

# THE STRATHALLIAN

THE MAGAZINE OF STRATHALLAN SCHOOL

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## Editorial

OUR first duty at this time of the year is to wish all our friends the "Compliments of the Season"; and we do this although we realise that in some cases the message of goodwill cannot reach its recipient till long after the New Year has become a thing of the past; there is indeed, a certain gratification arising from that very knowledge, since it implies that our wishes will find their way to all parts of the globe.

At this season, too, it is customary to survey the past and look ahead into the future. It has been our endeavour to keep old friends well informed of the School's progress, and a glance through the pages of this number will show that progress is being made in all directions. This may be particularly noticeable on the social side, where new activities and interests are being provided at a pace in keeping with the growth of the School buildings and equipment. The importance of such activities can hardly be emphasised too strongly, since any attempt to ameliorate the conditions under which work is done necessarily leads to an improvement in the work itself.

It is neither our place nor purpose to enumerate here what these activities are since they are all allotted a proper place; but we are forced to ask ourselves whether these social amenities are not rather taken too much for granted by the recipients; whether the response from the boys benefiting is proportionate to the efforts expended in providing them. And here we are again given pause: we are forced to wonder whether many boys do not forget that it is more blessed to give than to receive; whether they ask themselves if they are themselves of the "giving tribe," as Browning has it. This divine spark may not reveal itself in conspicuous aid: indeed, many of our societies, and the Choir most of all, cannot absorb all who would "give," but this spirit does not seem to be present everywhere. How many

of those who receive go out of their way to make things easier for the organisers of these efforts to brighten life? How many, or how few, even encourage the organisers by a word of thanks or appreciation? How many, or again how few, determine that the next time they themselves will assist as far as their abilities and capabilities allow?

We would ask, for instance, what encouragement is offered to would-be organisers of a library, a so much needed amenity of school life?

Leslie Lauderdale, on the occasion of his leaving Strathallan, made the School a present of six new volumes and expressed the hope that others might follow suit and help to build up a first-class library. We suggest that each Christmas and Easter term the present boys bring back one volume to add to our Library.

And what has all this to do with the Magazine? Not yet out of its third year of issue, it has become as much a fixture as the clock; useful, yes, but really no concern of the boys, certainly not requiring their assistance for its existence.

We cannot emphasise too strongly, however, that a magazine is not self subsisting, and that two and a half years have seen the majority of the pioneers of the undertaking departed for wider spheres. The last of these pioneers are now forming the backbone of the Editorial Board, and no new blood demands admittance to that board, seeking to emulate their good example. The response from the School as a whole has been most unsatisfactory this term, and from the Old Boys little better. True, we have welcomed one or two new contributors, and have the pleasure of publishing the work of some others who have not been content to despair because earlier efforts were rejected. That is the spirit we wish to inculcate into all, and to these and all others who have helped in this number we offer our sincerest thanks.

## School Notes and Notices

A LONG term has passed without any untoward event, though illness in the form of colds and mild bouts of 'flu has taken its toll. Indeed, one must go back many years to find a parallel, to five of the staff succumbing to illness. For this misfortune we have doubtlessly to thank a mild if wet autumn, which, if less healthy than a frosty one, at least has enabled outdoor pursuits to continue.

The mildness of the illness, however, has had one beneficial effect, in that it has given rise to the establishment of a sick room over at the house. Boys who, it is felt, should stay indoors for a day, and yet are not ill enough for admission into Sani., will now be under the eye of a nurse. With this in view, a further building is now in the course of construction, facing the lawn. The foundations of the building are already put down, and in addition to the sick room and rooms for the new nurse, in all probability there will be additional rooms, one of which will take the form of a Prefect's Room, and will be fitted up in really appropriate style.

The long term has necessarily entailed many activities to beguile the time, and as many weeks of preparation cannot be dismissed with a word, detailed reports are to be found of those activities in the following pages. Even the actual lessons have been brightened by the introduction of lantern slides to illustrate Geography lessons. A number of "tours" through various countries have been used to impress the transport routes and types of scenery. The additional help given by the eye as an aid to memory has made great difference to the interest of the lessons, and we are increasing our stock of slides during the holidays. We find it difficult to obtain good recent views for this purpose, and it has been suggested that possibly some Old Boys may be glad to assist by sending us some quarter-plate negatives of the far-flung parts of the globe in which they live. Good South American, Indian and Eastern negatives would be particularly useful, and it would add more than a little interest for the present boys to know the School has a personal relation to the pictures on the screen.

A new lease of life has been given to the Scouts by the advent of Messrs. Legge and Marchant, who have come in time to reap the harvest of the two years hard work's sowing by Mr. Shaw, who now becomes Group Scoutmaster. The building of a log hut on the Law Hill as the Scout headquarters will give a still further impetus. It seems rather a pity, however, that such a fine institution as Scouting should entail a falling off in the interest of "Rugger," owing to the "clashing" of these two features of School activities. Could not arrangement be made whereby they might become complementary rather than rivals?

The Rugger season has so far been an exceedingly successful one, and the matches at home well worth the watching: indeed, it is questionable whether a finer game has ever been witnessed than that with Glasgow High School. The School pack is somewhat smaller and lighter than usual, and seems to crack slightly towards the end of a game, particularly if opposed by a heavier eight; but there is no possible doubt that when not unduly overweighted by the opposition, they are gluttons for work and can more than hold their own. As for the men behind them, it is doubtful if Strath. has ever been so well served. On a dry day, given a reasonable share of the ball, our threes could make rings round many senior sides, for they have thrust, and in Dunn, Moncur and Docherty have constructive players capable of making unlimited openings for their fast wingers, who are capable of turning such openings to advantage.

Socially, the boys have received regal fare this term, for in addition to the Saturday evening cinema show, there have been four lecturers, and the term closed with a positive orgy of entertainments. It is unfortunate that the death of the Rev. W. Bell necessitated the cancellation of what would have been Strath.'s first public performance, in aid of the village funds. Sturrock with his cinema, the Dramatic Society with a one-act farce and Mr. Sharman with his orchestra were to have rendered service, but we trust another opportunity will be afforded them later.

The lectures during the term proved a highly successful innovation. The Rev. A. R. Runnells-Moss set so very high a standard in the initial lecture that the second on "The Songs of Scotland" suffered by comparison. Captain Daintree's lecture on "Life Saving" was as popular and interesting as before, and the juniors showed great eagerness to practice what they had heard. The star lecture of the term, however, was that of Rear-Admiral Carpenter, V.C., on "The Blocking of Zeebrugge." It was felt that his presence in Perth was too good to let such an opportunity slip by, and his lecture thrilled us all. As this lecture forced us to exceed our programme for the term, we are forced to be content with only two lectures next term. The Rev. Runnells-Moss returns with a Dickens recital, while on Feb. 10th Mr. Rupert Howard is due to lecture on and demonstrate "Magic through the Ages."

The Orchestra and Jazz Band have made vast strides during the past twelve months, and their programme at the end of term was laudably ambitious. The first concert of this type in the School's history was a notable success, for which the efforts of the Choir was in no small measure responsible. Mr. Sharman has here the makings of a first-class Musical Society, and with the experience and practice which only time can give, it should become an outstanding feature of the School.

The Dramatic Society also has had a very successful term, and it is universally agreed that it surpassed all its previous efforts in its end-of-term production, and the new material it has discovered augurs well for continued success for several years.

The last night of term saw the production of a French play, a further innovation in social activities. All praise is due to Mr. Shaw for the production, with Mr. Lee's assistance, of "La Sérénade de l'Avare." Admirably suited by its very simplicity in plot and language for a first school production, it was enthusiastically received, and some of the members of the junior school taking part in it showed considerable aptitude both for acting and for French.

This term we bid farewell to our Captain, I. Turner, and we shall be very sorry to do

so, for he has filled his office exceedingly well and has taken a leading part in all School activities. A good forward on the rugger field, he was equally wholehearted as chairman and stage-manager of the Dramatic Society, which latter office he has filled to a more or less degree since the Society's inauguration. Nothing was too much trouble for him, and his cheerful smile radiated harmony and good fellowship, making him popular with all. Good luck, "Phyllis"!

Others, too, leave us this term for the larger world, and to these also our good wishes are extended.

David Walker will succeed Turner in the office to which he was appointed last year, but which owing to ill-health he was unable to fill this term. He seems quite recovered, and prospects are bright for a highly successful close to the School year.

We would like to congratulate Mr. Thompson and his Latin Class on the brilliant results they obtained in the Cambridge School Certificate Examination this Christmas. George Sturrock and David Wilkie gained Distinctions, and the rest of the class gained the next mark of "Good." This is the best result we have ever gained in this subject, and it speaks well for all concerned. This is the third time that we have had a clean sheet in Latin, but we have never had such splendid marks.

We congratulate J. B. Ross, who passed with Honours and with Distinction in English Language and Literature, as well as in Geography, and Leslie Lauderdale, who also gained Honours and Distinction in Geography. Our Christmas results were well up to our high standard, and we offer the classes concerned our congratulations.

