

one, and again after dinner till School at five. A mighty rush to "bag" Fives-courts usually followed dinner, as the court could be engaged for an indefinite period by the first boy who threw up a ball above the line. Even when there was Cricket or Football at three, many would snatch some Fives first. Afternoon School, devoted to Mathematics, lasted an hour and a half, and did not involve much preparation, except where Euclid or Conics had to be learnt. Tea was at half-past six, and there was evening preparation for most of the school in the evening till 8.45. Prayers in houses were at 9, and we then went to our studies till bed-time at 10. At 10.15 the House-master came round to put out lights, ostentatiously noisy as a warning to the talkative, and his "goodnight" was the final word of the authorities for the day.

Life within the house was, of course, largely regulated by the school-hours; but it had some features of its own. Every boy had a cubicle in the dormitories, so small that it was always possible and sometimes necessary to sit on one's bed while performing ablutions. Every boy had also a tiny study (about 6 ft. by 8 as a rule), which he furnished with books, pictures, brackets, photographs, candles and suchlike according to his own taste; this was his own home; his friends could visit him (if there was room), except in the evenings; he could read and write letters undisturbed and do as much work as inclination or compulsion prompted. Most studies had a deck-chair in them, and the space was quite adequate for the ordinary boy, though I remember one long-legged individual (he fell gallantly afterwards, poor fellow, in Egypt at the head of his company), who had to sit with his feet in the quadrangle.

Out of school we were free to wander at will in town and over the country, except in the back streets. The only control over our movements was furnished by regular call-overs. These took place at dinner, at tea and at evening prayers, and also at lock-up at dusk in the winter. The captain of the house called over in the presence of the house-master. On half-holidays (Tuesdays and Saturdays, also Thursdays in summer, and a fair number of "occasionals," including Saint's Days), there was School call-over, in summer on the Cricket fields, in winter in the School yard.

Discipline was mainly in the hands of the Sixth Form, who had the right to "fag" lower boys. The fifteen or twenty upper boys of these were called

Praepostors and wore straw hats, thus distinguishing them from the mass of the School, who wore caps. The Sixth had to see that rules generally were kept; to stop throwing of stones, to see that boys were in their own studies at night, that no cooking went on in studies, that order was kept in the dormitories. In dealing with graver offences they could act as a court and inflict floggings, both the members of the Sixth in a particular house and also the whole body in the school. A "Praepostors' licking" was far more regarded and was a far greater ignominy than one from the Headmaster. Each week a Praepostor had charge of various School matters. He had to see that the morning bell was rung, and then stand out in the School yard till the first stroke of the hour was heard from the Church clock; he must then make his way upstairs among a seething mass of the nearly late and shut the school-room door, often in the face of a struggling mob. In return for these duties he was allowed to do English Verse Translation, instead of his composition for the week, and was excused repetition, and he might save up these privileges and so evade exceptionally difficult bits of work during several weeks.

"Fagging," of which I have spoken, was not particularly burdensome. The main duties of a fag were to run errands; to go down town to fetch eggs for breakfast, or Fives-balls, and in each case he would usually be rewarded in kind. He had also to clean out his "masters' study, but as studies were not cleaned out oftener than once a week at most, and as each member of the Sixth had several fags, this part of the work would only occasionally fall on the individual boy. In return he could rely on a certain amount of help (not always very judicious) in his work; it was little trouble to a Praepostor to run through 50 lines of Euripides or Homer for the benefit of a lower boy, and a dozen easy Elegiacs, such as a lower boy would have to do, did not take him more than about as many minutes. As a rule the relation was a friendly, quasi-paterned one, and the public opinion of the Sixth as a whole could effectually check bullying, if any desire for it existed. The nearest approach to bullying on the part of the Sixth, of which I ever heard was as follows. In a certain dormitory the fags had to wake all the Sixth at 5.30, assuring them that it was 6.30 and only undeceiving them at the last moment; and this process was repeated every ten minutes till it was really time to get up.