

# THE STRATHALLIAN

THE MAGAZINE OF STRATHALLAN SCHOOL

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VOLUME ONE

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## Editorial

ONCE more it is our unfortunate lot to write an Editorial of complaint.

What unkind Fate was it that doomed us to such a destiny when the magazine was born? As we were privileged to hear the remarks of the F.P.s both at Glasgow and Dundee, we expected a real glut of contributions this term, for regrets for past omissions were genuine, and the assurances of future support were undoubtedly sincere. But our hopes were vain. The term was nearly over before we received the first F.P. contribution, and since then we have been sent but two other articles.

In the enclosing letter to the first contribution it was suggested that the Editorial this time should take the form of a diatribe upon the relative merits of the mentality of Schoolboys and F.P.s, and indeed had we wished for an opportunity to say something scathing, no time would have been more favourable than the present term.

It is indeed an ill wind that blows no one any good. 'Flu and a severe winter have kept the boys more within doors than usual, and the result has been most gratifying from a magazine point of view. Without undue "persuasion" new, and in many cases unexpected, contributors have appeared, so that one or two contributions from old supporters have been held over till our next issue.

If, however, the absence of outside contributions has not been so seriously felt as in other circumstances it might well have been, we would remind F.P.s again that we look to them for support: particularly shall we do so during the coming term, always a difficult one for the magazine, since, as they know themselves, so much of the time of the present pupils is spent out of doors that they have little leisure for writing themselves.

## School Notes and Notices

THIS term has been, perhaps, one of the least eventful in the history of the School in some ways: in others it has been singularly eventful — unpleasantly so. An outbreak of 'flu soon after School opened, coupled with a spell of severe weather, led to the cancelling of all rugby matches during the early part of the term, even practice games being out of the question until after the first match, against Watson's on February 23rd.

On the other hand, the lawn, flooded by melting snow to a depth of two or three inches, froze so that skating and sliding were possible. "Halves" were arranged during the warmth of the day, and while the juniors were sliding, the seniors were down on the lochs skating in brilliant sunshine—an arrangement which gave great satisfaction to all, and certainly did much to combat the spread of the epidemic. An ice rink is surely something new in school equipment!

Unfortunately, a further mild outbreak occurred following the visit of the 1st XV. to Edinburgh, and this served as a further argument to that of Glasgow Holiday falling on Easter Monday for the term to close a week sooner than was anticipated. The consequent concentration of five weeks' work into four was more appreciated by the boys than by the Staff.

The monotony of the weeks of almost complete isolation was effectively broken by the organisation by R. Aitken and G. Sturrock of cinema performances on Saturday evenings. One penny was charged for admission, and the proceeds served to pay for the hire of the films, orchestral accompaniment being provided by gramophone and effects by F. Grant. We congratulate the organisers upon their "Brighter Saturday Evening" campaign. We understand

that in a dispute between those "sitting at the receipt of custom" and Mr. Riley about his right to free admission ended in a complete rout of the former.

The Swimming Bath, too, has proved a great blessing during the latter part of the term, and though an unavoidable delay in obtaining goal posts prevented Polo being played, an opportunity was found for fourteen boys to practice. They found the game far harder than it looks. W. Wills, the Swimming Captain, proved his worth by taking in hand the question of non-swimmers, and organising a course of instruction for them in the early morning.

Although the actual place of residence is not yet fixed, the Library has been given a new lease of life by the generous contribution by Mr. Riley of some fifty volumes. It is hoped that the whole will shortly be re-organised on a sound basis, and with this in view it is suggested that each boy should make a point of contributing at least one volume per year towards its maintenance. Any book is acceptable providing it is in a good condition, and if this should reach the eye of an F.P. or any one with too many books at his disposal, we would request that he should remember the School. We shall be pleased to pay carriage on parcels thus forwarded.

The Dramatic Society continues to thrive, and nothing but praise is due to their efforts this term in providing a three-act play for their Social Evening. The difficulties under which they worked, with members of the cast off with illness, and the shortness of time at their disposal owing to the curtailment of term, renders their production on 27th of March all the more laudable. Under Mr. Sharman's direction, musical interludes were provided, and here, too, the greater variety of entertainment was a noteworthy

feature. Full details of the evening will be found elsewhere.

The Rugby teams have had a singularly lean time this term, as has been already indicated, three matches only being played. Nevertheless, these have been enough to show that the improvement remarked in the 1st team at the end of last term was permanent. The match against Watson's was the first game the team had played since November, and yet the defeat experienced is the smallest on record since the schools met: and from all accounts the defeat might have been the School's initial victory against a team which has always proved far too strong for us. Luck was against us on that occasion. The performance of the team against the two heavier sides from Bridge of Allan and Glasgow 'Varsity was of the same high order.

It has been decided to introduce singing into the regular curriculum of the School. This will apply for the present to the junior boys only. We look forward with pleasure to this innovation.

Mr. D. Morris left Strath. at the end of the term after a sojourn of nearly four years, during which time he had endeared himself to boys and staff alike. As a memento of his association with the School the boys presented him with a clock and sleeve-links on the last day of the term; while the staff presented him with a bookcase. The good wishes of all go with him to his new post at University School, Hastings.

This term, too, we lose W. Wills and P. M. Constable. The former will be missed in his capacity of swimming captain, as a member of the choir, and as a member of the School orchestra and jazz band; the latter's sphere of activity has been more limited, but none the less noteworthy, and his absence from the Scouts next term will be a noticeable one. To these and to all others who are leaving we wish the best of luck in their new sphere.

At the end of term the following promotions were made:—

PREFECT—J. A. Diack.

HOUSE PREFECTS—R. Dunn and G. Rae.

SUB-PREFECTS—I. Brown, I. Turner, I. Constable, and G. A. Dickenson.

### EXAMINATION RESULTS.

*The Scottish Universities' Preliminary Examinations.*

J. A. Black, I. Constable, P. Constable, I. M. Turner, E. Sinclair, passed in Higher Mathematics. These were the only candidates from Strathallan and again we scored 100% pass. It is now some years since any boy failed in a Scottish University Examination. Black and Co. sat their exam. at St. Andrews and were highly privileged in being allowed to stay the night at Fisher's Hotel. We have been looking for an article describing their experiences, but since it has not arrived we can only conclude that they spent the evening swotting annuities and the nine point circle solutions. Time will tell.

It is with great regret that we have to chronicle the death of John Allan Anderson in Perth Infirmary on March 19th. A member of Form J.2, he would have sat his Junior Cambridge Examination in July. He was taken suddenly ill on March 13th in the evening and was sent to bed. He was taken into the Sanatorium early next morning, and was delirious most of the day. As no cause of his temperature was discernible, he was transferred to Perth Infirmary for observation the same night. A consultation of doctors failed to diagnose the case successfully, and later two professors were called in. Still no agreement could be arrived at beyond the fact that his heart was being attacked. He lingered on with only periods of consciousness and passed away quietly on the following Tuesday morning. The whole School would express its sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. Anderson in their great loss.

## Professor Liebermann's Experiment

THE room was illuminated by a soft red glow from a shaded reading lamp on the heavy mahogany desk. The fire cast fitful shadows on the walls and was reflected in the thoughtful eyes of the man at the desk. From outside came the dull rumble of London's mid-day traffic.

Professor Liebermann, the famous German scientist, whom I had known since my childhood, spoke slowly: "I cannot call to mind a suitable simile—Ah, wait! Here is one. You know, of course, that a dream lasts for a very short time, sometimes only for a fraction of a second. But to the sleeper the dream may appear to be of many hours' duration. This is caused by the acceleration of the brain of the sleeper. Were he to move during the dream, he would do so at a speed increased in the ratio of the actual to the apparent duration of the dream, which naturally would be enormous."

"Now it is possible by means of the application of electricity to accelerate the action of the brain to a certain extent. If this electricity is properly employed, it is possible to increase the rapidity of the brain's functioning, and therefore of the nervous system with its consequent influence on muscular movement, to such an extent that all life on the planet appears stationary—Do you follow me, Dr. O'Brien?"

"Perfectly," I answered, "But, tell me, why do you say *appears* to be stationary?"

"Because, my dear fellow," and the Professor's eyes had in them a twinkle of merriment, "if life actually was stationary, then our speed would require to be the quantity known as 'infinity', and at such a speed I imagine our atoms would be completely disintegrated."

"One can have no proof that such would be the case," said I, "but yours certainly seems a good working hypothesis."

"I have discovered the means of applying the necessary electricity, Dr. O'Brien. That is why I called you here to-day. You and I shall test my theory, and you shall pass judgment. Kindly follow me."

The Professor rose and walked to the door. He led me down a long corridor and

opened noiselessly a red baize door. The room we now entered was fitted up as an electrical laboratory, and I noticed especially a pair of high tension wires overhead. Liebermann turned.

"This is my workshop," he said, "and this is the apparatus by which the electricity is applied."

He indicated a chair standing in four insulated legs, and further insulated by a rubber mat placed between it and the floor. Two leads ran from the overhead cables to the back of the chair. I walked round and examined the apparatus with interest. The Professor was working with what appeared to be an X-ray control table.

