

*Method of Playing*: the football is passed, low, by hand from one player to another, and the player inside the circle endeavours to intercept it. If successful, he changes places with the last thrower. (If the ball falls to the ground, the player responsible either for the bad pass or for the missed catch—at the discretion of the instructor—changes place with the player inside the circle.)

So much for theory; in practice (at a well-known English public school) I have noticed that normally the formation becomes relaxed and the circle becomes fluid, that passes are by no means always low (see *Common Faults* under No. 70 in the above manual) and that tackling is inevitable and not undesirable. With these practical modifications this modern exercise is in all essentials Harpastum: the inside player is the 'medius currens' and it is easy to see how the inside man would constantly be taking advantage of the elderly Filimatus's slowness to make him change places: the players 'waiting their turn' are those who have not had an innings as 'medius currens'. The only differences between the ancient game and the modern, and these are negligible, are that Harpastum was played with a smaller, harder ball and that it would probably have no referee.

Yours truly,  
R. W. MOORE.

## COMPETITION

### *Report on No. 1*

A FAIR number of competitors sent us translations of the Elegiacs, but a mere handful of schools were represented. Possibly composition in this restricted metre is a pursuit more congenial to middle age. We hope for a much larger entry for our second competition. Most of the competitors kept the rules, but the few difficulties of the English were too often evaded. On the whole the best version was sent in by R. O. Hibbert of Shrewsbury, in spite of the weakness of his fourth couplet and the omission of the necessary personal pronoun in the last line. A good vigorous copy was entered by R. N. Rayne of Bradfield. It contained some swinging Propertian pentameters, but there were just too many ugly elisions. R. W. F. Wootton and M. L. Booker were also worthy of mention.

### THE PRIZE VERSION

Me, licet Aethiopes quaeram Seresve remotos,  
non nova mens, tantum Iuppiter alter habet;  
et vagus ut liber pontum, vagus aera lustrem,  
heu mens perpetuo spe viduata premit.  
aequore nam medio cum me quatit unda, carinis  
mens mihi sollicitis aequiperata labat:

## COMPETITION

illa mali casus vix navigat aequor; et urges  
 ipsa gravi fastu flamina saeva, puto.  
 cum tamen aspexi lacrimoso caerula visu,  
 tunc oculos videor cernere, pulcra, tuos:  
 et modo celato pluviis, modo turbine, caelo,  
 tum tua morosae frons mihi torva redit.  
 quidquid et in vita fatis datur, omnia curas  
 in mentem revocant, maxima cura, Lyce.

R. O. HIBBERT.

*No. II*

A prize of a book to the value of half a guinea is offered for a translation of the accompanying lines into Greek Iambics. Competitors must be under the age of nineteen on 31 March 1932, by which day versions must reach the Joint Editor, at the City of London School, E.C. 4. It is not necessary to send a copy of the English, but the competitor's age and address must be given, and the envelope must be marked 'Iambics'.

## LEONTIUS

Reproach not misery. The sons of Greece,  
 Ill-fated race! so oft besieged in vain,  
 With false security beheld invasion.  
 Why should they fear? That power that kindly spreads  
 The clouds, a signal of impending showers  
 To warn the wandering linnnet to the shade,  
 Beheld without concern expiring Greece,  
 And not one prodigy foretold our fate.

## DEMETRIUS

A thousand horrid prodigies foretold it.  
 A feeble government, eluded laws,  
 A factious populace, luxurious nobles,  
 And all the maladies of sinking states.  
 When public Villainy, too strong for justice,  
 Shews his bold front, the harbinger of ruin,  
 Can brave Leontius call for airy wonders,  
 Which cheats interpret, and which fools regard?  
 When some neglected fabrick nods beneath  
 The weight of years, and totters to the tempest,  
 Must Heaven despatch the messengers of light  
 Or wake the dead, to warn us of its fall?

JOHNSON, *Irene.*

## ACROSTICS. II.

## A

Oppressit cives regno crudeliter usus:  
rex igitur post hunc nullus in urbe fuit.

## B

1. Tusca tibi patria est: migras spe ductus honoris:  
ast hic dimidio corpore truncus ades.
2. Afer hic in fratrem Romanorum arma petivit:  
denique fraterna caede peremptus obit.
3. Hoc fecit consul, cum disceptanda foret res  
patribus: et magni mominis instar erat.
4. Hoc duo sunt Itali vates praenomine dicti:  
hinc quartos, sextos inde videre queas.
5. Cum ne quid damni caperet respublica patres  
censerent, illud cernere moris erat.
6. Tum subito genetrix rosea cervice refulsit,  
et nato patuit *sic* dea vera suo.
7. Hic senior levi prope metam sanguine lapsus  
permisit comiti praemia prima vafer.
8. Arida de caelo descendit laetus in arva:  
implentur fossae, parturit omnis ager.
9. Huic nomen curam notat aetheris: ipsa sorores  
octonas memorat: est Helicone domus.
10. Tu Gabios Roma profugus capis arte dolosa,  
patris dimidii dimidiate puer.

H. W.

## SOLUTION TO ACROSTIC I.

1. P aupe R
2. O th O
3. P atre M (Parente M)
4. U c A (legon)
5. L ume N
6. U s U
7. S u S

A. 1. *Hic* refers to both uprights.

B. 1. *Virg. Aen.* ii. 87.    4. *Virg. Aen.* ii. 312.    6. usu venire: usus fructus:  
*Lucr.* iii. 971.    7. *Virg. Aen.* iii. 390.