We offer our congratulations to Mr. T. M. Hart on securing the first Strathallan International cap and we are all convinced that this is merely the first of many national honours that will fall to him. Mr. Hart is going up to Oxford after summer and a Double Blue should not be beyond his athletic capabilities. At Murrayfield he had the moral support of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd School XV's, as well as that of a very large contingent of Old Strathallians. All were delighted with his display.

## Chapel Notes

**D**URING the latter part of the term a short service has been held each morning in the Chapel, this taking the place of the prayers which were formerly said in the common-room.

Not only a change in the place of worship, but also a change in the service itself, has gone to make this morning devotion more inspiring. As before, of course, the Headmaster conducts the service, but the prefects take it in turns to read the lesson, and D. Smith officiates at the organ. It is generally felt that this early devotion is the best possible start to the day's work.

On November 11th, **Armistice Day** was, as usual, commemorated, the boys and the staff assembling in the Chapel a few minutes before 11 o'clock. In his address the Headmaster emphasised the necessity of the younger generation working for world peace, and thereby justifying the great sacrifices which were made by those who fought in the Great War—the war to end war. And like all those who stood observing the two minutes' silence, one could feel that the words had struck home, and that everyone was duly impressed by the awe-inspiring greatness of the moment.

The **Christmas Service**, held on the last Sunday of the term, was again led by the choir, accompanied by our string orchestra and the organ, and the Chapel was seasonably and tastefully decorated for the occasion by Mr. Bain. The hymns, "O Come, all ye Faithful," "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" and "The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, is Ended," were heartily sung by all those present. Before the Headmaster's address, the choir rendered a group of four carols, portions of which were sung as solos by various choristers.

In his address the Headmaster enlarged on the theme: "'Tis nobler to give than to receive." The greatest joy in life was to bring some happiness to others, and the knowledge that one had contributed to the pleasure of one's fellows was in itself a reward.

At the conclusion of the service, the orchestra, accompanied by the organ, played the minuet from Handel's "Berenice."

We had a visit from the Secretary of the Scripture Union, who gave us a very interesting twenty minutes' address, dealing with the great advantages accruing from the daily reading of a few verses from the Bible. As a result, over one hundred and twenty boys joined the Union, and we believe that they are loyally reading their portions.

### CHAPEL FUNDS

As already mentioned in a previous issue of the magazine, the funds, as far as their allocation is concerned, are divided in two parts: money devoted to outside charities and that devoted to Chapel improvements. The collection on Armistice Sunday was given to the Earl Haig Fund for disabled ex-servicemen.

After a visit from Captain Baker of the Church Army, who spoke to us about the work carried on by the "Thimble Row Mission" in Perth, we decided to give £10 for the purpose of providing presents for about 200 poor children, who are to be given a Christmas Party by the above-mentioned Mission.

A further portion of the funds has been used for acquiring two oak collecting plates in memory of J. A. Anderson, with whose name they are to be inscribed.

Anyone attending our Sunday services and our various other Chapel functions would quickly realise how important a part the Chapel plays in the life of the School.

#### Chapel Funds.

##### Income.

Sinking Fund Balance	...	...	...	£14	0	0
Chapel Improvements Fund	...	...	...	15	14	2
Collections this Term	...	...	...	32	9	11
				£62	4	1

##### Expenditure.

Earl Haig Fund	...	...	...	£5	0	0
Thimble Row Mission	...	...	...	10	0	0
Anderson Memorial Plates	...	...	...	1	10	0
Balances—						
Sinking Fund	...	...	...	21	0	0
Chapel Improvements Fund	...	...	...	24	14	1
				£62	4	1

G. STURROCK } Auditors.  
H. SHARMAN }

## Third Annual Dinner

THE third Annual Dinner was held at the Grosvenor Restaurant on Saturday the 21st December, when there was a very representative gathering of Strathallians from all parts, each local centre being represented by three or more members of the Club. The whole of the arrangements were carried out in most fitting and efficient manner, and the Dinner Committee were congratulated by all and sundry.

The Business Meeting was held prior to the Dinner, and the Secretary's report was presented.

The General Secretary, Mr. A. W. James, read the report of the progress of the Club during 1929, and reported an increase of 38 in the membership, which now stands at 179. A pleasing feature has been the increase in the number of life members, the roll now standing at 31, being 17 more than last year. With regard to finance, the Club has considerably improved its position, the available balances now standing at £211 10/11, of which £200 has been placed on deposit receipt with the Union Bank of Scotland.

### Extract from Financial Statement for 1929.

#### Income.

Subscriptions—					
92 at 7/6	...	...	...	...	£34 10 0
17 life members at £5	...	...	...	...	85 0 0
Interest on deposit receipt	...	...	...	...	3 9 5
					<u>£122 19 5</u>

#### Expenditure.

504 copies of "The Strathallian" posted to members at 1/- per copy	...	...	...	...	£25 4 0
Excess of Income over Expenditure	...	...	...	...	97 15 5
					<u>£122 19 5</u>
Balance brought forward from last year	...	...	...	...	£113 15 6
Excess of Income over Expenditure in 1929	...	...	...	...	97 15 5
					<u>£211 10 11</u>
Total cash available	...	...	...	...	

Subsequently it was resolved:

1.—That the minutes of the last meeting be taken as read.

2.—That the list of new members laid before the meeting be approved.

3.—That this year's Dinner Committee be re-appointed to make all arrangements for the next Annual Dinner.

4.—That an Old Boys' Committee be formed to arrange the Old Boys' matches against the School; the members to consist of Messrs. N. G. Reid (Convener), D. O. Melrose, J. B. Morrison, G. B. Smith and H. M. Todd.

5.—That the annual subscriptions of members of Branch Clubs be allocated as follows: 2/6 to local funds, 3/- to magazine and 2/- to general fund.

After the loyal toasts, Lt.-Col. A. D. MacInnes Shaw, D.S.O., proposed the toast of "The Club" in the following terms:

"Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—It is a great privilege for me to be here with the Old Strathallian Club and to propose the toast of this Club. Gentlemen, I came here to-night as a stranger, but already I feel that I have absorbed a certain amount of the atmosphere of your great School. I think that no one sitting next your Headmaster, even for a few hours, could fail to have caught this spirit into his blood. You are meeting together to-night as a Club in order to celebrate your own achievements. I can think of no better object to celebrate than one's own achievements."

After referring to his own education at one of the English Public Schools, the gallant Colonel stated that the whole principle of the public school system is to make better and more useful citizens of the youth of the Empire. He continued, "If your school can combine education, and first-class commercial education at that, with the *esprit de corps* I see to-night, your school is second to none. [Loud and continued applause.] But there is even more than that; one makes at school friends, and these friendships are greater than any other friendships that we can form throughout life. It is indeed a great privilege and a great honour to you to meet together in this hall and to re-remember those days you had at school. These meetings of the Club are an extraordinarily good thing. The whole country, the whole Empire, requires the very best of manhood, and it seems to me that Strathallan is doing a very great thing in empire-building.

Strathallan is sending out to all parts of the Empire men who are trained and ready

to take their part in those great empire-building schemes that we, as loyal citizens of the Empire, desire to see. It is the former pupils of the School that I address to-night. It is to you gentlemen especially that we, not only in this city but also in Scotland, must look for great results, and it seems to me that if you have someone with that experience, that vision, courage and intelligence to lead you, you cannot go very far wrong."

He went on to relate in a humorous way how a world-famed engineer, in company with one of our greatest racing motorists, went out to try a car embodying new ideas. They were going along the road at 70 miles an hour when a loud report was heard, and the car immediately zig-zagged in an alarming fashion and came to a stop in a field. "I got out of that very well, don't you think so?" said the engineer to the motorist, who was inclined to agree with him, till he got out to examine the burst tyre. The gallant Colonel, however, did not tell us what he said when he found it was the spare wheel that had blown! Applying the moral, he continued, "You must have at the head someone who is prepared to train the character along the straight road and keep it on that road during troublous times, and I have realised to-night that Strathallan has such a man to-day in your Headmaster."

We in commerce, and business men generally just now, are prone to feel the depression which overtakes most of us at this time of the year, but to-night I have recaptured once again that spirit of buoyancy.

We have in Scotland a School which is producing the spirit necessary for the development of our Empire, and I am more than proud to be here—I am honoured.

Given the right men and the opportunity for the youth of the country, this British Empire will revive and flourish once again." [Prolonged applause.]

Mr. Anderson Lyon suitably replied, thanking the gallant Colonel for his kind sentiments and for the inspiring address which he had just given to the Club. Mr. Lyon laid stress on the Old Boys sticking together as a Club, as well as being old members of a great School. He dwelt on the advantages

of the School magazine devoting a considerable part of its pages to the Old Boys, thus keeping everybody in touch with one another.

Mr. J. F. Dow, in proposing "The School," said:

"I rise to propose this toast to-night with very mixed feelings. The more prevalent of these is one of great pleasure at the honour conferred upon me by asking me to perform this duty—but the other feeling is one which borders on futility, and that is caused by the eloquent manner in which Lt.-Col. MacInnes Shaw has addressed us this evening."

