maintenance. By his statute the masters, wardens, and assistants of the Mercers' Company are to choose annually two honest and substantial men of their fellowship as surveyors of the school, who shall take the charge and management for the year. The two surveyors, however, in practice only look after the accounts and pay the masters' salaries, referring all questions of management to the court of assistants of the company. The Dean's plan in its working contrasts in some respects favourably, in others unfavourably, with those of Bishop and King: favourably as regards the management of the estates. These in Colet's time produced an income of less than £200, which under the management of the Mercers' Company, has now risen to £10,000. And while the warden, provost, and fellows have absorbed the lion's share of the endowments at Eton and Winchester, the Mercers' Com-