"The duration of the spasm of accelerated mentality depends upon the time during which the current is applied. It is a fine afternoon for the experiment, and I propose to apply sufficient to last us one hour. Kindly take your place in the chair and notice the time by your watch."

With no little trepidation I took my place. My watch told me that it was two minutes after three o'clock.

"Are you ready?" came the Professor's voice from behind me.

"Right," I cried, and the Professor stepped on to the mat and grasped my hand.

"We must go together," he said, and I felt an increasing sense of nausea. In a few seconds this wore off, and everything appeared normal. But something was changed. In a flash I realised the silence was that of the dead. The faint rumour of the outside strife, which could be heard under ordinary circumstances, was now entirely absent.

"Seems quite normal," muttered the Professor, "Let us go out into the street." We walked towards the door, and the Professor led the way up the corridor. Austin, the Professor's valet, stood outside the study door. He had a fixed stare on his face and was quite motionless. The Professor touched him on the shoulder, and slowly, like a statue, he toppled over and fell with a crash to the floor.

"Excuse me, Austin," chuckled Liebermann, "I had not foreseen that."

We proceeded to the front door, leaving the prostrate figure of Austin lying where it had fallen. The Professor opened the door, and we stood in Cavendish Square. I do not think that human beings have ever witnessed a more curious spectacle than that which unfolded itself before us. The street was dotted with curiously motionless figures. A man was poised half way in and half way out of a luxurious car drawn up at the kerb before us. A little street arab, his mouth hanging open in awe, was apparently about to make some caustic remark in reply to the uniformed chauffeur's curt dismissal. A cart on the far side of the street attracted the Professor's attention. He ran lightly across the road and took the whip from the upraised hand of the carter.

"There is no need for needless cruelty," he chuckled. The verification of his theory had put him in a singularly good humour, and he was once more the light-hearted schoolboy who had played scrum-half in his school XV. "And now, doctor," he went on, his face assuming a more grave expression, "it behoves us in the name of science to investigate certain phenomena which are at present to be found on all sides."

He set off at a brisk pace towards Oxford Street. Together we made our way through the dead streets. In the great shopping centre all life had assumed the same awful immobility. A newsboy who had been, presumably, running down the street was now poised on one foot, an eager expression on his face, his left hand raised to his mouth as if he had been shouting, and a pile of mid-day papers under his right arm. Ten yards up the street, a man had fallen before a heavy Leyland lorry, one arm thrown out as though to defend himself. The Professor noticed him and, beckoning me, he carried him with my help bodily to the side of the road and left him propped up against a lamp standard. It was extremely difficult to appreciate the fact that he was living in a perfectly normal sphere of life, thinking, breathing and speaking as he was wont to do. It was difficult to realise that those helpless statues before us were

human beings like myself. I could scarcely credit that the omnibus in the middle of the street, with its dead driver, its dead conductor, his movement arrested while he was in the act of punching a ticket, and its dead passengers, was travelling through London at some fifteen miles per hour.

I turned from my thoughts and followed the Professor who was picking his way towards Regent Street. He turned and addressed me when I was a few yards from him: "I propose to commit a crime in the name of science," he said.

"And what is the crime?"

"Robbery and arson," he answered and remained silent until we had reached Oxford Circus. Here, as elsewhere, all was still. The Professor walked towards a little two-seater motor car with a motionless chauffeur at the wheel. The latter was smiling his thanks to a heavily built constable who had waved him on. We lifted the still figure from the driving seat.

"That tourer car!" gasped the Professor, and we heaved the inert form into a car behind. "And now I want you to help me to push this two-seater down Regent Street. The slope will help us, and we should attain a fair speed."

"Why not drive her down?" I suggested.

The Professor chuckled. "You seem to forget, my friend," he said, "that that car is probably travelling at ten or twenty miles an hour, and any increased speed that came from the engine would be unappreciable to us."

I threw off my jacket in acceptance of my friend's argument, and we bent to our task. The car moved slowly at first, then more rapidly, until it was moving at a walking pace down Regent Street. Suddenly a wisp of smoke rose from the front of the car: I felt the rear of the body-work becoming warmer every second: a yellow flame licked up from one of the back tyres, and the Professor sprang back. The car stopped almost dead, and was at once a mass of flames. I turned to my companion in astonishment.

"Friction," said the Professor. "That car was travelling at thousands of miles per

hour. And now I judge we have just ten minutes to return to my flat. Let us do so."

In something under eight minutes we were sitting once more in the study. All was silent. The Professor was at his desk, presumably writing an account of our weird adventures, when suddenly, with a roar of an express train entering a tunnel, the world awoke. The rumble of London traffic burst in on us, and Liebermann looked up with a smile.

"And the time is—?"

For fully thirty seconds I gazed at my watch in silent amazement. Then, "When the city awoke it was two minutes past three," I said.

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The morning papers were brought in to me as I sat at breakfast next morning. "The Graphic's" front page was adorned by one of those glaring headlines beloved of the modern newspaper proprietor. All commented on the unexplicable phenomena witnessed the previous day. I reproduce the description given by "The Graphic," omitting, however, the theories of well-known scientists who had been consulted.

"The city of London yesterday witnessed several of the most curious occurrences which have been known in the history of mankind. . . . At three minutes past two, James Austin, the personal servant of Professor Liebermann, the well-known scientist, was seized by some unknown power and hurled violently to the ground. He states that he was about to deliver a telegram to his master, who was believed to be in his study with Dr. Herbert O'Brien, the brain specialist, when suddenly, without warning, he found himself lying full length on the floor, his head ringing from a blow sustained in falling. He can add no further information, except that he struggled to his feet and delivered the telegram to Professor Liebermann, who had heard no undue noise. At about the same hour, James Aitkenson, a clerk, was crossing Oxford Street when he slipped and fell full length. He had a momentary impression of a heavy lorry towering above him, and the next thing he knew was that he was lying with his back against a lamp standard. A constable on point duty stated that Aitkenson seemed to

disappear from the roadway and reappear almost instantaneously on the side of the road. Simultaneously, a third outrage occurred in Oxford Circus. A chauffeur, driving a two-seater motor car towards Regent Street, was suddenly overcome with nausea and found himself sitting in the rear seat of an open touring car which he had noticed following behind him. The car was seen to disappear, a dazzling flash of flame was witnessed, and the burned remains of the two-seater were found fifty yards down Regent Street."

Such were our experiences as witnessed by the normal world. Our side of the story has never been revealed, and the scientific side, with full explanation, possibly never will; for three years ago Professor Liebermann disappeared completely. No one knows the facts of the case, but I have a theory that he may have repeated his experiment and been unable to return to normality, but is now wandering in the vast deserts of infinite speed, unable to communicate with the statuesque ghosts of his former friends.

L. G.

#### IN MEMORIAM — J. A. A.

Death, walking in his garden, saw a flower  
Just budding in the early days of Spring,  
That knew the dewdrops, not the tempest's  
power;  
Had only known bees' humming, song-birds  
sing:  
Had never heard the moaning winds of  
Winter,  
Nor the sad rustling of the wind-flung  
leaves;  
Nor felt its heart pierced by the frost-bite's  
splinter  
While round its grave a wreath each snow-  
flake weaves.  
So Death stooped, bending graciously thus  
low,  
And plucking from the yet unmarring sod  
This flower, pure as the newly drifted snow,  
He laid it peaceful in the hand of God.

I. C.

## Morocco Through Rose-Coloured Spectacles

ONE is sometimes averse to saying anything in favour of a place or product that is not British, but the French protectorate, only three days' voyage from Southampton, deserves mention, I think, as a country of distinct possibilities in farming and mining.

For the former large open tracts, with only a little clearing to be done thereon, are available at low cost and quite close to the main roads from Casablanca to Oran, particularly between the towns of Iaga and Fez, and to the north and west of these towns. These latter areas are well watered and are suitable for vines, a speciality of the French, market gardening and cereals of all kinds. Since Christmas, for instance, full supplies have been available in the Oudjda bazaar, near the Algerian frontier, of spring vegetables of all kinds, and such fruits as grapes, dates, etc. Such produce would no doubt command a ready and profitable market in Covent Garden and other centres between December and March.

Large capital is unnecessary for such an enterprise, but a knowledge of French, energy and patience are essential.

In the great plain of Iadla, watered by the (river) Oued Oum er Rbia, there are well over two million acres of practically virgin soil available. This part of the country is as yet only being made secure by the French from the wild tribes in and about the Haut Atlas Mountains, and is therefore unsafe for colonisation as yet.

Of minerals there is a large variety—gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper, manganese and iron being found. Coal and anthracite are also being mined in the regions south of the Oudja, which are being opened up by the new railway to Figuui. The geographical formation of Spain is believed to extend under the Mediterranean and reappear in Morocco, but the French Government in its protective capacity considers it inadvisable and unsafe for prospectors and miners to work as yet in the Riff country and Haut Atlas. Consequently, it has not reopened for

registration of claims the area closed during the late Riff war. It is possible at one's own risk to slip past the military outposts with a view to locating mineral bearing ground suitable for registration when the restrictions are withdrawn.

