

former loses his place. They attack each other in this way until their stock of questions is exhausted." "The 'helps,' stand by during the challenge and act as counsel to their 'men' in case there be any doubt as to the correctness of a question or answer. The Head Master sits as moderator, and decides the point at issue." The boy who at the end of the challenge (or contest between the two boys) is found to have finally retained his place, has subsequently the opportunity of challenging the boy next above him in the list of candidates for admission, and of thus fighting his way up through the list of competitors. The struggle ordinarily lasts from six to eight weeks; the ten who are highest at its close obtain admission to the Foundation, in the order in which they stand. This position, as far as the College is concerned, they formerly retained for the period of their stay, which is ordinarily four years, though their places in class in school are regulated by the same principles as those of the Oppidans. Mr. Scott, the present Head Master, has, however, lately introduced a change by which a boy can obtain promotion in the list of his own year, so as to obtain a higher place in the annual review of the College by the Dean, and in the order in which the candidates for Studentships and Exhibitions present themselves to the Electors. The system of competition thus described is peculiar to Westminster, and is much prized by old Westminsters generally. It should be added, too, that until lately, the foundation at Westminster was the only one among all the public schools to which admission was obtained by competition.

The Queen's Scholars are boarded and lodged at the expense of the Chapter, but not wholly gratuitously. A charge of from £34 to £35 is made to each scholar, £17 of which are for tuition. The charges were formerly much larger. In return for this, Queen's Scholars have the exclusive right of competing for certain Exhibitions, which are as follows:—

1. Three Studentships at Christ Church, Oxford, tenable for seven years, of the annual value of about £100.
2. The Carey Exhibitions, amounting to about £600 per annum, which are distributed by the Dean and Canons of Christ Church in sums of not less than £50 or more than £100 per annum.
3. Three Exhibitions at Trinity College, Cambridge, of the annual value of £40 each.

The Exhibitions open to the whole school are—

1. Two Exhibitions from the bequest of Dr. Triplett, of the annual value of £50, tenable for three years.
2. An Exhibition from the bequest of the late Dr. Thomas, late Bishop of Rochester, of the annual value of about £40 per annum, tenable for two years.

In addition to the Queen's Scholars, there are four boys on the Foundation of Bishop Williams (Lord Keeper in the reign of James the First), to be elected, under a rule of the Court of Exchequer made in April, 1836, "from boys born in Wales and in the Diocese of Lincoln alternately, and in default of these, from Westminster. Vacancies are to be advertised," and the election made after an examination conducted by the Head Master. The income of the Foundation is about £72 per annum. The boys were to have blue gowns provided for them, and to receive the rest of their dividend in books. Dr. Liddel abolished the blue gown, and offered to parents to remit all tuition fees on condition that the money (about £17) payable to each boy yearly should be paid to the school funds; and this is the present usage.

The Statutes, as already observed, contemplate the admission of boys to a number not exceeding eighty (in addition to the Queen's Scholars), designated by the various names of Pensionarii, Oppidani, Peregrini, et alii. The first named (Pensionarii), answering to the Commensales of Eton, were, it seems, to receive their education gratuitously, and to be lodged and boarded by the College with the Queen's Scholars at a certain fixed rate of charge. Each boy of this class was to provide himself, within fifteen days, with a tutor, who was to be responsible for him to the College or Body Corporate. There does not appear to be any conclusive evidence as to what number of boys were ever admitted on this footing, though they are mentioned in a Chapter Order of 1584. It does not appear that they were taught gratuitously, and they had to defray the expense of their own board and lodging. The Town-boys in 1861 amounted to 96, and were, with the exception of those living at their own homes, boarded and lodged in two boarding houses, kept each by an Assistant Master. The necessary expenses of a boarder may be roughly estimated as under,—

2. Great Schools.

Entrance £10.

	£	s.	d.
Annually { School Fees .....	26	6	0
{ Board, &c .....	68	5	0
	94	10	0

The School (both Queen's Scholars and Town-boys being comprised under this general term) is distributed into ten forms, which

at present are arranged for teaching purposes in six divisions, the numbers now in the school readily admitting this.