It is very annoying to think that while this gentleman probably only made a note in his diary that he had to speak to-night, and then spoke as eloquently as he did.

There is one other factor which almost led to my undoing, and that is the next name on the toast list. When I feel that Mr. Riley is going to speak next, it takes me back two or three years to a certain geography lesson which occurred every Wednesday with horrible regularity. The subject of the lesson is some obscure part of the world about which no decent self-respecting person has ever heard—a question has been asked and I have rashly put up my hand, knowing well that if I had not I should most certainly be asked. Mr. Riley has pounced on me; this speech is my answer, for I was not able to find one then. And I feel sure that when Mr. Riley rises in reply his first words will be: "You'll have to pay for this." If this is the case, gentlemen, I pray you—remember your club spirit and give me your protection. [Loud laughter and cries of 'We will.']

At a time like this, when Strathallians of all ages are gathered together—those who left School many years ago and those who have only recently left—it is appropriate that we should stand aside for a moment and consider Strath. as it used to be and as it is now. It is not yet seventeen years since Strath. first opened its doors, but I feel sure that the progress that has been made has exceeded even Mr. Riley's wildest dreams of success. From the small struggling stage of early war days Strath. has gone on till it now holds a high position among the famous schools of Scotland. [Applause.]

I was asked a little while ago by a public school man if Strath. would not have been

an even greater force if it had been a public school—but the answer to that is obvious. Our School would *not* have risen as it has done had it not been for the sheer hard work and personal unselfishness shown by our Headmaster. [Loud applause.] His schemes and enormous expenditure on the School would not, I am sure, have been authorised by any Board of Governors.

And, gentlemen, I consider that the greatest benefit which any of us have received from Strath. is to have received some of this spirit of his, which he has tried so hard to communicate to all Strathallians.

But those who have known the Boss at School only have missed much. There is another side of him revealed only to the chosen few who have accompanied him on one of his periodic jaunts to Paris or the Continent. [Cries of 'Oh! What is it? Go on.']

There are many stories told—some true and others untrue, and many very libellous—of the Boss and his adventures or misadventures abroad, but the one which I should like to retell to-night is, I think, true. It is related that during a certain train journey on the Riviera the Boss met an American Senator and his wife. The American and he got into conversation, and soon became very interested in each other. The American was a great traveller, and when he spoke of places all over the earth the Boss replied almost every time: 'Oh, yes, one of my boys is there!' At last the American's wife took up the cudgels, and turning to the Boss, in a most mystified voice she said, 'Say! You've got a boy in Shanghai, another in Chili, several in America and many in London. Gee! You must have an enormous family.' [Roars of laughter.] And the tale goes on to say that Mr. Riley only made matters worse by protesting that he was a bachelor. [Roars of laughter and delighted applause, in which Mr. Riley joined, remarking that it was his turn to speak next.]

There are many more tales of the Boss, but I shall refrain from telling them, because I know that for every one that I could tell against him he could tell ten against almost any Strathallian here to-night, and this is no time for those with lurid pasts to have their misdeeds brought up before them. [Significant 'Hear, hears' from Mr. Riley.]

Another toast which usually appears on this list is that of 'The School Games,' but I see that it is not here to-night. Some may wonder if the results of the recent cricket and rugby teams are better kept quiet, but as far as cricket is concerned, anyone who played in the Old Boys' game will assure those people that the School side has not declined (the School won the match with great ease), while with regard to rugger, the 15 O.S. who played at Forgardenny a fortnight ago to-day have nothing but respect for their successors in the School XV. Games are undoubtedly another part of Strath. life where a slow, but sure, improvement is taking place.

Apart, however, from the actual School sides, this has been a great year for Strath. rugger. For the first time in the history of the School two Strathallians have taken part in the Inter-City match, while two took part in the International Trial at Hawick to-day. I think we can safely say that the first Strathallan international cap is coming in the very near future.

Not long ago I met an O.S. who had lost touch with School altogether since he left, and asked me if Strath. had not gone down somewhat in the last year or two. But since the Strathallians here to-night are those who have kept a close bond between the School and themselves, you know that Strath. has not gone down. Never since these far off Bridge of Allan days has our School looked back, and I sincerely hope that it never will.

Gentlemen, I ask you to join me in this toast, which, I think, is the one nearest and dearest to our hearts, and that is 'The School,' coupled with the name of our dear friend, Mr. Riley, the Boss."

It was noted that Colonel MacInnes Shaw and Mr. Riley both congratulated Mr. Dow on his speech, which was really a first-class effort.

Mr. Riley replied to the toast of "The School" in the following words:—"Mr. Dow, Col. MacInnes Shaw, and Gentlemen. It is with the greatest pleasure and pride that I rise to respond to the toast of 'The School' which has been proposed in such a happy manner and which you have honoured so enthusiastically. I repel all those insinuations and I am not going to tell any tales out of school. It is a source



of the greatest gratification to me to see you all gathered here and to have such a living witness and testimony of the place that Strathallan holds in your lives [loud applause].

As you all know, Strathallan is flourishing and has to-day under its roof 200 boys whose average age is nearly 15 years, against an average of 14 years four years ago. This in itself is evidence of real, genuine progress and real, genuine progress means that boys at school to-day have a very much more profitable time than you had during your schooldays. We have a total staff of 14 masters and I think that I am doing no injustice when I say that we have the strongest staff as a whole that has ever held sway at Forgandenny. We have developed our advanced courses in medicine, engineering and commerce to such a pitch that we are quite prepared to take boys right up to their final degree, except, of course, in medicine.

We are now in close touch with big business concerns all over Britain who are very anxious to take our boys who earn the school's recommendation and train them eventually for executive posts. Now this part of school life takes up a lot of my time, since I visit not only the boys in these firms, but also their directors who keep me posted not only with the progress that the boys are making, but with their own exact requirements. There is a tremendous advantage in this to the boys, to the School, to business and to the country [applause].

On the amenity side of school life we have effected very great improvements of late. We have improved our Rugger ground; we have placed on a sure foundation our swimming club; we have developed in a degree which I can hardly make you appreciate our Dramatic and Musical Societies. In fact, the only thing I can suggest to you is that you should come up to Forgandenny and see for yourselves what we have done. We have established a series of lectures by the foremost lecturers in the country, and these not only are a source of great enjoyment but they are in the highest degree instructive. A few weeks ago we had a lecture from Admiral Carpenter, who brought home to us in a way that nothing else could have done the brilliant way in which the British Navy

saved our Empire. He showed us that the spirit of the British Navy was what it always has been. He showed us its self sacrifice, its grit, its resource, and he left implanted in the minds of each of us who was privileged to hear him, a pride and a patriotism which is often so lacking in our people to-day. Truly, these amenities have a real educative value.

I have drawn my prefects much closer to me than ever they were in the history of the School—and I have done this on the advice of some of you here to-night. We had the first of a series of prefects' dinners this last term, where after the usual formal toasts, we had quite a useful exchange of views and I was delighted to find that they were able not only to make useful and constructive suggestions, but they showed an increased keenness to do anything in their power to further the interests of the School.

Gentlemen, with a spirit like this prevailing at School and with a band of brothers such as we have in the world outside whose loyalty is unswerving and who rightly feel a pride in the work they have helped to do in raising Strathallan to its present proud position, can you doubt for one moment that the future holds in store for us greater successes than ever before, and as we go on ever upwards, you leading the way; rest assured that I will be with you, and those boys at school will come to join you, full of the spirit you did so much to foster and all together we will march shoulder to shoulder through life and who is there who will say us nay [loud and continuous applause]".

Mr. Clive Montgomery, of London, proposed the toast of "Absent Friends", pointing out the value of the Club and the Branch Clubs in keeping the Old Boys together. Cables were read from various parts of the world wishing the dinner every success, showing that those who were absent in person were not absent in spirit. The toast was honoured in silence and there were many there whose hearts and minds were taken back to the wilds and to the wide open spaces of the world where there are many Strathallians playing the part of Empire builders, and from which they themselves were only absent on a brief holiday.





Mr. Melrose gave the toast of "Our Guest" which was most enthusiastically honoured and suitably replied to by the gallant Colonel, who laughingly referred to the splendid encomiums applied to him by Mr. Melrose as being one of the best obituary notices he could possibly wish for.

The meeting closed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

There were a great many telegrams and letters of regret of absence due to circumstances which are not likely to arise again, and when it is generally appreciated what a wonderful evening had been spent it is probable that we shall be able to pass the hundred mark next year. It is the wish of Mr. Riley and the Dinner Committee to make this an accomplished fact in 1930.

#### DUNDEE BRANCH CLUB DINNER.

The second annual Branch Dinner was held in Dundee at Kidd's Restaurant on Saturday the 14th December, and was attended by nearly 30 members.

After the Loyal Toast, Mr. Hugo Cameron (just returned from Bogota) proposed "The Club," which was replied to by Mr. A. W. James, the General Secretary, who gave an interim report on the splendid progress which had been made throughout the year and emphasised the sound financial basis on which the Club now stood.

Mr. C. E. Anderson proposed the toast of "The School" in fitting terms, and Mr. H. Riley replied, sketching in outline the growth and development that had taken place at Strathallan during the last two or three years.