Prospecting is, of course, speculative, and mining requires capital; but one might spend an interesting and profitable holiday of a month or so walking in the mountains with either Melilli, Iaga, or Marrakech as base.

The mining laws, modelled on those in Australia, are intricate and require careful study, many a prospector losing a valuable (perimetre) claim through ignorance of technicalities.

If difficulties should arise, or if the hands or the heart prove insufficiently hard, fitting experience may be obtained by a few years in the Legion d'Etrangère which was aptly described in the Christmas number. There is, however, no romance in the French Foreign Legion, only grinding, slaving work in company with the world's worst.

T. M. F.

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### GOING UP!

Across the Briny Ocean,  
Where the Yankie holds his sway,  
I know a little building  
In that region called Broadway.  
Though only ninety stories,  
It's the pride of all New York,  
And Uncle Sam says, smilingly,  
"Gee, Woolworth's takes the cork!"

For ten cent coins I hear  
Have built those mighty heights untold—  
Pathetic when one calculates  
All the rubbish Woolworth sold.  
And now that its famed founder  
Is, alas, poor lad! no more;  
We wonder if he's higher up  
Than his famous ninetieth floor.

W. P. T.

## Come and see me after!

**F**EW people are long at Strath. before they become very familiar with that famous imperative: "Come and see me after." Its origin is lost in antiquity, but its echo resounds with monotonous regularity. To newcomers at first it is awe-inspiring; soon it becomes an endless source of amusement; and finally grows a weary, boring chant.

How much more pleasant would it be to hear the command couched in the language of the poets! Imagine, for instance, a prefect, angered by the misbehaviour of one of his charges, holding forth in a style which even Shakespeare might have envied:—

"Dost thou desire a long detention?

Who steals my purse steals trash, but he  
who dares

To disobey the words which are gone forth  
Stands within my awe. Thou did'st not  
know?

A likely tale, forsooth!

Get thee gone now, and when thou'st fed  
thy fill,

Shalt see me once again, when I may  
wreak

Revenge, an impot. and full time for  
cheek!"

Mr. Rudyard Kipling, of course, would put the words into the mouth of a Cockney, something after this manner:—

"When yer roise in the mornin' the wrong  
soide ov bed,

Yer scoffs off yer porridge and yer butters  
yer bread:

Just keep yer temper and don' lose yer  
'ead,

Or it's 'Come and see me after!'

They don' call yer Tommy nor Billy no  
more,

They're all prefects now, not as in days  
ov yore—

So take my advice or yer will be the  
dafter,

And 'ear a voice a-callin' 'Come and see  
me after!'

It would be unfair to close without instancing how the Scotch national poet, Rabbie Burns, would have done it:—

"On a braw, bricht, moonlicht nicht I'm  
free

To tak' a walk along the Dee;  
But in my bedroom you'll find me,  
Ma bonnie laddie!

Yon daft-like saying wearies me,  
'Come see me after!'

I'm wondering if aboon the sky,  
Yon place we'll gang till when we die,  
They'll hae auld Peter standing nigh  
Strang as a rafter,

And when ye get tae him he'll say,  
'Come see me after!'"

V. L.

### IN SOMERSET.

I would like to take a cottage ere this life  
has passed me o'er,  
With a tangled rose and honey-suckle twin-  
ing round the door,  
Down in Somerset, sweet Somerset, where  
cider apples grow,  
And in Springtime on the mossy banks the  
wild wood-violets grow.

I would walk where streams meander and  
the mild-eyed cattle graze,  
And watch the hill slopes in the morning  
looming slowly through the haze:  
Watch the bracken turning withered, and  
the leaves fall from the trees,  
I would like to live in Somerset and see such  
things as these.

And in winter when the orchards are so  
bleak, and cold, and bare,  
When winds are whimpering sadly, I'd be  
still without a care,  
For I'd bring some sawn-up apple logs and  
light a scented fire,  
And never mind the wind outside twirling  
leaves midst frozen mire.

Then the Winter's breaking, and the  
flowers and lambs are born,  
I would pluck the scented briar rose and  
never heed its thorn,  
And breathe the wild thyme's fragrance  
borne upon the evening breeze;  
Yes! I'd like to live in Somerset and have  
such joys as these.

I. C.



## The Scouts

WE are pleased to say that our hopes for a successful Easter term have been amply fulfilled. Altogether ten meetings were held, every one of which was, we hope, a step forward in the development of the troop. The first of these was solely a P.L.'s gathering to choose a successor to G. R. Anderson (J. Montgomery being elected to the vacancy) and to arrange a programme for the term.

The first four meetings of the troop were mainly spent in passing tests and arranging the patrols. The following were elected seconds:—W. Taylor for the Owls, R. D. Paton for the Curlews, and R. D. Linton for the Eagles.

Great keenness was shown in passing the tenderfoot and 2nd class tests. The former was passed by the following:—J. Laidlaw (Hawks), H. Fleming (Curlews), M. Mitchell (Hawks), and J. Paterson (Owls). The latter was completed by S. Mackay, while other Scouts managed to pass certain tests, such as First Aid, Compass Points, Scout's Pace and Signalling. We hope that those Scouts who have been preparing for proficiency badges will have a chance of passing their tests next term (the sanction of a higher officer being required for this purpose.)

Besides the passing of tests, the troop was brought up to date by issuing enrolment cards and badges which had been gained. We hope that the awarding of badges, which has been neglected for some time, will prove an additional encouragement to the Scouts.

At the end of February, when the snow was about, an enjoyable meeting was spent on tracking. It was found that bicycle tracks were much easier to follow than foot-prints. The latter requires skill and ingenuity, as the snow had already been trampled by many feet, and we congratulate those Scouts who discovered the flag. The former was merely a matter of speed; Wright proved to be a pretty good runner.

At the next meeting a competition was held for bridge building. Paton was not pleased when it was discovered that the bridge of which he was partly in charge was the weaker of the two, and he undertook that, if he were given 1½ minutes, he would make it to hold six Scouts—and he did. The

Scoutmaster was pleased with Paton, and Paton was pleased with the Scouts working under him, as he proved by a generous distribution of sweets.

As some of the tenderfoots had not yet been sworn in, it was decided to hold an investiture. Accordingly six of them took the promise and became full-fledged Scouts.

At the end of the term the Scouts presented P. M. Constable, the Assistant Scoutmaster, with a fountain pen and pencil on the occasion of his leaving the School. In doing so they showed their appreciation of the very useful work Constable has done during the two terms he has been second-in-command. That all the troop thought him a jolly good fellow was further demonstrated by three very hearty cheers. We all wish him the best of luck.

Macdougall was then appointed A.S.M. for next term, when R. D. Paton will take over the leadership of the Owls. We hope that all will come back from their holidays with the determination to make the Strathallan Troop a thoroughly efficient one. Something has been attained, but much remains to be done, so Scouts alert! and

BE PREPARED.

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### CHAPEL NOTES.

During the Easter term the sum of £24 10s. 7d. has been contributed to the Chapel Fund. A portion of this will be allocated to local charities, details of which we hope to give in the next issue. From this fund has been taken a small sum for the purchase of plants for Chapel decoration.

For the time being the Chapel extension scheme is in abeyance. Experts have advised us not to go forward with the work we had planned to do, and have submitted an alternative suggestion in regard to the alteration on the building. Their proposals are under consideration and will doubtlessly be adopted if found suitable.

We regret having to say "Goodbye" to W. Wills, who is leaving this term. Wills has for some time been a loyal and enthusiastic member of the School Choir, and all members join in wishing him the best in his new sphere.

## The Dramatic Society Social

ON Wednesday, March 28th, the Dramatic Society provided another most enjoyable entertainment. The programme opened with L. du Garde Peach's one act comedy, "Providence & Co. Ltd." The play relates the vicissitudes of Lorrimer, Macdonald & Son, whose approaching insolvency is responsible for a conspiracy on the part of the senior partner to plunge Macdonald junior into a matrimonial alliance with a rich and pretty widow, to whom, however, he is already married. H. Brown, as Mr. Lorrimer, gave a commendable performance. He was never inaudible, his articulation was excellent, and he knew his part thoroughly. Moreover, he varied his acting and expressed with equal readiness bewilderment, benevolence and irascibility. His voice did not perhaps sufficiently betray the quaver of old age, but his slow, ponderous movements as he mounted the stairs suggested an appropriate senility. J. T. Johnson played the part of Mr. Macdonald with confident vigour. He looked rather young to be Grant's father, and a perfectly legitimate tendency to bluster occasionally developed into mere ranting. F. Grant, as Macdonald junior, exhibited the freshness of youth mingled with a precocious self-confidence which was wholly pleasing. His voice is inclined to be a little monotonous and he should try to introduce more light and shade. Moreover, he should have remembered that Paton was supposed to be his beloved wife, and therefore should have infused a little more ardour into his kisses. R. Paton, who took the part of the wealthy young widow, Mrs. Harrington, was undoubtedly one of the prettiest "girls" whom we have seen upon the Strathallan stage. "She" showed an engaging coyness with a charm of manner which should qualify her for similar roles in the future. The love scenes were, however, entirely passionless. Embryo actors should realise that they do not make fools of themselves when they display a little emotion.