The forms are arranged as follows:—

Sixth.			
Remove.		Fourth	{ Upper.
			{ Under.
Shell	{ Upper.		
	{ Under.	Third.	{ Upper } Under
	{ Upper.		{ Under } School.
	{ Under.		
Fifth			

Of these the Head Master takes the Sixth Form; and the Under Master, besides having the partial charge of the Under Fourth, takes the Under School. The other Divisions are allotted to Four Assistant Masters.

The Mathematical divisions of the School are generally coincident with the Classical, subject only to an exception in the occasional case of a boy who is so far advanced beyond his class fellows as to make this a real injustice to him.

In French, the two highest forms are thrown together and divided anew to form the French classes; the same is done with the youngest. The intermediate classes are at present coincident with the forms. French and Mathematics form a part of the regular school work, without extra fees. No other modern language is taught, nor are there "any appliances for the study of natural science." Both music and drawing are voluntary studies; but "a singing class is formed from time to time, under the instruction of Mr. Turle, the organist of the Abbey."

A drawing master attends for three periods of two months each in the course of the year, and sometimes more, if required. Each pupil is, ordinarily, with him for a period of an hour and a half in the week. "A class has comprised twelve or fourteen members."

In regard to the mode in which boys pass from one form, or subdivision of form, to a higher one, Mr. Scott thus explains the system:—

"Removes are given mainly according to proficiency, estimated partly by the weekly marks for lessons and exercises, and partly by examination. Twice a year, at Christmas and at Whitsuntide, trials take place, in which the boys are required to translate on paper passages from Greek and Latin into English, and from English into Latin prose and verse, all new to them at the time. Marks are given for this; and likewise examinations, *videlicet* and on paper, are conducted by the Masters, by which all the work of the half-year is tested; no Master examining his own form. There is also an examination in August, but no 'trials.' The marks for examination are then combined in certain proportions with those for form work, and the places" (or order in which the boys, if qualified, pass to a higher form) "are fixed by the result. In estimating the relative value of different subjects, I should say that Classics reckon as fully two thirds of the whole, the remaining third being Greek Testament and Scriptural subjects, History, Geography, and English, so far as answers to historical and other questions on paper may be considered English composition."

"In cases of marked proficiency, Mathematics are admitted as giving a claim to promotion. French has never done so, but I think that it might with advantage."

The hours of study in school are, on whole school days, viz., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, from 8 to 9, from 10 to 12.30, and from 3.30 to 5.30; and on half holidays, viz., Wednesday and Saturday, the work in school terminates at 12.30. Those boys who board at home are allowed to come (having breakfasted) at 9 instead of 8, and it is arranged that one of the Masters should remain with them in school during the school breakfast hour, viz., from 9 to 10.

There is no definite rule as to the proportion of Masters to boys. All the Assistant Masters are appointed by the Head Master. The Head Master himself and the Under Master are appointed by the Dean of Christ Church and the Master of Trinity alternately, with the consent of the Dean of Westminster. At present there are, in addition to the Head and Under Master, four Assistant Classical Masters, no one of whom seems to have more than thirty boys to teach, while one or two have a much smaller number.

The accommodation provided for the Queen's Scholars has been much improved within the last twenty years. Up to 1846, there was one large dormitory, in which all the forty Queen's Scholars lived by day and slept at night, there being nothing whatever in the nature of private rooms for study. They dined, as at present, in the College Hall, but resorted for their breakfasts (and also for their lodging and the whole of their board, when sick) to the boarding houses to which they had respectively belonged when Town boys. No breakfasts were then provided by the Dean and Chapter. The cost of maintenance, coupled with that for tuition, averaged, at that time, from £80 to £100 per annum. When the late Dr. Buckland was Dean, he appears to have been much struck with the undue amount of this charge, and with the inadequacy, in many respects, of the accommodation provided for the Queen's Scholars; and by his advice and under his personal superintendence, various improvements were effected, as well in the arrangements of the