The toast of "The Dundee Branch" was proposed by Mr. M. Norton, the Editor of the Magazine, and acknowledged by Mr. G. B. Smith, the local Secretary.

It is understood that an innovation is to be made in the way of arranging periodical informal lunches to enable the local members to keep in closer touch with one another.

At intervals the gathering was favoured by musical items by Mr. A. J. Shaw, with Mr. W. E. Ward at the piano, and everyone agreed that a happy and profitable evening had been spent.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr. Smith for the excellent arrangements he had made.

#### EDINBURGH DINNER.

The first annual Dinner of the Edinburgh branch of the Strathallian Club was held in the North British Station Hotel, Edinburgh, on Saturday, 7th December. About 24 members were present.

After the Loyal Toast, given by the Chairman (Mr. H. Riley), Mr. Peter Reid proposed the toast of "The Strathallian Club," emphasising the value in after life of the training to be obtained at a good school, such as Strathallan, and stressing the responsibilities of those who are called upon to fill executive positions.

In reply, the Secretary of the Club (Mr. A. W. James) outlined the progress made by the Club during the year and referred to the increasing value which Old Strathallians were setting upon membership of the Club.

Dr. J. E. Morrison gave the toast of "The School," compared old days with more recent ones and amused the party by referring to some of the more painful experiences he had whilst at Strathallan.

The Headmaster (Mr. H. Riley) in reply, sketched the more recent development of the School in all branches of its activities, stressing the duty of the Old Boys to maintain the traditions of the School and to fight their way in life to clear the path for the greater successes of the School. If the Old Boys would forge the way, he would not be slow to follow.

Mr. S. Dow (Glasgow) proposed the toast of "The Edinburgh Branch of the Club" (coupled with the name of Mr. Jardine Stuart), stating that members of the Club in Glasgow wished the greatest possible success to the Edinburgh branch.

The Secretary of the Edinburgh branch (Mr. Jardine Stuart) regretted the absence of several Edinburgh Old Strathallians owing to the inter-city match and intimated the pleasure it had been to him to organise the Dinner which had been enjoyed so much by all present.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the dinner officially, but it was observed that the enthusiasm of members had by no means waned and groups remained behind to live old days over again in spirit.

## The Dramatic Society Social

ON December 16th the Dramatic Society, following the prevalent fashion, produced a thriller, "The Man at Six," by Jack Celestin and Jack de Leon. Here were all the ingredients of a blood-thirsty melodrama: the empty house, a sinister blackguard, a dope fiend, a gang of crooks, a corpse under the divan, an incriminating letter, shots in the dark, a fight in the garage, a death-dealing bomb, and, of course, the blundering detective with his foil, the brilliant amateur, who incidentally proves to be the villain. Nor is it surprising that the problems, riddles and conundrums are all solved by a demure little miss who sits still and keeps her mouth shut; for this is always so in the best thrillers.

The play opened with the stealthy entrance of the fascinating Sybil Vane, played by Ian Scott. The stronger sex always finds it difficult to adopt the little tricks and poses of bewitching Eve, but Scott, aided by an admirable make-up, played his part very creditably; indeed he might have attended a bargain sale in the millinery department, or even a mothers' meeting without undue fear of detection. However, he was perhaps a little too subdued at times, a failing which produced occasional inaudibility. What envy must have been occasioned among his neighbours by that cigarette he smoked so bravely; and yet how unwilling he would have been to forego the ordeal!

Frank Pine (F. W. Grant), Sybil's ally, has improved, but he still lacks sufficient emotional force in his acting. Confidence he has, but he must acquire emphasis. As a result he failed to impress his personality on his audience and gave rather a colourless display.

The villainous, uncouth Wolmer as portrayed by V. Lauderdale, was undoubtedly a devil of a fellow. Ruthless determination, accompanied by a cold-blooded ferocity, was rendered with faultless articulation. His pugilistic prowess, too, was entirely realistic. Perhaps Carnera may meet his match after all!

The craving for dope is not easy to simulate, but Ian Chalmers' brow may deservedly receive its wreath of laurels. As

Sir Joseph Pine who, tortured by his mania for drugs, soils his spotless reputation and purloins the choicest treasures in his custody, Chalmers was an outstanding success, although his sufferings were not perhaps as acute in repose as when he took the stage. However, his irritable, nerve-racked demeanour was quite appropriate.

Probably the most difficult part in the play was that of the dunder-headed, autocratic Inspector Dawford. This was played with considerable success by G. M. Sturrock, who, however (most unusually) suffered from nerves in the first scene. Later he improved immensely, but he was scarcely aggressive enough; nor did he browbeat the suspects with the loud-toned bullying which the part demanded. On the whole, he was hardly up to his usual high standard.

Sergeant Hogan (H. Brown) was a joy to see and hear—especially hear. What assiduous attention he must have paid to mathematics before he could acquire the rich Irish brogue possessed by our Hibernian colleague! Alas, that the noble science should be put to such uses!

Undoubtedly the find of the evening was J. Galloway who took the part of the loquacious and incredibly vulgar Mrs. Cummerpatch. Audibility, control and intonations were alike excellent, while the fluent back-chat of the kitchen interspersed with gestures of outraged dignity made this queen of charwomen the most popular player of the evening.

It is universally admitted that Mr. Norton scored another triumph as the double-dyed villain masquerading as Campbell Edwards, the amateur sleuth. His cocksure self-sufficiency on which was superimposed the ill-timed facetiousness of a monocled popinjay must have been difficult to sustain. The supercilious scorn with which he treated poor Dawford was indeed so realistic that we can quite imagine the country cousin visiting the theatre for the first time wishing to get upon the stage and "have a go at him."

Morrison, as Joshua Atkinson, was generally Morrison. His acting was inclined

to be monotonous, though, notably in his speech at the telephone, now and then he spoke with the necessary emphasis.

The behaviour of the police sergeant (J. Waldie) aroused shrieks of merriment. His ungainliness and naive statements were most amusing, and Waldie played his part very satisfactorily—though it must be noted that the part was one admirably suited to the novice.

A. Melville, as the police surgeon, did not use his voice to the best effect, but otherwise was adequate. Howie made a peaceful corpse slain under brutal circumstances.

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On the following night we were entertained by a comedy of Highland life, "A Blank Cartridge," by Ian Hay. The story centres round the plot by which Hilda Smithson and Angus Farquhar seek to prevent Hilda's father, who has bought the estate of Invermutchkin for the shooting, from exercising his talents in this direction, which is the one thing beyond his powers. To achieve their end it is arranged for a monetary consideration that he shall shoot McRobbie, the head gamekeeper.

As McRobbie, J. T. Johnstone, had a part after his own heart; at least we may judge so from the zest with which he played it. Perhaps he was at times too noisy, but nevertheless he showed immense assurance, and his indignation at the scant concern with which his wounds were regarded by the conspirators was only equalled by the excellence of his realistic groans and loud lamentations of woe. In short, a most praiseworthy performance.

Elspeth, his daughter (E. B. McKay) played a limited part with considerable talent. His solicitation at her father's injuries showed that he possessed emotional force, while his torrent of broad Scotch was a sheer joy. We should like to see him in a bigger part.

The capable and domesticated Hilda was portrayed by Paton, whose dignity was somewhat marred by trouble with his skirts. If hardly so good as when last we saw him, he played his part with considerable éclat, but he must remember to raise his voice.

W. Mitchell, as Angus, the factor, was calm, cool and collected. He possesses an asset in his voice, and his intonations were excellent. As a lover his behaviour was distinctly superior to those who were obliged to assume this uncongenial role in past terms. Certainly, he may be reckoned one of the "finds."

The nouveau-riche Smithson, enthusiastic and unskilful sportsman, was hardly loud, vulgar and ostentatious enough, though he exuded a certain bluntness, and was on the whole adequate.

In conclusion, a word of praise must be given to I. Turner, stage manager, and his assistants, E. M. Hart and D. S. Thomson, for though they were not fated to appear before the footlights, their contribution to the general success of the play could be seen in the efficiency of the arrangements and general stage equipment. Also we would thank Mr. Sharman and his orchestra for the sweet music with which they beguiled the tediousness of the intervals.

P. W. S.

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## LECTURE ON "LIFE IN THE BRITISH WEST INDIES."

On October 9th, the Rev. A. R. Runnells-Moss opened the series of lectures upon the above subject. On the surface the title may seem to savour too much of the classroom and geography lesson; but the Rev. Runnells-Moss is a personality to be reckoned with, and so strong a one that he carried his audience with him where he would, beguiling the journey across the Atlantic with anecdote and reminiscence, and appealing to a boy's softest spot when describing the islands and their products—his stomach. In this way geographical facts, visualised by some excellent slides, were absorbed unconsciously, and stamped indelibly upon the mind. Then, too, there was the vivid description of the ascent of the Souffrère, and its eruption of 1902. Here was admirable material for the exercise of dramatic talents, and the lecturer seized his opportunity with such fervour as to leave his visit next term in a Dickens Recital a much anticipated event.