A more ambitious effort was represented by the production of "Three Wise Fools," a comedy in three acts, by Austin Strong. The play centres round the foibles of three

old bachelors, Mr. Theodore Findley, Dr. Richard Gaunt and the Hon. James Trumbull. Outwardly cantankerous slaves to habit, their conventional existence is suddenly stirred to its depths by the arrival of Miss Sidney Fairchild, the daughter of the woman whom they had all loved in their youth. Each lavishes upon her a wealth of devotion which is rudely shattered by Benny the Duck's dramatic attempt to murder Judge Trumbull. Irrefutable evidence seems to point to Sidney's complicity in the attempted crime. Sidney's lover, Gordon Schuyler, comes to the rescue and proves the suspicions of her guardians entirely unjustifiable, so that the play closes with the promise of marriage bells in the not too distant future.

We must again congratulate Mr. Norton on a very fine performance as Mr. Findley, the crusty, vituperative old banker, who yet concealed a tender heart. His robust acting never palled on his audience, and his vigorous vitality gave life to the play in some of its most critical phases. We must also congratulate him on the facility with which he mouthed his oaths. If fault may be found, we consider that his violent displays were occasionally over-emphasised, so that he shouted rather more than was necessary.

I. Chalmers, as the philosophic Dr. Gordon, was an outstanding success. His performance was dignified and his acting restrained; while his voice was at the same time clear and expressive. We look forward to seeing him again.

Dickenson, who took the part of Judge Trumbull, was undoubtedly the weakest of the trio. His "make-up" failed to conceal his youthful appearance and, moreover, he was nervous and ill at ease. Nevertheless, towards the end of the play he became more confident and acquired increased audibility and expression. His cross-examination of Sidney was distinctly good.

The part of Gordon Schuyler was taken by G. R. Anderson, who gave a most creditable performance. His almost invariably clear articulation was most refreshing when contrasted with the almost

inaudible mumbling of some of the other players. Moreover, his acting never appeared forced, whether he portrayed the cynicism of rebellious youth, the importunate lover, or the man of action. His facial expressions, and particularly his habit of shrugging his shoulders were most praiseworthy.

J. R. Laidlaw, as Sidney Fairchild, had a difficult part, and on the whole acquitted himself satisfactorily. He showed real pathos when he thanked his guardians for their kindness. His mingled surprise and alarm on discovering Benny the Duck was entirely appropriate, and his embarrassment during the shoe-buckle episode was almost painfully real. On the other hand he was at times completely inaudible, even to the front row. During the love scenes he seemed indifferent rather than adoring; while he repeated his plea "I didn't mean any harm" with a lack of expression which was simply ludicrous. We would recommend him to speak his part with greater emphasis and to show a little more vivacity.

One of the best performances of the evening was G. Sturroch's rendering of Benny the Duck. He merged his personality most successfully with that of the revengeful ex-convict and became for the time being a rough diamond who might easily have left Sing Sing prison that evening. His sullen suspicion on seating himself at the table could not have been excelled: indeed, it is doubtful whether the Strathallan stage has seen a better performance.

M. Wood, as Poole, the detective, was not sufficiently pugnacious. He lacked assurance in what was an essentially militant part. However, he became slightly more official as the play progressed.

Of the minor characters, E. Sinclair, as Gray, deserves to be praised for his attention to detail. His calm deliberation in setting the table and his slightly mischievous smile were distinct assets to the play. S. Fraser, as Mrs. Saunders, was very colourless and generally inaudible. Only very occasionally did he give any evidence of the talent displayed in "The Monkey's Paw." A. Morrison, as the much sinned against John Crawshay, spoke with expression. P. M. Constable, J. Wright and W. P. Thomson

were entirely adequate in the respective parts of Douglas, Clancey and Grogan.

As usual, the Jazz Band functioned during the intervals. "In Old Vienna" proved a popular number, the refrain being rather too heartily sung by the whole School. W. Wills celebrated his last appearance in the Band with a 'cello solo, accompanied by R. Morton.

In conclusion, we would thank the actors, stage managers and orchestra for providing so enjoyable a climax to the term. This is the first time the Society has undertaken a three act play, and the experiment has proved an unqualified success. The arduous rehearsals and the painstaking devotion of the actors has resulted in a very high standard being attained. But—and this we would emphasise—the inaudibility and bad articulation of some of the actors present a serious defect. When this fault has been eradicated, the Society's performances will be equal to those of any similar society.

P. W. S.

## WHY TEACHERS LOSE TEMPER.

QUESTION: What are Glaciers?

ANSWER: Guys who fix windows when they are broken.

Q.: What is a peninsula?

A.: A bird that lives on icebergs.

Q.: What is a volcano?

A.: A mountain with a hole in the top. If you look down you see the creator smoking.

Q.: Why does a dog hang its tongue out when running?

A.: To balance its tail.

Q.: What is steel wool?

A.: The fleece of a hydraulic ram.

Q.: What is the capital of Ohio?

A.: O.

Q.: What are the Christian Nations?

A.: Those that use cuss words.

Q.: What is an idiom?

A.: A woman idiot.

Q.: What is a gulf?

A.: A dent in a continent.

Q.: What is a buttress?

A.: A butler's wife.

## THE DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

At the first meeting of the term, after the election of a new secretary in place of H. Mason, who had left, it was decided that the programme should be upon similar lines to that of last term, and with an increased membership, the Society has enjoyed a successful session. The attendance at all the meetings was highly gratifying, and the enthusiasm of the members continues to increase.

Eight meetings were held in all, and in addition to the usual trial readings, four rehearsed readings were given, "A Traveller Returns," "Mr. Fox," "The Man in the Bowler Hat" and "All's Fair," the second and last of which were new to the Society.

The lecture by the President this term took the form of a reading of Sir J. M. Barrie's "Shall We join the Ladies?" which he submitted as a "thriller" by a master hand. Few of his audience were satisfied with its "incompleteness," surely a sufficient proof of Mr. Norton's contention.

The Society was more ambitious in its choice of plays for its end-of-term Social Evening, a three act comedy, "Three Wise Fools," being attempted for the first time. A curtain raiser in the form of "Providence & Co., Ltd." completed the programme, which was much appreciated. The Society made an appeal to non-members to support it in its desire to buy curtains and other stage accessories, which would make it entirely self-supporting. Details of the Social will be found on another page.

W. WILLS,  
*Hon. Sec.*

## EARNSIDE ECHOES.

The Saturday evening Cinema show has proved an exceedingly popular event in the life at Strath. It is rumoured, indeed, that Forgandenny is to be turned into a miniature Hollywood, and moreover that Mr. Roy Blackhand has promised to play the dashing hero in the first production. This, we learn,

is to be that renowned film, "The Uncovered Wagon."

We hear constantly from 2 O.K., the Forgandenny station of the B.B.C.—so constantly in fact that we wish to take this opportunity of asking them to keep the door of their studio closed.

"The Earnside Eagle," we notice, is apologising for an error appearing in the last edition. The affair pertaining to Lord Pitkeathly's eldest son, the Hon. Clarence Claude, at Oxford, was entirely wrong. The master of his college did not say he was a thundering ———, ———. It was the Hon. Clarence who said this to the master of the college. The Hon. Clarence returned to his ancestral home somewhat earlier than was expected, and his arrival came as something of a shock to his doting parents. It will be remembered the Hon. Clarence took his Matric. as far back as 1914, but he was seen taking it, and it was not till last year, owing to defective sight of the Presiding Officer, that he slipped through.

## THE BUSINESS CLUB.

Owing partly to illness among its members, partly to a curtailment of time at its disposal, the Business Club has had a very uneventful term. Only two debates were possible, and the readings in English literature were squeezed out altogether.

The first of the debates was "That a Channel Tunnel was desirable." The debate, though short, was interesting, the heated discussion between Messrs. Black and Constable seeming to leave the issue very open, though the motion was won by seven votes to three. The second motion was "That Money is the greatest blessing of Mankind." Messrs. MacEwen and Fraser severely harassed the opposition, and shook the interesting alternatives proposed; but subsequently the motion was defeated by six votes to four on what might be termed moral or ethical grounds.

J. M. WOOD,  
*Hon. Sec.*

## CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir,—With reference to the criticism, published in the last number of the "Strathallian," of the Dramatic Society's Social Evening, we deeply regret certain phrases therein as being unfair, in so far as circumstances are not taken into account. We feel that these statements, read by F.P.'s not knowing our history, cannot fail to give a wrong impression of our efforts.

