

of the old big schoolroom, over the walls of which clematis montana crept in the place of the ivy and Virginia creeper, which mingle so beautifully on the walls in the present day.

It is likely that the oldest part of the present garden wall near the Sanatorium was originally the boundary wall of the old orchard, which belonged in earlier times to the School House. Canon Quennell rented this strip of garden, now given back to the School House, and his little daughter Eleanora remembers feeling both alarmed and curious at the black snails which abounded there.

Mrs. Newnum writing of the garden as she remembered it, and as it was till April, 1909, when the wall was taken away, says, "I have many happy memories of the School House garden, and especially of Sunday afternoons spent in it."

L.M.B.

#### THE FORWARD STROKE AND THE BACK STROKE.

The following is the gist of a letter from C. E. W. Bean. It is a pity that want of space forbids us to publish the whole of it with the diagrams. But as it stands it should be of great value to any batsman and should be well read and marked.

There are only two strokes which are absolutely necessary in cricket. Those are the strokes played at a straight ball, or any ball that would hit your wicket—the back stroke and the forward stroke.

The difficulty in playing the ball occurs when it hits the ground. The ball is quite simple in the air. But from the moment of pitching you do not know what it is going to do. It may break either way, or rise high, or keep low, or do many unexpected things. Therefore—if the ball is pitched near enough step out as far as you can so as to hit it as it leaves the ground, before it can alter its course. On a sticky wicket, drying after rain, you must hit the ball at its pitch, or it will turn too quickly for you. Therefore don't, as a rule, play forward on sticky wickets. The ball for this stroke is one pitching about as far away as your left foot when you step out, or at the most a foot or two further than your left toe. Get as near as possible to the pitch of the ball. But supposing you can't get within a foot of the ball by stretching as far as you can, it is clear that the ball may break and beat your bat, or get up, or shoot. Then, do the very opposite. Leave the stroke as late as possible so as to have the maximum of time to see what the ball does. This is playing back.

Most people can play back fairly correctly by nature. But not one in a thousand can play forward. Therefore this is the stroke to practise. For both you must play with a straight bat, and straight at the ball. If you play across the wicket only a portion of the bat guards the wicket. If you play straight the whole bat covers the wicket.

Similarly if you play across you have to meet the ball just at the