M. N.

## THE DRAMATIC SOCIETY

OFFICERS FOR SESSION 1929-30:

President, Mr. M. Norton; Chairman, I. M. Turner; Vice-Chairman, G. M. Sturrock; Secretary, W. I. Chalmers; Treasurer, W. H. Brown; Advertising Agent, G. M. Sturrock; Committee, A. Morrison, F. W. Grant, J. T. Johnston, D. S. Thomson, V. Lauderdale.

The membership this session has increased to sixty members, at which number it is to be limited; and throughout the term the meetings were extremely well attended, much new talent has been discovered, and the fact that five new members were included in the casts of the end of term plays is worthy of mention. As the financial position of the Society, as a self-supporting factor in the School life, has been assured, it was found possible to purchase wigs and other properties of such quality as would please the most captious critic.

Of the nine meetings, five were devoted to rehearsed readings of one act plays, of which the Society now possesses a fair repertoire. These included "In the Library," "The Boy Comes Home," "Shivering Shocks" and "The Coiners," the last-named being produced for the first time, and all were enthusiastically received. A feature of the term was an address by the President on "Galsworthy Again." Explaining that Galsworthy's latest dramatic efforts scarcely did justice to his genius, Mr. Norton elected to read from an earlier play, "Justice," and it was evident from the appreciation shown that his choice was a happy one.

As usual at the end of term, the Society presented plays to the School, their choice this term falling on a mystery play, "The Man at Six," and was by far the most elaborate of their productions up to the present. Their members were also responsible for a short farce, "The Blank Cartridge," by Ian Hay, produced on the night of the School Concert. Criticisms of these will be found elsewhere.

The collection in aid of the stage equipment this term was highly gratifying, the sum of £3 1/3 being realised. Any doubts as to the Society's abilities to purchase their own curtains for the next term, thereby enabling a wider stage to be constructed, were set at rest by the generosity of Mr. Riley, who added a further £3 to the collection in recognition of the services rendered in the social life of the School.

I. CHALMERS, *Hon. Sec.*

## LECTURE ON "THE BLOCKING OF ZEEBRUGGE."

On November 25th, the School had the pleasure of hearing Rear-Admiral Carpenter, V.C., on that glorious episode of the war—the blocking of Zeebrugge. Eleven years have passed since the nations of the world, wearied and nauseated by the carnage of war, laid down their arms; yet despite all the slaughter, the brutality and the horror of that titanic struggle, nothing can ever dissipate the glamour entirely which surrounds the bravery of the men who fought, and all too often died, during the struggle. And of all noble deeds the Zeebrugge epic shines forth as a tribute to British courage. To those who listened to the modest, even casual, chronicle of the almost incredible heroism exhibited in that perilous enterprise, it must be for ever a source of pride.

Admiral Carpenter first emphasised the necessity for such an undertaking, the German submarine menace threatening our islands with starvation. He then briefly outlined the audacious plan to block the outlet from the submarine base, Bruges. More particularly did he reveal the difficulties to be surmounted before this could be accomplished. History did not help to solve these (we hope this tribute to the value of history was not lost on the audience), but the plans went forward in strict secrecy and special training was begun for the participants.

How all contingencies were foreseen and catered for proved as enthralling a story as the actual episode itself. Amid so many deeds of valour it is impossible to refer to one phase of the blocking without referring to others and this article is too brief to mention all: if any detail stood out more than the rest it was the fact that so few bodies were left on alien soil despite the carnage which ensued; but little that was heard that evening will be forgotten by the hearers.

The whole lecture was an inspiration: at the present time with the evils of unemployment stalking abroad no lesson could be better taken to heart than that of the courage and tenacity shown at Zeebrugge. With it our conquest in peace will be as sure as our conquest in war.

P. W. S.

## The Christmas Concert

**A**S a new venture, Mr. Sharman's Christmas concert was a remarkable success.

We hope he and his collaborators will be encouraged to make this occasion what it is in most schools—an institution which is always looked forward to and which gives much pleasure to all concerned. To do this much assistance is needed from the boys. Not a few more singers, especially trebles, are required, and any instrumentalist who is willing to practise and to put his heart into making the band a first-class success.

The choir sang freshly and well all evening. Perhaps the balance between the lower and the upper parts was a little faulty: the trebles should have sung out a little more sturdily, and the soloists must try to banish nervousness and take up their leads promptly and boldly. The whole choir, too, should make a point of committing words and music to heart, and in performance should give themselves up entirely to the conductor. Still, these are all faults of inexperience, and will disappear with practice. As it was, many items were very pleasant indeed, and Sullivan's "Strange Adventure" was beautifully done by any standard of criticism.

The band suffered from much the same faults, though they were patiently very well rehearsed. A more sonorous bass is needed; a second 'cello would be admirable. Why does somebody in the School not practise this most beautiful of all instruments? And why can we not have a few players of wood-wind and brass? Saxophones would make a world of difference to what was otherwise rather colourless dance music. The Bach "Gavotte" tripped along very gaily, and the only fault was the inaudibility of the second violins. The inside parts must be heard in Bach to give the music its real beauty.

Every praise must be given to Lindsay, MacAllister and Smith for the way they tackled the Minuet from the Bridge Trio. This seemed rather ungrateful music to them: and it certainly does not appeal very deeply. The trio section came off best, and the pizzicato opening was most delicately done.

The serious solo-music was remarkably good. Mr. Shaw succeeded in conveying,

though not in his best voice, all the emotion of the "Erl König," and the various voices of Father, Son and Spirit which are heard in the song. Mr. Sharman's accompaniment was splendid. In "Drink to me only with thine Eyes" Mr. Shaw was perhaps a little too emotional, and his voice did not blend sufficiently with the treble voices which Mr. Sharman introduces in his truly delightful arrangement, which we hope he will publish soon.

The music critic is hardly called upon to discuss comedians; but he was amused to a riotous pitch by Mr. Shaw's eccentricities and by the aspects of the Celtic temperament displayed by Sturrock and Wilson. Sturrock has a very fine voice, and he really must have it well trained. It is remarkably steady and full. Wilson's Irishisms were done with a fine swagger and a characteristic gaiety; but he should come well up the platform and throw out his voice as well as his chest. But he deserved, as did the others, all the riotous applause he received.

Altogether a very enjoyable evening, which we look to see repeated often. In spite of the minor points criticised above, there is most obviously a very great deal of musical talent in the School, and it could not be in better hands.

In conclusion, Mr. Sharman has asked me to express his real gratitude to Messrs. Marchant, Ward, Shaw and Lee for the great assistance they have given him in every way. He wishes me to say that without them we could never have enjoyed what was a really praiseworthy entertainment.

W. W. T.

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**Commemoration Day will be held on the last Saturday in June, and all Strathallians are heartily invited to be present. Further particulars will be given in the next Magazine.**



## The French Play

OUR congratulations to all concerned in the School's first French play, which was a notable success, on Wednesday, December 18th. As author, producer and player of the title rôle of "La Sérénade de l'Avare," Mr. Shaw achieved a great personal triumph.

The story of the tribulations of a miser who falls in love with the sister of his somewhat unscrupulous secretary is told in the simplest language: and even those who knew no word of French could follow the action easily—for action and boisterous fun there is in plenty in the second act. Altogether the piece was well constructed, and those portraying the several parts eminently satisfactory. though in the second scene there were obvious faults in the positioning of the crowd of villagers, who were too apt to stand like statues, scorning any sign of life.

Mr. Shaw himself as the miser was amazingly dynamic, and he admirably conveyed the progress of the miser's mind from greed to folly, and from folly to madness as a result of the trick played upon him by his secretary.

As the secretary, C. W. Maclay was only partially successful. Fluent and clear in delivery, he lacked ease and naturalness at times, particularly so in his manner of leaning against the table. He was far better in the opening of the second act.

A brilliant little cameo was given by G. K. Chalmers as a blustering bully, his manner being nicely offset by meak insignificance personified by the unfortunate A. McKay, who allowed himself to be thrown about with excellent abandon. Both these revealed true acting abilities, as, too, did I. K. Lawson in his portrayal of a nightwatchman, though his voice was scarcely in keeping with his supposed age. He was very apt, when not taking active part in the action, to attract

attention by his unnatural stillness, and his fall to the ground was far too careful. N. Gillanders did very well as a bibulous gentleman returning home with the milk, but he failed to make himself audible over the considerable hub-bub on the stage.

As Rose, the object of the miser's affection, A. Harrington looked excellent, and did his little quite creditably, though he tended to speak with his back to his audience, thereby losing much of the natural clarity of his voice. J. Wright as the miser's valet made the most of a small part, and A. Fleming, despite misfortune with his wig, and J. Crawford were effective during their brief appearance as irate mother and mischievous baby, though the latter should refrain from looking at his audience. No little pleasure was contributed by the watchman's faithful dog, though his enthusiasm for a "speaking" part tended to drown much of the dialogue at the close of the play.