It is agreed that the critic's duty is to praise or censure the actors and the production, and in this respect P. W. S.'s remarks are appreciated to the full. In concluding, however, he made statements which we feel might have appropriately been omitted. He says that "the elderly ladies are invariably dowdy," and that the wigs were "not all that could be desired." We would ask if in making such statements, he considered the difficulties under which the plays are produced. Our "ladies" have no wardrobe of their own suitable for the occasion: borrowed plumage of a suitable nature is difficult to procure at a moment's notice.

The question of wigs has been considered ever since the Society has been inaugurated; but they cost money. The Society has been in existence less than two years, during which time its income has average five pounds per term. During this short period the Society has presented fourteen plays, excluding those of the present term, of which nine have been given publicly to the whole School without any charge being made. In addition, the Society has copies of three other three-act plays for trial reading purposes and a further dozen plays by way of library. Books cost money, as do wigs. P. W. S. may not be aware that a woman's wig costs not less than £2 5/- and may be as much as £4 10/-. Obviously, therefore, we must be content with what wigs we have.

He also finds fault with the curtains. We grant the justice of his remarks, and can assure him the matter is in hand; but again until the money is forthcoming, nothing can be done, for the curtains we use are the only ones obtainable on hire in Perth, and for these we are indebted to Mr. Riley's generosity and an early ordering.

Thanking you for this opportunity of putting forward the Society's case.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

J. H. BLACK (*Chairman.*)

## ANNUAL DINNER, 1929.

The Dinner Committee met at Strathallan on Sunday the 3rd February, for a preliminary survey of the ground.

Those old Strathallians who, on previous occasions, have considered somewhat ruefully the cost of the Dinner Ticket may be assured that all interests are being borne in mind for the 1929 event. Young in spirit as well as in years, the Club is not yet tied to any particular locus, and the Dinner Committee is investigating all alternative catering establishments in Glasgow. In the next issue of the "Strathallian" we hope to make a definite announcement on this point.

The sundry expenses of the Dinner have previously been paid by our President, and while we are very much indebted to him for this gift we really feel that this is not a satisfactory state. Thus it will be seen that some difficulty will be experienced in reducing the price of the ticket, but this we hope to be able to do.

In past years some old Strathallians, living at a distance from Glasgow, have been unable to be present at the Dinner owing to their inability to get away early from their respective offices in order to make the journey. With the interest of these fellows at heart we have decided to hold the Dinner on Saturday, 21st December, and we sincerely hope that this will lead to a larger representation.

While it seems early to go into such details, we should like to intimate that, if any Old Strathallians not residing in the Glasgow district wish to make arrangements in regard to accommodation for the night of the Dinner, I shall be very pleased to arrange for them to stay with Old Strathallians in Glasgow. Communications should be addressed to me at The Hirsell, Bridge of Weir. These arrangements should be of great convenience and interest to any O.S. who are now abroad but know that they will be in this country again in December.

The Committee is considering asking a Guest of Honour to be present at the 1929 Dinner, and bearing in mind the fact that he is sure to tell us a good deal about ourselves, we trust that we shall be proud of seeing our trustees "as others see us."

D. O. MELROSE (*Convener*),  
Dinner Committee.

## Thoughts on Writing an Article for the "Strathallian"

WELL, here goes! I suppose it has got to be done sometime . . . By jove! that was a good story! . . . I wonder if there are any more as good . . . now what's this poem about?

"He slept beneath the moon  
He basked beneath the sun,  
He lived a life of "going-to-do"  
And died with nothing done."

Quite right, I can't stand those people who keep putting things off—oh yes, of course, I was going to write an article for the mag.—I forgot . . . well, here goes! I suppose it has got to be done sometime . . . now where the deuce is the ink? . . . Gosh! that one hurt! You would have thought I spilled the ink on her blooming zoology notes on purpose—sisters aren't human . . . unless they are somebody else's sisters . . . Well, here goes! I suppose it has got to be done sometime . . . now, what shall I write? . . . a ghost story?—"The Death Dagger of Dunning" . . . that sounds not bad, but what an imagination I'd need to make it thrilling! . . . perhaps "The Green Ghost of Greenloaning Grange" . . . now, don't be a fool, boy—you know the kids in your bedroom wouldn't walk along the passages at night after reading one chapter of "Dracula" . . . well, I certainly flatter myself! . . . och, to pot with this! I'll read another story first . . . now, I wonder why I always open the magazine at that poem . . . dash it! Why shouldn't I write a poem? . . . well . . . um . . . Mary had a little lamb—no, I think that's a bit plagiaristic, and anyway "Piggy" and "Dobbers" might think I was getting personal . . . now what about "A Headmaster's Love Letter?"—no, I don't think so—"E.W.H." might sue me for breach of copyright, and someone might sue our respected guide, philosopher and friend for breach of promise—and we can't have that (we can't).

Well, we'd better get started . . . once upon a time . . . no! . . . dash it! Why should I write something for the mag.? Echo answers, "mag.?" I once spent a week writing a poem, and then I was asked if Bret Harte wasn't rather old to be writing

for a school magazine—doubting my originality! . . . well, I'm—perfectly astounded! I won't write another thing for their blooming old mag. . . . och, yes, I will . . . och, no, I won't . . . well, I'll do it for the next mag., and I'll read a story just now . . . oh, curse that poem.

A. M. M.

### GOLF.

Realising that a parody on a hymn is not, perhaps, the best of form, I wish to state that I regard the hymn in all reverence and am in no manner attempting to ridicule it.

I. C.

O long dead genius, lost to fame  
Who first conceived Golf as a game;  
Decreed it should be played on turf,  
With bunkers, strewn with stones and earth,  
Oh, hear us when we cry to thee  
For those in peril on the tee!

Thou first of golfers, dost thou brood  
Upon these players, rash and rude,  
Who never let their fervour cease,  
Nor let lost balls, lie lost in peace?  
If so, then hear our cry to thee  
For those in peril on the tee.

For those of young and tender years  
It is we have the greatest fears  
Lest they should hear a naughty word  
From bunkered colonel, passion stirred.  
For these it is we cry to thee  
When they're in peril on the tee.

O Golf's great father, in what tongue  
Didst thou swear when the world was young  
On finding that a ball hit far  
Was swallowed by a dinosaur?  
Oh, then I would not like to be  
So very near thee on the tee.

In days now gone when didst thou wear?  
The skin of tiger or of bear?  
Whate'er it was gave no more shock  
Than does a modern plus four sock.  
But time is fleeting, fashions flee,  
Yes! even those worn on the tee.

# The Story of Henry and Becket:

## Modern Version

(With apologies to Carter's History.)

HENRY was a schoolmaster at England Academy. He ruled his class both wisely and well. His energy was untiring and he was never so happy as when, sprawling in an armchair, he instructed his pupils in the elements of Snakes and Ladders, Double Dutch, Bootlegging, Saxophone Playing, Esquimaux, Paganism, Tiddly-Winks, the History of Dixon Hawke, and the life of the flea. For many years all went merrily as a wedding bell until one fateful September Becket became a member of the Church Form, and Peace flew out of the window. Becket was a model of all that a schoolboy should be. 1. He was skilled in catching wasps. 2. His knees were always clean. 3. He never chewed india rubber in class. 4. His fluent broad Scotch could be easily understood. Small wonder was it that Henry loved Becket, and showed his devotion by appointing him Chancellor of the form. He alone was allowed to wear button boots, eat oranges in class, and keep tortoisés in his desk. Now Henry had a bitter grievance which cast a blight on his existence and rendered all his days unhappy. By the rules of the school criminous boys could only be awarded the following mild punishments: 1. Penances; which involved (a) Sitting on a hedgehog for five hours daily, (b) Sleeping in the pond (c) Washing the master's feet thirteen times a day. 2. Ex-communication from all mathematics classes for a period of one year. 3. Perpetual deprivation of mince and figs. Henry considered these penalties to be quite ineffective in dealing with the criminal who forgot to date his work or wrote "thrown" for "throne." With bated breath it was whispered that he was in favour of the culprit being hung, drawn and quartered.

One day, after two glasses of milk, inspiration came to Henry. Becket was made Arch-Boy, in the hope that with his assistance the punishments meted out to the Church Form might be made fit the crime. However, to Henry's utter dismay, Becket

declared that he would never be responsible for fixing the chains of slavery more firmly about the necks of his fellows. He who had been the apple of Henry's eye did not hesitate to denounce Henry's schemes as savouring of shameful barbarity. Henry's anger was so great that three boys swooned at the sight of it, and Becket fled to the Sanitorium. He accused the Arch-Boy of 1. Writing a twenty-eight page essay. 2. Getting stung by a wasp. 3. Allowing his finger-nails to grow too long. For six months the wretched quarrel dragged on, during which Henry's position became most insecure. One day, in the midst of his pork and beetroot, he burst out into one of his ungovernable fits of passion, exclaiming, "Will no one of the cowardly boys, who learn from me the science of Pogo-Pogo, rid me of this turbulent Arch-Boy?" Four boys who, as a result of Becket's interference, had been obliged to endure a painful visit to the dentist, forthwith left the building. In the hope that Henry might grant them red marks in their terminal examination, they proceeded to the Sanitorium, drew their pen-knives and rushed at Becket. But the Arch-Boy fought bravely and hurled at his foes eight beds, twelve medicine bottles, the headmaster's cat, and finally the smallest boy in the school. At last he was overpowered and slain, his bleeding corpse being deposited in the waste paper basket outside the Church form room.

