

HINTS TO THE HEAD

By TEDDY GRACE

(The Joker of the Classical Fourth at Rookwood)

Teddy Grace hopes his hints will not meet the eyes of the Head. If they do, Teddy will meet the cane!

I'VE drawn up the following hints in the hope that they won't meet the eyes of Dr. Chisholm. If they do, I expect he'll draw up a hint which will reach me in some other spot! Now these hints will help any Head to be popular, so if you want the fellows to cheer you instead of jeer you, you can't do better than practise what I preach.

1. Abolish Latin. This is essential. Of course, we must have lessons, but Latin is simply a waste of time. It stands to reason that fellows don't want to learn languages that nobody ever speaks. Suppose, for instance, a fellow wants to buy a tart in the tuckshop. What would be the good of asking for a "Hic, haec, hoc, hujus, hujus, hujus!" Why, a chap would be carted off in a strait-waistcoat to a padded cell! What we want to learn is a language we have to use. When we told Clarence Cuffy of the Modern House to "go and eat coke," we merely wanted him to buzz off. But because he learns French and German instead of English, he proceeded to the coal-cellar and devoured lumps of coke and had to be treated

in the Sanny. To avoid this sort of thing, you should—

2. Substitute "The Holiday Annual" or "The Schoolboys' Own" for Cæsar and Virgil. You see, there's some sense in books like these, and what's more, fellows would take some interest in their lessons. If Dalton said in class: "Silver, you will kindly construe the first chapter of the Rookwood story in the current Holiday Annual," it would be so much more fascinating. After all, the object of schools is to make fellows enthusiastic over their lessons, and who's going to be enthusiastic over Virgil? Br-r-r! Put him on the fire and save coal-bills!

3. Spoil the rod and spare the child! Rods are easily spoiled by being broken in halves and fed on the Form-room fire.

4. Instead of drill and physics, let us have lectures on cricket, football, etc., illustrated by indoor matches in the class-room. Critical points of goal-keeping, etc., could be demonstrated by the master keeping goal in the fireplace while we took penalty kicks with a couple of dusters tied together by string.



Having devoured lumps of coke in the coal-cellar, Clarence Cuffy had to be treated in the Sanny afterwards.

5. Impots should be given from works of imagination and mystery, such as "The Clue of the Baked Haddock." This would make them more palatable. After perusal by the Form-master, lines should not be torn up, but should be carefully stored away with the name of the writer on them. At the end of every term all these reams of paper could be sold to a waste-paper merchant, and the money given to the writers as a reward of industry. I should make my fortune in a year!

6. Impots of more than a million lines prohibited.

7. "Out of Bounds" rules should still be enforced, but the bounds should be made bigger. A good scheme is to make them consist of the British Isles. Boys requiring to go outside the British Isles during schooltime must get a special permit from the Captain.

8. Examinations would, of course, have to be greatly altered. Special subjects would be set, of which the following are fair examples:

Arithmetic and Commercial Sense.

Juniors will be given ten shillings

each and allowed to spend it on what they like. On examination day, the purchases must be arranged for the inspection of the examiner, with the receipted bills attached. Marks will be awarded according to the examiner's de-



It would be much more fascinating if Dalton said: "Silver, you will construe the first chapter of the Rookwood story in the 'Holiday Annual'!"

cision as to the best value for money. Top marks (i.e., a full ten-shillings' worth of value), 100.

Literature.

Quotations from "The Holiday Annual," etc., will be set, and juniors must state the story, verse or play from which they were taken.

Languages. A number of expressions, such as "frabjous bandersnatch," will be given and must be construed by the competitors.

Cricket (or Football, according to season). Test papers on rules, tactics, etc., and open-air examinations on the pitch; bowling (50 marks), batting (50 marks), and so on.

Geography. Competitors will be asked questions on all or any of the cinemas, theatres, tuckshops, football grounds, etc., in Hampshire. Opportunity to explore and visit these will be granted beforehand.

9. School Reports. Boys should be permitted to write their own, the headmaster signing them on request.

And, finally, every headmaster should remember that noble motto: "England expects that every Head this day will dodge his duty!"

Now I'm going to interview the Head of Rookwood. I've prepared a little speech I shall make. It's simple, but very touching. This is it:

"Ow—wow—wow—wow—wow!"



Useful points of goal-keeping could be demonstrated by the master keeping goal in the fireplace while we took penalty kicks with a couple of dusters tied together.