Undoubtedly there is here the makings of an excellent cast for French plays in the future (and may they not be long in coming!), for here is Youth, speaking French fluently and, for the most part accurately, breaking new ground. What faults could be found were the faults of Youth, and once the first nervousness has been overcome and the stage atmosphere absorbed, and with all the tricks of stage craft, Experience will teach the participaters how to eradicate them.

M. N.

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**Sports Day. It has been decided to hold the Sports in May. Details will be published in the next issue.**

**SCOUT INSPECTION****SCOUT TROOP**

## The Scouts

President - - - - - H. Riley, Esq.  
Group S.M. - - - - - A. J. Shaw.

### The Drum Finn Tribe.

S.M. - - - D. H. J. Marchant.  
P.L.s (Curlews) - Linton.  
(Swifts) - Vost.  
(Eagles) - Montgomery.

### The Woodsmoke Tribe.

S.M. - - - T. F. Legge.  
P.L.s (Owls) - Paton.  
(Hawks) - McKay, B.  
(Cuckoos) - Cowper.

### G.S.M.'s REPORT

FOR the first time in the history of the 73rd Perthshire there are two distinct troops, each with its own Court of Honour and working independently of the other. Only on matters concerning the whole group will the two troops unite their councils and efforts. It has been suggested, for instance, that for outside competition all the scouts of our School troops shall work together. The number of scouts having considerably increased during the past terms, splitting had become almost inevitable, and it was a lucky chance that brought Mr. Legge and Mr. Marchant, two very keen scouters, to Strathearn at the same time as members of the staff.

At a Court of Honour, held at the beginning of term, division was unanimously agreed upon, and the general opinion is that the chage of organisation is all for the better. Great things are now expected from the troop and its new leaders, and an increase in the number of patrols is foreseen next term. The 73rd Perthshire has been in luck in more ways than one: Mr. Riley has very kindly promised to have a hut built up in the woods which is to be used as a Scout Headquarters and for indoor meetings—so that at last our scouts are to possess a home of their own. The value of such an acquisition cannot be over-estimated, and our warmest thanks are due to Mr. Riley for what undoubtedly is the best encouragement he could give us. Up till now we have been confined for our indoor meetings to the Gym., a place not always very suited to the passing of tests, to discussion, camp-fire songs, routine work and general patrol work; but now we feel confident that the scout hut, which will be ready for next term, will not only give us all these facilities, but will go a long way to create that necessary

atmosphere for the promotion of that spirit of brotherhood so vital in a troop. The mere pride in possession should act as a stimulus, and it is for us to show ourselves worthy of the interest Mr. Riley is taking in our welfare and our progress.

Another fact worth mentioning is that Mr. Legge is now representing us on the Executive Committee.

### THE DRUM FINN TRIBE REPORT.

This term we have spent several Saturday mornings out of the School grounds. The tolerant weather during the first part of the term gave us opportunities of realising how admirably the surrounding country is suited to scouting.

Scrambling up Drum Finn, plunging through hedges and jumping across burns, we have drunk deep of the invigorating morning air, and our appreciation of the beauties of nature has been more aesthetic than analytic. We have tracked our enemies to earth after following their trail over hills and through thickets, with slow elimination of false trails; we have stalked on Drum Finn—the hedges on the hill moved just as surely as Birnam Beeches came to Dunsinane, but how like the ostrich some of us were, lying in blissful ignorance of our too evident concealment!

One pleasant morning was spent in a wood chase; the Ochils were strewn with wool—blue and pink, red and green, short pieces, long pieces (who cut them all?) The sun shone that morning, not on the dew, though indeed that was there, but on myriad pieces of coloured wool.

There comes a season, however, when the sun no longer shines, the leaves fall, the glories of summer are passed, and Nature lies asleep. But, all the time, the new seed is being nourished and kept safe for the next year's fruit. So with our activities during

the latter part of the term, we have, on those occasions when rugger has not claimed our attention and interest, been concentrating on our winter programme of indoor work. The difficulties of morse signalling are being overcome, a course of ambulance study has been taken, and it is a prophecy rather than a hope to state that by the end of next term several Second Class Scouts will have become First Class Scouts, and all Tenderfoots will have passed their Second Class Tests.

In conclusion, we all wish Macdougall, who is leaving us this term, the best of luck in his new activities.

### THE WOODSMOKE TRIBE REPORT.

The close of this term leaves mingled, but pleasant, memories—the tang of the air on “The Hill,” the excitement of the scouting games from the valley to the “High Hill,” on which next term will be our home, that long walk in the frosty air, scaling small glaciers at angles which caused hands, feet and trousers to be employed as brakes to one’s backsliding.

One thing only is needed to strengthen the bond of comradeship, the days spent together in the open with the fellowship which becomes closer in the rousing chorus of the camp fire, with its dedication:

“As the red flame soars upward, so be our aims,

As the grey ashes fade, so be our mistakes.”

One personal note: In fifteen years of scouting I have never been a member of a more loyal troop. We shall go forward in the scouting world to learn more, and give more to others as a result of the time spent together in the 73rd.

### THE BUSINESS CLUB.

This term the Business Club has held four formal debates, six impromptu debates, and on two occasions papers have been read by various members; but the activities have been considerably handicapped by the smallness numerically of the Club and by the difficulty encountered in the selection of suitable subjects for formal debating, the latter accounting for the abnormality in the number of impromptu debates.

Plenty of spirit was shown in the debating, and if the participants became rather heated and unreasonable at times, necessitating their

being called to order, we must put it down to zeal to the cause rather than inability to argue in a purely formal manner. Messrs. Lindsay, Dickinson and Brown were noteworthy in their sticking to their guns in the face of opposition.

Strangely enough, in none of the formal debates was the motion carried, the nearest approach to victory for the proposers being when Mr. Lindsay’s defence of professionalism led to the motion “That Professionalism in Games should be Encouraged” ending in a draw.

“That Sport directed against Animal Life should be Illegal” was lost by four votes to two, this being due to the fact that the proposers conceded half the point by admitting the legality of big-game hunting; while the motion “That Capital Punishment should be Abolished” met with defeat by a similar margin, despite Mr. Brown’s ingenious counter-proposals.

The best debate was on the motion “That the Encroachment of Women into Men’s Spheres in to be Deplored,” and the result, in favour of women, came as rather a surprise.

The informal debates, on less far-reaching topics, were also keenly contested and gave rise to numerous wordy battles. The papers, too, were such as offered plenty of scope for discussion, so that even here the debating element was introduced.

H. BROWN, *Hon. Sec.*

### SWIMMING.

Throughout the term each House has been able to get into the pond twice a week. No lessons have been given this term, but all the boys seem able to swim.

One evening a week was devoted to water polo under the guidance of Mr. Norton, and a match was arranged with the Renfrew Club, who were also to have given exhibitions of certain strokes, but unfortunately the date fixed proved inconvenient. It is hoped to arrange a date for this event in the Spring.

As the bath was out of action at the end of term, owing to changes in piping arrangements, we were unable to hold the competition for costumes, but this event will be held during the first week of next term. Another feature next term is the inauguration of a life-saving class, whereby it is hoped to make practical use of the demonstrations given by Captain Daintree.

## Rugby Notes

THE game of games has always been enthusiastically upheld at Strath., and anyone lacking the spirit to support his team would be regarded by his comrades with contempt, mingled possibly with pity. Hitherto the most inclement weather has failed to damp the ardour of our supporters, and at last this enthusiasm has met with a tangible reward. On the hill side of the first pitch a strongly built stand has been erected capable of seating most of the School in comfort; but, capacious as it is, another half is yet to be added! The concentrated yell of "Strath." which is now roared forth during the matches resounds far down the valley, and no doubt plays its part in the subjection of the opposing side. On the other hand, it is well to continue to remember that the visiting teams also deserve applause, for such a tribute is in accordance with the true spirit of the game. Other additions to the amenities of the field will be found in the resplendent goal posts, bearing the school colours, which have replaced the old posts, and a school flag which will be unfurled from a pole placed near the stand.

Up to the present, the school teams have met with considerable success and are looking forward with confidence to the second half of the season. The first and second teams have some stiff obstacles to negotiate, for which strict training will be necessary. The third team evidently is more concerned with the winning margin of points, and though their weakened side only just managed to win at Dollar, the chances of defeat to them are as remote as ever.

It might be useful at this stage to emphasise certain phases of the game already referred to in lectures. Since it must be obvious to our forwards that if the backs are given a plentiful supply of the ball, the prospects of winning would be exceedingly rosy, these remarks will be confined to forward play.

Always the main object in close play must be to obtain possession of the ball. To secure this end it is necessary for everyone in the pack to shove. Unless every forward is determined to do this, the pack cannot be a successful one. Shoving, however, must

not be haphazard; it must be concerted. The players must pack low, with straight backs, and the first row must be solid. To be solid it is essential that each player gets a firm grip of his neighbour under the arms so that the weight from behind does not split them apart. Care must be taken, however, not to bind so tightly that the forwards behind cannot get into position.

The two outside men of the front row should shove towards the centre. The placing of the inside foot outwards and behind, instead of straight behind, inclines the body inwards and tends to keep the front row together. It also makes it easier for the outside men to follow the ball into the scrummage with his outside foot. This, coupled with the dropping of the shoulder in order to get under, should make the front row effective.