As soon as Henry heard of the murder, his grief was intense, and for a whole week he appeared in class arrayed in sackcloth and with ashes on his head. He allowed his pupils 1. To put eels down one another's backs. 2. With the exception of tomatoes and vegetable marrows, to throw at each other any kind of fruit or vegetable which had reached a suitable stage of decay. 3. To learn advanced Zinsky and Zansky. 4. To play leap-frog in among the desks. All this they could do without fear of censure, penance, ex-communication or deprivation.



## Rats!

SIMON Simpleton walked jauntily up the main (and only) street of Cammon-on-Cam. Simon was pleased, for fortune smiled upon him. He now had a job. He was a commercial traveller (one of the door to door variety) for the firm of I. Killemolski, the famous Russian manufacturer of rat poison. This poison was contained in small jars, "large size one shilling, sent on application. Postage in U.K. 3d., abroad 3½d."

Simon had started from the local agency with twelve such jars in his attaché case, and already the case contained only eleven. He carried the twelfth in his hand in order to avoid the necessity of opening and shutting the bag at every house.

Opening a gate he stalked importantly up the path to the door of a house, rang the bell, and, on the door being opened, began his well learnt formula—

"I represent—"

Promptly the door was shut in his face.

This performance was repeated so often, that when, at one house, a pompous-looking mansion, the gentleman who came to the door waited for him to continue his oration, he quite forgot what came after the words, "I represent."

Said he: "I represent - I - I -" (glancing at the label on the bottle in his hand), "I. Killemolski, the celebrated Russian rat - er, I mean—the celebrated Russian rat-poison manufacturer." (Holding up the jar for inspection), "This poison will kill anything from a needle to an anchor—that is - er - rats, mice, bugs, fleas, beetles, cockroaches, spiders, bluebottles, green-fly, yellow-hammers, white elephants, centipedes, earwigs, lice, crickets, footballs, gol - er - ahem—and other vermin."

"It supersedes all traps and patent devices for the extemporation—that is—extermination of rats, mice, bugs, fleas—ahem!—what I said before."

"Unfortunately, it is also poisonous to huming beans—beg pardon—human beings and other domesticated animals. Spread it on a slice of bread and butter and jam—no,

not jam—and don't lick the spoon. Remember it is poisonous to all vermin, rats, mice, bugs and so on."

"It is colourless, tasteless, noiseless, painless and odourless."

"The rats are attracted by its—by its—by its—well, anyway, rats are attracted by it. It causes them to seek the open air, so don't open the air in the house. If you do, be sure and shut it again."

"The bottles cost 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 7d., and so on according to size. Largest size, 1/-."

"It is the quickest, cleanest, purest, cheapest, safest, goodest, bestest rat poison on sale. Would you like to try a bottle?"

The gentleman yawned, handed Simon his card, and shut the door. On the card Simon read:—

Mr. T. King,  
Agent for

Keating's Insect Powder Co., Ltd.,  
London, E.C.4.

W. H. B.

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## BOOKS RECEIVED.

Among the latest titles received are the following:—

A Grubroom Tea, by Phil Dupp.

The Cat's Revenge, by Claude Face.

Looking for a Fight, by Esau Red.

Famine, by Mustapha Scoff.

The Master's Lament, by Y. R. U. Careless.

The Great Passion, by E. Tudor Lipp.  
Suspense, by Willis Cargo.

After Death, by Innes Coffin.

The Long Wait, by Ina Kew.

Impertinence, by G. K. Boyes.

The Great Wall, by A. Dyke.

Why? by I Askew.



## Rugby Notes

THE season 1928-29 will long be remembered for the remarkable series of mishaps which cancelled the majority of the matches arranged. During this term the 1st XV. played but three matches, whilst the 2nd and 3rd XV.s played none. The influenza epidemic again made inroads, and rugby in the School was more or less brought to a standstill. Following on this, there came some weeks of snow and frost which frustrated all attempts by eager convalescents to convince one of their fitness to play.

It would therefore appear a difficult task to form a real estimate of the rugby standard as represented by the School teams. However, close contact with the 1st XV. makes it fairly clear that they are undoubtedly a really strong team, sound in all departments. They have only on one occasion been able to field at full strength, and on that day, February 23rd, against Watson's College, they played their first match since November! There would have been no surprise if they had been badly beaten, but, as it is, they deserve praise for their undoubtedly cleverer display against a much heavier team. Against Bridge of Allan and a Glasgow University XV. the 1st team was badly disorganised forward, and this handicapped their style of play to such an extent that only on occasions did they reveal their true selves.

The season was brought to a close by the House Seven-a-sides games, in which Freeland House showed superior speed throughout and deservedly emerged the victors. The honour of being the first holders of the Dow Cup goes to them, but in the face of such a tense struggle, who dare prophesy that they will retain it?

**Watson's College v. Strathallan.** At Edinburgh on February 23rd.

Sinclair lost the toss, and Strath. kicked off, only for the Watson's forwards quickly to drive them back into their own twenty-five. For a while Strath. were hard pressed, but Dunn brought relief with a breakaway. With only the full back to beat, he put into

touch when kicking ahead. The home forwards brought the ball back to the centre. In the forwards Watson's were heavier and by successful wheeling repeatedly got the ball out clear to their backs, but weak handling among the threes nullified this advantage. Dunn was again prominent during a further attack by intercepting a pass and making a good run, but Constable was too far behind to receive his pass when he parted with the ball. From the resultant scrum the home wing forward broke away but was brought down by Sinclair near the line. Half-time came with the Strath. forwards attacking, and neither side having scored.

In the second half, which was fought at a great pace, Watson's had most of the play, and for a time kept Strath. defending strenuously, but from a loose scrum Moncur broke away, kicked across to Lacey, who in turn kicked to Fraser who went over for a try. Dunn failed with the kick. After this surprise, Watson's pressed harder than ever, and Strath. found their task all the more difficult since Lacey was injured and was off for ten minutes. From now to the end Watson's kept up a hot attack, but the School's defence held out till five minutes before the end when L. Keiller, going round the blind side of the scrum, forced his way over for a try, which Johnstone converted with a splendid kick. Although defeated, Strath. covered themselves with glory; the headmaster of Watson's paying tribute to their splendid defence, while it is noteworthy that this is the smallest defeat the School has experienced at Watson's hands.

Result: Watson's College, 5 pts.; Strathallan, 3 pts.

**Strathallan v. Bridge of Allan.** At Forgardenny on March 9th.

The game started in brilliant sunshine more appropriate to cricket than rugby. The visitors kicked off and were soon pressing the School line. This was in part due to the visitor's pack being somewhat the heavier, but when once the Strath. forwards got heated this was not noticeable, for they

got the ball back slightly more often than their opponents. The first try came to Strath., a splendid piece of work in which all the backs took part. From the scrum the ball went out to the left wing with a rapidity which left the visitors standing, and MacKinnon scored near the post; the place kick failed, however. From the centre kick, Strath. resumed the attack, and ten minutes later Dunn took the ball from near the visitors' twenty-five line, and with a clever display of dodging went over for a second try which Black converted.

Half-time: Strathallan, 8 pts.; Bridge of Allan, nil.

After the resumption the game became more scrappy, and both sides were obviously feeling the heat. Strath. were still on the offensive and soon after the kick-off Moncur, following up a kick ahead, touched down too far out for the place kick to succeed. The visitors were now played to a standstill but continued to peg away hopefully: Strath. had stood the pace better and went further ahead. MacEwen darted right through the defence only to be brought down on the line. P. Constable was up, however, to receive his pass, and scored between the posts, but again the convert was missed. This concluded the scoring and the end came soon afterwards.

Result: Strathallan, 14 pts.; Bridge of Allan, nil.

**Strathallan v. T. M. Hart's Glasgow 'Varsity XV.** At Forgandenny on March 20th.

Before the game commenced, a minute's silence was observed in memory of J. A. Anderson. Strath. kicked off and quickly got down on their opponents' line, but the heavy 'Varsity forwards soon enabled the attack to be repulsed. Even play followed, but then a forward rush ended in Fraser touching down amid a crowd of opponents and the kick brought about full points. This reverse spurred on the visitors, who pressed strongly for their efforts to be rewarded by a try near the touch line. A magnificent kick brought the score level. Nothing daunted, Strath. renewed the attack and

good work by Constable ended in Moncur going over for another converted try. The fortunes of the game swayed from end to end and the 'Varsity scored again, but the place kick failed, and the School forged further ahead just before half-time when Black scored a penalty goal.

Half-time: Strathallan, 13 pts.; T. M. Hart's XV., 8 pts.

The second half opened with a determined rush by the visiting backs, but the School defence for a time prevailed. The forwards were feeling the strain of the hard tussle with the heavy pack, and besides being repeatedly pushed right off the ball, they could not get across in time to aid in defence when the 'Varsity threes attacked. In this way two tries were registered against the School, and the visitors took the lead for the first time. This spurred on the School to fresh efforts, and they slowly forced their way to the visitors' line where, the ball going out to Fraser, a try was scored near the corner, the kick failing. Then began a ding-dong struggle for the lead which some five minutes before the end fell to the visitors. Even then the School all but saved the game: Dunn, who had played a sterling game throughout, broke away down the centre and was only collared near the post. The ball was grounded by I. Constable, who followed up well, but the pass was forward and the chance passed, not to be repeated.

Result: T. M. Hart's 'Varsity XV., 21 pts.; Strathallan, 16 pts.

### Criticism of the Team.

E. SINCLAIR has proved a successful captain, if only by the splendid example he set by outstanding play at full back. His fielding is sure, his touch-finding long and accurate, and his tackling really an object lesson to all. His sense of position is good, but he should improve still further his left foot kicking. 1st XV. cap, 1927-28.

J. H. BLACK, the vice-captain, gave the forwards a rousing lead. A strong runner in the loose, he excels in both scrums and

line-outs and has been outstandingly clever in his loose scrummage tactics. Is an ideal forward for the younger players to copy. 1st XV. cap, 1927-1928.

R. DUNN, at stand off, proved one of the most successful players of the season. Always reliable, safe in defence, penetrative in attack, he was really the mainstay of the backs. He is fast off the mark, has safe hands, is quick to seize upon openings but might make more use, with advantage, of the dummy pass. 1st XV. cap awarded for 1928-1929.

I. CONSTABLE has lived up to expectations and proved a regular live wire amongst the forwards. He is a tremendous worker, goes hard from start to finish and is always conspicuous by his quick following up. 1st XV. cap awarded 1928-1929.

S. FRASER, still our best wing, has greatly improved his defence. He is now a more complete rugby player—not merely a sprinter—but, for such a fine attacking wing he was insufficiently supplied with the ball. 1st XV. cap 1927-1928.

I. MACEWEN, right centre, is fast and elusive in attack and has a keen sense of positional play in defence. He is an all round polished three-quarter, but he would be wise, later on, to put still more vigour into his now improved tackling. 1st XV. cap awarded 1928-1929.

P. M. CONSTABLE was hardly ever spectacular but always solid in his play. A sound scrummager and a very useful forward in the line-outs, he requires to play with more abandon and vigour to get right to the front rank in the future.

T. M. CLELAND has made tremendous progress and is now a finely developed forward from whom much will be expected next season. A front row forward who uses all his weight, he is quite a clever and fast player in the loose. He always shows fine control of the ball in the dribbling rushes and is an excellent tackler.

W. WILLS has been successful in his hooking. He is exceptionally fast for a

forward and is generally prominent in passing movements.

T. DOCHERTY, left centre, is a fast runner with a delightfully easy action which makes his speed quite deceptive. His chief asset is his tackle, which is really devastating. In attack he is improving with experience and next year is expected to show that extra finish to his work which stamps a player of class.

A. G. RAE has played well at both centre and wing and is a strong determined runner who plays a bustling game. He is slowly becoming a first-rate centre but there is still room for improvement in the timing and giving of passes.

G. GRAY has a very sound knowledge of scrummage tactics and generally can be relied upon to infuse plenty of energy into his play. He is developing into a forward of distinct possibilities but should try to improve his speed in the open.

G. H. DICKENSON, owing to injuries, has played but little, but proved himself to be an excellent wing forward. By his whole-hearted tackling he has shown up the tameness of some forwards and with such eagerness to be after the ball, combined with improved scrummaging, he is bound to become more prominent still.

I. LANG is a real scrummager who believes in the saying that "a good forward should never be seen." He is rather slow in the open but understands the game thoroughly. Has been of great value in locking together the forwards in the tight and loose scrums.

C. W. LACEY is a big, powerful wing three-quarter who is rapidly developing into a formidable player. He should now concentrate on improving his speed and should also develop a strong hand-off which is always an asset to a winger.

M. WOOD has played some useful games for the 1st XV. and though on the light side, he generally "pulls his weight" and is often to the fore in the loose. He has not lived up to expectations lately, however,

but when in strict training is sure to improve again.

Others who have on occasion played for the 1st XV. are:—Sturrock (2), I. Brown (2), H. Wright (1), V. Lauderdale (1), B. Mackinnon (1).

### Seven-a-Side Contests.

Nicol beat Simpson by 4 pts. to nil.  
Freeland beat Ruthven by 13 pts. to 3.  
FINAL: Freeland beat Nicol by 19 pts. to 5.

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### CRICKET PROSPECTS.

The matches arranged for the teams this season are almost similar to those of last year, so that, given favourable weather, we expect to witness some stern struggles in which the spice will be in the glorious uncertainty of the game.

Both the first and second elevens should be well up to the usual standard as there is plenty of talent available. With MacEwen, as captain, backed by Sinclair, Dunn and Diack, a fine nucleus is already formed, whilst also there are at hand a few others who have on occasion played for the 1st XI. A keen competition for places in both teams is assured.

It would be wise for players to concentrate early in the season on getting rid of their own individual faults. There are some bowlers who will sacrifice length and accuracy to sheer pace, with a result that generally many useful runs are given away, especially on the leg side. These particular bowlers should be given a rest till they have learnt their lesson. Boundary hits to leg often amount to a large proportion of the final score, and a bowler who can be relied upon not to bowl loosely to the leg should be given preference.

Another point observed during last season was the considerable number of batsmen who

were given out either lbw. or else caught at square leg. The fault generally was due to the fact that in making a leg stroke the left leg was placed too much across the wicket with the body consequently too far away from the ball. This stroke was also often made off a good length ball on the leg stump when a short single forward to mid-on would have been wiser. The making of those lightning decisions as to the correct stroke to use is, of course, one of the best qualities a batsman can possess, and comes naturally to few, but close observation and experience will put all in the way to acquire it.

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### SWIMMING.

Owing to the 'flu epidemic, it was not till half term that boys were allowed into the pond twice weekly; but this time was by no means idle, since Mr. Norton and the swimming captain took groups of boys and initiated them into the rules of water polo.

Every morning from February 24th there were swimming lessons given in the pond to those at that time unable to swim, thirty-seven in all. As a result of these instruction classes, only a few of the youngest are still unable to swim in the deep end with perfect confidence, and even these are so far advanced that there is little doubt of their being equally proficient by the close of the summer term.

A relay race of one length each swimmer was swum against a team picked from the 'Varsity team visiting Strath. on March 20th. The School was represented by C. Maclay, I. Henderson, D. Moncur and F. Grant, and a good race resulted.

On the evening of March 14th, sixteen attempted to gain their swimming colours, but only three succeeded in doing the four lengths within the specified time, namely:—I. Turner, R. H. Morton and R. Buchanan.

## “O.S.” Notes

MR. T. FERGUSON, who was out in Morocco, has received an excellent appointment in Rangoon with the Port Authority, and all Strathallians will wish him the best of luck in his new sphere of activities. Incidentally, he will be able to help the Club by taking in hand the formation of a branch in Burma. We appeal to all O.S.'s in this district to get in touch with Mr. Ferguson and help him to make the venture a success.

We offer our congratulations to Mr. T. M. Hart on his appointment to the office of Vice-Captain of the Glasgow University Rugby Club, and we hope that this will lead to even higher honours.

There seems to be a “Strath.” colony settling down under the wing of the Clydesdale Cricket Club, and we are sure that they will worthily uphold our traditions as a cricketing school. Our last year's School captain, Mr. J. F. Dow, and Messrs. J. D. and H. Reid, are among the playing members, besides Mr. Hart, who was cricket captain at Strathallan two seasons ago. Next year it is possible that two of the most prominent “caps” of 1928 will also seek an outlet for their cricketing ambitions at Titwood.

Mr. R. Barr, who was up at the 'Varsity in Glasgow, has decided to enter the shipping industry, with which he has family connections. He had been successful in his examinations in the Faculty of Medicine, and we all wish him a continuation of his success in his new sphere of life. The 'Varsity will lose an excellent rugger player whose play has always been admired by present pupils on the occasions of the F.P.'s match. Here's to the success of his new venture!

Mr. Sandy Cruickshanks has been appointed to the staff of the “Review of South and Central America,” 35 Great Russell Street, London, and any O.S. wanting reliable information on these parts of the world could have no better informant since he has wide personal knowledge of commercial life and conditions generally out there. Any O.S. who has the placing of advertisements in South and Central American journals should certainly write him before fixing up with any paper.

We have had many enquiries with regard to the new blazer which, as a result of voting, has been fixed as “striped.” The majority in favour was small, being one of only three votes, and immediately the result was known, samples were obtained and many designs were submitted. A blazer was made up, but this did not satisfy the committee except in so far as it was made of a woven material which is very much in vogue in some of the leading public schools down south. At last a particular combination of stripes was passed by the “Blazer” committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Guthrie Reid, and it is hoped that Messrs. Rowans will be in a position to supply blazers by the end of this month. All O.S. should give their full names to the firm, as it is the intention to make this a Club blazer, and only members of the Club will be supplied.