The second row may be considered the backbone of the scrum. Each with his outside arm should bind the front row together. Since it is here that the ball chiefly sticks in a heel and also here that a wheel is so often spoilt through the ball not being taken sideways out of the scrum, it is all important that the two forwards should watch the ball carefully. The two flank men should shove—mark the word—at an angle, concentrating their weight towards the hooker.

The side gaining possession of the ball should make it their object to remain in possession. There is far too much injudicious kicking, for each time the ball is kicked, possession of the ball, nine times out of ten, is lost by the side that kicked it. This is one reason why close dribbling by forwards is so important.

In the line-out a forward who catches the ball and is tackled can always ensure it remaining in the possession of his side. This can be done by the forward catching the ball turning his back towards his opponents' goal-line. The ball, when released, must then remain in possession of his fellow forwards. The pity is that some forwards do not immediately release the ball.

It is surprising the number of tries lost and the chances thrown away by players—

especially forwards—"dying" with the ball. The times when it is necessary to be taken in possession are few and far between. A forward who catches the ball in a line-out, and breaking through, finds himself unsupported and confronted by his opposing backs, can usually help his side best by putting the ball at his feet and dribbling it. By doing so he forces an opposing back to fall on the ball—reduces the number of the defence—and by getting his foot over the ball immediately, a quick heel to his scrum-half should make a try more or less a certainty.

**Howe of Fife v. Strathallan.** Played at Ladybank on September 28th.

Conditions were favourable for the School's opening fixture, though a slight wind was blowing across the pitch, and Strath. losing the toss were forced to face the breeze. Play was somewhat scrappy in the opening half, but the somewhat weak School side managed to keep the home side in check. Though the forwards got the ball back more often than their opponents, the home wing forwards prevented it getting out to the School backs. Lacey enlivened matters by opening the score with a clever dropped goal, but the Howe retaliated strongly and a forward rush saw a try scored in the corner, the kick being unsuccessful. The half-time came with the School holding on to their one point lead.

In the second half superior training began to tell, and the School quickly had the game in hand, good hooking by the forwards giving the backs plenty of opportunity to increase the lead. Lacey scored twice with two excellent bursts, one between the posts which was converted, and one further out which was not goaled. Further tries came through Dunn and Hart, after good runs, but the kicks failed. Just before the close Docherty cut through for a clean try, Dunn bringing about full points.

Result: Strathallan, 23 pts.; Howe of Fife, 3 pts.

**Aberdeen Grammar School v. Strathallan.**

Played at Aberdeen on October 5th.

Strath. again lost the toss, and from the kick-off play became confined to midfield, where both packs struggled to back the ball. Several minutes later, by fine opportunism,

Dunn opened the score with a splendid drop goal. Though Cleland was missing from the pack, the School forwards were more than holding their own, and having won their way to the home "25", they enabled Moncur to cut through to score between the posts, Dunn registering full points. Shortly afterwards Lacey kicked a wonderful dropped goal and immediately brought his bag of points up to seven by dashing through to score just wide of the posts, so that Dunn had little difficulty in converting. Thereafter the home side exerted pressure, but Moncur brought relief, and with a fine cut through and burst of speed gained a try between the posts, which Dunn converted. Aberdeen were given no respite, for from the kick-off Dunn went over again and his kick brought maximum points, enabling the School to change over with a clear lead of 28 pts.

When play was resumed, Strath. was forced into its own twenty-five, and here after some pressure Aberdeen got away to score at the corner, the kick failing. Play became fiercer, and after some even exchanges Dunn broke clean away to score between the posts, but the kick failed. This fresh reverse spurred on the home side and Strath. were forced to concede two tries, both of which were too far out for conversion. Just before the end, Balfour was carried off suffering from cramp in both legs.

Result: Strathallan, 31 pts.; Aberdeen Grammar School, 9 pts.

**Morrison's Academy v. Strathallan.** Played at Crieff on October 12th.

Having won the toss, Strath. elected to play with the wind. The kick brought the Academy into the School's twenty-five, but the forwards, playing well, enabled the backs to regain ground, and carry the play into the home half, where the full back relieved pressure with a good touch kick. Strath. were not to be denied, however, and a pretty combined movement among the backs saw the ball go out to Lacey, who ran round his man to score between the posts, but Dunn inexplicably failed with the kick. Play in mid-field followed, but just before half-time Moncur cut through prettily and kicked ahead. The home full back fumbled the ball, and Dunn, following up well, touched the ball down but failed to



convert. With a lead of six points, Strath. changed over.

Again play opened with a dire struggle forward in the visiting twenty-five, but ultimately Strath. made good ground, and Lacey, receiving the ball, ran through to score between the posts, Dunn being successful in bringing about full points. Morrison's thereafter pressed strongly, and after some rough work, backed the ball in a scrummage for their inside to score in the centre, but the kick was unsuccessful. By the aid of several free kicks Morrison's kept their visitors penned in their own half, but the Strath. defence acquitted itself well and maintained the lead.

Result: Strathallan, 11 pts.; Morrison's Academy, 6 pts.

### **Strathallan v. Glasgow High School.**

Played at Forgandenny on October 26th.

The High School kicked off and several scrums in mid-field followed, in which the lighter Strath. pack seemed to be holding its own. It soon became apparent that the opposition was forward, however, rather than at back, for the Strath. threes made their opponents look foolish. Dunn, receiving the ball from the scrum, cut past the opposing stand off and made for the line with Moncur in close attendance. He cleverly drew the full back and sent Moncur over for a try between the posts which he easily converted. Strath. were doing brilliantly and the forwards deserve great praise for their plucky manner of smothering their bulkier rivals in scrum and line-out. However, the High School reduced the lead from a mid-field scrum, good passing enabling their winger to show a clean pair of heels and score too far out for a convert. Nothing daunted, Strath. went to it again, and Chalmers, receiving the ball from a loose scrum, scored a brilliant solo try, swerving between two opponents and going over between the posts for Dunn to convert. Strath. has seldom, if ever, witnessed two such tries as these of the School; certainly never on one day. Half-time came without further score.

When the second half began, it became painfully obvious that the superior physique of the visitors was to tell its tale, and they

had more of the ball in the line-outs, and feeding their backs enabled good ground to be made by touch kicking. From a scrummage the visiting scrum-half broke through for an unconverted try. At this stage in the game Strath. were purely on the defensive, and the backs, behind a beaten pack, were kept very busy. For a time the gallant defence prevailed, but the continued pressure at last proved too much, and Paterson, the visiting winger, went over at the corner. Contrary to expectation, the convert was made, and the visitors took the lead for the first time. In vain the home threes sought to return the attack, but the weight of the High School forwards was too much for them, and a few minutes before the close a further try was scored to the left of the posts but the kick failed.

Result: Strathallan, 10 pts.; Glasgow High School, 14 pts.

### **Strathallan v. Dunfermline High School.**

Played at Forgandenny on November 2nd.

Rain on the earlier days of the week had left the ground very muddy, and this greatly hampered back play, though under the circumstances the Strath. handling was excellent. Strath. soon pressed and carried the play into their opponents' twenty-five. Dunfermline forwards, showing considerable experience with their feet, brought play back to midfield, though in the ensuing scrummages it was Strath. who backed the ball. A sharp cut through by Dunn led to a score between the posts, which he also converted. The same player added a further four points through a clever dropped goal from a scrum in the visitors' twenty-five. Strath. now asserted themselves, and further tries came through Lacey touching down in the centre, and a kick ahead by Dickenson, Dunn converting both. Shortly before the half-time Dunn went over again, but Lacey failed with the kick; but Strath. led at the breather by a clear 27 pts.

The second half opened with a prolonged attack by Dunfermline, but eventually Strath. repelled the attack and gained a footing in their opponents' half. From a line-out Dunn got away again and scored, his kick bringing maximum points; and from the restart a good passing movement

among the threes ended in Docherty going over for an unconverted try without the opposition touching the ball. Dunfermline were now a demoralised side and further points were added through a penalty goal and a further unconverted try by Chalmers.

Result: Strathallan, 42 pts.; Dunfermline High School, nil.

**Ayr Academy v. Strathallan.** Played at Ayr on November 9th.

A strong wind, approaching gale force, blew from the sea the whole of the game, and Strath., having won the toss, elected to make use of it in the opening half. Soon after the start the visitors found touch in the home twenty-five, and though in the resultant scrummages Ayr had the ball more frequently, wild passing among their backs, in part due to the wind, nullified this advantage. Strath. were penalised, but from the kick the ball was borne back by the wind so that it found touch with no ground gained. The whole of the play was almost farcical; a kick ahead meant the ball went over the dead ball line, and the bitter wind so numbed the hands that passing was waste of time and senseless. Dunn, therefore, made an opening and went through on his own between the posts, but the wind spoiled the kick. Half-time came with no further score, but Strath. were clearly the better side for the home side had not once crossed the half way line.