We learn from the Argentine that Mr. R. Storie Docherty has been appointed Assistant Traffic Inspector on the Central Argentine Railway. This is a step upwards and we trust that we shall be able to chronicle a further advancement in the early future. Many of the earlier Strathallians of Forgan-denny days will remember “Doc” as captain of our cricket eleven and centre

three-quarter of the first fifteen, and he certainly helped to lay the foundations of the great successes on the games fields which followed the next year. The School's congratulations to you, "R. S. D." and our best wishes for the future!

Last mail we had a short note from Mr. Norman Affleck, who is at present at 1975 42nd Avenue W, Vancouver, B.C., and any O.S. in the vicinity might get in touch with him. There are some five or six in the neighbourhood, and a meeting would undoubtedly be a source of pleasure to all parties. What about a branch in this district? There are two or three present Strathallians who will shortly be resident in British Columbia, and they are sure to be followed by others.

Another O.S. has gone out to the Penang district—Mr. Ian Campbell—and if this should catch the eye of Messrs. N. Dunn and C. Bowman, perhaps they will give him every assistance they can to enable him to find his feet in that far-off land. Ian was with Messrs. Balfour Williamsons, of London, but he was offered a post out East and he felt impelled to accept, much to the regret of his former employers, with whom he was doing quite well.

Mr. Willie Motion, who was representing this firm in Southern Chile, has now purchased a partnership in one of the large farms in this country, and with the knowledge gained of the commercial side of wheat, meat and timber, he should do well, for he has farming well established in his family on both sides.

Dr. Jack Young, of Rowandene, Kirkcaldy, is proceeding shortly to West Africa to take up an appointment in the West Africa medical service, which is under the Government; at present he is continuing his studies in the 'Varsity at Edinburgh before going out. There are two or three O.S. in

the Government service in this part of the world, so that there is a great possibility of one of these chance meetings of old school chums which form one of life's most delightful episodes. His brother, John, who is following out a banking career and passed his full membership examination of the Bankers' Institute, must have been one of the youngest members ever to qualify. Our congratulations to them.

Dr. Jim Burgess, of Stanley, has been casting his eyes over these medical appointments in the colonies, and should he eventually take up one in the B.W.A.M. Service he will no doubt be delighted to meet the brother of his old school friend, Mr. Frank Young.

We have still to chronicle the movements of another Strath. medico, Dr. John Cruickshank, who happily has moved nearer to us rather than further away. He is at present with Dr. Stirling in Perth and was out at School quite recently. He remarked on the great changes that had taken place and confessed to "hardly knowing the place."

During the last term there were several "comings of age" celebrated in Glasgow, and to each O.S., in whose honour the celebrations were held, we tender our congratulations and best wishes. We received graphic accounts of the jollifications in honour of Mr. S. Dow, and in one corner of the ballroom one was able to count nearly twenty Strathallians. Yes, there's some truth in the song, "The more we are together . . ."

Our Dundee Dinner was a decided success and it was with great regret that we were unable to arrange one in Edinburgh owing to the prevalence of 'flu and also owing to the difficulty in tracing all O.S. in the neighbourhood. Happily, through the assistance of our Edinburgh secretary, Mr. Jardine

Smart, we have everything in readiness for a reunion during the fall of the year, and early notice will be given to all through the medium of the next Magazine.

During the early part of last term we learnt that Dr. Robert Lumsden had received an appointment at the new Stirling Infirmary as a surgeon in the Ear, Nose and Throat Department. We hope that he is now laying the foundations of a very successful career as a specialist and shall expect to hear of further progress.

Edinburgh Institution F.P. Rugger Club had one of their most successful seasons of recent years, under the captaincy of Mr. H. M. Todd, who is most affectionately remembered by all who knew him as "Toddles," and who was one of the most tactful rugger captains Strathallan ever had. He is still with his father's firm of potato merchants in Edinburgh.

Strathallians of Bridge of Allan days will all join in congratulating Miss Collins, who is engaged to be married to a Professor of Mathematics in Dublin. Miss Collins, for the last nine years, has been headmistress of the Beacon School, Bridge of Allan, where she has done really splendid educational work. This will be no surprise to those who studied French and English with her for the Cambridge examinations, for her candidates were always successful and thoroughly enjoyed her criticisms and lessons generally. She leaves the Beacon School at the end of July and we all wish her long and happy days.

Sports Day is on Friday the twentieth of June, and Commemoration Day has been fixed for Saturday the twenty-ninth. It is not proposed to send individual invitations to Old Strathallians; they know that they will be heartily welcomed and the more of them there are present on these occasions the more pleased we shall be.

On Commemoration Day there will be a short service in the School chapel at 3 o'clock, after which the School will try conclusions with teams representing the F.P.'s at cricket and swimming.

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### DUNDEE STRATHALLIANS' DINNER.

The first Dundee Dinner was held at Kidd's Restaurant, in Dundee, in the early part of February last, and there was quite a good turn-out of O.S.'s from the district, in spite of the fact that many had to abandon the idea of being present owing to attacks of influenza.

The Toast List was comparatively short. Mr. J. McBain, solicitor, Arbroath, proposed "The School" in a neat and appropriate speech, and Mr. Riley, who was in the chair, suitably replied.

Mr. M. Norton, the Editor of the Magazine, proposed "The Old Boy's Club," and took the opportunity to emphasise the advantages of Strathallians maintaining close touch with one another, and he urged those members present to do all they could to persuade those who had neglected to join the Club to do so at an early date. Mr. George Smith, the Dundee Local Secretary, replied on behalf of the Club.

The usual social amenities followed the business discussion, which had for its object the formation of a local committee, who were to have the oversight and direction of local affairs.

After the School Song, a very hearty vote of thanks was proposed to Mr. Smith for the admirable arrangements which he had made and which contributed, in no small degree, to the success of the evening.

*Editor's Note.*—We hope to publish a full list of all officials of the various Local Committees in our next issue.

## A BAD HABIT.

There was once a wee laddie  
 Called Sandy M'Sangd,  
 Whose fav'rite expression  
 Was, "Well, I'll be hanged!"  
 There's some who say, "Goodness!"  
 And some, "Gracious me!"  
 But Sandy—wee Sandy  
 Himself couldn't free  
 From the habit—a bad one  
 I think you'll agree—  
 Of saying ninety times  
 Between dinner and tea,  
 "Well, I'll be hanged!"

His father would rage,  
 And his mother would scold,  
 But Sandy would never  
 Do what he was told.  
 Whene'er he was able,  
 He said as of old,  
 "Well, I'll be hanged!"

One day when wee Sandy  
 Was out for a walk,  
 He saw 'neath the shade  
 Of a moss-covered rock,  
 A tiny wee elf—  
 It quite gave him a shock—  
 He stared, at first speechless,  
 But—when he could talk—  
 "Well, I'll be hanged!"

The elf, a small creature,  
 Dressed neatly in green,  
 The cutest wee fellow  
 That ever was seen,  
 Said, "Sandy, I'm sent  
 By the good Fairy Queen  
 To grant you three wishes,  
 You see what I mean?"  
 Cried Sandy, more 'stonished  
 Than ever he'd been,  
 "Well, I'll be hanged!"

Next morning they found him  
 Hung high from a bough  
 By a rope round his neck.  
 Said his father, "Well, now  
 Sandy's had his great wish  
 To be hanged, and I trow  
 That never again  
 Will he say, hand on brow,  
 "Well, I'll be hanged!"

W. H. B.

## THE HEART OF BRUCE.

Like a sphere of burnished copper  
 Shone the sun across the sand,  
 Shone upon a scene of carnage,  
 Strife and death on every hand.

Saracen on fiery warhorse,  
 Frenchman in his coat of mail,  
 English lances, Scottish axes,  
 Fighting in that fearful vale.

In the thickest of the struggle,  
 Fights a worthy Scottish knight,  
 See his whirling blood-stained swordblade,  
 Gleaming in the eastern light.

Brave Lord Douglas! Worthy champion,  
 Scotia's hero, Christian true,  
 See he fights, and fights the bravest,  
 Gives these heathen dogs their due!

In his left hand high above him,  
 Is that precious box of gold,  
 Where, embalmed in mystic spices,  
 Bruce's heart lies, dead and cold.

Far ahead of him he throws it,  
 "Go, brave heart, amidst the foe!  
 Lead me on to death and honour,  
 I will follow, well you know."

"Thou hast led us on to victory  
 Often, in the days of yore,  
 When we fought the haughty English,  
 On that far off Scottish shore."

Saying this he plunges forward,  
 Dealing death on every side,  
 Bleeding, panting, never yielding,  
 Brave Lord Douglas! Scotland's pride.

When the day dawned, there they found him,  
 Lying bleeding, stiff and cold;  
 Underneath, still brightly shining,  
 Lay that priceless box of gold.

W. H. B.