Shortly after the second half commenced, Ayr's inside three cut through, and with Grant apparently obstructed, was able to score, but again the kick failed. For a while Strath. was kept on the defensive, but ultimately the forwards began to get the ball back oftener both in scrums and line-outs, and as a result play again veered into the home half. Lacey was only brought down on the line on one occasion. Some rough play forward followed, but Strath. were pressing strongly and a further score seemed certain when the whistle blew for no-side.

Result: Strathallan, 3 pts.; Ayr Academy, 3 pts.

**Strathallan v. Old Strathallians.** Played at Forgandenny on December 7th.

Strath. lost the toss and were set to play against the wind. The Old Boys had a

strong side out and at first sight seemed far bigger than the School. Play was of a ding-dong nature, swaying from one end of the field to the other, with very little superiority on either side. The School hooking was good, but the Old Boys seemed to have the advantage slightly in the loose. Strath. missed a fine opportunity of opening the score when Moncur, having broken well away, kicked ahead instead of passing out to Lacey. Twenty-five minutes had gone when Strath. bunched at a line-out in their own twenty-five and the ball was thrown out to S. Dow, who ran in between the posts to touch down. J. Dow failed to convert. A few minutes later a spirited rally by the School saw Moncur break away, but the whistle went before the movement could develop.

Shortly after the restart the Old Boys were somewhat lucky in reaching the School line and Park touched down for Melrose to convert easily. Directly afterwards Moncur again broke away but had the misfortune to see his kick ahead bounce over the dead ball line, thanks to the wind. From a loose scrum in mid-field Miller received the ball and, selling a lovely dummy, he went through to score, but Melrose from a difficult angle and across the wind failed with the kick. A little later Robertson put the Old Boys still further ahead, running through under the posts from a loose scrum in the home twenty-five, and Melrose brought about full points. Considering the long rest from the last match, Strath. played well, and the game was much closer than the score seems to indicate.

Result: Strathallan, nil; Old Strathallians, 16 pts.

**Hillhead High School v. Strathallan.** At Glasgow on December 14th.

The last match of the term was unfortunately cancelled owing to the ground being unfit for play.

## SECOND TEAM.

The Second Fifteen have had a particularly successful season, scoring 153 points to their opponents' 29. Playing well as a team, rather than as individuals, that so common fault with second strings, they have six victories to their credit, and only lost to Glasgow High School at Glasgow by six points to

nil. In this defeat they were somewhat unfortunate, for they had a fair share of the play and were distinctly well served by Macmillan at full back.

Opening with a victory at home against Aberdeen Grammar School, the threes showed distinct superiority over the oppositions. Aberdeen, after holding the home side for the first half, were finally defeated by 22 pts. to 6; while Morrison's defence was riddled to the tune of 42 pts. without reply. Dundee High School 1st were twice defeated: at Dundee the heavier pack proved only a temporary advantage, for by playing a three game Strath. gained the day by 25 pts. to 6, and in the return game emerged victorious by a clear 45 pts.

Narrower victories were won over Dollar and Perthshire 2nd at Forgandenny. On both occasions wet ground and greasy ball told their tale. On the former occasion the game resolved itself into one of kick and rush, and the visitors were adepts at the game, so that the result was uncertain until the whistle blew, when Strath. ran out victors by 9 pts. to 6. The match with Perthshire was played in a downpour of rain, and Strath., playing fourteen men for the greater part of the second half, Wilkie being injured, clung to a slender lead of two points, despite a continued attack, and triumphed in a real "mudlark" by 10 pts. to 8.

### THIRD TEAM.

The Third Fifteen continued its winning way, opening with an overwhelming victory

over Dundee High School 2nd XV., despite the visitors' heavier pack, by 37 pts. to 6. At Dollar, three weeks later, handicapped by the wretched conditions, which made good rugby impossible and nullified Strath.'s advantage behind the scrum, a scrappy game ended by Linton going over close on time for the only try of the game. The return game with Dundee 2nd XV. resulted in a greater victory than in the home fixture, Strath. running out victors by 43 pts. to 3, and the following week a victory over Perth Academy 2nd XV. by 33 pts. to nil brought their total points for the term up to 115, as against 9. In the last match the forwards played excellently against a heavier pack, and Dobson, behind the scrum, was particularly elusive and a constant source of trouble.

**A First XV.** Cap has been awarded to I. Lang, who is leaving this term. He will be badly missed, as there are very few of his type present in the team. A hard worker and a real scrummager, he was a tower of strength in the tight, whilst his sound knowledge of the game made him effective in the loose. Always, he played up to the saying that "a good forward is never seen," and there are others who could profit by his example.

Another good forward departing at Christmas is I. Turner. At one time he became prominent by his keen tackling and spirited play, which compensated for his lack of weight. Latterly he has developed into a forward of distinct possibilities.

## "O.S." Notes

**W**E congratulate Mr. T. Irvine, who has passed his studentship examination of the Institute of Civil Engineers, and wish him every success in his career as a student, which will lead before long to his being elected to full membership of the Institute, after successful examination.

We hear, on the authority of his brother, that Mr. Tony Reid is coming home from Lima early next year, and it is more than probable that when he returns he will have forsaken the bachelor ranks and joined those of the benedicts.

We offer our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Norman Smith, of Stirling, who has now qualified as a doctor at the College in Edinburgh, having the triple qualification. Although Mr. Smith is at present practising medicine in Cleethorpes, it is not improbable that he will return to his old love—dentistry. He has had one of the most successful academic careers of any Strathallian, having won no fewer than nine of the medals, generally the highest award in each class, during his five years' study. Truly, Norrie has done his bit to uphold the Strathallan tradition.

Congratulations also to Dr. Ernest Morrison, who has completed his qualification in medicine and is practising as assistant to Dr. Easterbrook at Gorebridge, Midlothian, who is also the parent of two Old Strathallians.

Mr. Peter Reid, of Edinburgh, is to take up a banking appointment next year at Accra, on the west coast of Africa, and as there are one or two other Strathallians of his time in that region, we shall certainly endeavour to put them in touch with each other. Perhaps Club members in that district will get in touch with Mr. Reid (9 Upper Coltbridge Terrace, Edinburgh) as early as possible.

We were pleased to note the presence of Mr. Allan Robertson at the Edinburgh dinner. He was the first member of the Club, and we were sorry not to get a little more information about his doings for the purpose of this column. A letter from him would supply the deficiency.

Strathallan's most successful goal-kicker, Mr. D. O. Melrose, did not manage to put over any sensational goals at the Old Boys' match, but he came very near it with one from the touch line against a strong wind, and, after a sigh of relief from the boys, a hearty round of applause greeted his effort.

We had a call from Mr. Ian Campbell, of Perth, who has been out in the Malay States and has been invalided home. Ian had a terrible time with an appendicitis operation (which they afterwards found was entirely unnecessary), typhoid fever and pneumonia, and it was with the greatest pleasure that we noticed how fit and well he looked when he came up to Strathallan. He had one or two interesting meetings with Old Strathallians in various parts of the Malay States—with Mr. Willie Morrison, Mr. Fergus Higgins, to say nothing of receiving cheery letters from Mr. Colin Boman, who was stationed 500 miles further east. Ian liked the life tremendously, but the doctor has advised him to stay in this country, and he is to join one of the artificial silk firms in Scotland in the near future.

We had a call from Dr. Ian Smith, of Stirling, who has just returned from a voyage to Sydney. He is taking an assistantship in Sunderland, and we all wish him well in his new venture.

Mr. Alan Porter, of Steel Bros., is at present in Edinburgh, home on leave, and

we were delighted to see him at the Old Boys' match. He is just recovering from illness; otherwise he would have added materially to the strength of the Old Boys' team.

Mr. Gaston Bonthron left London on his way East to take up his appointment in Rangoon with the same firm, whilst Mr. Willie Anderson has been appointed to their Rawalpindi depôt. Both will be pleased to hear from any of their old School friends.

Mr. Dan Smith is home on leave from Calcutta, where he has made quite a name for himself in the rugby world. It is not generally known that Mr. Smith was invited to play in the Scottish team about three years ago and was prevented by indisposition.

Mr. Archie Barr, who left School this last term, passed the first part of the Inter. Bachelor of Commerce examination of London University. For one so young, it was a very good achievement. The School's congratulations to you, Archie!

Dr. I. S. R. Bain has started in practice at St. Fillans, Chequers Gardens, Palmers Green, and is doing very well. He holds London hospital appointments besides. Dr. and Mrs. Bain have one little daughter—a very bonny child.

Mr. Tom Ferguson, of Rangoon, has married Miss Beryl Martin-Ranger, and we understand that Strathallan was strongly represented at the wedding. The best of luck to Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson.

## NOTICE

Some members of the Glasgow Branch intend to hold a small Dance in The Plaza, Glasgow, on the night of Friday, 21st February.

Will those who wish to be present please communicate with

Mr. N. Guthrie Reid, Lochside, Bearsden (telephone number Bearsden 127, or Bridgeton 1230); or

Mr. R. Barr, Hermiston, Kilmacolm (telephone number Kilmacolm 49, or Central 1178),

before the 14th February?

If a certain number signify their intention of being present, the Committee will endeavour to obtain reduced terms of admittance.